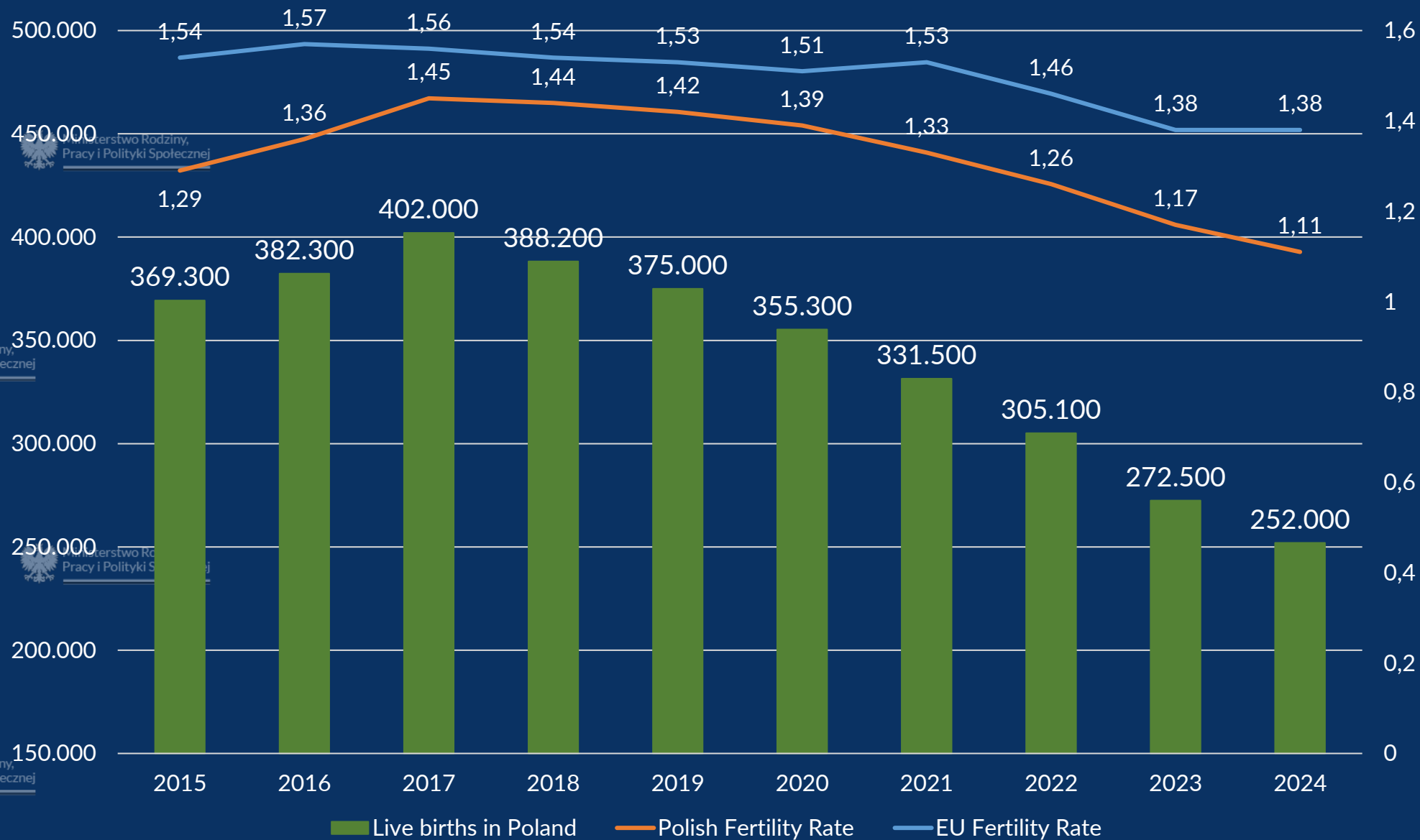


Early Childhood Education and Care Reforms in Poland – towards effectiveness

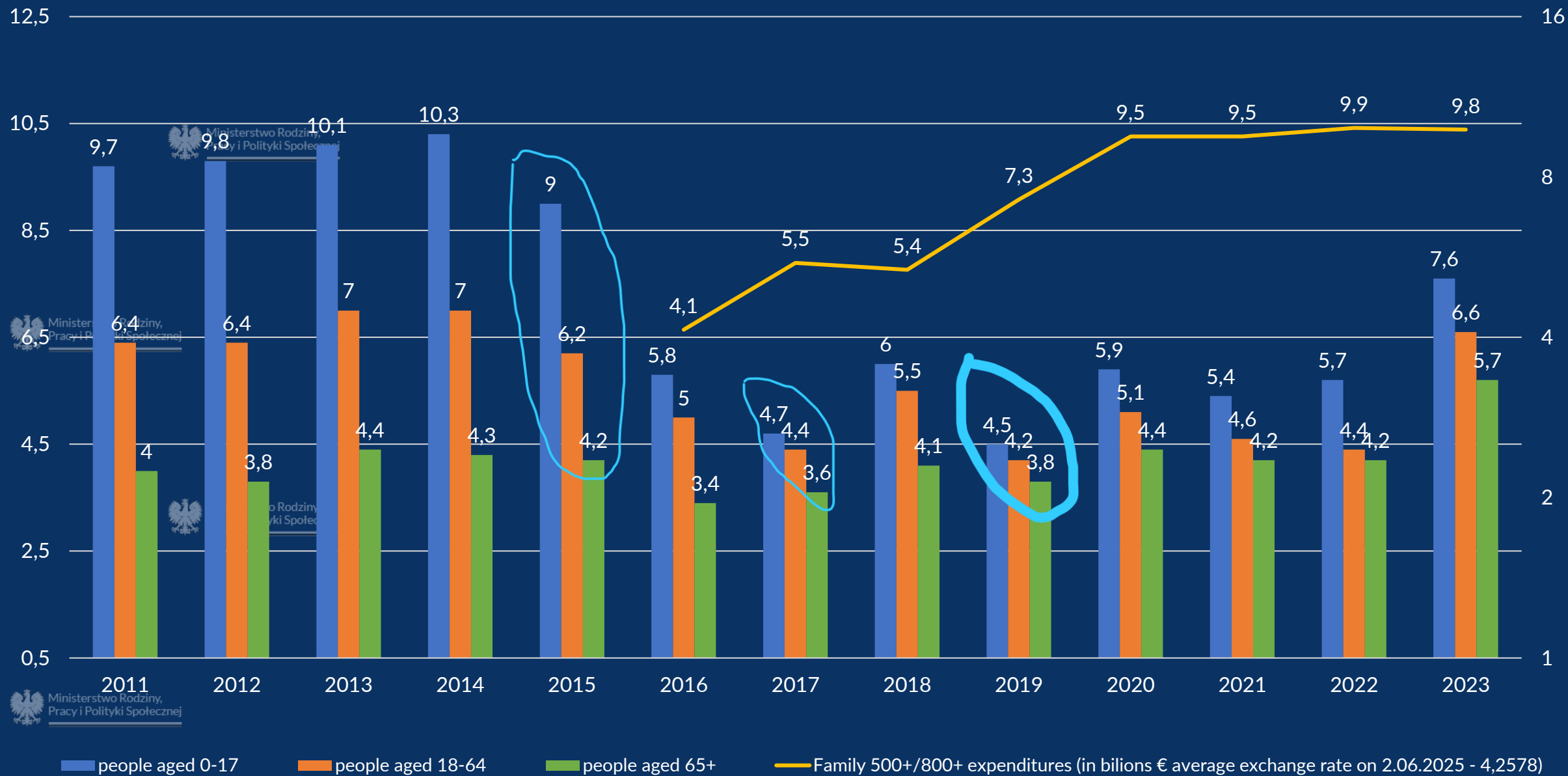
Warsaw, 16-17 June 2025



Fertility rate, live births, 800 Plus

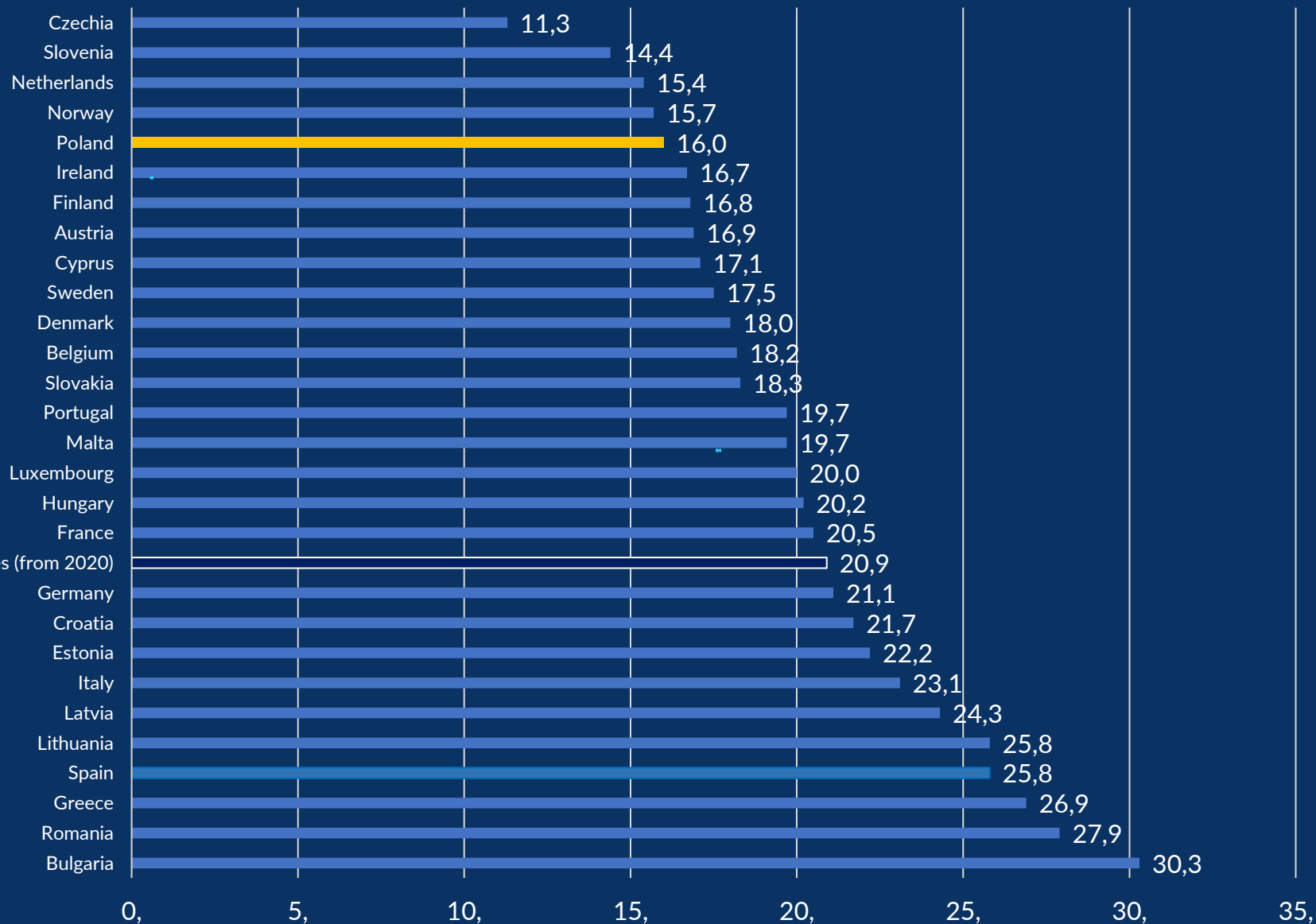


Extent of **extreme poverty** in Poland by household typea (% of people in households)





Percentage of people by risk of poverty (2024)



Ministerstwo Rodziny,
Pracy i Polityki Społecznej

Ministerstwo Rodziny,
Pracy i Polityki Społecznej

Ministerstwo Rodziny,
Pracy i Polityki Społecznej

Ministerstwo Rodziny,
Pracy i Polityki Społecznej



OVERARCHING GOALS (HIGHER-LEVEL OBJECTIVES)



1. Promoting the reconciliation of professional and family life,
2. Preparing toddlers for life in the community,
3. Increasing public awareness of early childhood education





SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES



Ministerstwo Rodziny,
Pracy i Polityki Społecznej

1. Expanding access to early childhood care facilities (nurseries)

2. Improving the quality of care and education in nurseries,

3. Building a coalition of stakeholders supporting early childhood initiative





"Active parent" Programme – aim and framework



"Active parents at work"

€375 per month per child (€475 for children with disabilities), granted to **professionally active parents**



Ministerstwo Rodziny,
Pracy i Polityki Społecznej



"Actively in the nursery"

Up to €375 per month per child, but not exceeding the actual nursery fee (€475 for children with disabilities), granted to parents whose **child is enrolled in a nursery.**



Ministerstwo Rodziny,
Pracy i Polityki Społecznej



"Actively at home"

€125 per month, granted to parents of a child aged 12 to 35 months who are either not eligible for or voluntarily opt out of the "Active parents at work" or "Actively in the nursery" benefits.



Ministerstwo Rodziny,
Pracy i Polityki Społecznej

parents may switch between the three "Active parent" benefits but **only one benefit** per child per month.

Application: **2-4 minutes online**



Act on Supporting Parents in Employment and Child Rearing

"Active Parent" Programme



Complementary Programmes

Benefit: "Active Parents at Work"

Benefit: "Active at Home" (formerly the Family Care Capital - RKO)

Benefit: "Active in Nursery" (formerly the PLN 400 childcare subsidy)

"Active Toddler" Programme (formerly "Maluch+")

nursery support system

Returning to Work – We Need Support

Staying at Home with My Child – I Need Support

We Chose a Nursery, Childcare Club, or Daycare Provider – We Need Support

Supporting the development or expansion of nurseries, childcare clubs, and day care arrangements.

Programme: Active Daycare Provider in the Municipality 2025

Programme: Active Playgrounds 2025

Academy of Support (2024-2026)
A national system for enhancing early childhood care in Poland

high-quality standards for nursery care

DIRECT FINANCIAL TRANSFER TO PARENTS WHO RETURN TO WORK

UNCONDITIONAL FINANCIAL TRANSFER TO PARENTS

DIRECT FINANCIAL TRANSFER TO THE CHILDCARE PROVIDER

DIRECT FINANCIAL TRANSFER TO THE CHILDCARE PROVIDER

Salary supplements for nursery care staff



ACCESS TO NURSERIES – INDICATORS

1. Increase in the number of nursery places
(from 226,000 to 315,000)

*Current status: **254,114 places***

2. Increase in nursery coverage for two age cohorts
(from 36% to 60%)

*Current status: **44.03%***

3. Increase in the percentage of municipalities offering nursery services
(from 54% to 80%)

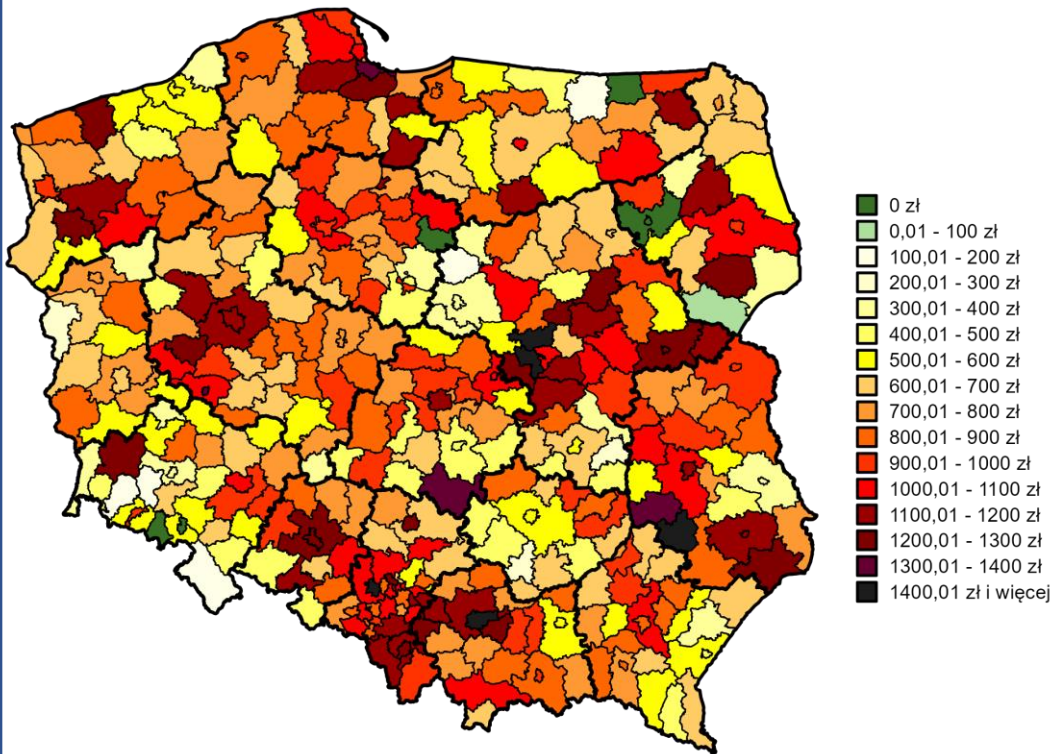
*Current status: **64.03%***



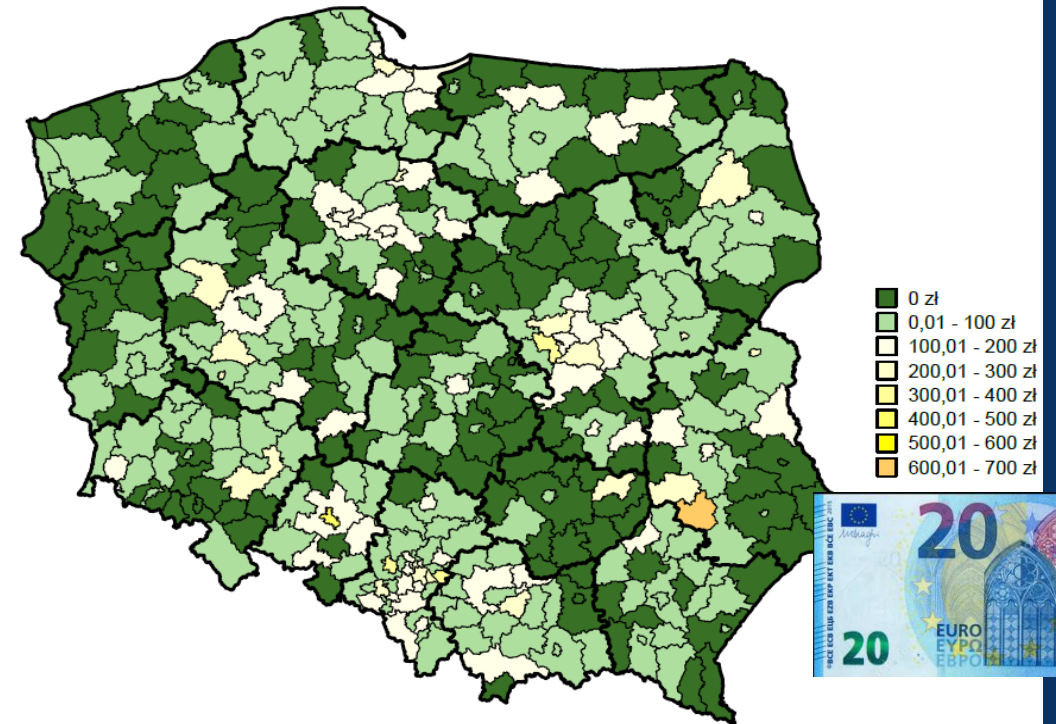


Reduction of childcare costs in early childhood care institutions because of the „Active Parent” programme

Average monthly childcare fees in early childhood care institutions for children under the age of 3 in counties as of August 2024



Average monthly childcare fees in early childhood care institutions for children under the age of 3 in counties as of May 2025

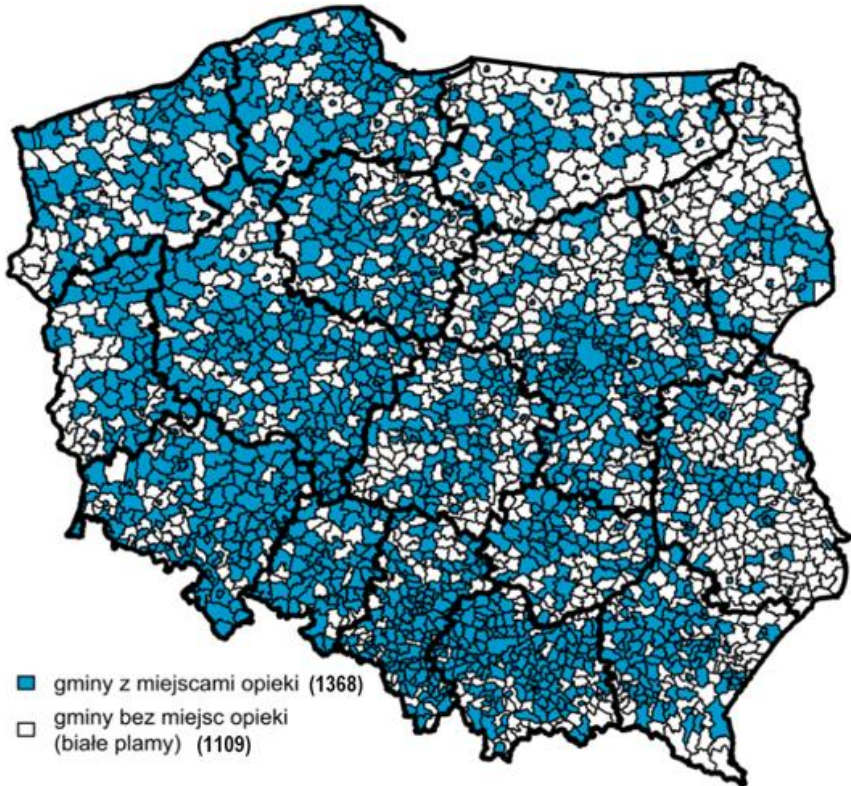


Following the introduction of the “Active Parent” subsidy

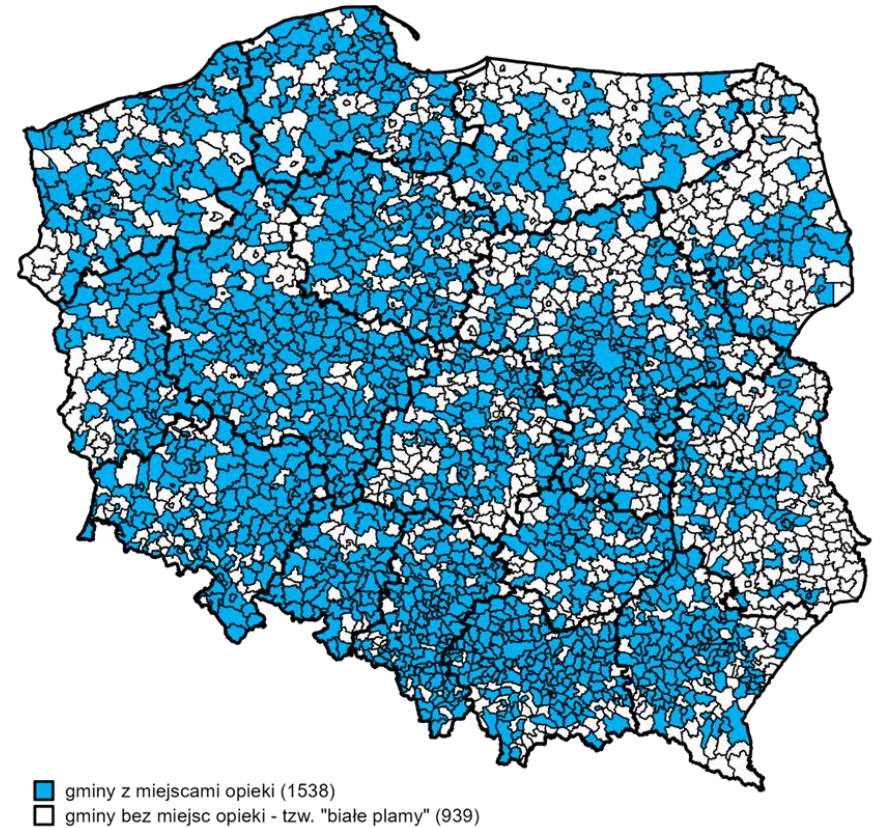


WHITE SPOTS

Municipalities with / without early childhood care facilities for children under the age of 3 – as of January 19, 2023



Municipalities with / without early childhood care facilities for children under the age of 3 – as of December 2024





IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION AND CARE



1. Regulation of the Minister of Family, Labour and Social Policy on the quality of early childhood care adopted in December 2024.
2. “Academy of Support” – a national system for supporting the development of early childhood care in Poland (2024–2026).
 - Professional training programs,
 - Development and dissemination of educational handbooks,
 - Engagement of top-tier professionals,
 - Support from local governments,
 - Advisory services,
 - Awareness-raising and outreach activities, particularly targeting rural communities.





„Academy of support” – A National System for Supporting the Development of Early Childhood Care in Poland

16 Regional Support Institutions WLAWy

- Advisory and training activities at the regional level for caregivers, managerial staff, and municipalities,
 - local supervision
 - workshops for parents

Central Support Institution KLAW

- Development of guidelines for municipalities on the inspection of compliance with care standards
- Preparation of training materials and manuals for caregivers, managerial personnel, and entities planning to establish early care services

Central Dissemination and Online Institution

Institution for Monitoring the Quality of Early Childhood Care

The initiative is scheduled to continue until the end of 2026, followed by a competitive call for the next 5-year implementation phase





IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF CARE AND EDUCATION



Ministerstwo Rodziny,
Pracy i Polityki Społecznej



Ministerstwo Rodziny,
Pracy i Polityki Społecznej



Ministerstwo Rodziny,
Pracy i Polityki Społecznej



Ministerstwo Rodziny,
Pracy i Polityki Społecznej

**Academy of
Support**

**Priority 1 – National
Leader of the Academy of
Support**

**Priority 4 – Monitoring the
Quality of Early Childhood
Care**

**Priority 2 – Regional
Leaders of the Academy of
Support**

**Priority 3 – Ambassador of
the Academy of Support
& Digital Ambassador of
the Academy of Support**

Building a Coalition of Supporters and Advocates

Supporting Bottom-Up Initiatives

- Activities of the Ambassador of the Support Academy
- Activities of the Digital Ambassador of the Support Academy

Top-Down Actions

- Engagement of Parliament,
- Central government administration,
- Regional government administration,
- Local policymakers,
- Legislative reforms,
- Stakeholder engagement (including political decision-makers),
- Public promotion and media outreach

These coordinated efforts aim to foster a comprehensive and inclusive environment for advancing early childhood care and education through both grassroots involvement and institutional leadership



Priority 4: “How Can We Measure Real Impact?”



1. A baseline study is planned to be conducted prior to the implementation of the reform.

- The study will be carried out using the method of non-participant observation, employing the **Classroom Assessment Scoring System [CLASS] Toddler** tool (La Paro, Hamre, & Pianta, 2012).
- The evaluation will ensure representation at the national level, as well as from one voivodeship (province) and one city.

2. The quality of care in nurseries will be assessed every 2 to 3 years, with the aim of:

- Monitoring improvements in early childhood education and care,
- Identifying the most effective components of the system to inform policy development and targeted improvements



Inspiration for the Future

- Innovative Playgrounds – Can They Be a Pathway to a Happy Childhood?
- Do We Need Highly Qualified Early Childhood Education Specialists?
- Should we support projects related to food quality in nurseries or build a verification system by parents?





Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Policy
Republic of Poland

**Thank you
for your attention**



Tomasz Pactwa

Tomasz.pactwa@mrpips.gov.pl

Director of Family Policy Department
Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Policy of Poland