Norway

Distinctive Features: Explicit family policy with emphasis on gender equality; universalism; child orientation; early childhood education and care (ECEC) service provision; generosity of family benefits.

Maternity / Parental Leave

Benefit	Universal cash benefit and job-protected leave, includes adoption
Eligibility Criteria	Maternity: universal; Paternity and Parental Leave: universal, voluntary
Duration of Leave	Maternity: 9 weeks compulsory; Paternity: 4 weeks use it or lose it; Parental: Up to 52 weeks
Compensation Rate	Maternity and Paternity: 80% of wages; Parental: Either 52 weeks w/ 80% wage replacement or 42 weeks w/ 100% wage replacement

Early Childhood Education and Care

Age Group Served	1-5
Eligibility Criteria	Universal
Locus of Care	Largely center-based
Fees	Income-related
Funding Strategies	National govt. (40%), municipal (30%), parent fees (30%)
Access/Coverage (%)	60% of children ages 1-5

Family and Child Allowances

Benefit & Eligibility	Universal tax-free cash benefit for all residents with children under age 16
Benefit Levels	Substantial: 11,112 kroners/year for first child (about $1,500), progressively more for each additional child. There are also annual supplements for children ages 1-3 and for lone parents.

Child Support

Benefit	Guaranteed minimum child support advanced by govt. agency.
Maintenance Rate	Formula: 11% of non-resident parent's income for one child, 18% for 2, 24% for three, 28% for 4 or more.

Other Child-Conditioned Income Transfers

Benefits	Special lone mother's benefit (transitional allowance) for those with a child under age 3; Survivor's Benefits (Child Pension); social assistance.

Child and Adolescent Health

Access to Coverage	Universal coverage through national health service; free care through maternal and child health stations.

Housing Benefits
Benefit No housing allowances; interest on mortgages is tax-deductible.

School-Age Children Policies

Compulsory School	Ages 6 – 16
School Hours	Flexi-time patterns; length of day increases with the age of the child.