

# [This in the european union. it shows](https://assignbuster.com/this-in-the-european-union-it-shows/)

Thischapter will outline the importance of childcare centres in a child’sdevelopment and it also ascertains factors that may prevent mothers from makinguse of such services. In addition to this it will also delve into theimportance of an adequate level of quality in order to be successful in childrearing and at the same time encourage mothers to enter into the labour market. Inthe next section we will start by discussing the woman in the labour market.  Women in the Labour MarketChildcare centres in the21st century was a revolution in aiding mothers in child upbringingwhilst they engage themselves in work. According to Nicodemo and Waldmann(2009) the participation of mothers in the labour market has implied changes tothe traditional family.

This did not only affect child rearing but also thedivision of household chores. Nicodemo and Waldmann (2009) insist on the factthat this is not only a one way direction such that now there are more women inthe labour market but also a rise in non – parental childcare. The followingEurostat table (2005) shows the maternal employment rate in 2005 according toage and number of children in the European Union.   It shows that the majority of mothers are inlabour when the children attend school. Nicodemo and Waldmann (2009) found thatEuropean countries have experienced and increase in the inflow of women intothe labour market, even though most of them continue to assume the bulk of theresponsibility regarding childcare. Nicodemo and Waldmann (2009) also arguethat childcare centres and grandparents might have been the reason for such aninflow of female workers in the labour market although in countries such asItaly, Spain and Greece children spent few hours in child care centres. “ More women than ever are participating in the labourmarket.

Although more women may be working for wages, their hours spent doingunpaid household work has not diminished, increasing their overall work burden, time poverty, and stress. This raises the question: Are women really empoweredunder this model?” (Tran, Garcia, & Melesse, 2017). Contrary wise Nicodemo and Waldmann (2009) say that women in the aforementionedthree countries prefer to stay at home and take care of the children ratherthan opting for a wage due to a strong family culture and not because childrenare seen as an impediment.

Tran et al (2017) alsoemphasize on the fact that household chores and care duties should be minimizedso as to reduce this twofold situation. Now we will have a briefoutlay of how government incentives and government decisions can affect theoutcomes of childcare use.  Government Incentives In2014 the government of Malta initiated the free childcare scheme to childrenwith both of their parents working (Governmentof Malta, 2014). According to Demarco (2017), until last June 2017, 7, 252 working parent were making use of these centres, whereby the number ofparents using the free childcare scheme and are in education amounts to 109. Consequently parents can also make use of the breakfast club and Klabb for children of age 3-16.

TheMaltese government has also been fostering an increase in the participation ofwomen in the labour market in the context of EU policies, but despite thisfact, a substantial amount of parents still choose not to send their childrento child care centres in Malta and we have a high amount of women still beinginactive compared to EU. In fact the Malta Chamber of Commerce (2017) revealsfindings showing that 55. 5% of women from the ages of 20 and 64 are registeredas employed. As a result, if women are inactive they are not entitled to freechildcare services. InSweden, according to Stanfors (2014) the government started giving subsidies tochildcare in 1943. Childcare centres accelerated in the 1970’s, when thegovernment of that time made childcare a political issue. Stanfors (2014) addsthe fact that childcare centres became very popular in Sweden whereby in 1990fifty-seven percent of the children were in childcare centres with asignificant increase in 1997. Hence the figure increased to seventy-fivepercent.

Stanfors (2014) augments the fact that along the years the governmentof the country in question always took into consideration the emotionalresistance the parents had Vis a’ Vis childcare centres and was successful byevolving these centres into the best alternative for children to developpositively. As such, by 2012, eighty-four percent of Sweden’s children aged 1 –5 were in childcare.