Views of the 22-35 years old population concerning parental leaves and childcare in Hungary

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The system

• Services for children
  ➢ Bölcsőde (childcare centers for children under 3)
  ➢ Family day care
  ➢ Óvoda (kindergartens for children between 3-6)

• Leaves for parents to care for their children
Types of leave

- **Maternity leave**: 24 weeks, up to 4 weeks before birth. 70% of earnings.
- **GYED**: from the end of the maternity leave period until the child’s 2nd birthday. 70% of earnings up to a ceiling.
- **GYES**: Until the child’s 3rd birthday. Flat rate payment. About 110 euro/month in 2006
- **GYET**: Flat rate payment. About 110 euro/month in 2006
Types of leave

- Maternity leave or GYES
- GYES
- GYED
- Not insured
- Insured

Age of child (years)

0 0,5 1 1,5 2 2,5 3

Szociálpolitikai és Munkaügyi Intézet
The study and the sample

• Omnibus survey in 2005 to assess the views concerning childcare
• 850 adults
• Ages 22-35
• 42% not married yet
• 53% has no children
• 55.2% plans to have (at all, or more) children
All the sample

- Q: How suitable/good are the following forms of childcare for a child under the age of 3? (on a 4 point scale)
  - Mother is at home with the child: 3.87
  - Father is at home with the child: 2.68
  - Grandparents with the child: 2.61
  - Bölcsőde: 2.35
  - Family day care: 2.1
  - Friends look after the child: 1.7
  - Babysitter: 1.68
Q: Why do you think someone uses bölcsőde? (more than 1 response allowed)

- Income from mother’s work is needed: 96.8%
- Mother is afraid of loosing job: 88.1%
- Mother is afraid of breaking her career: 61.3%
- Child needs the company of other children: 41%
- Trained staff in bölcsőde: 37.3%
- Bölcsőde compensates for deprived household: 32.8%
All the sample

• Q: What would the wife do if the husband earned enough for the family to live on?
  – Part time work: 46.5%
  – No work: 42.2%
  – Full time work: 11.3%
Parents with children under 3

• Which type of provision they use:
  – GYES, GYED, GYET
  – Bölcsőde
  – Family day care

• Why not Bölcsőde? (more than 1 response allowed)
  – Mother can stay home with the child: 84.1%
  – No Bölcsőde nearby: 34.4%
  – Does not approve of child attending Bölcsőde: 26.7%
Implications

• Leaves are more popular
• Parents’ interests are more important than those of the child
• The need to work is a strong motive
• Part-time work would be a favorable choice
• Generally, the knowledge about leaves is better than about children’s services
Questions instead of conclusions

• Are leaves really more popular than childcare?
• If yes, why:
  – No other options in many places
  – Take up comes with payment
  – Not much experience with and knowledge about children’s services
  – Low opinion of existing services
  – Strong traditional belief that it is best for children under 3, to be at home with the mother
Effects of leaves?

- Promoting childbirth
- Emphasizing the value of children for society
- Alleviating child poverty
- Social transfers – including the payments for leaves - can effectively decrease child poverty