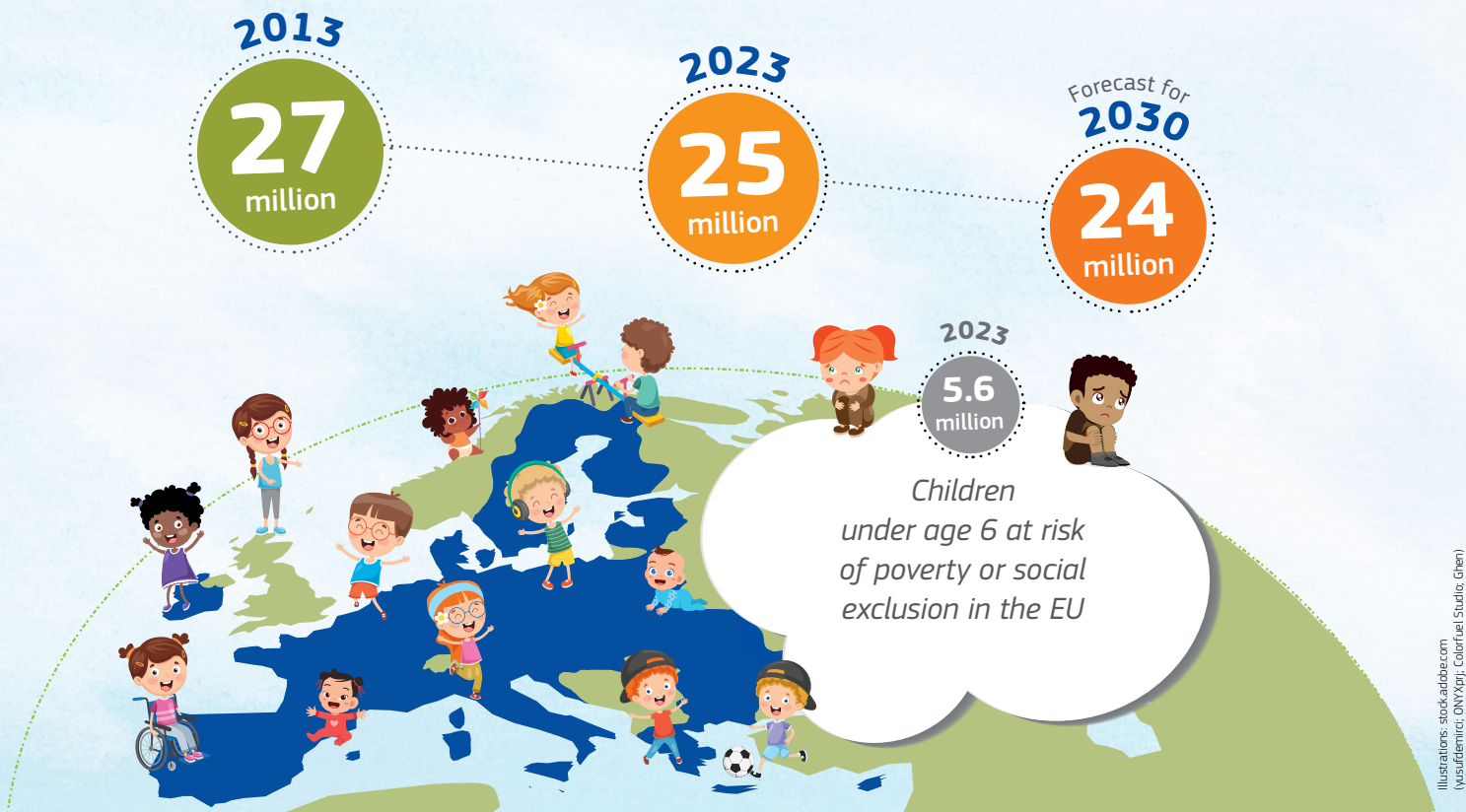


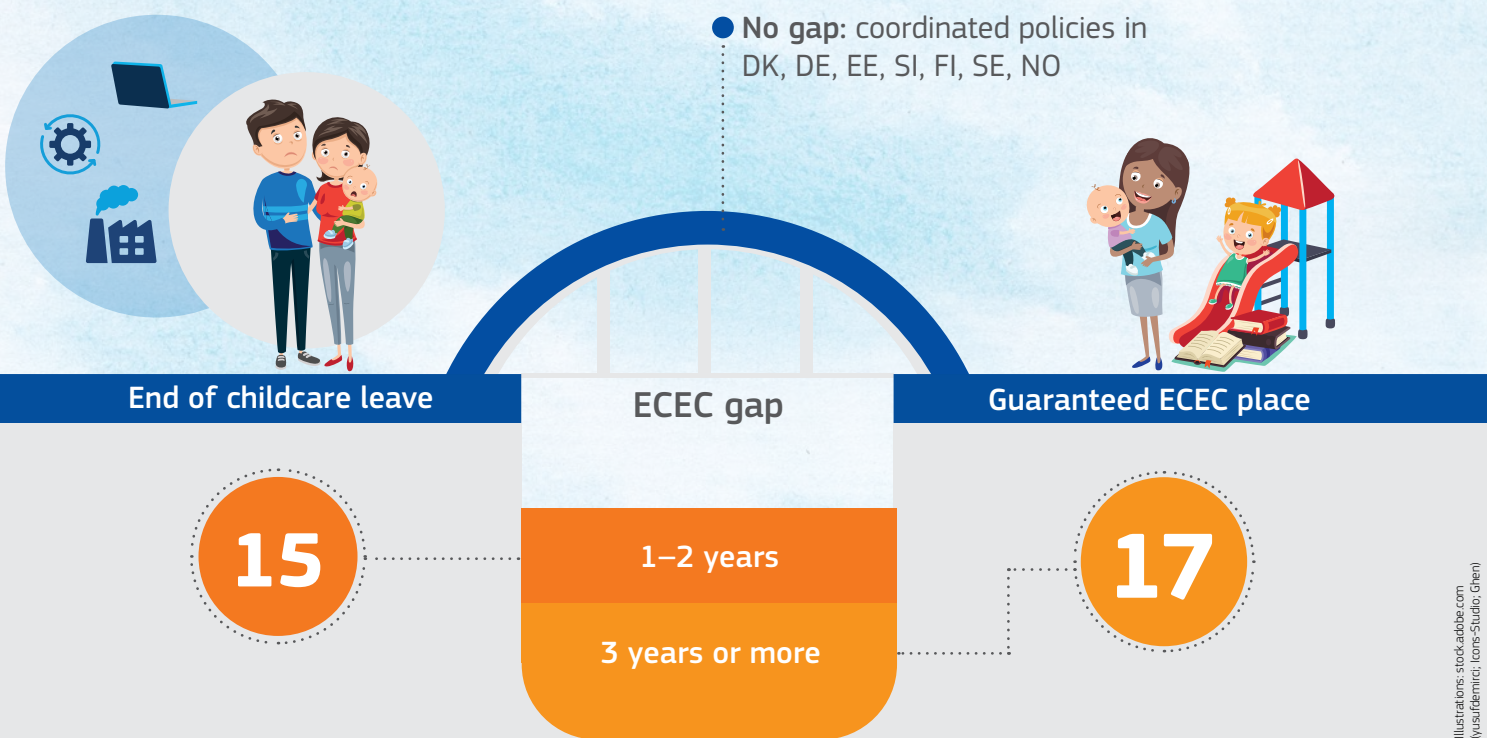
Early childhood education and care (ECEC) in Europe – 2025

Overview of key areas identified in the [Council recommendation on high-quality early childhood education and care systems](#) – access, governance and funding, staff, curriculum, and evaluation and monitoring – across 39 education systems in the EU and neighbouring countries

The number of children under age 6 is decreasing in the EU-27



Few European education systems guarantee ECEC immediately at the end of childcare leave



Early childhood education and care (ECEC) in Europe – 2025

ECEC should be available, accessible and affordable for all

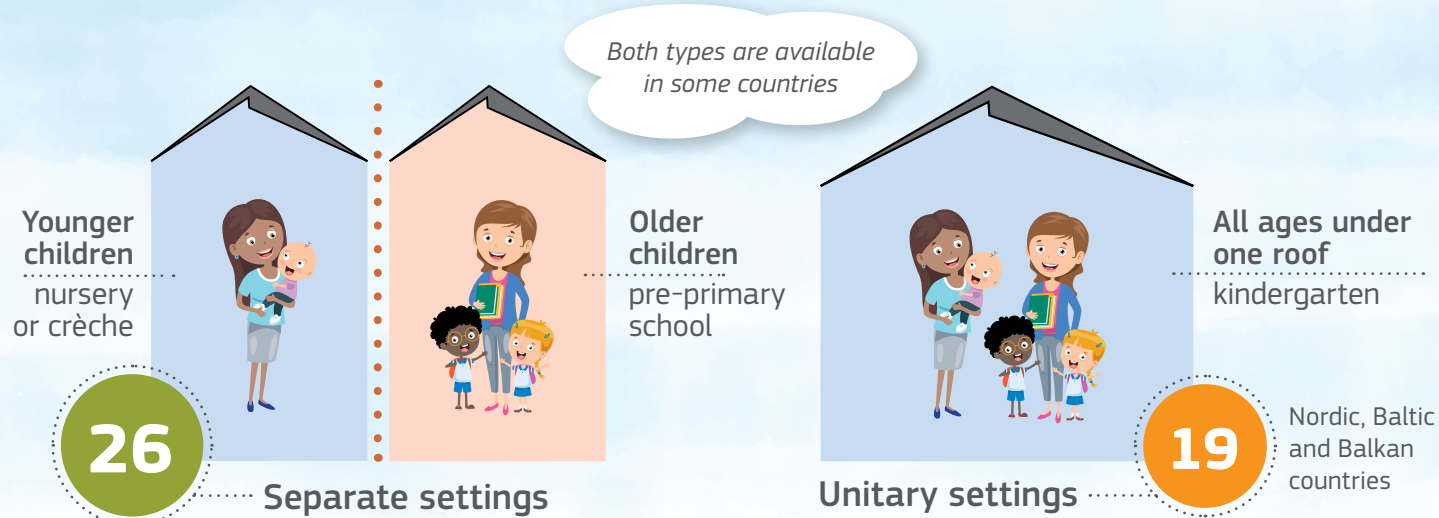


Most education systems try to ease access to mainstream ECEC for children facing barriers

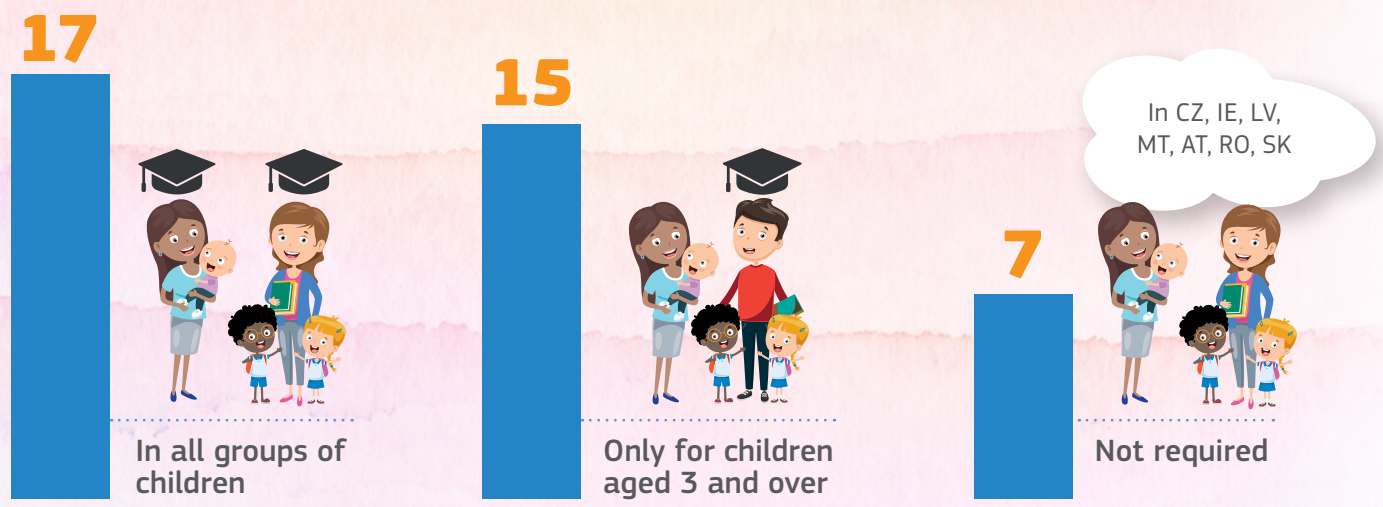


Early childhood education and care (ECEC) in Europe – 2025

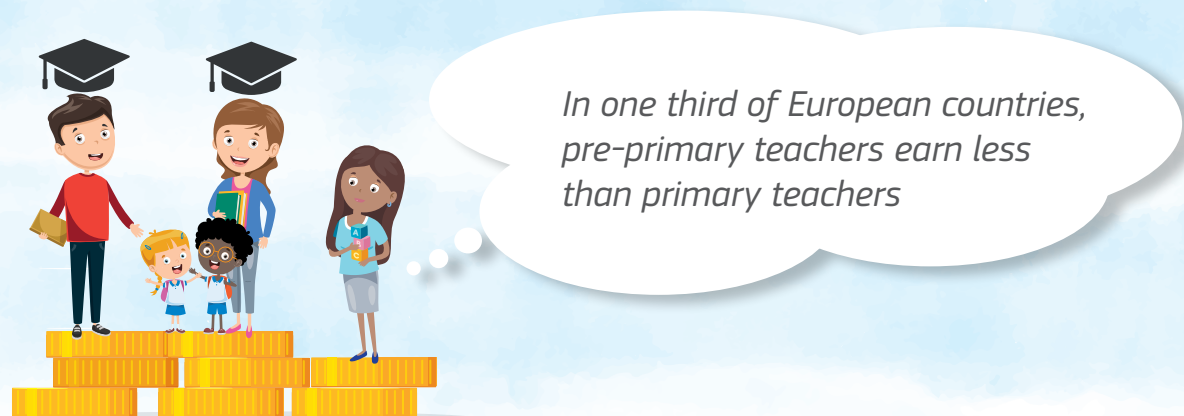
Separate ECEC settings are the most common set-up in Europe



Not all education systems require a bachelor's degree for staff

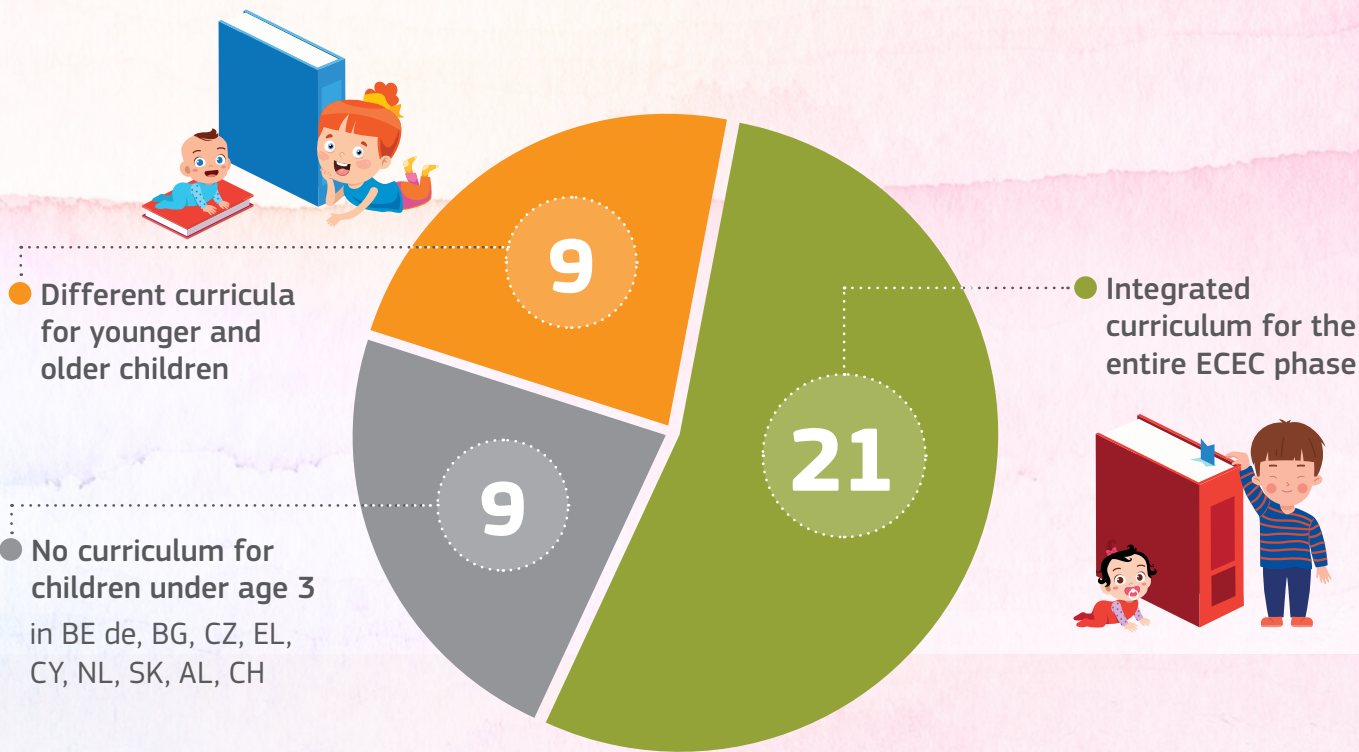


Pre-primary and primary teachers tend to receive the same starting salary for the same level of qualification



Early childhood education and care (ECEC) in Europe – 2025

There is no national curriculum for pedagogical work with younger children in one quarter of European education systems



Sustainability education already starts in ECEC in most European education systems



Early childhood education and care (ECEC) in Europe – 2025

A majority of education systems include digital competences in ECEC

Information and data literacy

17

Digital content creation

17

Communication and collaboration

14

Safety

12

Problem-solving

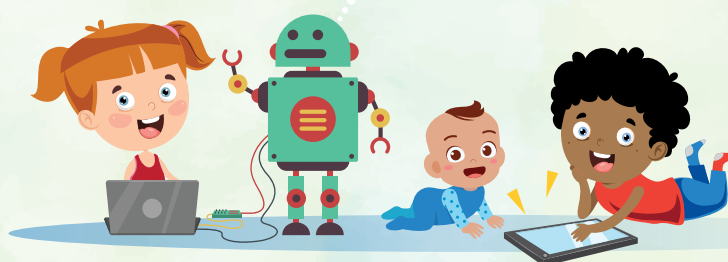
8

Moderate, cautious
and developmentally
appropriate!

11

No digital
education
in ECEC:

BE de, BE nl, BG,
IE, HU, NL, PL,
AL, BA, MK, TR



Illustrations: stock.adobe.com
(yusufdemir, Colorfuel Studio, Urchalee)

Most education systems assess children's readiness for primary school

ADMISSION TO
PRIMARY SCHOOL

32

Age and maturity,
based on assessment
or dialogue

6 years

Most common
age to start
primary school

7

Age only,
postponement
not possible in
IE, ES, FR, LT, MT,
AL, BA



Illustrations: stock.adobe.com
(Colorfuel Studio, Icons-Studio, Green)

Key data on early childhood education and care in Europe 2025



This infographic depicts the main findings of the report *Key data on early childhood education and care in Europe – 2025*. The findings are based on analysis of policies in 37 European countries (39 education systems). The report covers the EU-27 Member States and Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Switzerland, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, Serbia and Türkiye.

The full report is available at

<https://europa.eu/lxkBMkN>

