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# BOYS IN CARE

Thank you for taking the time also to sign up for our newsletter by clicking [here](#).

Following issues of our newsletters can be viewed on the website of the project by clicking [here](#). You can also forward the newsletters to friends and colleagues if you think they might be interested in it.

## Strengthening boys to pursue care occupations (BiC)

### WELCOME

Dear readers,

We are very glad to share what we achieved in the past six months!

We are proud to announce that all project partners completed their national studies, which explored the gender stereotypes in career orientation in Austria, Bulgaria, Germany, Lithuania, Italy and Slovenia and made an overview about gender (in)equality; occupational segregation and men in professional care work; unpaid care work; segregation in schools and vocational choices in all partner countries as well as analysis of measures and materials on career orientation and existing approaches to encourage gender atypical choices.

The findings were compared and summarized in a transnational report, which will be published on the project website in April.

A major finding of the studies, is that support for caring masculinities is both necessary and a difficult task. A closer connection between men and professional care is key to tackle horizontal (and thus, vertical) gender segregation which is a major and persistent problem of labour markets in the EU. Another important finding was that gendered stereotypes related to work are to be found in educational /career orientation materials in all partner countries.

In some of partner countries (Austria and Germany) initiatives, especially targeting boys, to support gender atypical career choices, are already being implemented. You can find more information on them in the national and transnational reports and the present Newsletter. Learn more at: <http://www.boys-in-care.eu/reports.html>

## AWARENESS RAISING EVENTS IN AUSTRIA

### NATIONAL AWARENESS RAISING SEMINAR IN AUSTRIA

On March 9, 2018, the Austrian team conducted the National Awareness Seminar at the Ministry of Education in Vienna. It was organized in cooperation with the Federal Ministry of Education as well as the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Health and Consumer Protection. The seminar was attended by 50 teachers, representatives from different ministries and social partners, boys' workers and boys' day representatives.



On 23-24 November 2017, Austrian team leader Elli Scambor took part in the OSCE MenEngage expert meeting in Vienna. In session 3 on "Accountability and inclusion: effective male engagement and partnership" she talked about caring masculinities and introduced the Boys in Care project. More information about it at: <https://www.osce.org/secretariat/359311>



Coordinator



[www.dissens.de](http://www.dissens.de)

Partners:



[www.genderforschung.at](http://www.genderforschung.at)



[www.mirovni-institut.si/en/about-the-peace-institute/](http://www.mirovni-institut.si/en/about-the-peace-institute/)



[www.istitutodeglinnocenti.it](http://www.istitutodeglinnocenti.it)

Center of Women's  
Studies and Policies



[www.cwsp.bg](http://www.cwsp.bg)



[www.gap.lt](http://www.gap.lt)

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PROJECT WEBSITE

On the website you will find detailed information about the project as well as regular updates on partners' activities and relevant news items

Visit it at:  
[www.boys-in-care.eu](http://www.boys-in-care.eu)

## BOYS' DAYS IN AUSTRIA AND GERMANY

### AUSTRIA

Boys' Day # 10 in Austria: On November 9, 2017, the 10th Austrian Boys' Day took place. Its aim was to inform male pupils (age 10-18) about jobs in care institutions like hospitals, elderly care, primary schools or kindergartens. This year, more than 5200 boys participated. More than 360 institutions of care work supported the Boys' Day. They enabled a training day for interested boys to try out a caring occupation. More about it at: <http://www.boysday.at/boysday/Aktivitaeten/Oesterreich/>



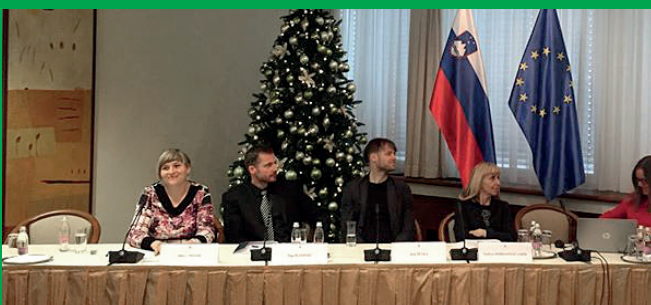
### NEXT BOYS' DAY IS IN GERMANY

In Germany, the next Boys' Day is imminent: on 26 April, boys from all over Germany will again participate in taster days, including in care professions.

On 01.02.2018 the German team leader Bernard Könnecke took part in a Berlin wide Boys' Day networking meeting with participants from schools, NGOs and regional government, presenting the Boys In Care project and current activities for the implementation of the project.

## DISCUSSIONS ABOUT CONDITIONS FOR INCLUSION OF MEN IN CARE PROFESSIONS IN SLOVENIA AND BULGARIA

### SLOVENIA



On 5th and 6th of December 2017, Mojca Frelj and Majda Hrženjak, members of the BiC project team, were invited to the international conference "Active All – Gaining All", organized by the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Family and Equal Opportunities of Slovenia. During discussions in round tables about involved fatherhood and elderly care they discussed conditions for inclusion of men in care for children as well as feminization of professional

care in Slovenia.

More information about the event is available at: [http://www.mddsz.gov.si/si/delovna\\_podrocja/enake\\_moznosti/projekti\\_iz\\_sredstev\\_eu/aktivnivsi/aktivnivsi\\_pridobimovsi/](http://www.mddsz.gov.si/si/delovna_podrocja/enake_moznosti/projekti_iz_sredstev_eu/aktivnivsi/aktivnivsi_pridobimovsi/)

On January 23, 2018 Majda Hrženjak participated in the round table in which Slovenian National Radio raised the issue of the poverty of elder women in Slovenia. Feminization of care work, poor salaries in care professions and vertical segregation in care sectors were identified as one of the reasons for extremely weak economic situation of elder women in Slovenia. Among others, better working conditions in care work were discussed as a necessary condition for attracting men in this sector. You can listen the broadcast in Slovenian language at: <https://radioprvi.rtvslo.si/2018/01/studio-ob-sedemnajstih-vmes-porocila-647/>

# BOYS IN CARE

## VIDEOS SHOOTING IN LITHUANIA AND ITALY

### LITHUANIA

The Center of Equality Advancement has started shooting video interviews from young men, who are building their careers in the sector of social protection and care.

Young men agreed to speak about their experience of being kindergarten teachers, social workers, nurses and teachers. Breaking stereotypes, pursuing their own unique interests, accepting exceptional challenges and wishing the future of care occupations to be more inclusive and more gender balanced – these are the reasons that brought them to schools, kindergartens and hospitals.

Marius Serbenta, kindergarten teacher, says cheerfully: "This is the best work ever - you can play all day". Soon he gets more serious and starts talking about educating a child with respect to her/his individuality and independence. In the end he tells a story of changing diapers for the first time in his life as the most amazing thing that have ever happened at work. "I want to be a good father in the future, that's why I'm so glad I had the opportunity to learn these things", he add.

### ITALY

In Italy specific activities aimed at promoting the presence of boys in the care sector are needed, as well as training to teachers and vocational counsellors in this area, as this problem is not recognized in gender equality measures in schools which only address girls.

Istituto degli Innocenti has started to prepare short videos interviews to men involved in care professions, including educators, teachers of early childhood centres and social workers.

Paolo Allegranzi, who works as kindergarten teacher since 1990, says that "working with children is a continuous surprise, I feel that I have grown up with them, that I have learnt a lot from children because, contrary to what has been thought for too long, children are very competent and capable beings and even have a halo of magic in themselves."

Jacopo Reali confirms that this is a special job and say to boys who are willing to undertake this path: "Do this work because it changes you so much inside, it is very helpful, it is a job that makes you grow up". He also recalls that initially working in an almost all female environment he found some obstacles, while in recent years this has improved significantly.

### BULGARIA

On 28th of February 2018, the Bulgarian partner Centre of Women's Studies and Policies (CWSP) presented the BiC project and its aims to the President of the Confederation of Family Organizations in EU (COFACE) <http://www.coface-eu.org/> Annemie Drisken, when she visited Sofia for a workshop on families and digitalization, co-organized by CWSP and COFACE. As a member of the COFACE, CWSP took the engagement to spread the information about the project activities and results in the network through its newsletter and to discuss the opportunities for further cooperation on the topic of men in caring professions in EU.

On the 8th, 9th and 10th of March 2018, Tatyana Kmetova (CWSP) participated in series of events, where among other issues she raised the topic of involvement of men in caring activities and professions. She talked on a radio broadcast, dedicated to the celebration of the International



Women's Day in the national Darik Radio and was a speaker on the Forum on Women's Rights and the Seminar for NGOs, organized by the Bulgarian Fund for Women in cooperation with Friedrich Ebert Foundation in Bulgaria. The main topic was the need to change the naming of the nursing profession, which is only in feminine gender in Bulgarian language. The name is a barrier for boys to choose it, even though there are already growing number of men in the nursing and the profession has a big potential for male career development.

You can listen to the broadcast in Bulgarian language at: <http://darikradio.bg/kol-govori-osmi-mart.html>

*The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of project partners and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Commission.*



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