



**MINISTERSTVO PRÁCE  
A SOCIÁLNÍCH VĚCÍ**

# **Single parents families**

**Martina Stepankova Stybrova**

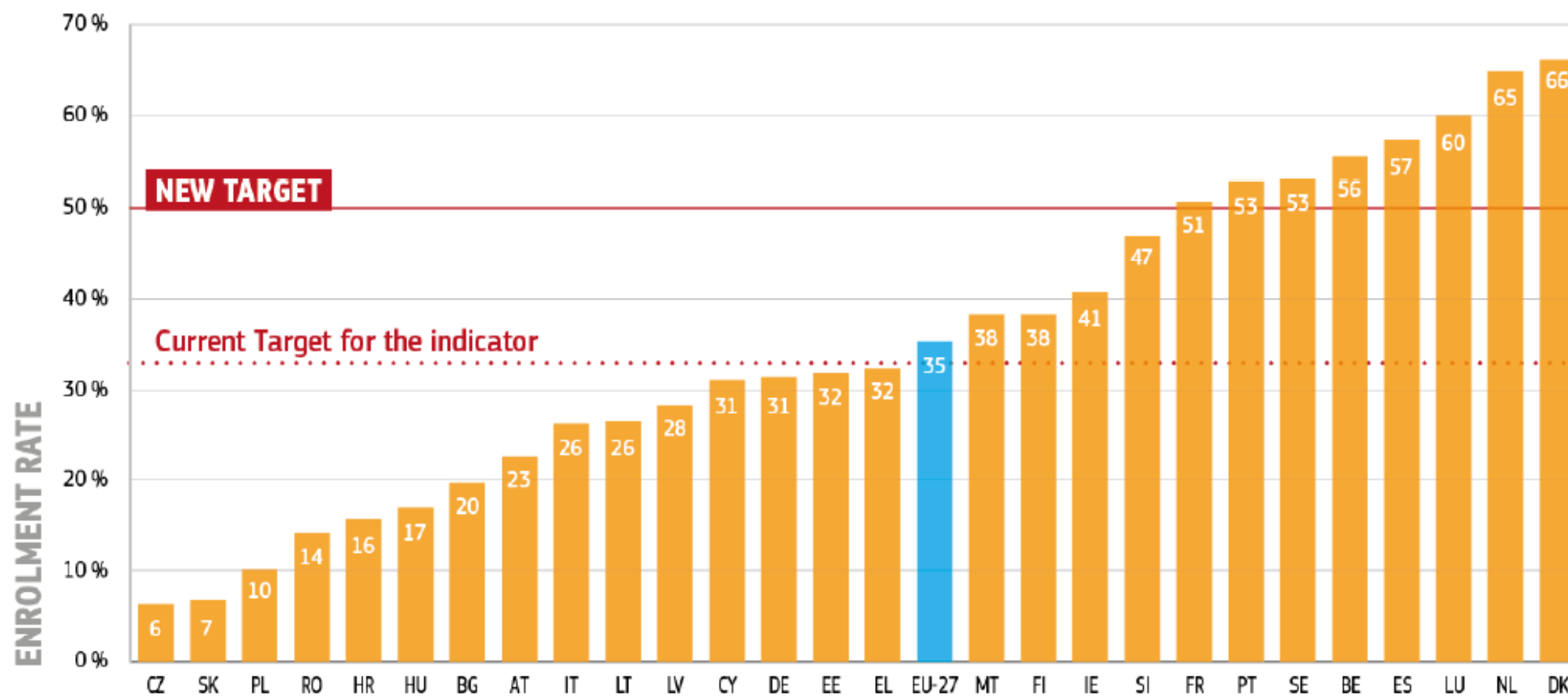
**Department of Family Policy and Protection of Children's Rights**

# Situation in the Czech Republic

- The Czech Republic has strong labour market performance, but **gender pay gap and negative employment impact of parenthood** is still high.
- **Low availability of affordable childcare, low use of flexible working arrangements**, the lack of long-term care facilities and long parental leave entitlements have a major **impact on labour market participation**.
  - The employment rate of women with children until the age of 6 (44.1%) is below the EU average (68.2%).
  - The participation rate in formal childcare for children under age 3 (6.3%) is below the EU average (33%).
  - Low uptake of flexible work arrangements – in 2019 only 10.4% of working women in the 20-64 age group worked part-time (EU average 30.7%).
- GPG is 16,4% caused mainly by gender segregation in the labour market (women more often employed in occupations and industries which pay comparatively lower salaries), low transparency of wage negotiations, low awareness of salary levels and discrimination.
- Since 2002 **the divorce rate in the Czech Republic has been between 45-50%** (appr. 40% of families with children under 3 years, 25-30% families with children 3-6 years)

# Graph: ECEC enrolment rate for children below 3 years old

(current target 33%, EU SILD data 2019)



# Single parents families

- The Czech Republic is one of the countries with **the lowest number** of “risk-of-income poverty” indicator (approx. 9-10%).
- There was 14.7% **persons under 18 years living at risk of poverty** in 2015, **thus in 2020 it was 11.0%** in the Czech Republic.
- The main factors of low poverty are relatively low-income inequality and a relatively low median income. Moreover, the relatively high efficiency of social transfers, such as social support for families with children, also plays an important role.
- However, a **high proportion of the population is just above the income poverty line**.
- In comparison to the whole population, **families with children** are more at risk of poverty and some types of family households are at high risk (**32.4% of single families** and 14.6% of families with 3 or more children).
- The most important **source of income for single-parent families is income** from job (63.8%), followed by social security income (15.4%) and alimony (14.6%), which approximately 70% of single parents receive. (VÚPSV, 2020)
- According to police statistics, neglecting mandatory maintenance is one of the most common crimes in the Czech Republic. 31% of mothers do not receive alimony. From July 2021, solo parents, to whom the other parent does not pay the specified maintenance, despite court decision, can apply for replacement maintenance.

# Family policy in the Czech Republic – existing measures

- Implementation of **children's groups for pre-school children**, currently funded by EF and national budget;
- Legal **right to a place in kindergarten** for three-year-olds and older.
- Possibility to **shorten the period** of drawing a **parental allowance** since Jan 2018.
- One week of paid **father's leave** (post-child-bearing parental leave) since Feb 2018.
- **Long-term care benefit** for those with caring responsibilities (up to 3 months of paid leave) since July 2018.
- **Increase** in the **limit for children under 2 in formal childcare when drawing parental allowance** (92 hours a month) as well as increase in the total amount of parental allowance since Jan 2020.
- **Legal framework of job-sharing** since January 2021 and support part time/flexible jobs since 2022.
- Increasing the living minimum and other adjustment in benefits (child benefit, housing allowances).

# European Child Guarantee



#EUChildGuarantee #EUChildRights



# Czech National action plan for Implementing Child Guarantee 2022-2030

- The **goal is to prevent and combat the social exclusion of children** in need by ensuring their equal access to key services for pre-school education and care, education (including school activities), health care, nutrition and housing.
- The guarantee for children should help to achieve the newly set goal in the Action Plan for the implementation of the **European Pillar of Social Rights** in the form of:
  - reducing the number of people living in poverty by 15 million, including at least 5 million children, by 2030.
  - **National goal for the Czech Republic: reducing the number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion by 120,000, reducing the number of children (aged 0-17) at risk of poverty or social exclusion by 50,000 by 2030**
- Target Group - 19 target groups (children living in single parents families, children with disabilities, migrant and refugee children.....)

# Czech national action plan and single parents families

- In the Czech National action plan for Implementing Child Guarantee 2022-2030 we focus on:
  - Preschool services and after school services (including free time activities and free lunches at school)
  - Social work/services, including social work at school
  - Support availability of social/affordable apartments
  - Increase number of preventive school programs (including the topic of mental health)
  - Capacities of health services, especially in the field of child psychiatric, addiction and palliative care.
  - Capacities of preventive, community and professional services of the care system for vulnerable children and families
  - The coordination between main actors (school, family, municipality, NNO) will be strongly encouraged with the aim to ensure equal access to education, to reduce the number of segregated schools and to fight with early school leavings.
  - Support involvement of parents/carers in the labor market, especially through flexible forms of work and childcare services etc.





Thank you for your attention.