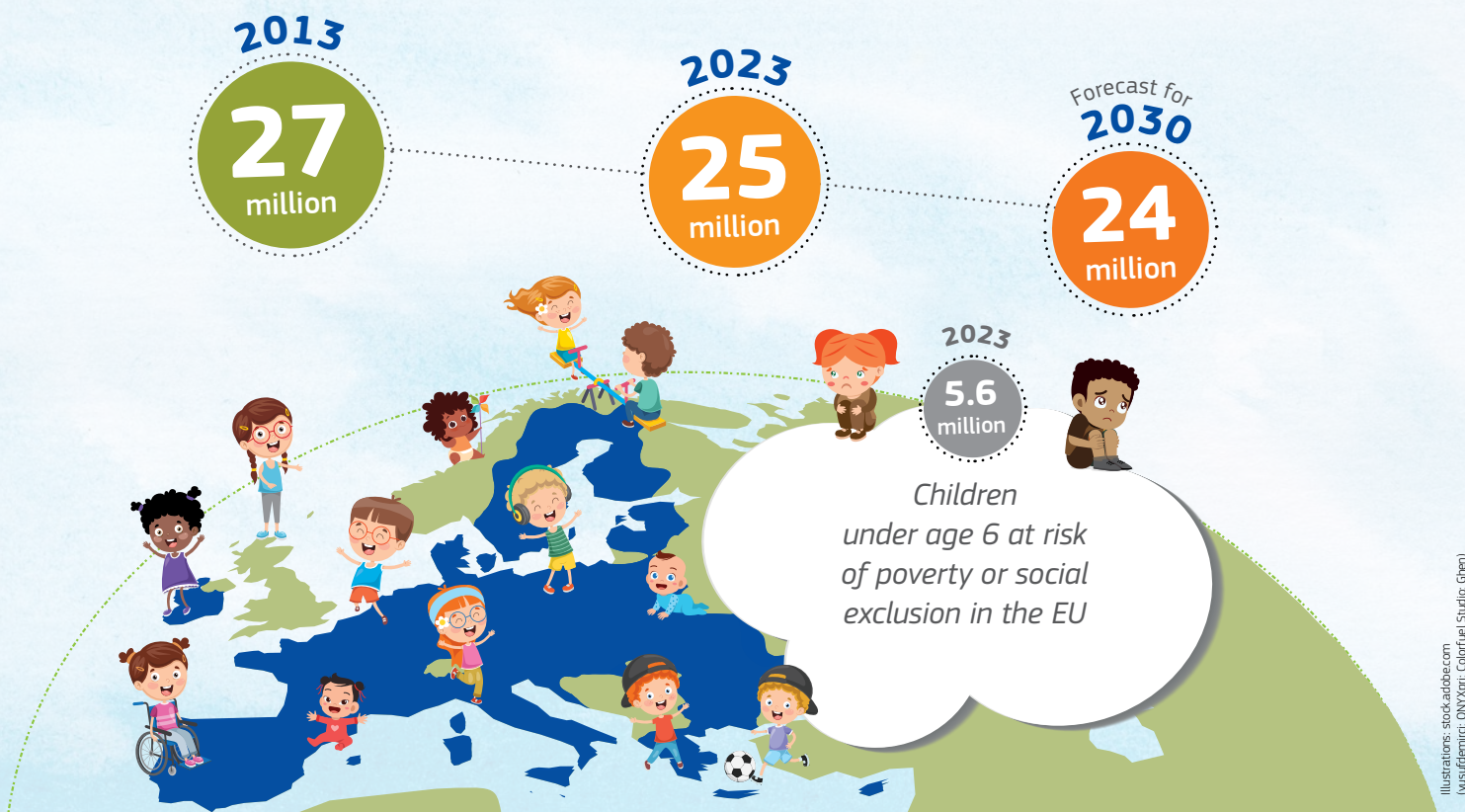


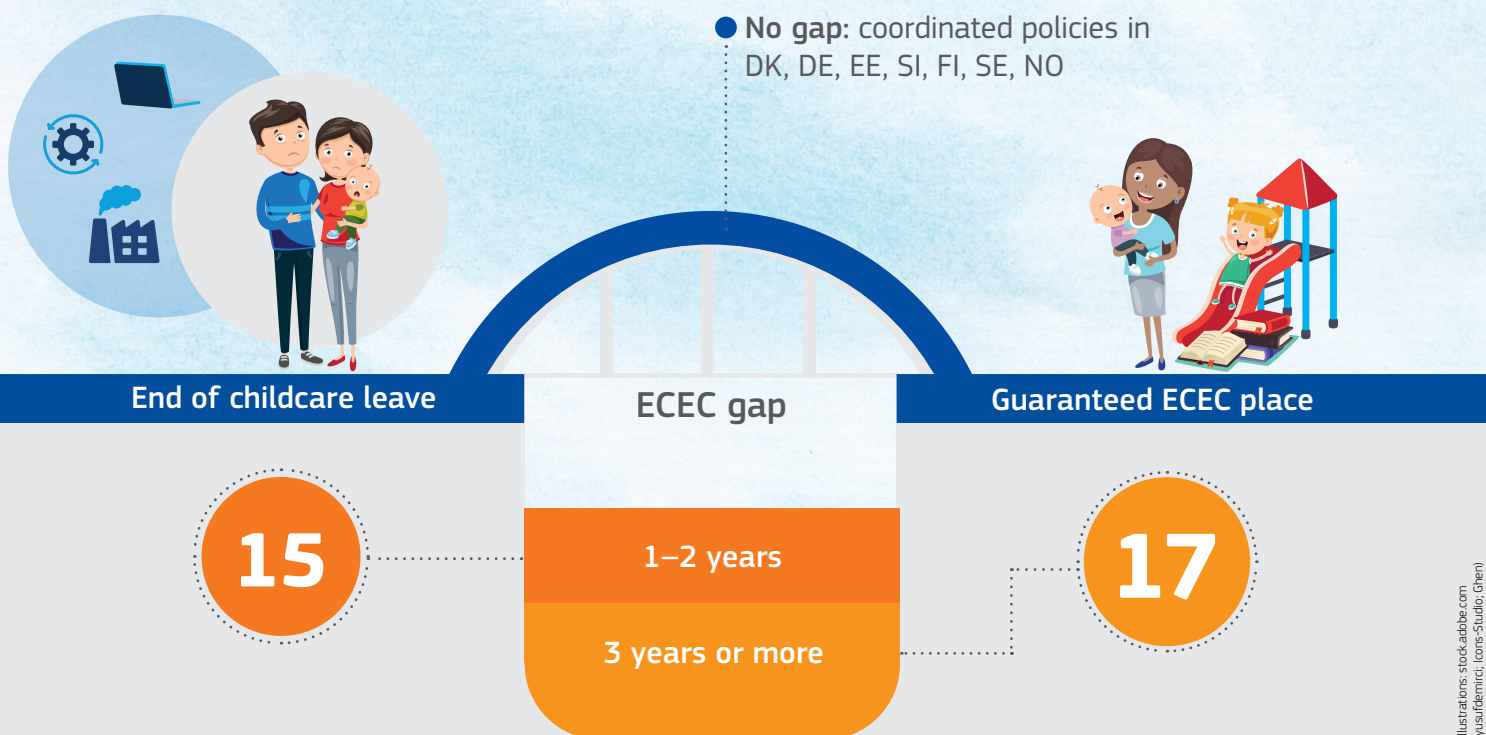
# Early childhood education and care (ECEC) in Europe – 2025

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

Member States aim to increase participation in ECEC by 2030



Illustrations: stock.adobe.com (YasurDemirici, Colourful Studio, stiker2you, Ghem)

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

29

● Children with special needs or disabilities

21

● Children at risk of poverty or social exclusion

19

● Children from migrant backgrounds

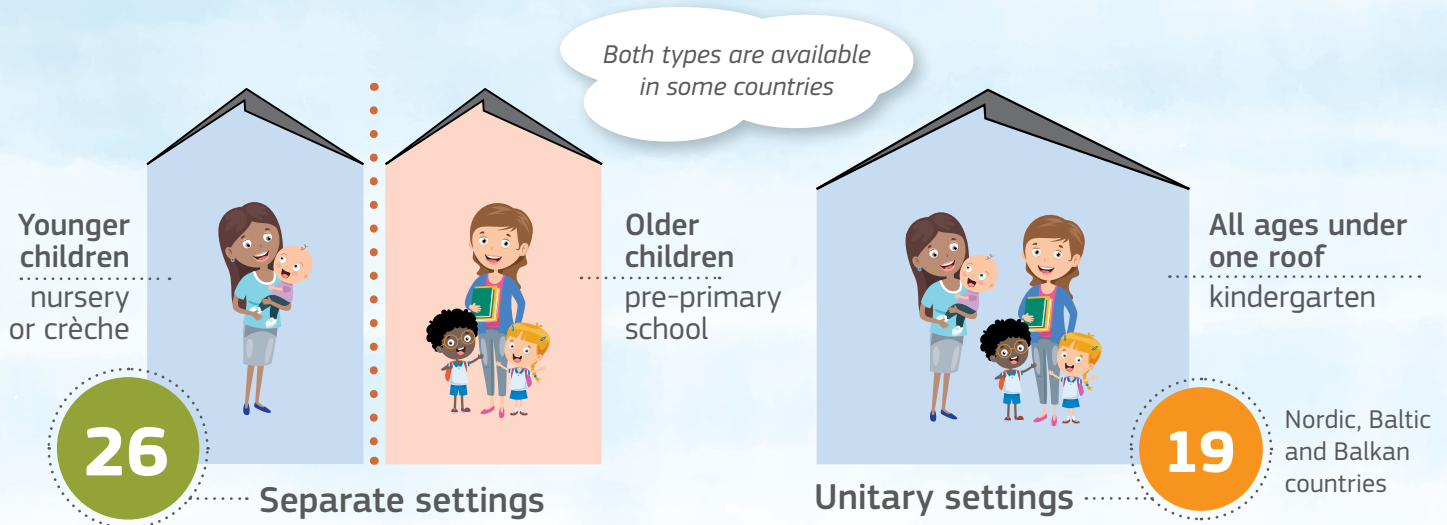
Specialised staff, reduced group sizes, adapted infrastructure, additional funding, etc.



Illustrations: stock.adobe.com (YasurDemirici, Veyseil Ghem)

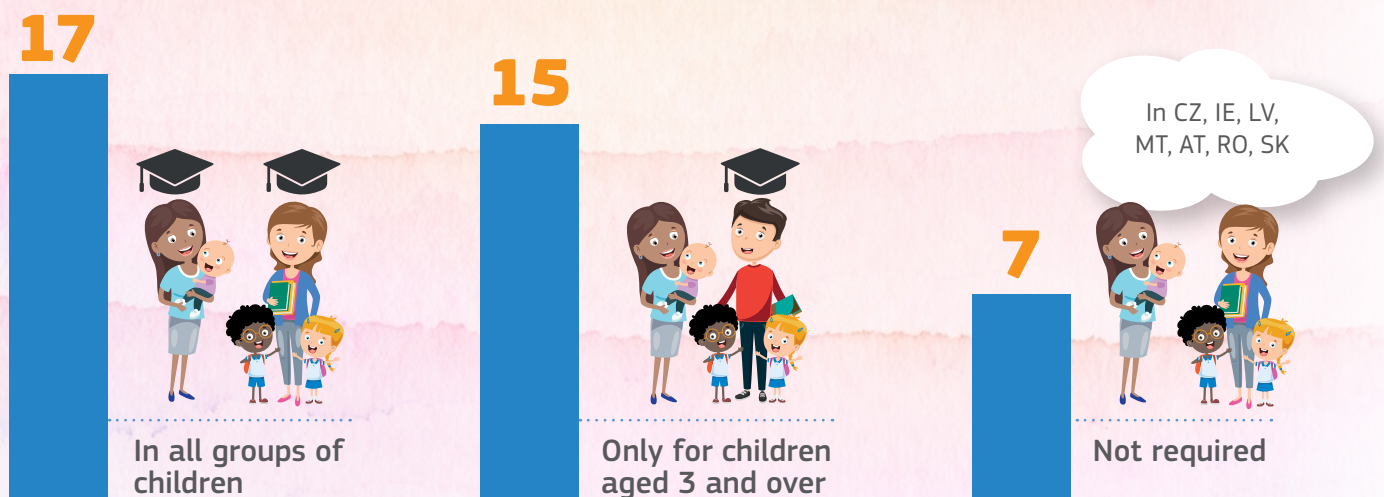
# Early childhood education and care (ECEC) in Europe – 2025

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



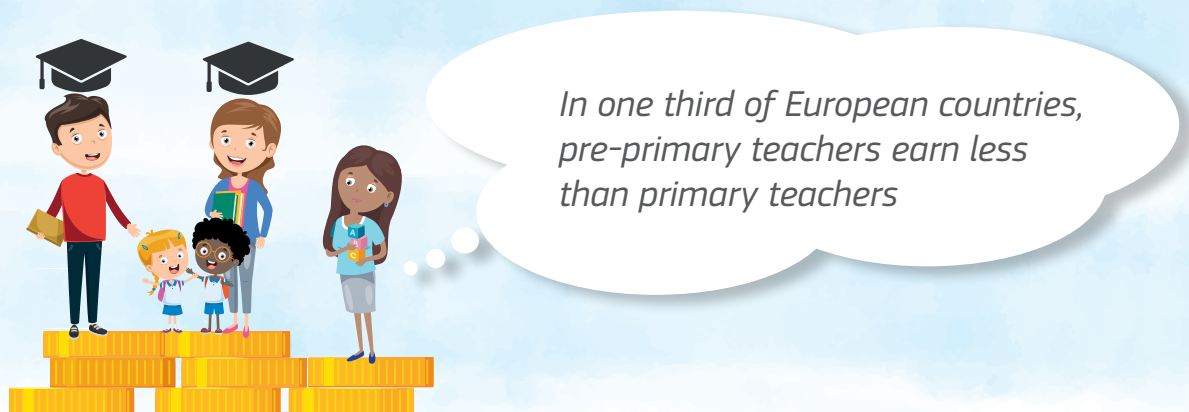
Illustrations: stock.adobe.com (yusufdemirci, Urchhaie)

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



Illustrations: stock.adobe.com (yusufdemirci, travipuel.com)

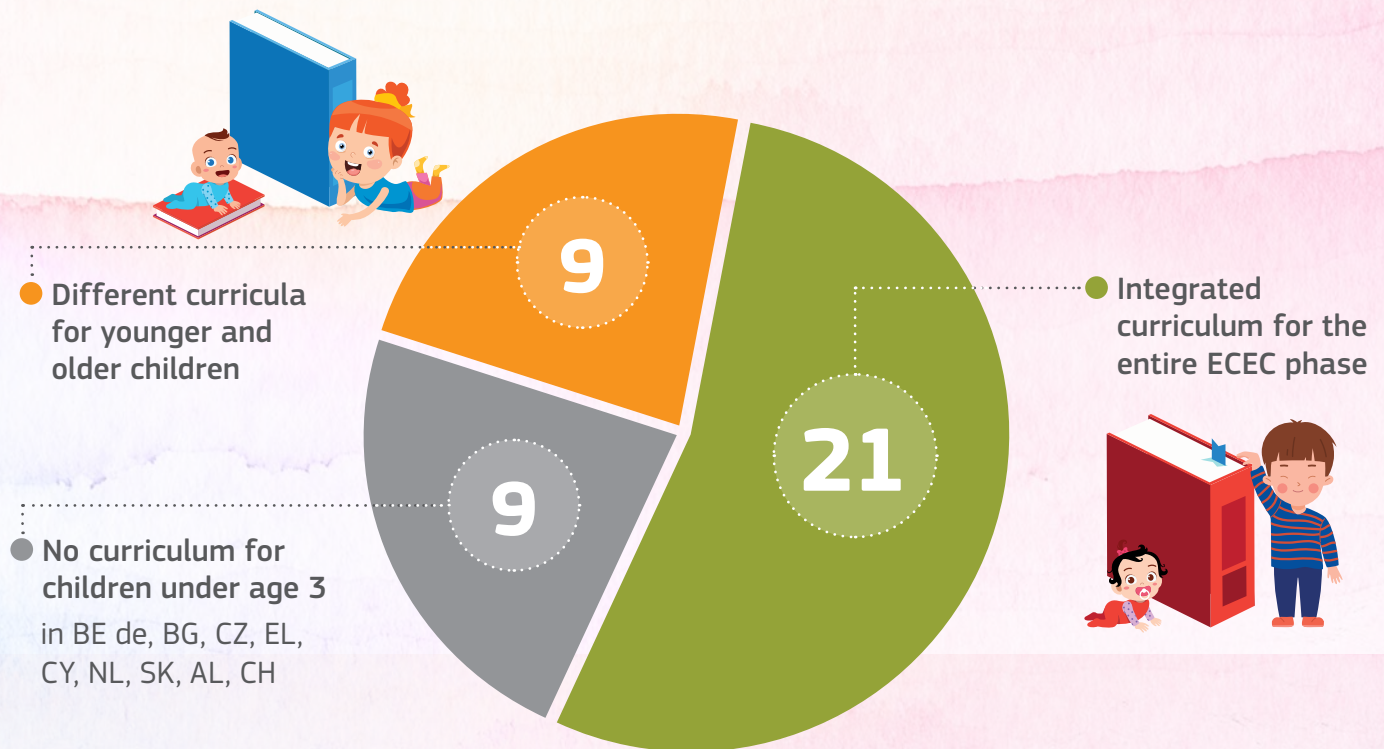
## Pre-primary and primary teachers tend to receive the same starting salary for the same level of qualification



Illustrations: stock.adobe.com (yusufdemirci, Unchalee, viajwel)

# 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

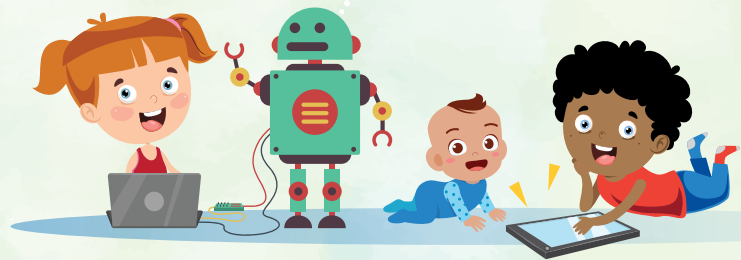
Problem-solving

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 (VisualDenim, Colourful Studio, Urchhalie)

## Most education systems assess children's readiness for primary school

ADMISSION TO PRIMARY SCHOOL



6 years

Most common age to start primary school

31

- Age and maturity, based on assessment or dialogue

8

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

Illustrations: stock.adobe.com (Colourful 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>.

