

CED[®]
Centre d'Estudis
Demogràfics

8th European User Conference for EU-Microdata, Mannheim

Childcare Use Measures in Europe: Comparing Estimates Across Surveys

Alba Lanau – Universitat Pompeu Fabra (Barcelona)

Elisenda Rentería – Centre d'Estudis Demogràfics, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

Maida Juni – Centre d'Estudis Demogràfics, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

Non-parental childcare: why it is important?

- **Non-parental childcare** refers to all types of childcare not done by parents or tutors: paid or unpaid, and formal or informal.
- For children: quality formal childcare is associated to positive impacts on development and education
- For families: non-parental childcare is crucial to help mothers to engage in paid labour market activities.
 - Barcelona Targets (2002) aimed at promoting childcare services to increase female labour market participation and gender equality in Europe.

How are childcare arrangements measures in Europe? Are they well measured?

- **EU-SILC** includes a question on childcare arrangements and is the **most used survey** to measure them in Europe (Plantenga & Remery, 2017; Lancker & Horemans, 2018; Cebrian et al. 2019), especially for children under 3 years-old.
- Keck and Saraceno (2011): discrepancies in EU-SILC when comparing childcare arrangements to official statistics on public and private childcare market services. Insufficient sample size in some childcare categories? Conceptual misspecifications?
- Meil et al. (2018): deduce that grandparenting childcare in EU-SILC is underreported if compared to SHARE estimates (measuring from the grandparent perspective).
- What about children over 3 years old?
 - Lack of studies looking at non-parental care at older ages, but children under 12 are also intensive users of non-parental care services besides compulsory school (extracurricular activities, day care, and also family care).

Objective

- Are the EU-SILC estimates for non-parental childcare use consistent with those of alternative sources of information? If not, how can those differences be explained?
- Do differences vary by age group? 0-3, 3-6, 6-12.
- For each country we calculate comparable estimates of non-parental childcare types using the EU-SILC and an alternative survey conducted in the same year.
- 4 countries: Spain, Belgium, France, Italy

Data and Methods

- Spain → 2018 “Encuesta de Fecundidad” (EF) and SILC 2018 (which refers to the previous year)
- Belgium → Gender and Generation Survey (GGS) wave 1 (2010) and SILC 2010
- France → GGS wave 2 (2008) and SILC 2008
- Italy → GGS wave 2 (2007) and SILC 2007

GGS and EF ask at the Household level, while EU-SILC ask to all children. We used the youngest child information for EU-SILC (although estimates don't change much).

First, compare the measurement of **USING ANY NON-PARENTAL CARE**.

Second, look at the proportion of use of 3 childcare arrangements:

- After school care
- Babysitting / Childminder
- Looked after grandparents/family

Childcare systems in ES, IT, FR and BE

SPAIN

- Formal school starts at 3. In 2020, 66% of <3 enrolled in kindergartens (regional differences).
- Schools offer 9-16.30/17h attendance and childcare services for pre and after school are common: extracurricular activities (62% in primary school), or day care in the same school.

ITALY

- Formal school starts at 3. In 2005, 7% of <3 enrolled in kindergartens (regional differences).
- For children 3 to 5, school hours are 8.30h/16.30, but at age 6 they stay 24-27 hours per week. Informal care and extracurricular activities are expected to be provided privately.

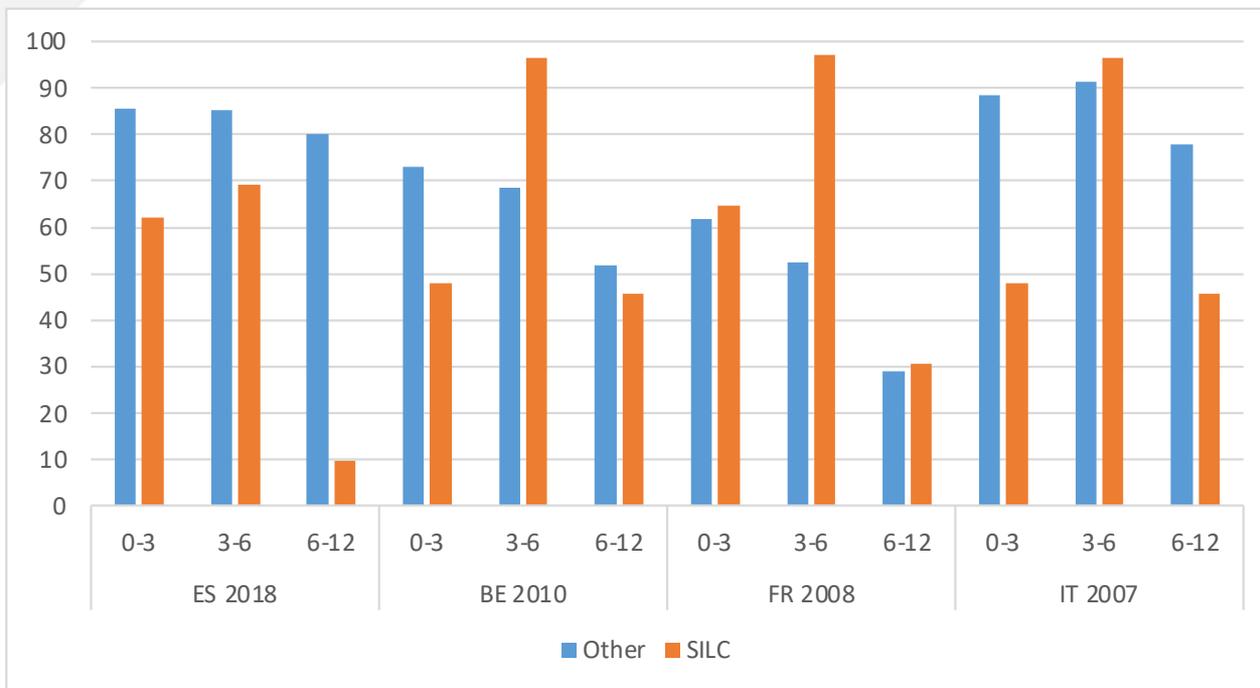
FRANCE

- Formal school starts at age 2.5. Subsidized day care and registered childminders and tax deductions for domestic helpers. Care facilities for pre and after school are widely available.

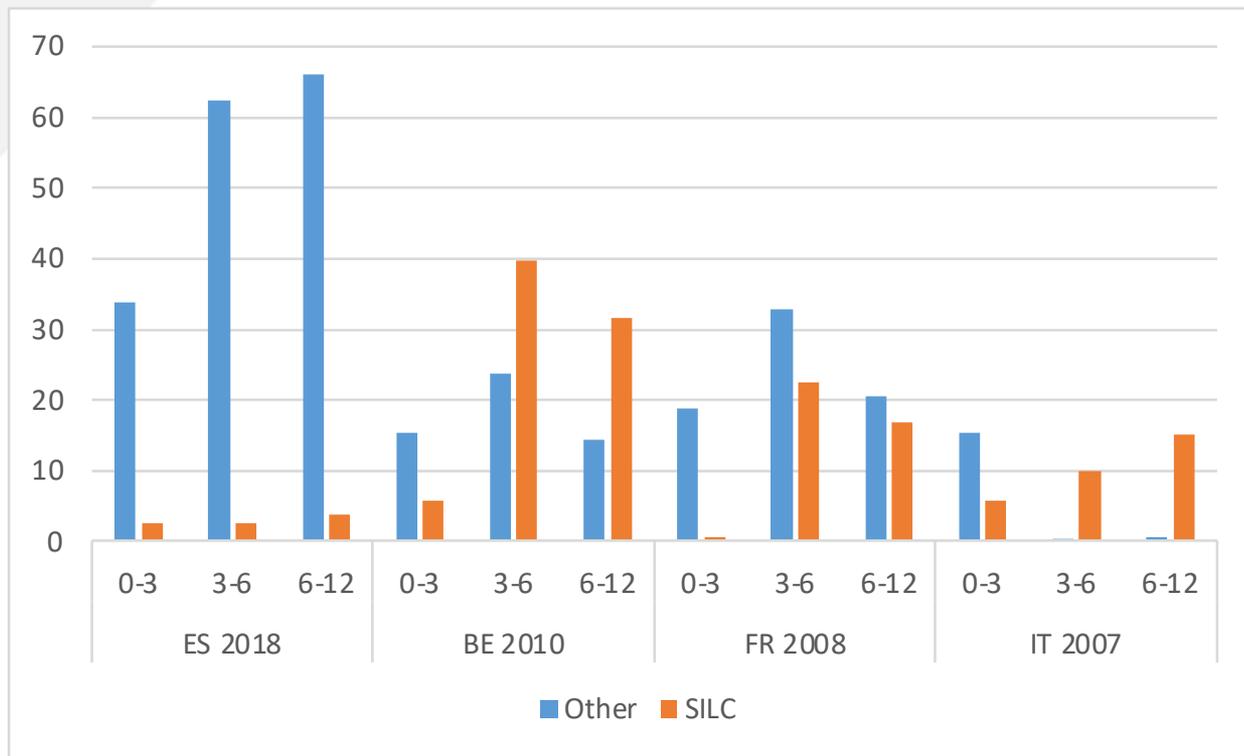
BELGIUM

- Formal school starts at 2.5 years old. Limited school hours (8.30h/3.30h and Wednesday afternoon closed) where pre and after school provision is widely used.

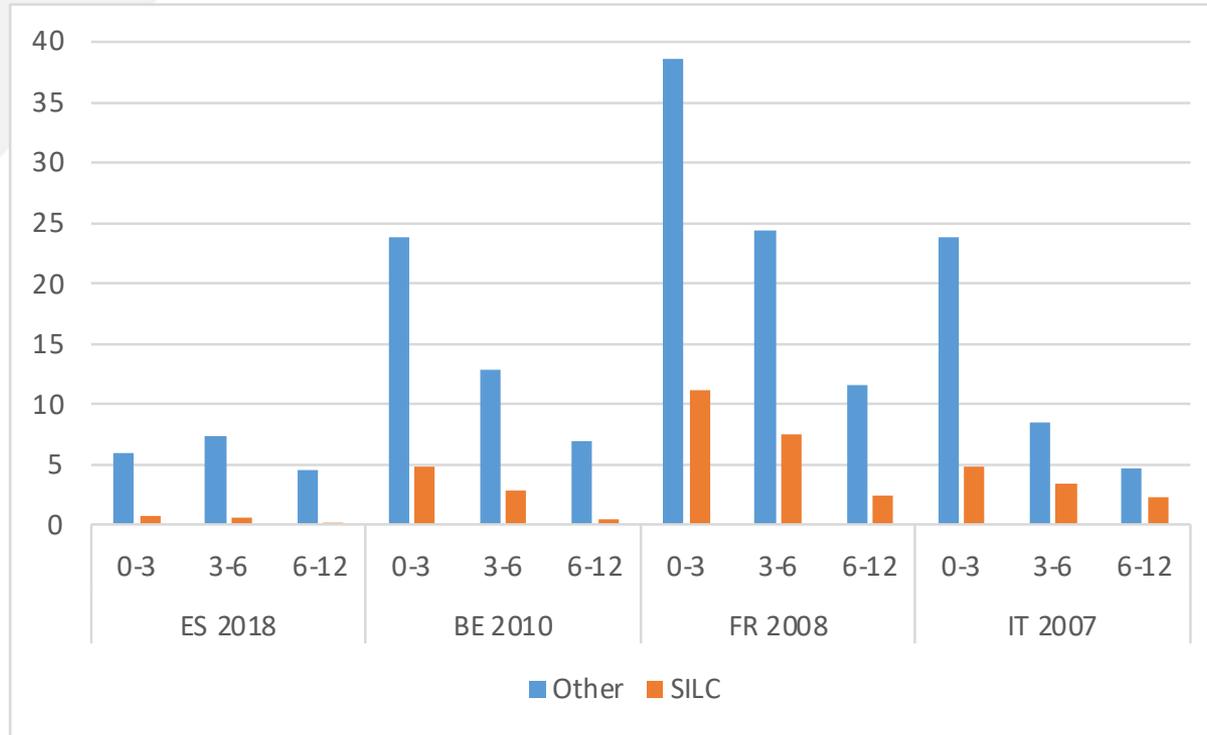
Proportion of children using ANY non-parental care (except formal school)



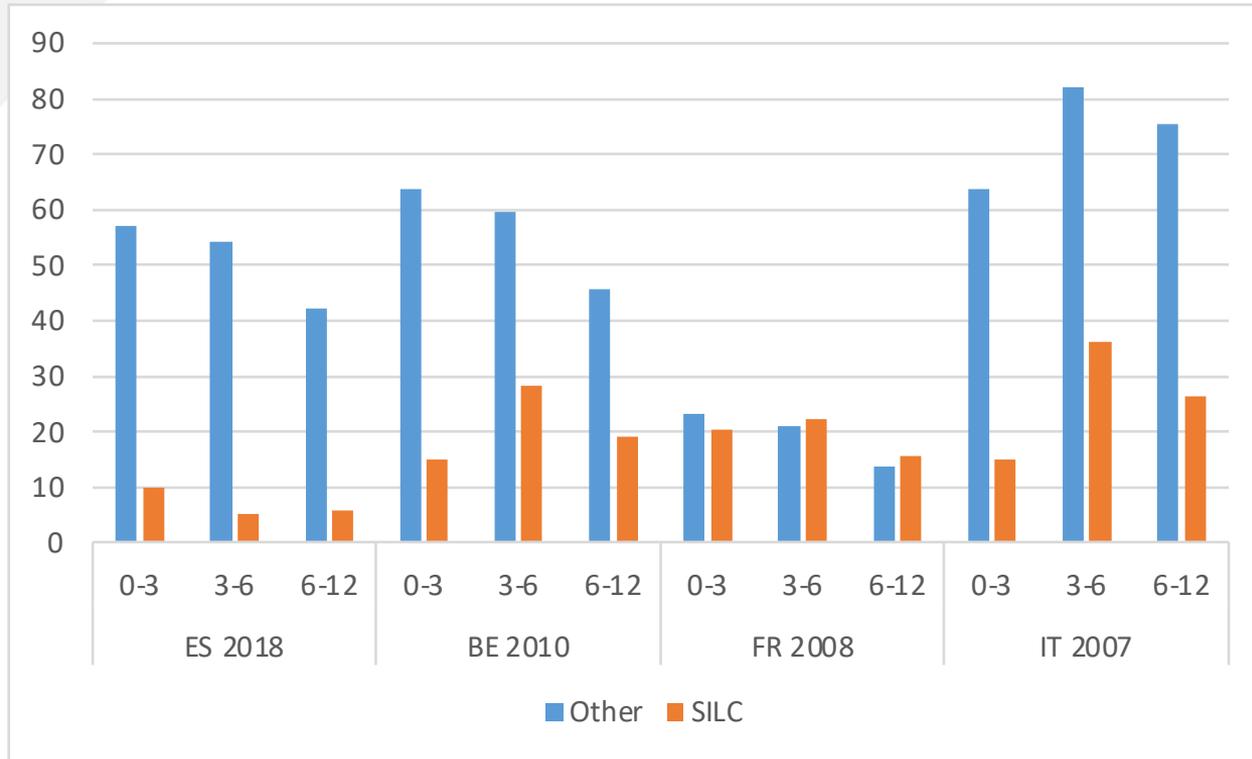
Proportion of children using after school activities/care



Proportion of children using babysitter/childminder



Proportion of children using family/grandparental care



Comparisons of questions: Spain

	EU - SILC	Encuesta de fecundidad (EF)
Wording	Durante una semana normal, ¿cuántas horas es cuidado o asiste a centros para recibir los servicios que se enumeran a continuación?	¿Con qué frecuencia semanal (nº días a la semana) utiliza las siguientes alternativas para el cuidado de los hijos?
	"During a normal week, how many hours is the child being cared, or goes to centers to receive the services presented below?"	"What is the weekly frequency (n. days x week) that you use the following options for childcare?"
	-Educación preescolar (0-3) o infantil (3-6)	Educación Infantil (0-3)
	-Educación obligatoria (6+)	
	-En un internado (no incluye horas de escuela)	
	-Centros de cuidado de niños fuera del horario escolar (antes o después del horario escolar, incluso en el mismo centro)	Extraescolares
	-Otros centros de cuidado de niños	
	-Cuidadores profesionales remunerados (niñera, canguro)	Niñera
-Otras personas sin remunerar (ej. Abuelos, familiares, amigos, vecinos, ...)		Abuelos
		Otro familiar
Notes	Out of school - only if primarily used for childcare	All out of school activities
Reference	Normal week	Days per week
Time unit	Hours	Days per week
Observation unit	Each child 0-12	Children in the HH

Comparisons of questions: Belgium

	EU - SILC	GGS
Wording	<p>...enfants qui vont à l'école maternelle ? Oui / Non</p> <p>...enfants qui vont à l'école primaire ou ... l'école moyenne ? Oui / Non</p> <p>Par qui l'enfant est-il pris en charge avant et après les heures d'école ou pendant la pause de midi? MULTICHOICE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pris en charge à la maison par la mère/père/soeur/frère - Par (et chez) les grands-parents - Par (et chez) des membres de la famille autres que parentalité - Accueil dans une institution <p>Combien d'heures...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Grands-parents - Membres de la famille autres que les gands-parents - D'autres adultes, comme p.ex. des amis, les voisins, des connaissances - Garde d'enfants - Travailleur sous statut ALE - Du personnel domestique - En accueil extra-scolaire DANS et PAR l'école - Commission communale d'accueil (CCA) - Chez une accueillante d'enfants ou dans une famille d'accueil - Accueilli dans une crèche, une maison d'enfants, une halte-garderie 	<p>...services payés pour s'occuper et garder vos enfants ? Oui / Non</p> <p>Use and frequency on a table for the following options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gardienne - Crèche - Garde à domicile (au pair, babysitter) - Grands-parents, autre membre de la famille, voisins, amis qu'on paie - Garderie avant ou après l'école <p>...aide régulière et gratuite de membres de votre famille ou d'autres personnes pour garder et s'occuper de vos enfants? Oui / Non</p> <p>Qui vous apporte principalement cette aide régulière et gratuite ?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - LISTE DES PRESTATAIRES ET BÉNÉFICIAIRES (Family members detailed in a list one by one, including friends/neighbors). Multiple choice. <p>Frequency of use is asked for each person</p>
Notes	Who takes care of the child before school, after school, during lunchtime	distinction paid/unpaid
Reference	Normal school/working week	Regularly
Time unit	Hours per week	Number of days (in week, month, year)
Observation unit	Individually each child <12	Household level for Children <14

Comparisons of questions: France

	EU - SILC	GG5
Wording	<p>For those in the school, they are asked if "Fréquenté-t-il(elle) actuellement":</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -L'école maternelle -L'école primaire -Le collège <p>Pendant une semaine type, faites-vous garder l'enfant? Oui / Non "In a normal week, is the child being cared by?"</p> <p>Est-il(elle) gardé(e) au sein/par...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ... d'une permanence extrascolaire ou étude ? (Non pour les internes) ... d'une crèche, d'une halte garderie, ou par une nourrice recrutée par l'intermédiaire de services publics ou par une assistante maternelle ? ... une nourrice ou par une jeune fille au pair recrutée sans l'intermédiaire de services publics ? ... d'autres membres du ménage que vous ou votre conjoint ? ... des personnes extérieures au ménage: grands-parents, amis, voisins ou relations ? <p>And then, they asked how many hours per week in each type of care</p>	<p>Bénéficiez-vous de l'aide régulière et gratuite de membres de votre famille ou d'autres personnes pour la garde de vos enfants ? Oui / Non</p> <p>Qui vous apporte principalement cette aide régulière et gratuite ?</p> <p>LISTE DES PRESTATAIRES ET BÉNÉFICIAIRES (Family members detailed in a list one by one, including friends/neighbours). Multiple choice.</p> <p>Utilisez-vous un mode de garde régulier pour vos enfants (garderie, crèche, assistante maternelle, école maternelle...) ? Oui / Non</p> <p>Modes de garde proposés :</p> <p>Assistante maternelle agréée</p> <p>Nourrice</p> <p>Garde à domicile</p> <p>Crèche</p> <p>Ecole maternelle</p> <p>Garderie avant ou après l'école</p> <p>Halte-garderie</p> <p>Centre aéré</p> <p>Autre organisation</p>
Notes	The question is asked differently than in SILC for other countries	Informal specifies regular and free
Reference	Normal week	Regularly, then how frequently (per week, month, year)
Time unit	Yes or No, and then they ask Hours per week	Days per week / month / year
Observation unit	Children <12	Children <14

Comparisons of questions: Italy

	EU-SILC	GSS
Wording	<p>Che tipo di scuola frequenta?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Scuola secondaria di secondo grado -Scuola secondaria di primo grado, cioè scuola media -Scuola primaria, cioè scuola elementare -Scuola dell'infanzia, cioè scuola materna -Asilo nido <p>-Frequenta il dopo-scuola o il pre-scuola oltre al orario scolastico?</p> <p>-È accudito/a da persone non retribuite, ad esempio nonni, parenti, amici o vicini di casa quando non è con i genitori o a scuola?</p> <p>-È accudito/a da baby-sitter o altre persone retribuite?</p> <p>-Trascorre del tempo presso strutture gratuite o a pagamento come, ad esempio, ludoteche, centri diurni, micro-nido part-time, spazi-gioco?</p> <p>And then, they asked how many hours per week in each type of care</p>	<p>Attualmente è iscritto a scuola o all'asilo?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -No -Asilo nido -Scuola materna /dell'infanzia -Scuola elementare/primaria -Scuola media inferiore -Scuola media superiore <p>-Non so</p> <p>A quali tra le seguenti persone adulte è abitualmente affidato il bambino quando non è con i genitori o a scuola? Multichoice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -LONG LIST of FAMILY members (specifying if co-residing or not) -Persone retribuite -Non è affidato a un adulto / Di solito non si verifica la necessità di affidarlo a qualcun <p>Frequenta qualche altro servizio come ludoteca, micro-nido part time, centro per le famiglie o altre realtà autogestite dai genitori? No / Sì, qualche volta / Sì, spesso</p>
Notes	Out of school - only if primarily used for childcare	At the household level
Reference	Normal week	Informal, babysitter: Regularly, Kindergarden: currently
Time unit	Yes/no and Weekly Hours	Informal, babysitter: How often, Kindergarden: Number of days a week; Other arrangements: not asked
Observation unit	Each child 0-12	At least a child 0-13 in the household

Discussion

- Although EU-SILC is the most used database for comparative research, we observe substantial differences in estimates between the EU-SILC and national surveys.
 - Spain and Italy differ much more than Belgium, and France shows the smallest differences (in general).
 - Variation also by age group.
- Differences likely due to:
 - Definitions/wording of care options (country specificity).
 - For same wording care options (babysitter/grandparents) also differences observed.
 - Variations also due to different reference periods in the question, time units, and reference groups (EF and GGS ask at the household level, while SILC asks to each child).
 - Results suggest that SILC questions are not fully capturing all care options?

Thank you!

Alba Lanau
@DrLanau
alba.lanau@upf.edu

Elisenda Rentería
@elisrenteria
erenteria@ced.uab.es

Maida Juni
mjuni@ced.uab.es

Acknowledgements

Ayuda RYC2021-030963-I financiada por MCIN/AEI/
10.13039/501100011033 y por la Unión Europea
«NextGenerationEU»/PRTR”

Ayuda RYC-2017-22586 financiada por MCIN/AEI



CED [®]
Centre d'Estudis
Demogràfics

 @CEDemografia

Consorci Members



UAB
Universitat Autònoma
de Barcelona