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***Child care support and child minders
service in Latvia: social context, target
groups, financial support and legal
framework***

*Seminar on Care for Family Members
2015.gada 5.marts*





Preliminary research and ex-ante observations



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- research “On effectiveness of child care benefit and preferable payment periods” (2002, Latvian University) proved that 42% of parents have the real risk to lose a job after child care leave. The certain linear dependency exists between age of minded children and family incomes: the children are younger, the risk of insufficient incomes is bigger
- research “On inclusion of parents into the labor market after child care leave” (2007, “ITA Consulting”) proved that one of the most significant factors, which disables parents to return into the labor market after child care leave, is the lack of availability of municipal pre-school educational institutions (long waiting lists) and insufficient coverage of private child care and child-minders services (small amount and high prices)
- public polls (2012, SDPC, SKDS) showed that more preferable form of state support for families with small children is availability of state financed pre-school educational services or subsidized child care services, which allow full-time employment for parents (65% of respondents)
- research carried out by the State Regional Development Agency and Baltic Institute of Social Sciences “The development of pre-school educational services and alternative child minders services in Latvia planning regions” (2009) established that the most effective form of support for families with small children are organized by the state, municipalities and private companies alternative child care services (day care centers, child-minders services, babysitters, nannies, private kindergartens). Diversification of child care facilities in turn increase its’ accessibility in relation to different individual needs of parents and different age of minded child
- SIA „Projektu un kvalitātes vadība” research (2013) «Factors impacting reproduction of population» proved that parents’ experience with first child care facilities is the one of the most significant factors impacting of forthcoming childbearing



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Weak points of Latvian early childhood education and care system before 2013

- **low availability of municipal pre-school educational institutions (long waiting lists):** in the school year of 2011/2012 91 thousand children attended pre-school educational institutions out of 145,7 thousand children in the age group up to the age of 7. According to the General Education Law Article 21 the local governments shall provide in their administrative territory equal accessibility of pre-school educational institutions for children from the age of one and a half. In 2012 11,3 thousands children have been in the waiting list for a place in the pre-school educational institutions
- **high expenses using private pre-school educational services and the lack of municipal support:** according to the information provided by 43 private pre-school educational institutions in Riga the average cost of one child in preschool educational institution in 2012 was 250 euro on average. Most of the families don't use the private preschool educational services because they cannot pay the difference between the allowance paid by the local government for this service and the actual cost of the private pre-school educational institution services
- **deficiency of professional alternative child care services:** the child health and safety before September 2013 had not been sufficiently ensured within alternative services in contrast with hardline requirements proposed to the preschool educational institutions (there were no special requirements to providers of child care and child-minders services, including registration and supervision regulations, as also special educational and hygiene requirements). Child minders services were established only in few municipalities – Liepāja, Jēkabpils un Ķekava
- **big proportion of illegal sector:** individual nurses in most cases have been employed illegally, without contracts and taxpaying, as a result these nurses haven't been socially insured and qualified for work with small children (without education, professional skills and sanitary certificate). Negative potential impact on protection of the child health and protection of the service recipients, as also labor market legalization

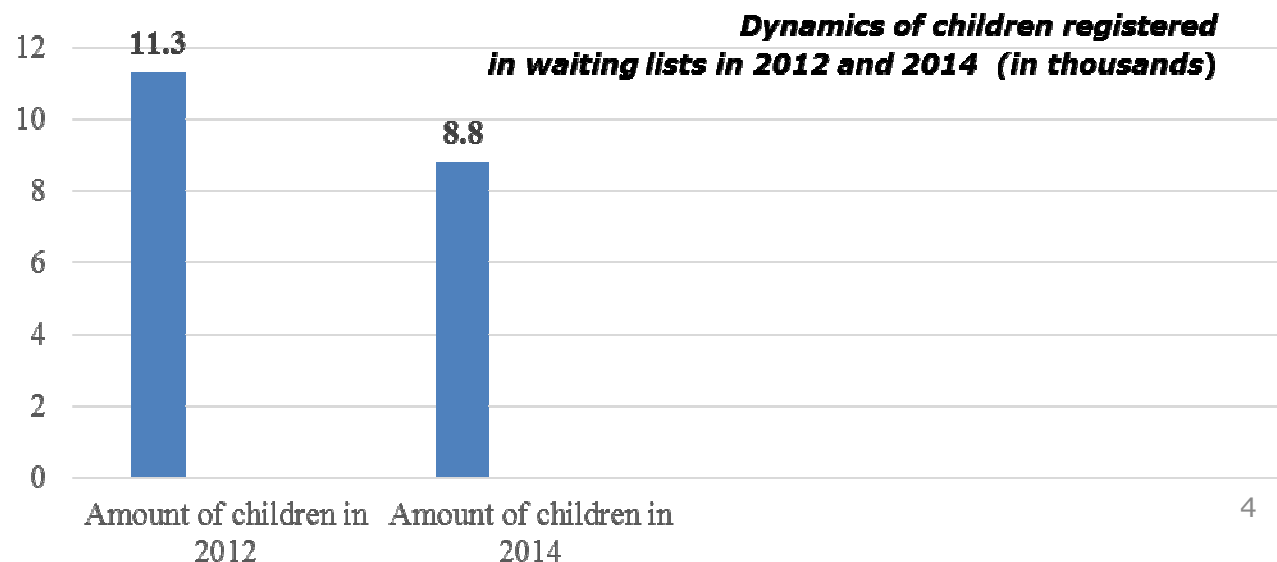


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Role of municipalities ensuring early childhood education and care services

- ✗ Latvia has a long tradition of public provision of childcare services but it does not meet all the demand for such services. Therefore private provision long time was operating alongside in the form of private kindergartens and nannies
- ✗ autonomous function of local governments is to provide for the education of residents (ensuring children of pre-school and school age with places in training and educational institutions; organizational and financial assistance)
- ✗ on 8 August 2011 *Education Law* prescribes that local governments shall ensure in their administrative territory the equal access to pre-school educational services for all children at the 1,5-5 years of age
- ✗ due to the lack of infrastructural base and intensive inter-regional migration (rapid increase of registered children in Riga region) local governments have been contiguous with long waiting lists problem

The state support is granted if the child has been registered in the waiting list. Therefore a big amount of children are still in waiting lists in order to receive state support for alternative service





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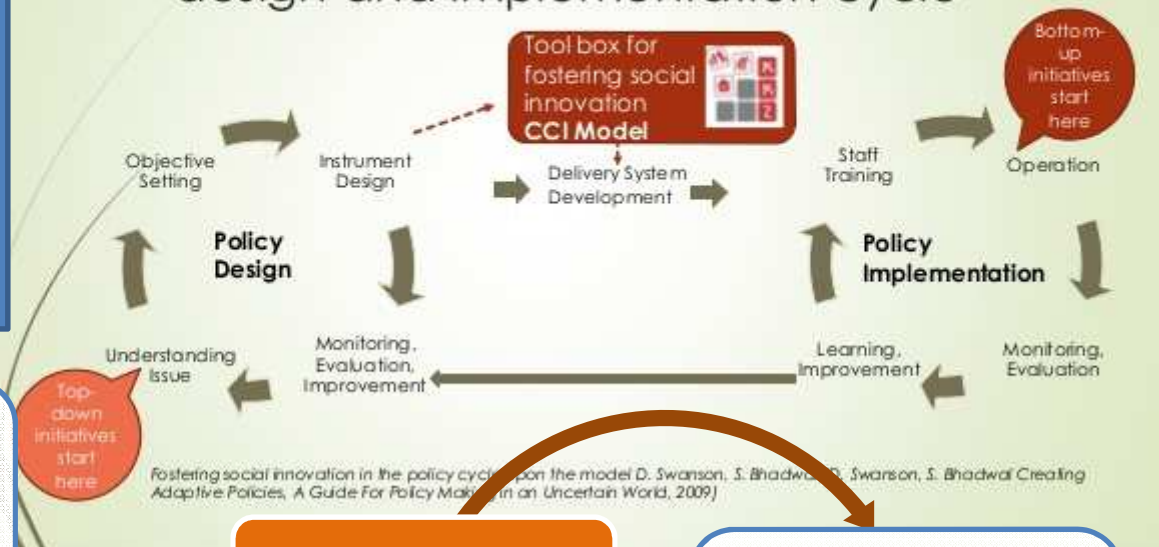
Latvian early childhood education and care system: good practice of local governments

- **at the beginning of the year 2013 the local governments that are unable to provide pre-school educational services for children that are declared in their administrative territory, were partly paying for those children who were not acquiring education in private pre-school educational institutions. The allowance was between 70 – 260 EUR per month**
- **in 2012-2013 local governments consequently implemented many measures in order to increase the enrolment of children in formal child care system:**
- investments in pre-school educational groups organizing in basic and secondary education schools
- building the new kindergartens within EU structural funds financing
- optimizing cooperation between local governments and private kindergartens, increasing local governments' co-financing or purchasing places for children, which are in waiting lists
- *Ķekava municipality in 2012 created a nannies' data base, organized training courses for nannies and provided municipal support program for children from the age of one and a half who have not been provided with places in pre-school educational institutions. The amount of the local governments financial support was 170 EUR per month for 160 hours of work performed by the nanny.*

Pilot project “Child care support and child-minders service” – the experience of innovation

- amount of children in waiting lists for two years contracted by 22% and by 32% in Riga
- 1400 registered child minders
- in 2014 state support have received 8347 families (financing - 8,8 mill. Euro)

Fostering social innovation in the policy design and implementation cycle



- ex-ante evaluations and analysis of foreign good practice
- discourse with social partners (trade unions, nannies, kindergartens)
- policy initiative - 23.10.2012. *Agreement among coalition parties*

Draft working out, elaboration of support design and tools

Payment of the state support and introduction of child minders on 01.09.2013.

- setting up the financing mechanism – individual subsidy
- requirements for child minders and Register for child-minders
- new model of state and municipal cooperation

- legalization of private service providers
- decrease in number of children in waiting lists
- child-care diversification
- female employment

Impact assessment, drafting of regular design



Pilot project “Child care support and child-minders service” – III PILLARS



financial support for parents with children aged 1,5 to 4 years who are not benefiting from public childcare

- co-funding of the state
- co-funding of local governments
- cash transfer to the private provider of service



introducing of child-minders service

- improving the quality of childcare and protection of the child health
- skilled and educated child minders which can help to acquire pre-school education programs in family
- requirements, registration and supervision for all child care services



promoting employment and labour market legalization

- legalization of private service providers, involving them in social insurance scheme and accumulating their social security rights
- parents are assisted in work and family life. Parents are enabled to faster return to work after parental leave and earn incomes, thereby reducing the potential risk of unemployment and poverty

Financial support for parents with children



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1) on September 1st, 2013 the Latvian government started the pilot project to provide financial support for parents who need child care support for their children aged 1,5 to 4 years who are not benefiting from public childcare (*as from 5 years on municipalities have a legal obligation to provide primary education to children)

2) the purposeful financing is provided for three years – till the end of 2015 in order to solve the problem of long waiting lists for public kindergarten registration and help parents to return to work at the same time providing safe conditions for the child. The co-funding of the state and the co-funding paid by the local government to the child summed together should be able to decrease parents' expenditures for attendance of private kindergarten or child minders service

3) the monthly amount of the state support for full time service (8 hours) is up to 142 euro with meeting the condition that total of state and municipal support (most municipalities already provide some support towards addressing such situations) per one child does not exceed: 228 euro in Riga planning region and 185 euro outside

The elaborated report prescribes the continuation of the pilot-project and state support program for the next 3 years period (2016-2018) with some improvements (short-term preschool education program starting for all 4 years old children, more rigorous criteria to child-minders supervising 4 years and older children - requirement of the higher preschool pedagogical education and status of individual teacher)

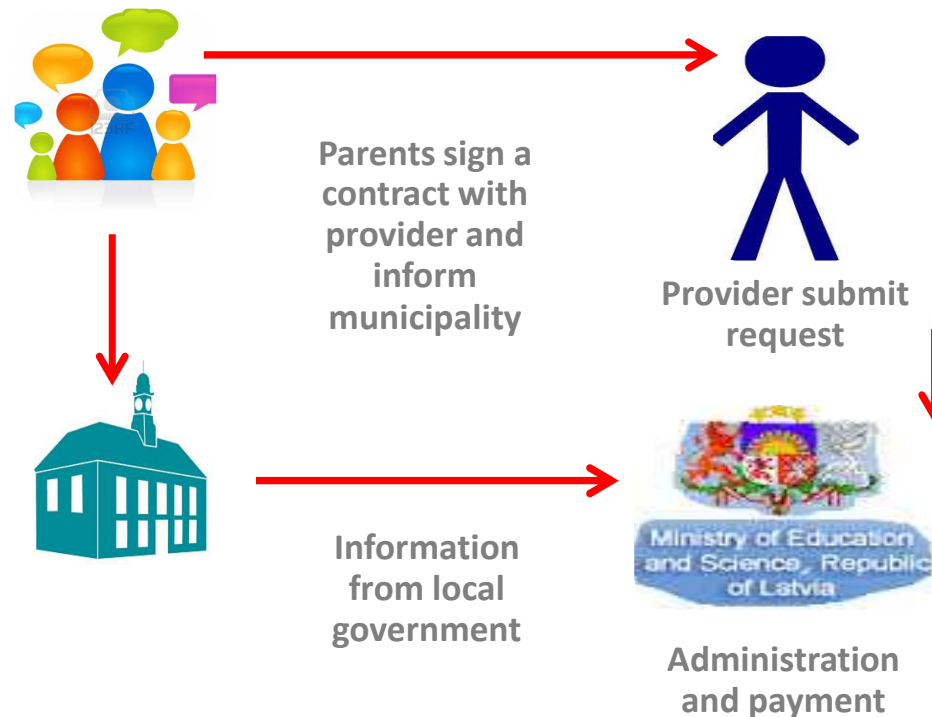
Financial support for parents with children



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state support (cash transfer) should be paid to private service providers that are registered within the Education Register (private kindergartens) or Child Supervision Services Providers Register (nannies, child care centers and other care givers, except private kindergartens) providing full-time service (at least 8 hours per working day)

- in order to get state support parents have to sign a written contract with the provider. Parents have to inform the respective municipality of the place of residence of the child about the fact that the child is benefitting from such private service. Service provider have to inform about service provided the Ministry of Education and Science in each month; the respective payment should be made to the provider within 10 days





Requirements for Providers of Child Supervision Services and Procedures for Registration of Providers of Child Supervision Services

Labklājības ministrija on September 1st, 2013 the regulation on child minders registration came into force, defining qualification and safety requirements for caregivers, who are not registered as the educational institutions

- *Protection of the Rights of the Child Law* has defined:
 - child may be left in public places for short-term supervision to a provider of child supervision services
 - provider of child supervision services shall ensure an environment appropriate for a child at the place of provision of the service, which does not threaten child's safety, life, health, morality and wholesome development

- it is prohibited to leave a child in public places for supervision without the presence of a provider of child supervision services

- Providers of child supervision services shall ensure that children are not left without the supervision of a provider of child supervision services

State support to child minders in 2014			
	Number of child minders	Funding	Number of children
January	392	93 646,31	873
February	442	107 140,21	959
March	502	125 221,57	1120
April	565	134 320,72	1193
May	630	173 331,67	1347
June	667	186 101,03	1346
July	681	190 310,00	1480
August	721	200 320,96	1500
September	573	136 185,73	1041
October	627	149 194,83	1158
November	701	165 941,78	1329
December	758	190 512,85	1400
Total:		1 852 227,66	



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Who can become the child minder ?



state and municipal institutions

- preschool educational institutions
- interest educational institutions and municipal child minders services



private legal persons

- businessmen, cooperative enterprises, NGOs, associations, which deal with child care and child-minding (child care (day care) centers, playrooms)



physical persons

- individual merchants, self-employed, which deal with child care and child-minding (child-minders, babysitters, nannies)



Forms of child supervision / requirements

service duration

Temporary (up to four hours a day)

Full-time (more than four hours a day)

place where the service provided

in the place of residence of the child

outside the place of residence of the child

If full-time service is provided to a child from 18 months of age the service provider has a duty to provide support for the acquisition of a preschool education programme in the child's family, receiving methodological assistance from a local government preschool education institution or advisory centre of preschool education.

Child minder must comply with the following requirements:

- the person has not committed the violations referred to in the Protection of the Rights of the Child Law or criminal offences
- the person has not been suspended or revoked the right of custody or the person has not been revoked from fulfilment of the duties of a guardian or the status of a foster family or guest family
- the person has a certificate regarding first aid skills. This requirement shall not apply to legal persons, if at least one of the persons involved in the provision of the service has medical education
- the person has acquired in-service training educational programme in the field of child care (not less than 40 hours in full-time studies), if full-time service is provided and the person does not have pedagogical education or professional qualification of a nanny



Requirements and control

Requirements to the number of children

- person who provides a short-term service may concurrently supervise not more than 10 children; person who provides a full-time service may concurrently supervise not more than five children, except a case if they all are from the same family
- legal person and State or local government institution may concurrently provide full-time service outside the place of residence of a child for not more than 25 children

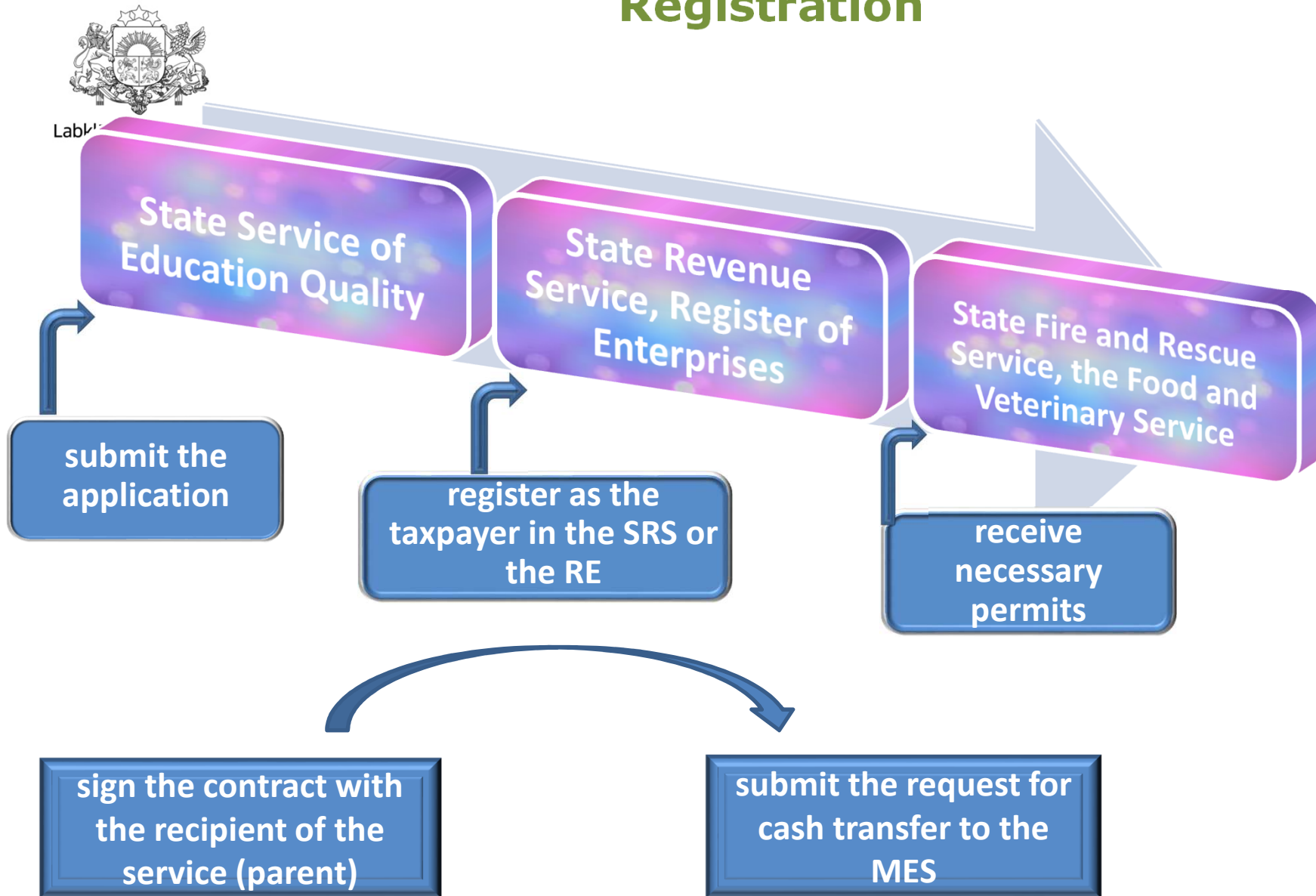
Other requirements

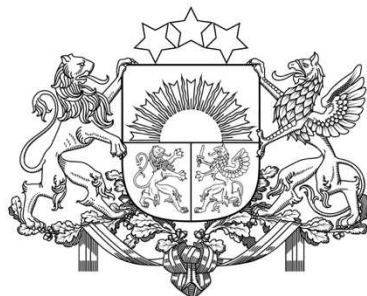
- service for children with special needs is provided, if the provider is specially trained to work with children with special needs and the place of service is adopted according to child's health and developmental disorders
- the contract in writing should be concluded between service provider and the recipient of the service (one of the parents)

Supervision and control

- registration of child minders is controlled by the State Service of Education Quality, the State Revenue Service and the Register of Enterprises
- registered child minders are supervised by the State Inspectorate For Protection Of Children's Rights and additionally controlled by local governments, the State Fire and Rescue Service, the Food and Veterinary Service, the Medical Inspection in terms of its' competence

Registration





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Thank you for attention!

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