

# Pre-school education financing in Bosnia and Herzegovina

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## Pre-school education in Bosnia and Herzegovina

- Provision of services is devolved to local communities
- Although improving the coverage is still meager. In 2017, the percentage of children under three years old cared for by formal arrangements stood at 4.7 compared to the EU average of 34.2
- Due to low birth rates the number of children has been decreasing, which has additionally improved the coverage rates.
- Increase in the coverage of children age 3– 6 is partly due to an increase in the number of children between four and five old attending obligatory preparatory education for a minimum of 150 hours.

## Children enrolled in preschool education and preschool coverage rates from 2015 to 2018

Children enrolled at preschool education	Year 2015/2016		Year 2016/2017		Year 2017/2018	
	In numbers	Coverage rate	In numbers	Coverage rate	In numbers	Coverage rate
<b>Total</b>	22,901	9.9	24,918	11.1	25,889	11.8
<b>Children age 0 - 2</b>	3,751	4.2	4,229	4.7	4,668	5.2
<b>Children age 3 - 6</b>	19,150	13.6	20,689	15.4	21,221	16.4

Source: Agency for Statistics of Bosnia and Herzegovina

## The limiting factors:

- Unavailability of the service in the vicinity
- However, where available the main limiting factor is the cost and limited number of places especially in large centers.
- Only 0.5% of the total number of children attending preschool education come from rural areas.

## Financing:

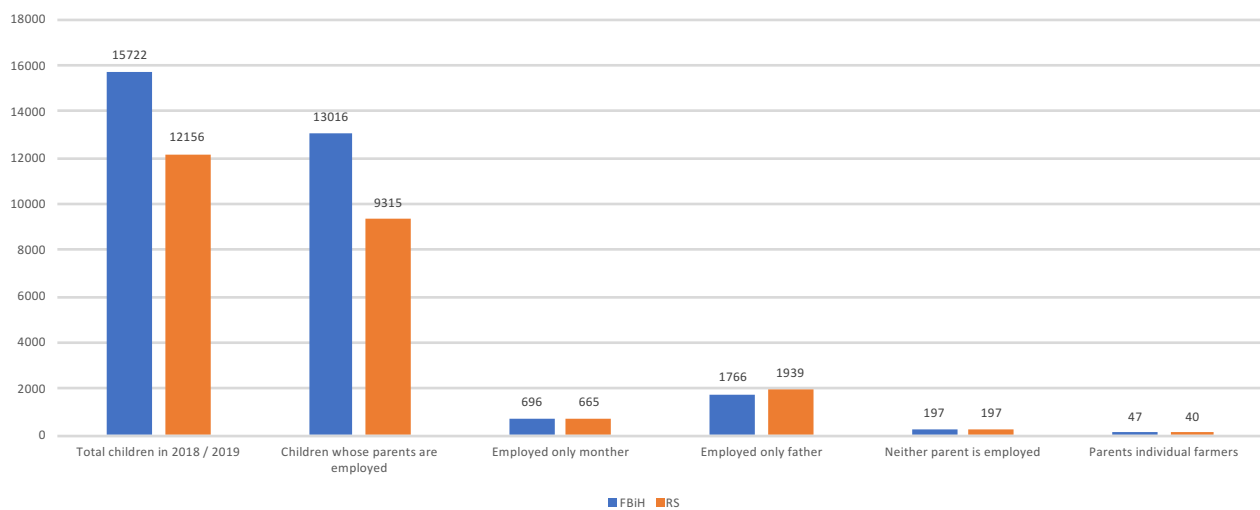
- Municipalities are founders of public kindergartens and therefore responsible for their financing.
- Besides the local government, parents bear the major brunt of preschool education financing.
- Although the total costs of preschool education financing and the size of parents' share varies between local communities, the costs are usually higher in larger cities compared to small and less populated municipalities.
- Financing from higher levels of governments and sometimes from donor organisations is received only for the implementation of specific programmes.

Public preschool education fees and its share in average net and minimum salary in the respective administrative unit (examples)

	Public pre-school (full-time) fees per month	As % of average net salary in entity/district	As % of entity net minimum salary
City of Banja Luka (RS)	EUR 84	19%	36%
City of Bijeljina (RS)	EUR 95	21%	41%
City of Mostar (FBiH)	EUR 87 EUR (EUR 102 for crèche)	19% (22%)	52 (61%)
Sarajevo (FBiH)	EUR 82	18%	49%
City of Tuzla (FBiH)	EUR 82	18%	49%
District of Brčko	EUR 77 (EUR 92 for crèche)	17% (20.5%)	33 (40%)

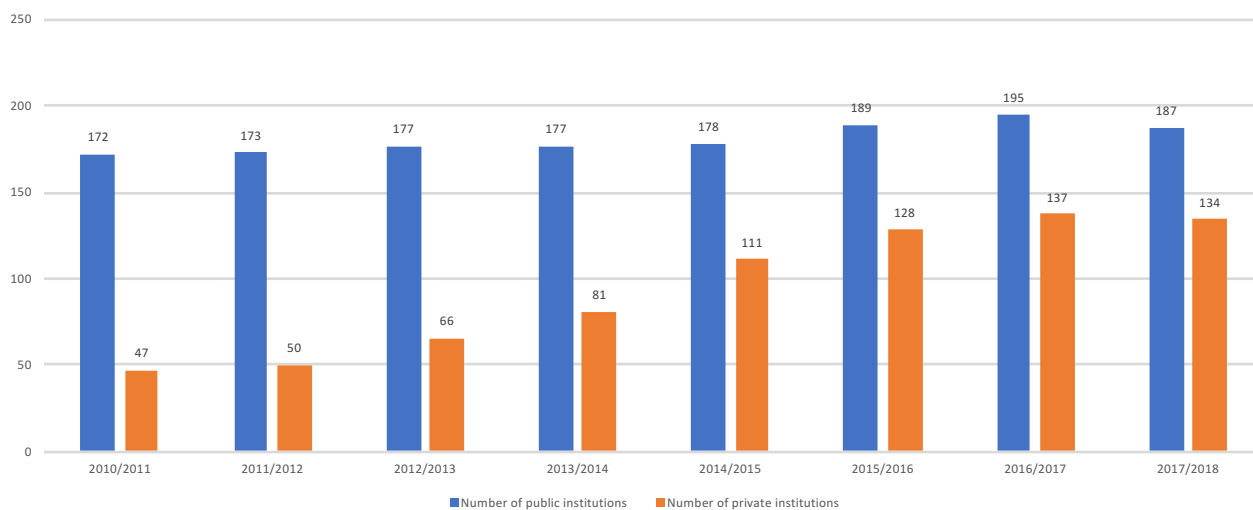
Source: Data on salaries from bulletins of FBiH, RS and BiH statistical institutes.

# Children in preschool education according to parent's employment status



Source: Agency for Statistics of Bosnia and Herzegovina, 2019b

# Public and private preschool and childcare institutions



Agency for Statistics of BiH



Thank you for the attention!