

Table 3. New childcare initiatives

Country	Additional childcare places	Other initiatives
Belgium	Increased supply at community/regional level. Flanders to increase childcare places by 2500 per year; Brussels to double childcare places	Increases in tax deductions for childcare. Childcare facility for the unemployed in Brussels region. More flexible provision
Denmark	Extension of childcare facilities	Waiting list for childcare places for children aged 0-10 to be no more than 0.8% of these children. Provide more flexible hours
Greece	Increase in crèches and nurseries: medium-term national targets set for increase in provision of both childcare and day centres for elderly	Day-long kindergartens and primary schools. After-school clubs
Spain	Vague commitment, with no budget announced	
France	250,000 more places 2001-04	More flexible opening times for school and childcare.
Ireland	Additional investment in childcare £250m 2000-2006 30% increase, from a very low base	Upgrading of premises and increased training
Italy	Act on childcare supporting provision passed, but no details as to time scale and extent of support	Vouchers to be provided to households for the purchase of care services
Luxembourg	1000 additional places in medium term	Expansion of places also involves introduction of an early education system. Increased State support for after-school care
Netherlands	Additional 71,000 childcare places, an increase of 80% in four-year period ending in 2002	
Austria	19,000 new places in 1998 and 10,200 in 1999; in 2000 commitment to second stage of kindergarten extension	
Portugal	Financial support for expansion of day nurseries - 100,000 0-3-year-olds to have places; preschool for all 5-year-olds and for 75% of 3-4-year-olds by 2006	Fiscal incentives to employer providing childcare
Finland	None because childcare available for all children	Free pre-school teaching for 6-year-olds
Sweden	Pre-school activities to be extended to all 4-5-year-olds free of charge	New ceiling to costs of public childcare. Childcare now available to job seekers. The right to childcare extended in 2002 to include children with parent on parental leave with siblings
United Kingdom	National Childcare Strategy: 1.6 million new places by 2004	Childcare tax credits for households receiving Working Families Tax Credit; Integrated Child Credit which will provide childcare credits for all low- to medium-income households. Increased training of childcare workers and new fund for childcare of older children in disadvantaged areas.

Source: Rubery et al. (2001).