



## WG2 Case study profile

<b>WG2 Thematic Group</b>	WG2.2. Children and childcare
<b>Name(s) of proposer</b>	Dr Jana Javornik
<b>Institution</b>	University of Leeds, UK
<b>Title of case study (and priority ranking)</b>	Urban variation in childcare provision: The case of Slovenia
<b>Country/region/place investigated</b>	Slovenia / the Municipality of Ljubljana (city) and the Municipality of Slovenske Konjice (town)
<b>Social service sector(s) investigated</b>	The focus is on public childcare system in Slovenia, where it has played a significant role in female employment since state socialism. Long-term developments, recent policy changes in the national-local governance of childcare services, and urban variations will be analysed, using the examples of Ljubljana and Slovenske Konjice.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children/Childcare (including children with special needs)</li> </ul>	
<b>Category of case study ('what' is investigated)</b>	This study will address the developments in the publicly-funded childcare system in Slovenia in two ways. (i) The policy analysis will focus on the national policy context, i.e. the type of governance; actors in childcare provision; political and financial support for public childcare, including the impact of the current crisis. It will investigate the reconfiguring of childcare services, looking at changes in how they are delivered, organised, financed and allocated. (ii) The impact of such changes in territorial differentiation terms will be analysed looking at the two municipalities.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Subsector/policy/programme (meso-level)</li> <li>• Actors</li> <li>• Places</li> </ul>	
<b>Time frame considered</b> ( <i>from when to when</i> )	From 1975 (establishing the system of public childcare network) to date, focusing on the post-2008 period. In 2008, the reform was introduced, providing free access to new groups of children across the state. Following the significantly increased supply, no additional funding from the state budget and the financial crisis, the local governments across the state faced acute difficulties in service provision. Local governments took different approaches to tackle the service crisis, which led to considerable intra-country differences in access to daycare.
<b>Five 'perspectives'</b>	The study will focus mainly on: 'social/territorial cohesion' by analysing the demand and supply; accessibility, availability, affordability, and quality of service delivery across the state and more specifically the two examined municipalities; - the 'governance' dimension as a way to explain urban differences, by analysing the capabilities of and the relations between the national and the local governments. The study will also touch upon: - the 'gender' perspective, in terms of policy support for parental continuous labour market attachment, work-care management, and through the unpaid contribution of families (i.e. women).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Governance</li> <li>• Social and/or territorial cohesion</li> <li>• Gender</li> </ul>	
<b>Three processes in restructuring + crisis</b>	The study will cover all three aspects, i.e. service allocation; the relation between national and local authorities; needs assesment and service delivery re-design; funding constraints and welfare retrenchment - restructuring of the system; public-private partnership (outsourcing/concessions, for-profit).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cuts/rationalization/management reforms</li> <li>• <i>Vertical</i> subsidiarity (administrative re-arrangements between <i>government</i> levels)</li> <li>• <i>Horizontal</i> subsidiarity (involvement of/outsourcing to other suppliers)</li> </ul>	
<b>Specific questions/focus</b>	The focus is on territorial differences, i.e. how and why the supply of public childcare differs among the two municipalities examined. Particular attention is paid to vertical governance relations (central-local) and horizontal governance relations

	(public-private-family), the role of path-dependency and the role of actors.
Local Stakeholder Network (LSN)	<i>Do you intend to set up a LSN:</i> NO