Evolving Family Models in Spain

A New National Framework for Improved Support and Protection for Families

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New OECD report

Objectives

– Diagnose the strengths and weaknesses of Spanish family policy
– Propose improvements based on a review of good practices in EU and OECD countries
– Provide orientations for the development of a new national framework for improved support and protection for families
Incorporating the diversity of families into a new legal framework

• Spanish families have become more diverse, and family law has evolved alongside these changes

• This diversity is not yet reflected in a unified legal framework on support for families

• A new legal framework could guarantee minimum protection for diverse families, by:
  – Harmonising definitions of the family unit and the basic features of different types of families
  – Creating common criteria to assess economic resources of family units
  – Guaranteeing minimum protection throughout the territory with room for regional enhancements
Spain spends less on family benefits and services than other OECD countries

Public expenditure on family benefits by type of expenditure, in percent of GDP, 2015 and latest available

Cash | Services | Tax-breaks for families

Source: OECD Family Database, Indicator PF1.1 Public spending on family benefits based on the OECD Social Expenditure Database.
Rethink family policy from a children’s rights perspective

Prioritise preventative measures and ensure equal access to opportunities and protections for all children, by

- Considering a mix of universal and means-tested services and benefits
- Promoting policies that help parents take up adequately paid employment
- Making it easier to enforce child support obligations, but also to adjust them to changing circumstances

Supporting families through a comprehensive mix of measures
Maternity and particularly paternity leave entitlements are generous in Spain.

Duration of paid maternity and paternity leave, 2018 (Spain: 2021)

Source: OECD Family Database, Indicator PF2.1: Parental leave systems.
Spain does not offer additional paid parental leave

Duration of paid parental leave in weeks, 2018

Note: The figure also includes home care leave.
Source: OECD Family Database, Indicator PF2.1: Parental leave systems.
Making family life easier for all

- Provide families with a continuum of supports from birth
  - Paid parental leave
  - Working time flexibility
  - High-quality and affordable early childhood education and care (ECEC)
  - Out-of-school-hours care options
  - Family mediation programmes for separating family disputes
  - Positive parenting programmes

- Ensure policy coherence and efficiency
  - Facilitating co-operation across different policy areas and government levels
  - Setting up a monitoring and evaluation system
THANK YOU

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