

Webinar

Fathers matter, too! Supporting men's engagement in children's care and development

When: May 16th, 12.00-13.15

Duration: 75 min

Registration link: https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ZsiNRIJrQ3i-9JU2APmhVA

Brief description:

Compelling evidence indicates the important role that fathers, alongside mothers, play for children's well-rounded development. However, evidence in many countries shows lower engagement by men in care responsibilities and a lack of enabling conditions to support their sustained engagement. The multi-dimensional benefits (benefits for children, for fathers, for mothers, and for the couple) highlighted in the scientific literature leave no doubt that greater efforts should be made to create more opportunities for men to actively engage in caring for the child, from conception.

The narrative around men's engagement, spanning from the individual to collective perceptions, and responsibility for creating enabling environments conducive to their active participation and engagement, must be built both in informal and formal spaces — from the home environment to services for children and their families — and should include the formulation of policies regarding paternal leave and supportive up-take measures.

The webinar will introduce the *Engaging Men in Nurturing Care* multi-country initiative which aims to influence policy discourse and practices at home and in services in three cities in Italy, Portugal and Spain. Simultaneously, the initiative engages in national and European policy discourses about gender equity and shared responsibilities in informal care. Building on previous European programs such as [Parent](#), [Kinder](#), [Fathers Rock](#), the initiative endeavours to champion city level interventions targeting policy makers, multi-sectoral professionals, pre- and in-service providers, fathers and fathers-to-be, and employers in a comprehensive approach towards creating enabling and supportive environments for father engagement.

The webinar will ask:

- What policies matter for increased men engagement in child caregiving? Is current policy formulation enough?
- What hinders men engagement in sharing caregiving?
- What are effective ways to influence fathers' caregiving practices at home?
- What are effective ways to influence practices in early childhood services across different professions?

Panelists:**Italy:**

Giorgio Tamburlini, Chairperson, Centro per la Salute del Bambino;
Annina Lubbock, consultant, Centro per la Salute del Bambino

Spain:

Heinrich Geldschläger, Director of Research and International Projects, Conexus Association

Portugal:

Marta Mascarenhas, Researcher, Observatory of Masculinities;
Tatiana Moura, Main Researcher and Coordinator of the Observatory of Masculinities

Moderator: Mihaela Ionescu, ISSA, The Netherlands

Target audience: Policy makers, service managers, training providers, program developers

Key messages of the webinar:

- Too little attention is given to father engagement from a policy and service provision perspective at both European and country level.
- There is a need for a concerted action across stakeholders (policy makers, service providers, training providers) towards recognizing and supporting men involvement in caregiving through attuned policies and practices.
- More data and evidence are needed at country level to raise awareness and advocate for gender equity in caregiving.
- EMiNC will provide a cross-country platform for learning about what works and what doesn't work and will showcase pathways for moving towards effective changes in policies and practices.