



FAMILIES WITH MORE CHILDREN AND THE EDUCATION SYSTEM

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OUTLINE

- Introduction
- Challenges
 - Cost-related
 - Participation of parents
- Benefits
 - Costs-related
 - Participation of parents
 - Social
 - Different levels



INTRODUCTION

- Slovenia-based (personal) experience
 - Limited international comparison
 - “Families with more children“
 - Not addressed in the main school-laws
 - This is OK, large families do not have so many „special needs“, explicitly related to schooling of children to require legislative solutions in school-laws
 - The problems can be solved at school level individually
 - Or in legislation, covered by other ministries (finance, social affairs, for example, in the case of cost issues)
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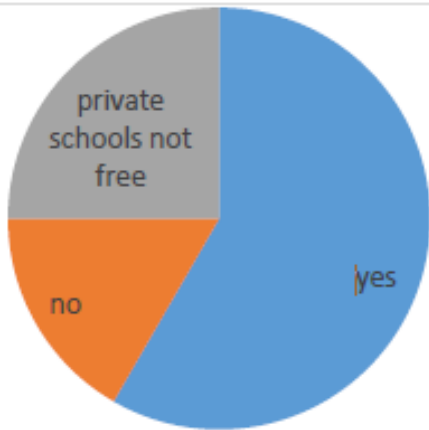
CHALLENGES, COST-RELATED

CHARTER OF FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION, Article 14:

1. Everyone has the right to education and to have access to vocational and continuing training.
 2. This right includes the possibility to receive free compulsory education.
- The cost of schooling should, therefore, not be an issue...
 - European parents association conducted a survey in **24 countries** a few years ago. For illustrative purposes, here are just a few charts.



Are schools considered free in your country?



Transportation to/from school



- Depends on income
- Depends on where you live
- Directly paid by parents
- Free for parents
- Partly paid by parents
- Special needs children go free

Course books



- Depends on income
- Depends on where you live
- Directly paid by parents
- Free for parents
- Partly paid by parents

Workbooks



- Depends on income
- Depends on where you live
- Directly paid by parents
- Free for parents
- Partly paid by parents

Necessary personal IT equipment



- Depends on income
- Depends on where you live
- Directly paid by parents
- Free for parents
- Partly paid by parents

Necessary extra tuition for keeping up with others



- Depends on where you live
- Directly paid by parents
- Free for parents
- Partly paid by parents
- Free for special needs children
- no answer

Lunch



- Depends on income
- Depends on where you live
- Directly paid by parents
- Free for parents
- Special needs children get it free


Sport outfits



- Directly paid by parents



CHALLENGES, COST-RELATED

- Compulsory education is **actually not free**
 - With more children in school the costs grow and may become an issue even for economically well-situated families
 - Nowadays it is to some extent addressed by social legislation (certain schooling-related costs are subsidized by the state for children from economically weaker families)
 - However, I would like to emphasize
 - **Large families ≠ poor families**
 - Better than subsidizing some is to provide **truly free education** to all
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CHALLENGES, PARTICIPATION OF PARENTS

- It is well known that collaboration between parents and teachers is a key to the successful educational process.
 - Having more children in school can hinder the possibility to interact with the teachers of each child
 - If parents class-meetings are all in the same time slot it may become impossible for 2 parents to attend meetings for 3 or more children.
 - Individual meetings with teachers and participation at other events can also become a logistical (unsolvable)problem for parents.
 - Experience shows that such problems can be well overcome if the parents clearly state these problems and the school management and teachers show some flexibility and good will.



BENEFITS

○ Cost-related

- Not many, but there are some things that can be used by younger brothers and sisters (e. g. an atlas)
- Family-specific (i. e. transportation)

○ Participation of parents

- Parents learn how to play their role in children's schooling – they do better for every next child
- Parents-teachers interaction period is longer, they know each other better and can develop better collaboration



BENEFITS (OPPORTUNITIES), SOCIAL

○ Family

- Older children benefit from the experience and grow in their self-esteem and responsibility for younger ones
- Younger children benefit from the psychological and learning support they receive from their elder

○ School

- Family members in different classes can help integrate the school community in terms of pupils as well as parents and teachers.

○ Local (and broader) community

- School is the place where families meet. It can be a place where integration begins and where the people can identify their common interests and start acting to achieve them.
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