



Ombudsman of the Basque Country

RESEARCH ABOUT FAMILY POLICIES
EUROPE/BASQUE COUNTRY COMPARISON

Vitoria-Gasteiz, Basque Country, Spain

A. INTRODUCING FRAMEWORK**BALANCING FAMILY AND WORK**

Please, tell us how your organisation considers your country's share devoted to family benefits according to the country GDP.

Rather poor 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 *Quite enough*

Comments

GENDER EQUALITY ON THE LABOUR MARKET

Please, explain briefly the protection system for pregnant and recent mothers at work (if available) as well as the main steps in your country to encourage the paternal care.

	Protection at work for pregnant mother	Protection at work for recent mothers	Steps to encourage paternal care
Example	<i>While pregnant, mothers can't be fired</i>	<i>Not available</i>	<i>If both parents share paternal leave, the available weeks are augmented</i>

Your country

GENDER EQUALITY ON THE LABOUR MARKET

Please, tell us your organisation opinion of those identified measures (if they do work or not, if they are enough or not) as well as new ones you are trying to be introduced.

	Protection at work for pregnant mother	Protection at work for recent mothers	Steps to encourage paternal care
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Opinion

New measures

Other comments

B. PARENTAL SUPPORT SYSTEM

PARENTAL LEAVE

Please, explain briefly the parental leave available in your country, including the entitled weeks for the mother and the father as well as how it is paid.

	Period	Cash benefits	Brief description
<i>Example</i>	<i>16 weeks</i>	<i>100% of the salary the first 10 weeks, 80% the rest</i>	<i>Universal, for every mother</i>

For the mother

For the father

PARENTAL LEAVE

Based on the parental needs in your country, please comment how it is considered by your organisation the period and the benefits (enough in time but not in cash, both are ok, both should be increased...).

Period	Cash benefits
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For the mother

For the father

Other comments

CHILD AND FAMILY ALLOWANCE

Please, explain briefly the child and family allowance system in your country, including until what age of the child it is paid in those cases (if they are available).

General child-benefit included eventual benefits in income taxes or others...

	Until age	Birth-grant	Cash benefits	Tax benefits
<i>Example</i>	<i>Until 18 years old, until 20 if he or she is studying</i>	<i>1.500 € the year the child is born (once)</i>	<i>150 € per month for the first child, 130 for the second one</i>	<i>1.000 € tax credit deduction</i>

Your country

Based on the parental needs in your country, please comment how your organisation considers the general child-benefit system (if available).

School benefits

	Amount	Until age	Conditions
<i>Example</i>	<i>100 € a year for books</i>	<i>Until 14 years old</i>	<i>Universal</i>

Your country

Based on the parental needs in your country, please comment how your organisation considers the school-benefit system (if available).

Housing benefits

	Amount	Until age	Conditions
<i>Example</i>	<i>Between 100 € and 300 € per month</i>	<i>Until the first child is 18</i>	<i>Means-tested, only for household incomes under 30.000 €</i>

Your country

Based on the parental needs in your country, please comment how your organisation considers the housing-benefit system (if available).

CHILD AND FAMILY ALLOWANCE

Please, explain briefly the child and family allowance system in your country, including until what age of the child it is paid in those cases (if they are available).

Large families

	Brief explanation (what is considered a large family...)	Amount	Conditions
<i>Example</i>	<i>In our country a large family is considered with 3 children or with 2 if one of them is disabled</i>	<i>The second child is granted 135 € per month, the third 110 €...</i>	<i>Universal, but the total amount is means-tested</i>

Your country

Based on the parental needs in your country, please comment how your organisation considers the benefit system for large families.

Families with disabled children

	Amount	Until age	Conditions
<i>Example</i>	<i>Between 100 € and 2.000 € per month</i>	<i>No age</i>	<i>Universal, but the total amount is means-tested</i>

Your country

Based on the parental needs in your country, please comment how your organisation considers the benefit system for families with disabled children (if available).

Aged and dependent people care

	Amount	Conditions
<i>Example</i>	<i>1.200 € if the person is cared at home and the person who cares reduces his/her professional activity. Also, national system of old people home free of charge</i>	<i>Universal</i>

Your country

Based on the parental needs in your country, please comment how your organisation considers the general benefit system for families taking care of aged dependent people.

CHILD AND FAMILY ALLOWANCE

Please, explain briefly the child and family allowance system in your country, including until what age of the child it is paid in those cases (if they are available).

Others

Brief explanation	Amount	Conditions
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Your country

CHILDCARE SERVICES

Please, explain briefly the childcare system in your country, including formal and informal structures (if available) and if every child has a guaranteed place (universal) or not. Also, if it is free of charge (or with means-tested fares).

	Until 3 years old		From 3 to 6 years old	
Example	Fares	Guaranteed	Fares	Guaranteed
Example	<i>The system is not free, but the fares are means-tested and affordable for most households</i>	<i>In some cities there are not enough places, but government is investing money to change that</i>	<i>There is no childminding scheme in our country</i>	<i>Yes, it is universal, every child has a guaranteed place in a daycare school</i>

Caring at home
(child rising allowance)

Daycare pre-school

Childminding

Others (please explain)

Based on the parental needs in your country, please comment how your organisation considers the childcare system.

According to opening times (flexibility for the parents working times)

According to universality (easy access)

According to rates (affordable or free)

Other comments (other items to take into account)

C. GENERAL POINT OF VIEW. LEARNING FROM YOUR EXPERIENCE

LEARNING FROM YOUR COUNTRY EXPERIENCE

Finally, the Basque Ombudsman would like your impressions about the child and family system in your country in order to identify and propose to our Government the best practices to be introduced in our society.

Please, identify which are –according to your organisation point of view– the strong and weak points of the whole system in your country, this is, things that work and do not work according to your experience.

Strong points

Weak points

Please, identify some concrete practices in your country that are specially interesting to take into account.

Best practices

Name of the practice and link to some information

Comments

No. 1

No. 2

No. 3

Other comments

Thank you very much for your cooperation.

Iñigo Lamarka,
Ombudsman of the Basque Country