




Setting the context: 15 principles for family resilience

- rEUsilience (risks, resources and inequalities: increasing resilience in European families) funded under the EU's Horizon Europe programme and Innovate UK from 2022-2025 aimed to understand how different families face and respond to the challenges with the resources they have?
- Our ambition was to identify the situations facing families, especially those with low resources and work out policy solutions that can contribute to family resilience and in turn stronger welfare states



Policy Priorities for Family Resilience

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Final conference for the rEUsilience project: The State of Family Resilience in Europe Today: new evidence to support policy reform





What are the challenges to how existing policy supports families?

- Inadequate financial support, leaving some families only filling the gaps but not being able to adapt, or transform their situation
- Lack of income and service support through family-based life transitions (early years of a child, developing needs of the child as they grow, transitions of parents between home and employment, development of care needs of adult family members)
- General lack of service support for families, supporting family functioning through family support services



Policy priorities for family resilience

1. Better income support for families with children, with a particular concern for low-resourced families
2. Closing the childcare gap
3. **Putting in place a comprehensive set of family support services**



Policy principles for better income support for families with children

- **Universal** child related income support
- **Adequate** level of financial support
- Provide **extra** targeted support for **families with additional needs**
- Recognition of the **additional costs of transitions in families** should be built in



Principles for closing the childcare gap (1)

- Universality of paid statutory leave for all parents (for all parents regardless of employment status or other potentially exclusionary conditions)
- Well-paid leave should be accepted as a principle for all parenting related leaves
- Gender equality should remain a core principle
- Equality among families should be accepted as a principle especially by recognising the additional needs of some families

Principles for closing the childcare gap (2)

- The right and entitlement to ECEC should be universal for all children
- ECEC should be governed by a principle of flexibility
- There should be no gap between the end of well-paid parenting related leaves and the onset of the child's right to ECEC



Principles for putting in place comprehensive family support services

- Family support services should be universally available and range from general to highly specialised support
- There should be a national-level framework for family support services premised on local-level provision
- Family support services should be guided by a holistic approach

Key message

- Developing a comprehensive network of family support services is a key part of the puzzle in supporting families
- But, it is needed alongside other policies: income support, family leaves, ECEC and more