

**Plasová, Blanka and Válková, Jana: What is the direction of Czech childcare policy?  
Principles, objectives and functions**

Childcare policy has been a discussed issue in the parliamentary field particularly in connection to the critique that the Czech Republic received from the European Union about not keeping the provisions arising from the commitment to “Barcelona targets” (2002). This paper focuses on the basic principles, objectives and functions of various forms of childcare services in the Czech Republic including the newest reforming proposal in the family-policy field. Firstly, the authors will describe the system of childcare services provision in the Czech Republic. Secondly, the principles, objectives and functions will be analyzed within a framework of institutional dimensions of childcare provision. Two crucial models used for this analysis will be “educational” and “work-care reconciliation” models. The outcomes will be confronted both with parents’ attitudes and programmes of the Czech parliamentary political parties.