

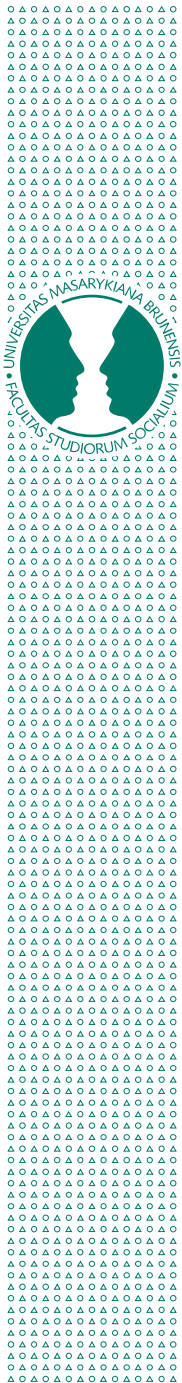
# Childcare arrangements: Recent policy developments in the Czech Republic

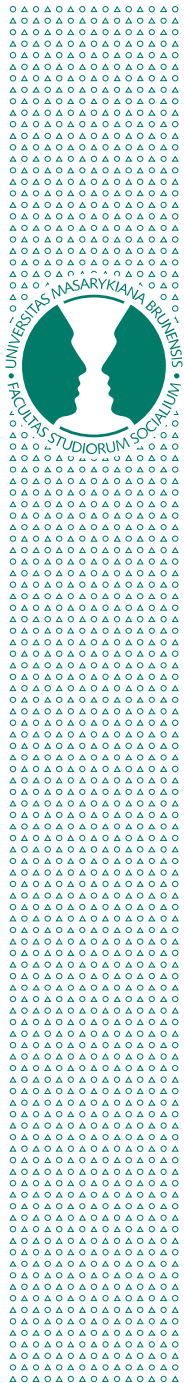
Jana Válková

**COST Worskhop, 30/09/2015**

# Introduction

- Childcare for children aged 0 to 6
- Defamiliastic policy → refamilialistic policy (Sirovátka, Saxonberg, 2006)
  - return of the major portion of childcare back to the families and in most cases provided by mothers
  - implications on employment rates, economic situation of families and fertility rates





# Theoretical Background

Critical junctures – old institutional arrangements influence policies and attitudes

SAXONBERG, S., HAŠKOVÁ, H. The Institutional Roots of Post-Communist Family Policy: Comparing the Czech and Slovak Republics

4 critical junctures:

two-tier model of separate care

kindergartens as part of pre-school education

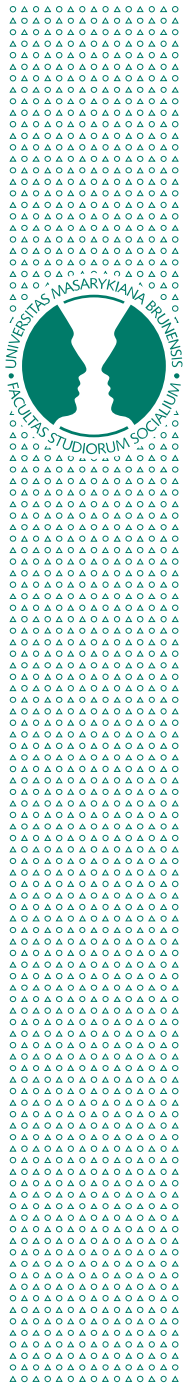
nurseries as part of health care system

extension of the parental leave

# Daycare facilities: nurseries

## Nurseries

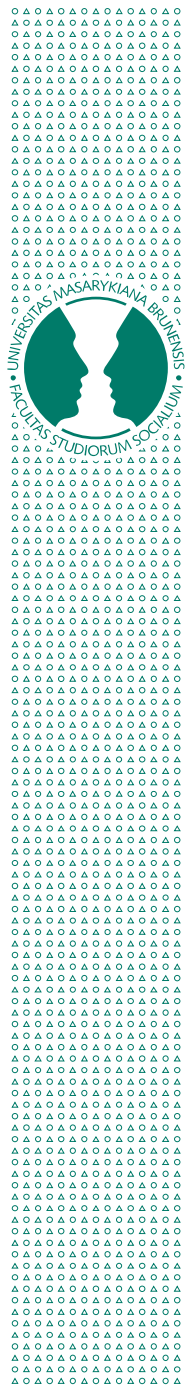
- For children 0 to 3
- Run by municipalities, churches or private providers
- Regulated by Ministry of Health
- Cancelled by Act no. 372/2011 Coll., in power in April 2012, 12 months to close down – i.e. April 2013
- Legal vacuum until November 2014 when the Act on Children Groups was approved
- Similar care can be provided based on Commercial Code – requirements to providers – or not systematically based generally on Civil Code

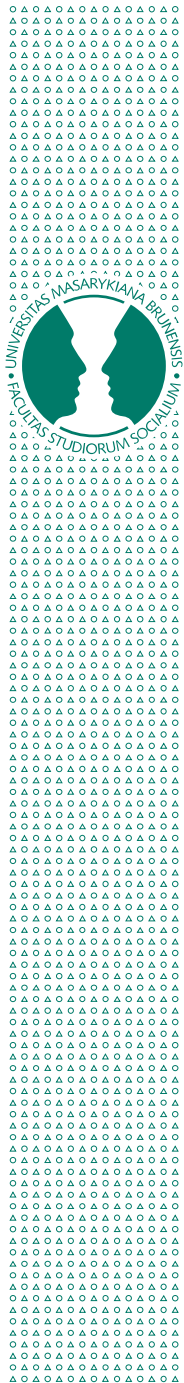


# Numbers of nurseries in CZ

Year	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
Nurseries	1 043	486	381	247	235	207	151	101
Places in nurseries	39 829	-	13 196	9 265	8 565	7 574	5 551	2 965
Year	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Nurseries	79	67	65	59	58	60	58	54
Places in nurseries	2191	1 913	1 867	1 717	1 674	1 770	1 708	1671
Year	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Nurseries	48	49	46	46	46	46	44	n.a.
Places in nurseries	1567	1587	1413	1419	1452	1425	1401	n.a.

Source: ÚZIS

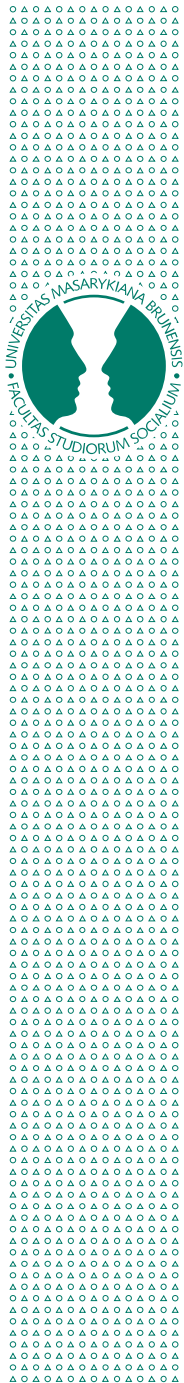




# Daycare facilities: Children Groups

## Children Group programme

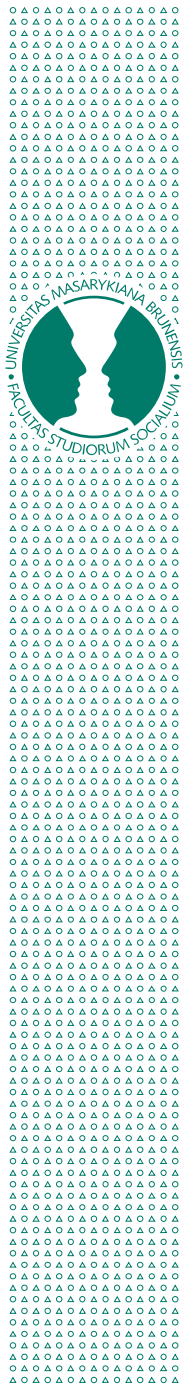
- Non-profit activity of childcare provision
- Regulated by Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs
- Rules and conditions for functioning of various forms of facilities
- Who can run them – employers, legal entities such as municipalities, regions, state, civil society organisations or churches
- Size of group – 6 children 1 caregiver, 7 to 24 children 2 caregivers, if 1 child below 2 then 3 caregivers
- Age – children aged 1 to 6
- Qualification of staff – pre-school pedagogy, pedagogy for primary schools, social workers, nurses, babysitters (training)



# Daycare facilities: Children Groups

## Children Group programme

- Regulations regarding space, hygiene, safety, insurance
- Project of children group – suitable premises, approvals from Construction Authority, Hygienic station, Fire brigade authority
- Insurance on damage obligatory
- Educational plan must be formulated
- Contracts with staff
- Registration at the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs
- Contracts with parents on care
- Number of Children Groups 49, currently 11 applications in process



# Daycare facilities: Children Groups

## Children Group programme

- Tax deduction for parents whose children are placed in Children Groups or similar private facility (fulfilling similar conditions) entitled for tax deduction of one minimum wage a year – 9,200 CZK (i.e. 340 EUR)/year
- Expenditures for the employers can be deducted from the taxes
- Private facilities combine funding from parents, city and region (applying for grants) – e.g. South Moravian region opened a grant scheme
- ESF ongoing call expected to be open in October 2015 – 882 Mio CZK for regions and 118 Mio CZK for Prague – both costs on establishing the group and operational costs eligible
- NO NATIONAL FUNDING, LOCAL FUNDING as was in nurseries seems to remain



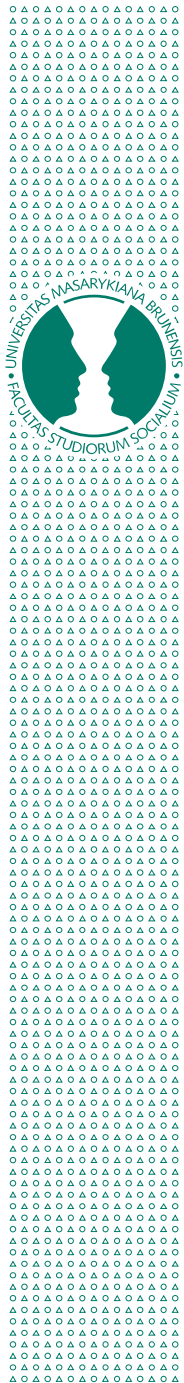
# Daycare facilities: kindergartens

## Kindergartens

- Pre-school education for children (3 to 6)
- Run by municipalities, churches or private providers
- Regulated by Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports
- Lack of capacities, especially in big cities
- Intensive discussion about obligatory last year in kindergarten – currently legal right and no payments in the last year of attendance
- Recent discussion about right to place in a kindergarten – in 2017 from 4, 2018 from 3 years of age

## Private kindergartens

- Childcare as business activity
- Often in big cities, higher demand, alternative education
- In 2012 a share of 2.1% of children in ECEC in private facilities (Eurostat, 2015)



# Share of children attending kindergartens by age group

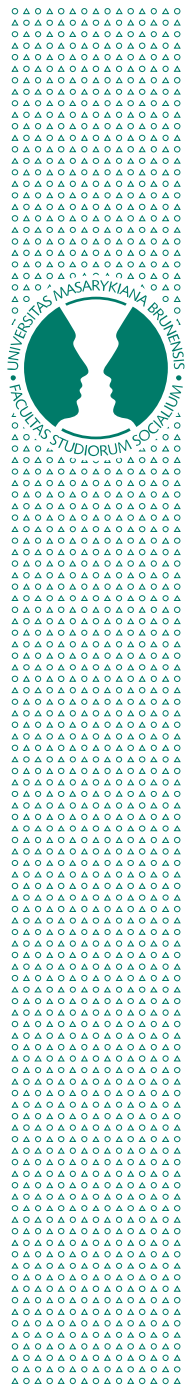
Age /year	1994/95	1995/96	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01
<b>Up to 3 years</b>	20,57%	15,61%	12,22%	<b>10,98%</b>	14,26%	16,89%	20,76%
<b>3-years old</b>	69,95%	66,80%	55,67%	58,41%	61,03%	66,48%	70,02%
	<b>2002/03</b>	<b>2003/04*</b>	<b>2004/05*</b>	<b>2005/06</b>	<b>2006/07</b>	<b>2007/08</b>	<b>2008/09</b>
<b>Up to 3 years</b>	24,46%	25,30%	<b>26,50%</b>	25,40%	23,00%	23,00%	24,80%
<b>3-years old</b>	76,36%	80,00%	77,30%	74,60%	76,60%	75,30%	76,50%

Source: database ÚIV + Kuchařova 2010

\* In the 2003/04 and 2004/05 school years, including schools in health facilities.

\*\* Children older than 5 years of age in 2003/04 and 2004/05.

# Limited capacity of kindergartens



School year	Number of rejected applications	Annual increase of rejected applications
<b>2005/06</b>	6 810	-
<b>2006/07</b>	9 570	40.5%
<b>2007/08</b>	13 409	40.1%
<b>2008/09</b>	19 996	49.1%
<b>2009/10</b>	29 632	48.1%
<b>2010/11</b>	39 483	33.2%
<b>2011/12</b>	49 186	24.6%
<b>2012/13</b>	58 939	19.8%
<b>2014/15</b>	50 800	-13.8%

Source: Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, 2015

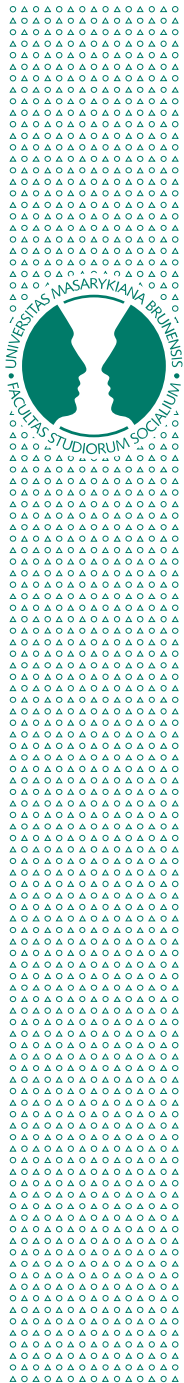
# Leaves

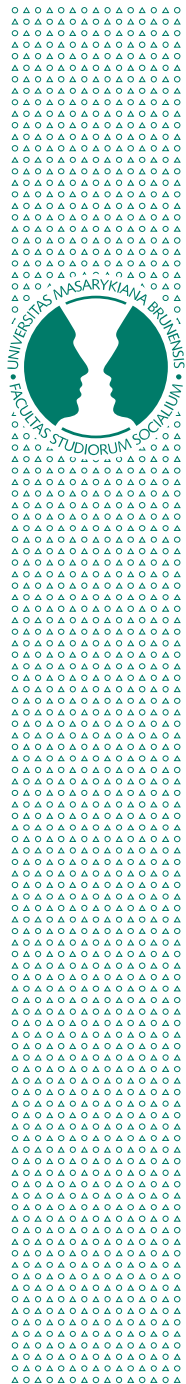
## Maternity leave

- Conditional on insurance in the last 270 days
- Entitlement: mother, father in case of death of mother or after concluding a contract with mother (from 7<sup>th</sup> week, 7 days in row, unlimited swapping)
- 28 weeks
- 70% of the previous income

## Parental leave

- Entitlement: mother or father
- Flexible – fixed amount 220,000 CZK (i.e. 8,148 EUR), maximal amount 11,500 CZK (i.e. 426 EUR) per month (= 19 months provision), income tested for calculation of the monthly amount
- Child under 2 can not be placed in daycare for more than 46 hours a month
- Possible to work parallel to parental leave up-take

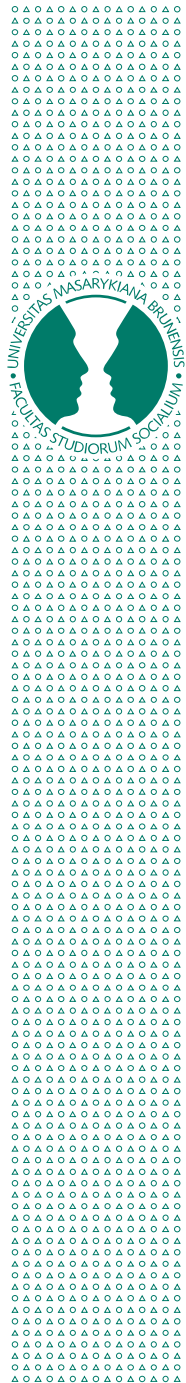




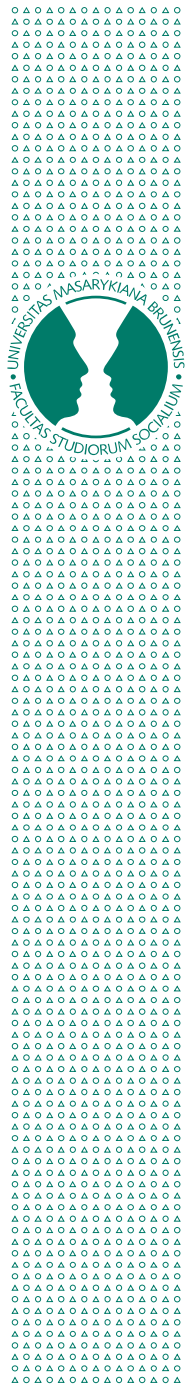
# New proposals: Care leave and benefit

- Support to informal caregivers in family who provide care to a family member outside health or social care institutions
- Care leave in duration from 3 to 6 months
- Care benefit – 60% of the previous income
- Eligibility criteria:
  - Family members who contribute to social insurance system
- Beginning 2017

# New proposals: Changes in parental leave conditions

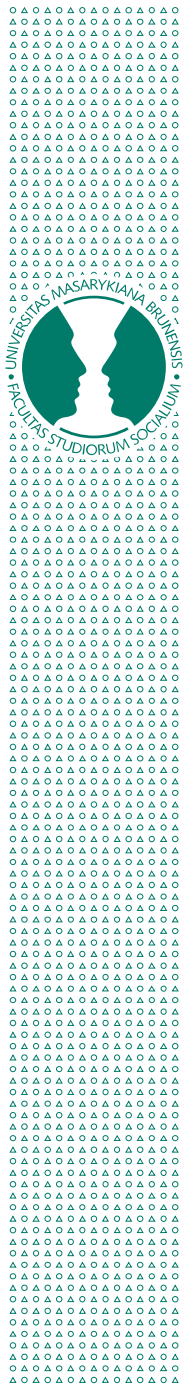


- Possibility to take up the benefit until 1 year of age of the child, ceiling – amount of maternity benefit
- Those ineligible for maternity leave may choose the maximal amount of 7600 CZK/month (i.e. 281 EUR/month)
- The limitation of 46 hours per month for a child in day care cancelled
- Beginning 2017



# New proposals: Paternity leave

- New benefit provided to fathers of new born babies contributing to the social insurance system
- Duration: 1 week
- Condition: take up must start within 6 weeks from the day of birth
- 70% of the previous income (as for mothers)
- Beginning 2017



# New proposals: Micro-nurseries

- Raising ECEC capacity – complementing the existing system – project of micro-nurseries – financed by the ESF

## **WHO?**

Municipalities or their non-profit organisations

## **TARGET GROUP?**

Children aged over 6 months

## **HOW?**

Small groups, 4 children per caregiver

## **WHEN?**

Beginning 2016

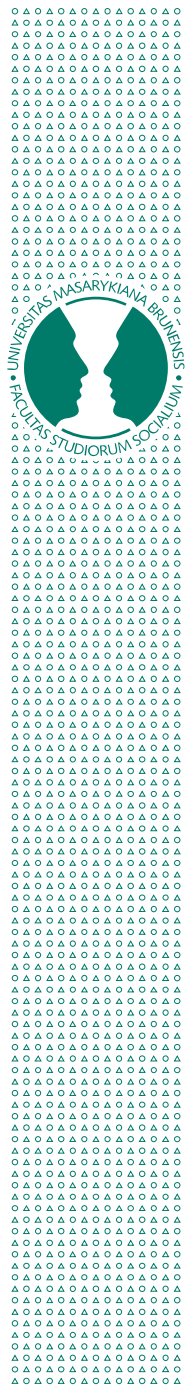
## **WHERE?**

Prague, Central Bohemian region, South Moravian region (Brno)

## **HOW MUCH?**

50 Mio CZK





# Thank you for your attention!

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