

6. POLICIES AIMED AT STRENGTHENING FAMILY LIFE AND PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR PARENTS AND CHILDREN

6.1 Parental education and support for parenting

Obligation to attend parenting programmes in cases of vulnerability (e.g. abused children, domestic violence, adolescent pregnant women, parents serving prison sentences, etc.).

Austria

There is no obligation to attend parenting programmes for vulnerable groups. Parents who are endangering the wellbeing of their children can be obliged to attend parenting programmes by youth welfare authorities.

Azerbaijan

These centres involve community members to their work on voluntary basis.

Belgium

Communauté germanophone

Le SAJ et le SPJ peuvent orienter des personnes dans ces cours et une attestation est fournie.

Obligatoire est le stage parental dans le cas du désintérêt des parents face au actes de délinquance de leur enfant.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

No such programs.

Bulgaria

Parents of minor or under aged offenders (parents or persons who substitute for them) for whom it is established that they do not give enough care for the upbringing of their children and the children have committed offences, are imposed following measure: obligation to attend specially organised lectures and consultations on matters of upbringing.

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Croatia

A social welfare centre can, if there are some mistakes and shortcomings in parental care for upbringing of a child, refer them to a counselling centre or to parenting school.

Cyprus

There is no obligation to attend parenting programmes. However, in accordance with family violence legislation, the Court may issue a probation order with a condition that the perpetrator of violence undergoes specialised self control therapy in order to avoid repetition of violent acts.

Czech Republic

The given categories of cases are provided services by the regional and municipal organizations and by the authorized non-governmental organizations.

Denmark

Parenting programme are offered by the municipal councils as a supportive and voluntary measure under the Consolidation Act on Social Services (section 52).
Parenting orders can be issued with reference to section 57 a under the Consolidation Act on Social Services.

Estonia

Participation in PRIDE training is obligatory only for foster parents. All other trainings and courses are voluntary.

Finland

Not mentioned/not applicable

France

The law of 5 March 2007 on crime prevention laid down the principle of the "course in parental responsibility". A Decree of 26 September 2007 issued in pursuance of this law defined the conditions of the course which may be ordered by the judge in addition to an administrative penalty imposed on defaulting parents (in the same way as the obligation to undergo courses in road sense).

It specifies that the course has the aim of bringing home to the convicted person the legal economic, social and moral obligations involved in the upbringing of a child. The conduct of the course is modelled on that of the course in citizenship, itemised by Articles R.131-36 to R.131-44 of the Penal Code. The modules making up the course may be devised with the assistance of officials or private individuals applying the parental mentoring arrangements prescribed by Article L.141-1 of the Code of Social Welfare and Family Affairs (that is the mayor as chair of the council on family rights and duties) or by the parental responsibility contracts prescribed by Article L.222-4-1 of the same code (that is the chair of the département council). Expenses for the course, charged to the convicted person, may not exceed the maximum amount of the fine incurred for third-class administrative offences.

Germany

Not mentioned/not applicable

Greece

Not mentioned/not applicable

Iceland

(4,5.) The Government Agency for Child Protection has emphasized preventive work with parents in accordance with the government action plan on children's issues. In 2008 the Agency established a MST program in order to provide parenting programs. Health care centres also provide special parental services in relation to maternal care in cases of vulnerability, e.g. adolescent pregnant women or for other reasons.

Italy

There is no legal obligation to attend such courses. However, tribunals may request parents in situations of difficulty to attend special programmes.

Latvia

The need to acquire counselling services regarding family relations and parenting is voluntarily. Yet the orphan's courts may demand the parents to go to the psychologist or use mediation service in order to make such improvement in the family's relations and parenting that conform with the interests of the child.

Lithuania

Mentioned but not applicable.

Luxembourg

Groupe cible

Ils s'adressent aux futurs parents et à ceux qui ont des enfants en bas âge ou adolescents. La plupart des programmes ciblent un groupe spécifique et portent sur une question spécifique, par exemple la formation pour parents d'adolescents qui prennent des drogues ou pour les futurs parents d'un enfant adopté. En général, seuls très peu de programmes ciblent les parents défavorisés, tandis que la plupart s'adressent à tous les parents intéressés. Les parents participant aux stages sont souvent très motivés et soucieux de l'éducation de leur enfant, et à la recherche de nouvelles idées pédagogiques. C'est pourquoi elles appartiennent davantage aux classes sociales moyennes et favorisées qu'aux communautés défavorisées.

Modalités d'accès

La plupart des programmes sont annoncés au moyen de brochures et d'affiches dans les lieux publics et les sites Internet. La participation y est majoritairement gratuite, étant donné qu'ils sont subventionnés par des fonds publics, et certains prévoient de modiques frais de participation. Les établissements privés qui ne sont pas financés par le gouvernement demandent des frais de participation plus élevés.

Malta

Yes.

Monaco

Not mentioned

Netherlands

There is no formal obligation to attend any of these programmes.

Norway

Not mentioned/not applicable

Slovakia

If necessary and in the child's interest, a court may decide on imposing an educative measure by which an obligation is laid upon a minor child and its parents to undergo social counselling or expert counselling in specialized facilities.

Sweden

Not mentioned/not applicable

Switzerland

Du point de vue pénal, le juge qui condamne à une peine avec sursis peut ordonner une assistance de probation et imposer des règles de conduite pour la durée du délai d'épreuve. Dans le cadre de violence domestique, de maltraitance d'enfants, un traitement pourra être prescrit de même que des mesures d'accompagnement et de surveillance qui seront exécutées par les services de protection de l'enfance. Si l'auteur ne les respecte pas, il risque de voir son sursis à l'exécution de la peine révoqué.

De même en complément de la peine, une mesure thérapeutique peut être ordonnée par le juge, ambulatoirement ou en milieu fermé.

Dans tous les cas, les autorités tutélaires civiles seront contactées et aptes à prendre toutes les décisions de protection de l'enfance qui s'imposent au vu des circonstances. Ces mesures sont aussi obligatoires et peuvent aller jusqu'au placement de l'enfant.

Turkey

There is no obligation to attend parenting programmes in cases of vulnerability. Also ASAGEM has prepared a research report about problems of the parents serving prison sentences throughout Turkey.

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United Kingdom

Parenting orders may require a parent to attend a counselling or guidance programme (e.g. a parenting class) for up to three months and may contain other requirements, for example that their child attends school. Parenting orders can be imposed, or voluntary parenting contracts entered into, as the result of a child's anti-social behaviour, truancy from school or exclusion from school (although in practice only voluntary contracts have been used for the latter).