

## K8.1 Development of nursery capacities

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Day-care of children under age 3 is mainly provided by their own families in Hungary. Formal day-care capacities (traditional nurseries or community-based care, mini and workplace nurseries) are limited, so only 11–12% of all children are enrolled in formal day-care (this rate is smaller than the official data provided by the Hungarian Central Statistical Office, because the latter is calculated as the ratio of official capacities and potential recipients instead of actual enrolment).

Nursery capacities increased slowly but continuously between 2001 and 2016. In 2017 the growth stopped, and a downturn was reported likely caused by changes in the regulations on community-based day care ('családi napközi', see chapter 11.1).

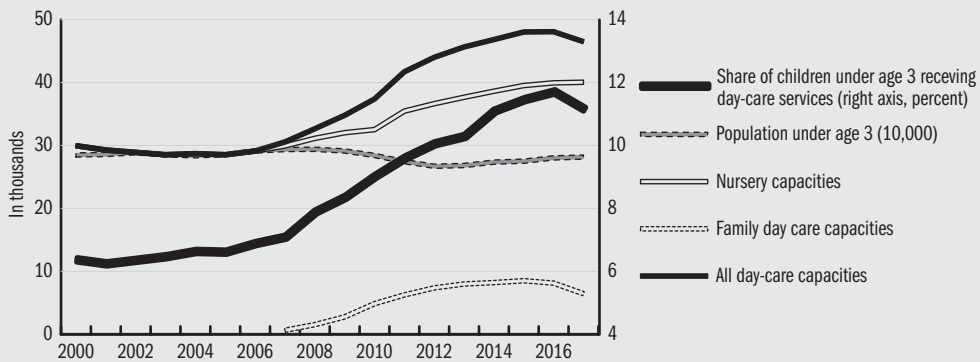
Most of the existing nurseries are run by the municipalities financed by a per capita grant from the central budget (Makay, 2012, KSH, 2018). Until

2018, the funding system did not promote the extension of capacities. The government grant does not fully cover the costs of service provision, and the tax and social security contributions of mothers returning to work are paid to the central budget. Thus, even if the expansion of nursery services were to yield a positive return at the macro level, the balance is not necessarily positive for most municipalities.

### References

- KSH (2018): A gyermekek napközbeni ellátása, 2017. Statisztikai Tükör, január 8.
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- SCHARLE, ÁGOTA-SAMU, FLÓRA (2013): Napközbeni gyermekellátó intézmények kapacitásbővítésének célzottsága. Budapest Szakpolitikai Elemző Intézet.

Figure K8.1.1: Day-care capacities between 2000–2017



*Nursery capacities* were higher by 20% than the official data provided by the Central Statistical Offices before 2009 due to previous regulations that allowed nurseries to derogate from the authorised capacity limit by 20%.

*Community-based care capacities* include community-based care ('családi napközi') and mini and workplace nurseries in 2017.

Source: 'Day-Care Services in 2017' titled special data provision of Central Statistical Office.