

**Table 1.24: Family day care in 7 European countries**

|                                 | <b>Denmark</b>                                | <b>Sweden</b>  | <b>Finland</b>   | <b>Netherlands</b>  | <b>England</b>  | <b>France</b>  | <b>Germany</b>                       |
|---------------------------------|---|--|--|---|---|--|--------------------------------------|
| <b>Scope of application</b>     | 0-14 years                                    | 0-12 years   | 0-7 years  | 0-12 years  | 0-5 (8) years   | 0-3 years full-time and older children after school                        | All children                         |
| <b>Eligibility criteria</b>     | Age and availability of places                | Parental employment and educational activities or special need | Age and availability of places   | Availability of places and ability to pay                         | Parental ability to pay   | Parental ability to pay  | Parental ability to pay              |
| <b>Responsibility</b>           | Municipality                                  | Municipality   | Municipality   | Non-profit agency   | Private   | Municipality   | Private                              |
| <b>Provision</b>                | Childminder schemes organized by municipality | Municipal childminder or self-employed day carers              | Childminder schemes organized by municipality  | Local nonprofit agencies, and a few independent family day carers | Independent (99%) and local authority (1%)  | Public authority (creche familiale) or independent (assistante maternelle) | Independent approved or not approved |
| <b>Opening hours</b>            | 5:30-AM 6 PM, all year round                  | All year round   | 8-10 hours full-time, 4-5 hours part time, all year round  | Arranged with parents, but mainly year round                      | 8 AM to 6 PM or part-time. Except public holiday and 2 weeks summer holiday.            | Negotiated between parents and childminder                                 | --                                   |
| <b>Average attendance hours</b> | 7.25 hours per day                            | 28.2 hours per week  | --   | 14.6 hours per week   | --  | --   | --                                   |
| <b>Coverage in FTE places</b>   | 0-2 years: 27%<br>3-6 years: 4%               | 0-2 years: 13%<br>3-6 years: 13%                               | 0-2 years: 11.5%<br>3-6 years: 18%   | 0-4 years: 1%   | 0-4 years: 12%  | 0-2 years: 12.2 %  | 0-2 years: 4%                        |
| <b>Group size</b>               | 0-10 children                                 | 3-8 children   | 4 under school age and a 5 <sup>th</sup> school aged child - attending part-time or 12 in group care | No requirements   | 3 children under age 5 including own children. 6 children, if 3 children are school age | Maximum 3 including own children   | Maximum 3 not including own children |

**Table 1.24 (continued)**

|                             | <b>Denmark</b>  | <b>Sweden</b>  | <b>Finland</b>   | <b>Netherlands</b>   | <b>England</b>  | <b>France</b>  | <b>Germany</b>  |
|-----------------------------|---|--|--|--|---|--|---|
| <b>Staff qualifications</b> | No requirements. Voluntary 38 hour introductory course, followed by a 74 hour course after 6 months | No requirements. Voluntary 50-100 hours training. In addition, 30 hours annual training recommended. | 250 minimum training hours   | No requirements. Training offered by local agencies  | No formal requirements. Training provided by LA or childminder may have a National vocational Qualification in Child Care and Education (NVQ) | Compulsory training of minimum 60 hours during the first 5 years of which 20 hours are during the first two years                  | Federal organization of family day carers organised training            |
| <b>Financing</b>            | Municipality and clients (30%)  | Municipality and clients (18%)   | Municipality and clients (15%)   | Clients  | Clients   | Creche familie: LA (35%), Department (7%), regional family allowance funds (22%), and parents (34%).                               | Parental financing and some families may obtain subsidy from LA.        |
| <b>Formula of fees</b>      | Dependent on income and attendance. Average DKK 1,580 monthly for a full-time place                 | Depending on income, number of children and attendance   | Dependent on income, attendance and number of children. Average monthly fee FIM 450. | Individually arranged between childminder and parents. Average hourly pay NLG3-5 per hour. | Private arrangement between child minder and parents.   | Income related   | In some municipalities: minimum and maximum payment of DM 250-950/month |
| <b>Regulation</b>           | Family day care supervisor  | Supervisor at local family day centre  | Local supervisors  | Local family day care agencies   | LA registers child minders  | Local public authority   | Local authorities approve carers  |
| <b>Tax relief</b>           | --  | --   | --   | --   | If family day carer is approved, an income related Working Parent Families Tax Credit covers some child care costs.                           | AFEAMA: FR 800 if child under 3 and FR 400 if child is 3-6 years to cover social security contributions for the employed day carer | No  |

Source: Tina Rostgaard & T. Fridberg (1998). *Caring for Children and Older People: A Comparison of European Policies and Practices*, Social Security in Europe 6. Copenhagen: Danish National Institute of Social Research 98:20.

