



# Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC)

The Covid-19 pandemic and ECEC in the European Union

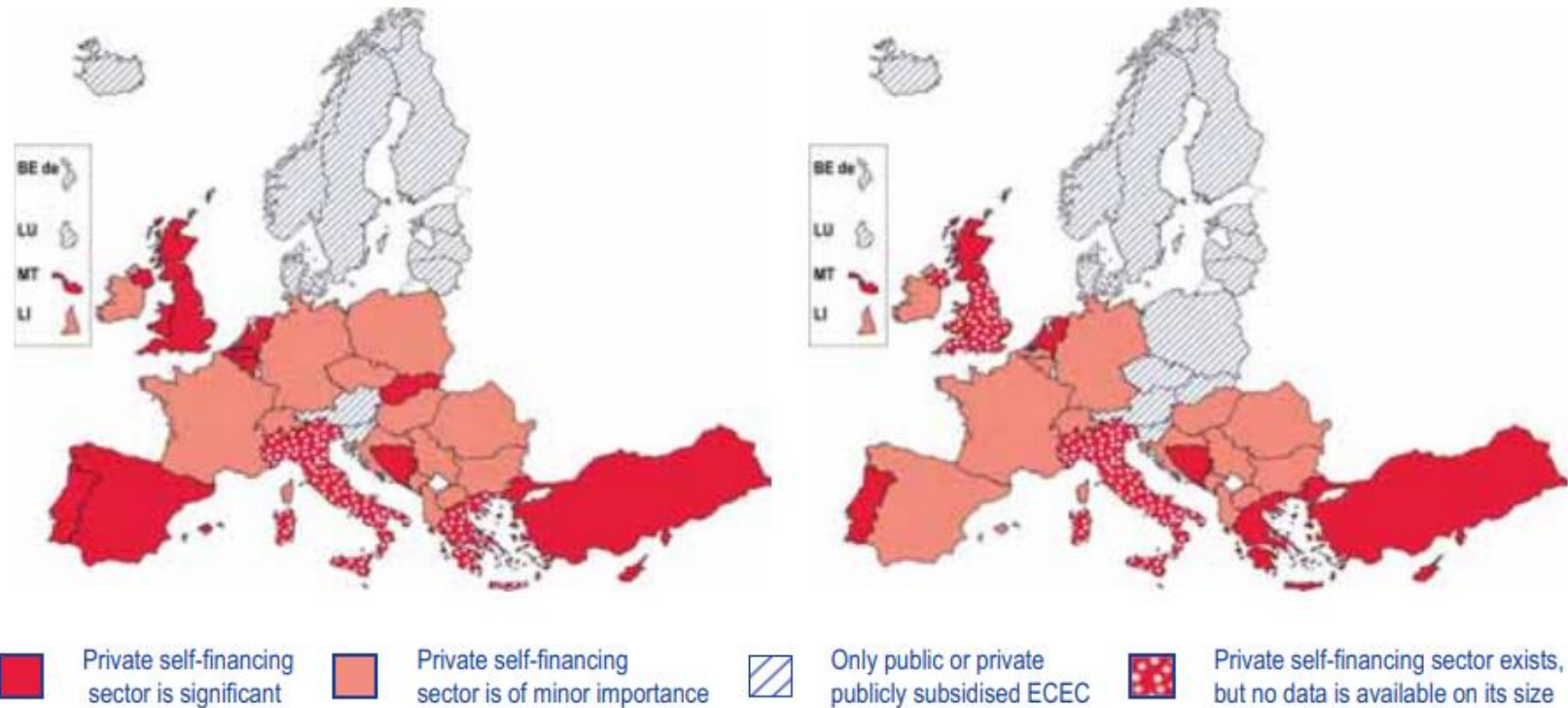
*June 2021*

# ECEC in the European Union: a great diversity

Figure A7: Significance of private self-financing centre-based ECEC provision, 2018/19

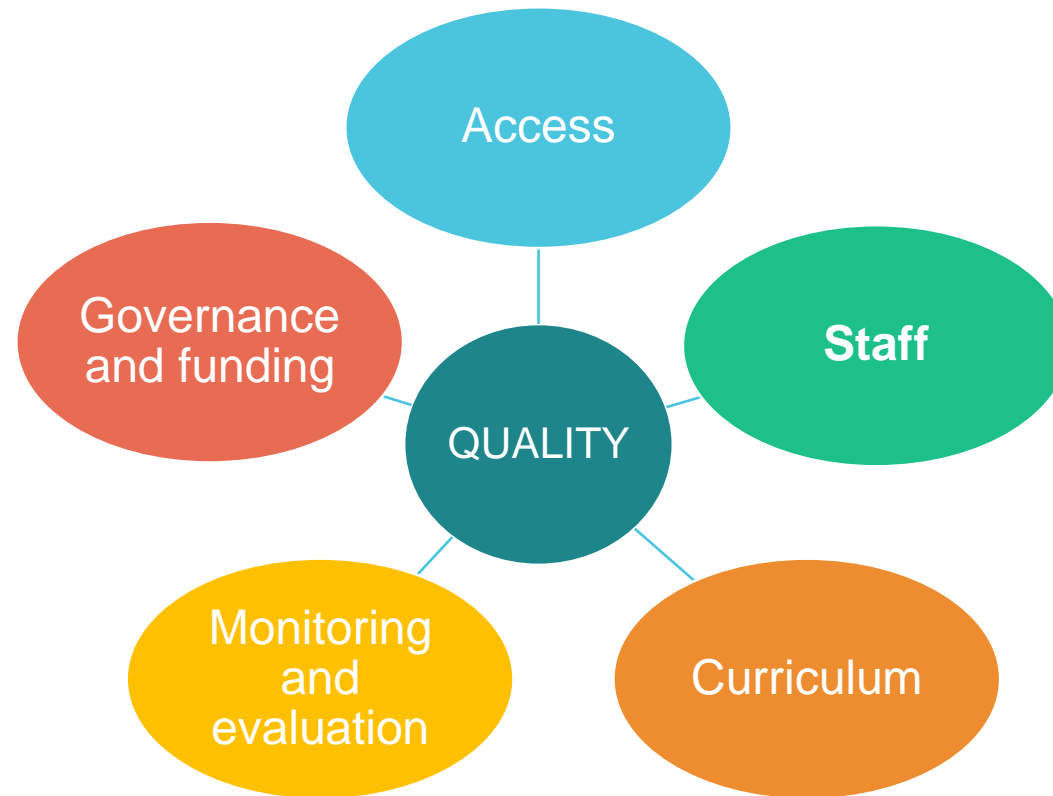
a) Settings for children under the age of 3 years

b) Settings for children aged 3 years and over



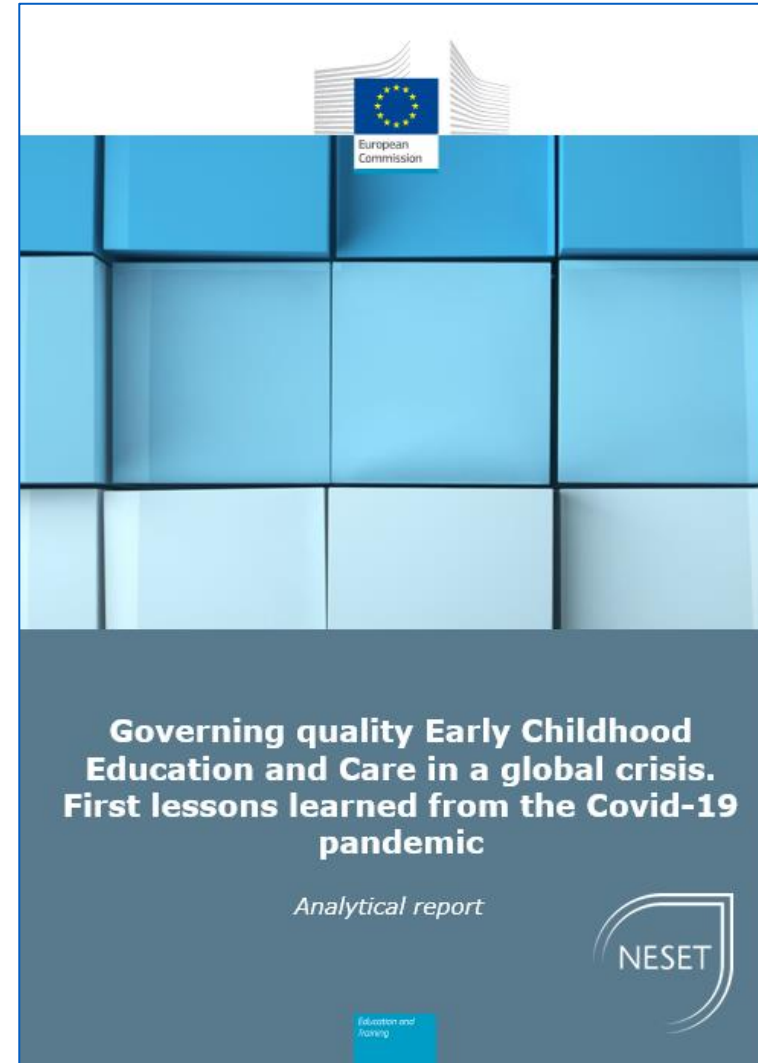
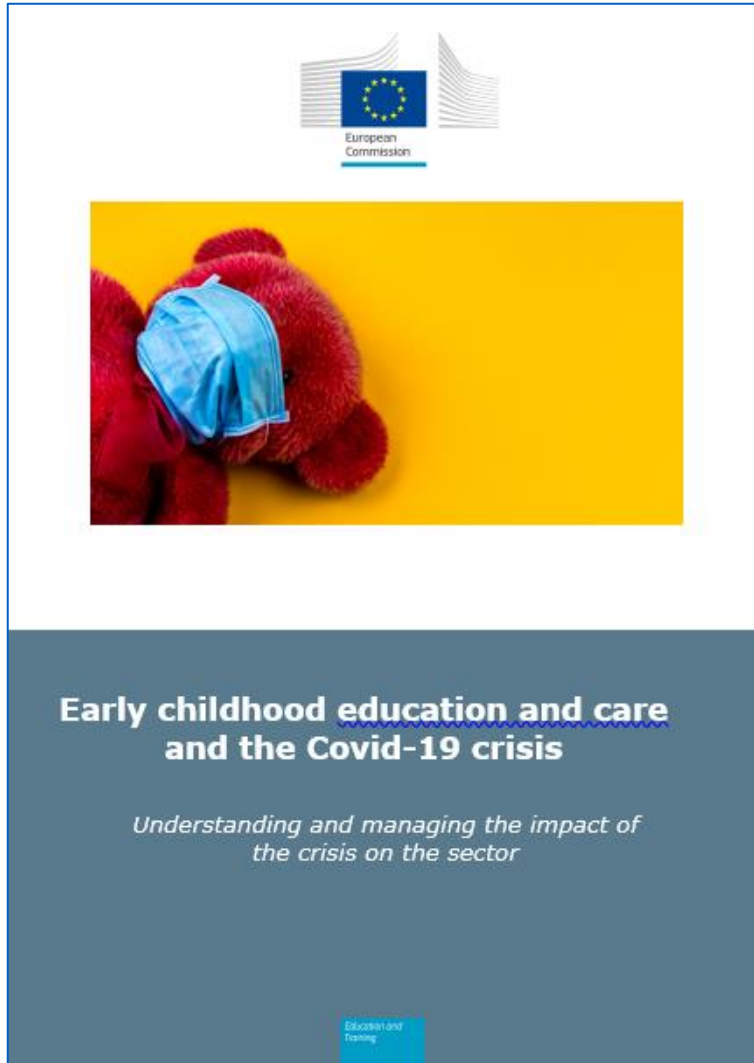
Source: Eurydice.

# The European Quality Framework for ECEC



[https://ec.europa.eu/education/policies/early-childhood-education-and-care\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/education/policies/early-childhood-education-and-care_en)

# Coming soon...



# Impacts of the pandemic...

- On children's health and well being
- On children's learning
- On staff recruitment, retention, practices, training, teamwork, etc...
- On the conception of the sector
- On the settings
- On the governance and funding of the sector

# Financial impact on ECEC settings

Lack of income (during lowdown periods), additional costs => financial difficulties:

- Esp. for private settings – but not only (public budgets may be re-directed)
- Esp. for ECEC settings working with children <3 (esp. in split systems)

**Might endanger availability of ECEC**

⇒ Most (not all) European governments supported ECEC structures financially

⇒ Length and extent of support vary greatly

# General impact on the sector – lessons learnt

- Educational dimension of ECEC and importance of the sector still not recognised
  - broad lack of political attention / professional guidance; some lack of financial support
  - great lack of data and research
- Good and efficient governance and adequate levels of public funding confirmed as crucial to ensure high-quality provision to all families



*General agreement that ECEC  
was not sufficiently supported  
since the beginning of the  
pandemic*



# Keep in touch



[ec.europa.eu/education/policies/early-childhood-education-and-care\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/education/policies/early-childhood-education-and-care_en)



[EAC-ET2020-WG-ECEC@ec.europa.eu](mailto:EAC-ET2020-WG-ECEC@ec.europa.eu)



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# Thank you



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