



Immigrant Children in Pre-School Education in Slovenia

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Pre-school education system in Slovenia

- Compulsory school education starts at age 6
- Pre-school not compulsory but generally perceived as very beneficial
- Most kindergarten programmes subsidised → cheapest child-care option for most parents
- Public and private pre-school institutions accept children from the age of 11 months
- Wide-spread network of kindergartens, but places limited, especially for very young children



Immigrants in pre-school education

- Kindergarten application process very complex (for all applicants), point system favours permanence of residence in the municipality
- Practical guidelines for working with immigrant children exist, but there is no policy to incentivize immigrant children's attendance
- Participation rates among immigrant children?
 - indicator of immigrant integration
- Combining two administrative data sources: CEUVIZ + CPR



Central Register of Participants in Education (CEUVIZ) Central Population Register (CPR)

- **CEUVIZ:** Ministry of Education, Science and Sport; functional from 2013/14; data on **all participants in all levels of education from kindergarten to higher vocational colleges**; no information on immigrant background
- full transmissions from CEUVIZ to SURS from 2015 on
- **CPR:** Ministry of the Interior; full extractions for SURS since 2008; **all demographic statistics use CPR** as the only or main data source;
- First register-based census in 2011; greater utilisation of CPR and other admin sources for **annual derivations of data on different topics, including migration**
- Both registers use **PINs as identifiers** → very simple linkage

Kindergarten attendance and age

- Usually resident children (1 January 2016) + children enrolled in kindergarten in 2015/2016 school year

→ 109,415 usually resident children, of which 83,703 in kindergarten; participation rate rises with age

Kindergarten participation by age of children, Slovenia, 1 January 2016

	Children - TOTAL	Kindergarten participation rate (%)
Age – TOTAL	109,415	76.5
1	21,172	45.0
2	21,222	70.2
3	22,129	83.9
4	22,178	88.9
5	22,714	92.4

- Do participation rates differ across different immigrant groups?

Immigrant background of children

- Defining immigrant groups:

→ country of birth and citizenship of the child + each parent's country of birth and citizenship (if available)

→ 6 groups

- **Group 1:** Native-born Slovenian citizens with at least one native-born parent (100,729)
- **Group 2:** Native-born Slovenian citizens with both foreign-born parents (2,495)
- **Group 3:** Foreign-born Slovenian citizens with at least one native-born parent (625)
- **Group 4:** Foreign-born Slovenian citizens with both foreign-born parents (238)
- **Group 5:** Native-born foreign citizens (3,581)
- **Group 6:** Foreign-born foreign citizens (1,720)

Foreign children of foreign-born parents

Immigrant background and kindergarten attendance

Kindergarten participation rates (%) by immigrant background group and age of children, Slovenia, 1 January 2016

	TOTAL	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4	Group 5	Group 6
Age - TOTAL	76.5	78.3	65.5	35.1	26.9	53.0	58.4
1	45.0	46.5	37.2	4.5	0.0	25.4	10.3
2	70.2	72.6	56.0	19.3	20.6	44.6	30.5
3	83.9	85.9	68.6	37.7	30.8	65.8	51.6
4	88.9	90.6	79.1	47.3	21.7	76.2	66.0
5	92.4	93.8	83.0	44.3	47.6	84.2	78.3

- Are there differences in participation rates by country of origin?



Country of origin and kindergarten attendance

Children by derived country of origin, immigrant background group and kindergarten attendance rate, Slovenia, 1 January 2016

	TOTAL	Group 5	Group 6	Kindergarten attendance rate - TOTAL (%)
Country of origin - TOTAL	5,301	3,581	1,720	54.7
Bosnia and Herzegovina	2,295	1,582	713	68.2
Kosovo	1,333	947	386	33.1
Macedonia	643	496	147	53.2
Serbia	296	189	107	58.4
Russian Federation	128	25	103	51.6
Croatia	121	68	53	52.9
China	95	84	11	29.5
Bulgaria	49	32	17	63.3
Italy	49	3	46	36.7
Ukraine	46	16	30	54.3
Montenegro	44	38	6	79.5
United States	24	3	21	37.5
other countries of origin	178	98	80	58.4

Labour market status of parents and kindergarten attendance

Kindergarten participation rates by parents' activity status, Slovenia, 1 January 2016

		Father					
		TOTAL	Employed	Unemployed	Inactive	non-resident	no PIN
Mother	TOTAL	76.7	78.8	68.3	65.1	45.3	60.9
	Employed	82.1	82.5	83.9	78.8	68.1	71.9
	Unemployed	72.1	75.9	60.2	64.7	52.8	57.5
	Inactive	52.3	56.3	47.8	42.7	19.9	48.5
	non-resident	30.9	45.7	36.1	17.9	13.3	25.0
	no PIN	11.8	25.0	n/a	0.0	0.0	n/a

		Father					
		TOTAL	Employed	Unemployed	Inactive	non-resident	no PIN
Groups 1-4	Mother						
	TOTAL	77.6	79.6	70.4	66.5	45.9	61.6
	Employed	82.2	82.5	84.1	79.2	68.9	74.6
	Unemployed	72.6	76.2	61.4	65.3	54.4	55.6
	Inactive	54.9	59.4	52.0	45.4	20.1	49.4
	non-resident	32.2	50.6	38.8	18.9	13.2	27.6
	no PIN	11.8	25.0	n/a	0.0	0.0	n/a

		Father					
		TOTAL	Employed	Unemployed	Inactive	non-resident	no PIN
Groups 5-6	Mother						
	TOTAL	53.5	57.0	42.0	27.8	26.7	56.5
	Employed	75.6	79.0	76.8	54.3	37.0	55.0
	Unemployed	65.7	71.5	47.9	48.3	27.8	70.7
	Inactive	35.9	38.8	26.9	12.9	16.0	40.0
	non-resident	20.5	24.3	10.0	0.0	20.0	0.0
	no PIN	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a



Country of origin, parents' labour market status and kindergarten participation

Kindergarten participation rates (%) by country of origin (Groups 5 and 6) and parents' activity status (selected), Slovenia, 1 January 2016

	Mother	Father			
		TOTAL	Employed	Unemployed	Inactive
BA	TOTAL	66.6	67.1	73.2	36.6
	Employed	86.1	86.7	88.2	75.0
	Unemployed	76.8	77.5	70.0	50.0
	Inactive	45.2	46.2	56.3	18.2
XK	TOTAL	31.3	33.6	31.4	17.1
	Employed	53.6	54.2	66.7	n/a
	Unemployed	43.8	51.9	39.8	41.2
	Inactive	26.5	29.3	23.7	11.7
MK	TOTAL	52.8	57.5	32.8	22.2
	Employed	75.7	80.4	50.0	28.6
	Unemployed	54.5	62.9	35.5	66.7
	Inactive	35.5	38.1	23.5	0.0
SR	TOTAL	56.7	58.0	61.5	50.0
	Employed	73.6	76.7	66.7	100.0
	Unemployed	71.8	71.9	71.4	n/a
	Inactive	34.9	36.3	50.0	0.0



Conclusions

- Every year about 20% of all children with foreign background who enter basic school are encountering a foreign system of education with almost no preparation
- Additional variables that could help analyse the situation: year of first immigration, educational attainment of parents, geography; household composition would provide further insight into child-care choices
- Longitudinal studies of immigrant children in education possible, especially once a longer time series from CEUVIZ becomes available
- Over-registration in the CPR a known issue, CEUVIZ will be used as an additional source to assess CPR quality



Thank you for your attention!

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