

# Why is it necessary to talk about caring masculinities in early childhood education?

International Conference: Caring Masculinities in early education

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# Content

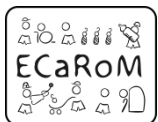
1. Initial situation: Gender inequality in unpaid and paid care work
2. The importance of care
3. Example for gender socialization: Occupational maps
4. The Projects *Boys in Care* and *ECaRoM*



# One definition of care

“On the most general level, we suggest that caring be viewed as a species activity that includes everything that we do to maintain, continue, and repair our ‘world’ so that we can live in it as well as possible. That world includes our bodies, ourselves, and our environment, all of which we seek to interweave in a complex, life-sustaining web.”

(Joan Tronto, 1993: 103)



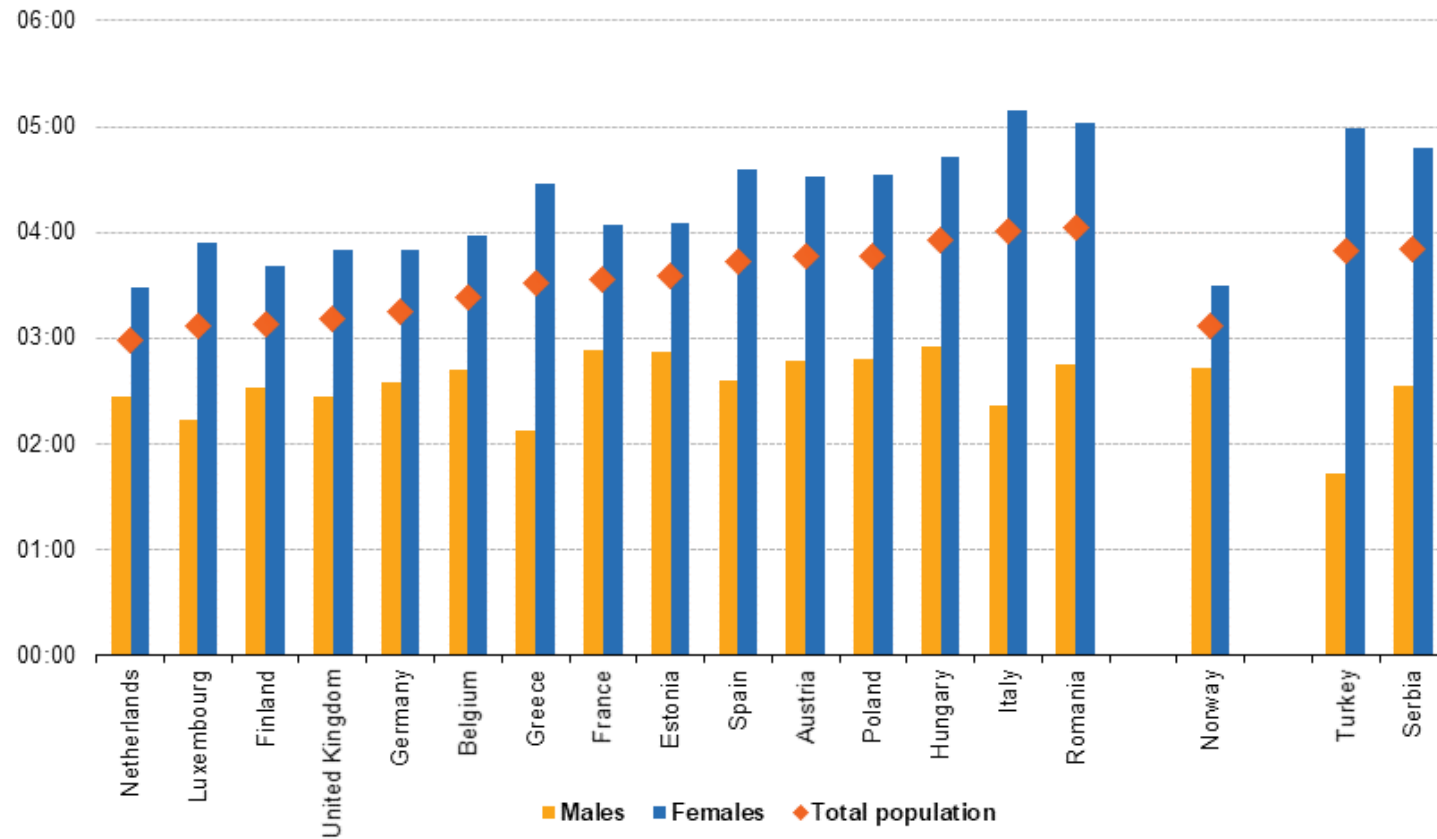


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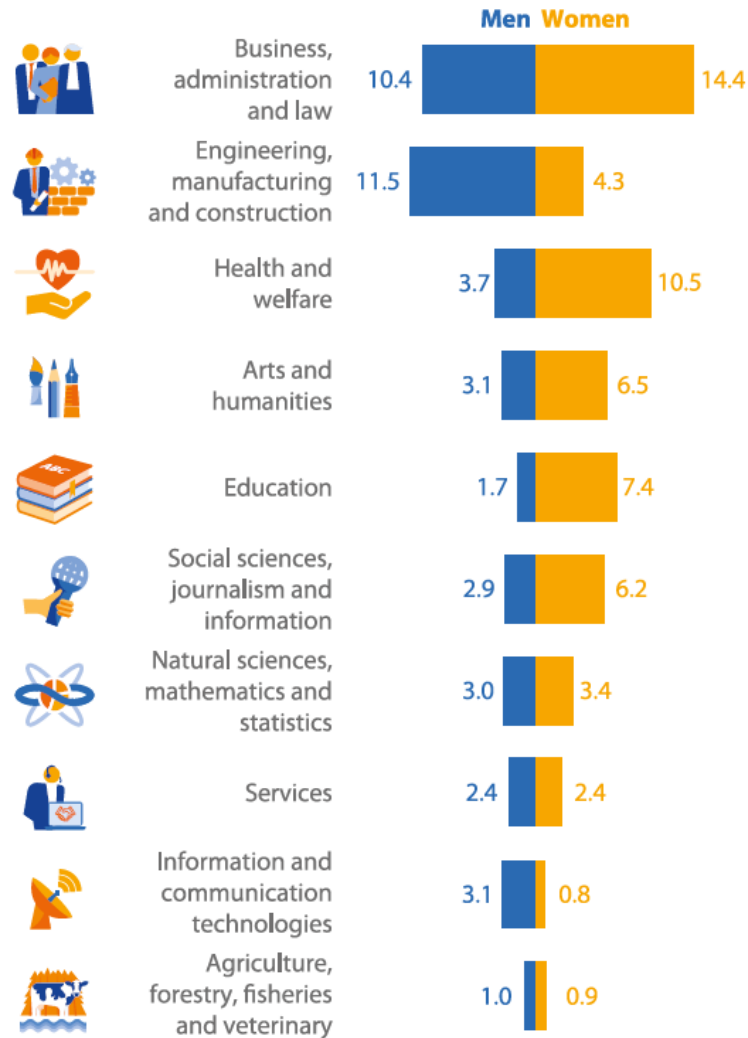
Participation time per day in household and family care, by gender, (hh:mm; 2008 to 2015)



Source: Eurostat (online data code: tus\_00age)

## Fields of study for university graduates

(%, EU, 2019)



Source: Eurostat (online data codes: [educ\\_uoe\\_grad01](#) and [educ\\_uoe\\_grad03](#))

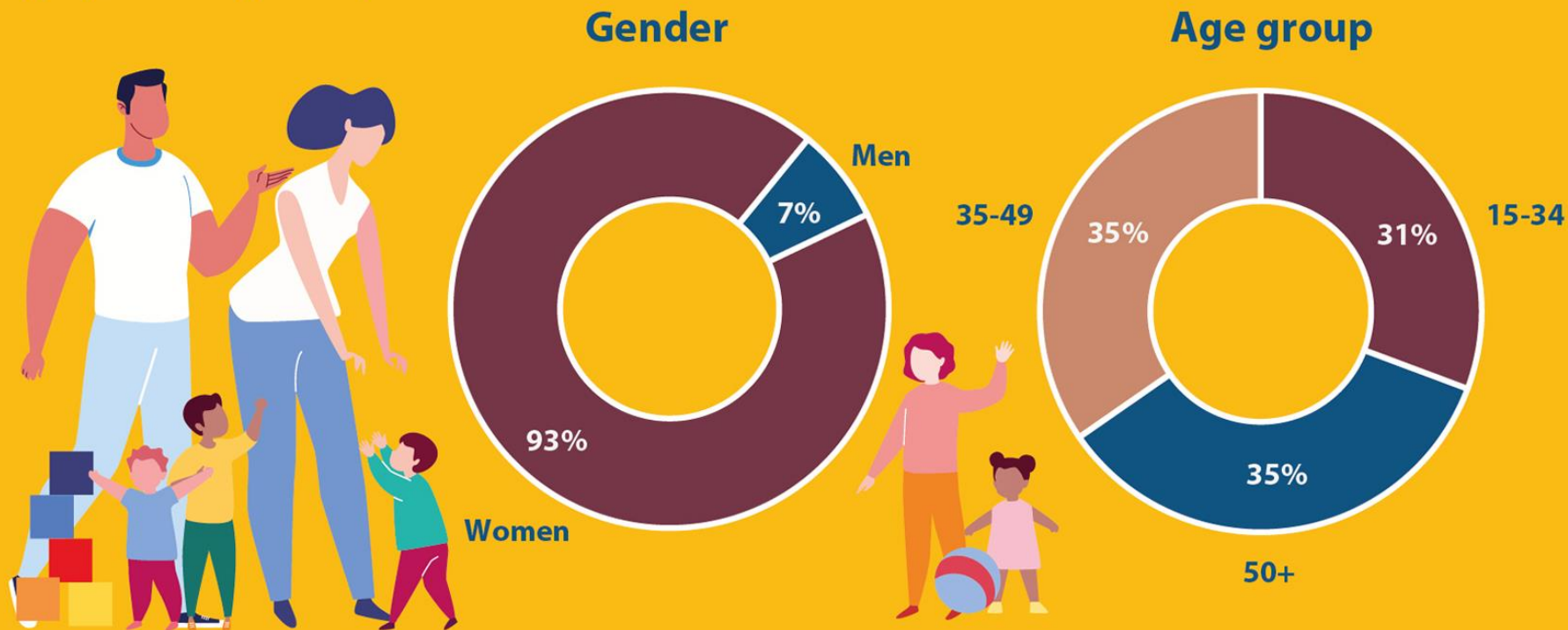
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# Childcare workers and teachers' aides in the EU, 2020

(population aged 15+)



Data do not add up to 100% due to rounding.

[ec.europa.eu/eurostat](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat) 

# Occupational Maps

(Linda S. Gottfredson)

## First phase (3-5 years):

Children recognize occupations as a characteristic of the adult world.

## Second phase (between the ages of 6-8):

Deselection of occupations by gender identity.

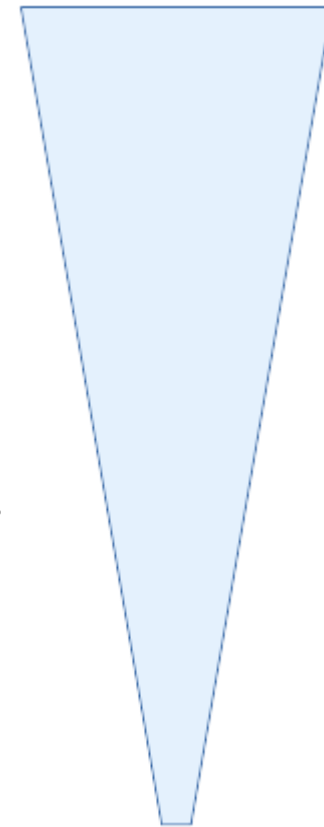
## Third phase (between the ages of 9 and 13):

Deselection of occupations by coherence to social background.

## Fourth phase (14 years and beyond):

Consciously choosing occupation by personal interests and values.

Possible job aspirations:



Many

Few



# Boys in Care - Strengthening boys to pursue care occupations

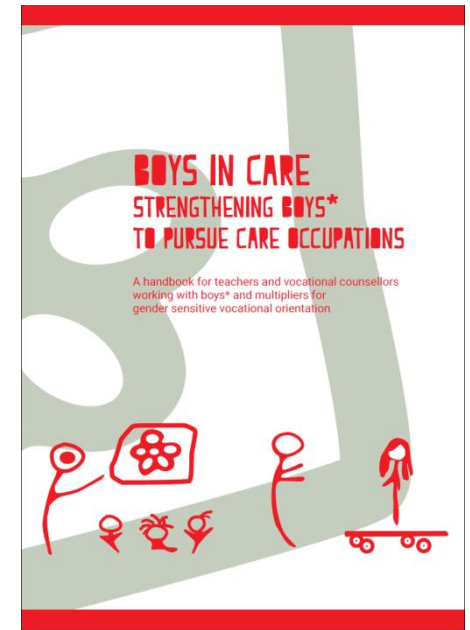
Project dates: April 2017 to September 2019

Some of the aims:

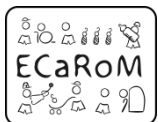
- Creating supportive environment enabling boys to pursue care careers;
- Challenging the cultural ascription of care work;
- Fostering caring masculinities and challenging gender norms.

Target groups:

- Boys and parents, teachers in primary and secondary schools, vocational counsellors, experts



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



[www.ecarom.eu](http://www.ecarom.eu)

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# ECaRoM: Early care and the role of men

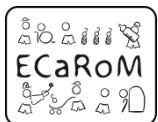
Project dates of ECaRoM: 01/02/2021 – 31/01/2023

The main objective of ECaRoM is to overcome gender stereotypes in early childhood and primary education through mainstreaming values and benefit of caring masculinities for a society as a whole.

Target Groups:

1. Pedagogical staff in ECEC and primary school
2. Children younger than 10 years, parents, creators of pedagogical material and policy makers in the field of early childhood and primary education.

Key words: Caring masculinities, early education, gender equality, care, digital learning



# Main activities of ECaRoM

1. Analysis of the state of the art of gender sensitive early education through interviews and focus groups
2. Questioning of traditional care-less concepts of masculinities and broaden the range of career paths for all children through the assessment and development of educational material for pedagogical staff in early education.
3. Tackling of gender stereotypes in early education focusing on caring professions and caring masculinities through the training of pedagogical staff in early education
4. Development of flexible learning possibilities for pedagogical staff in early education through a manual and a digital self-learning platform.

# ECaRoM – Partner organisations



Germany



Lithuania



Austria



Italy

*Center of Women's  
Studies and Policies*



Bulgaria



Slovenia



## Quote from a ECEC educator

“We have to talk about what is not visible: the ways that boys don't go in terms of care because they learn very early that it is unmanly, we don't see them because the boys don't go ... We can only get there if we make them a variety of offers and the mental permission is there to be a caring ballet dancer.”



# Thank you for your attention!

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[www.ecarom.eu](http://www.ecarom.eu)

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

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

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Graphics:

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