

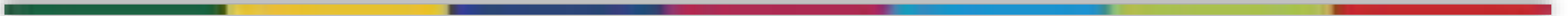


Recognizing and providing quality support for children at risk of social exclusion in ECEC institutions

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Children at Risk of
Social Exclusion





The main objective of the project is

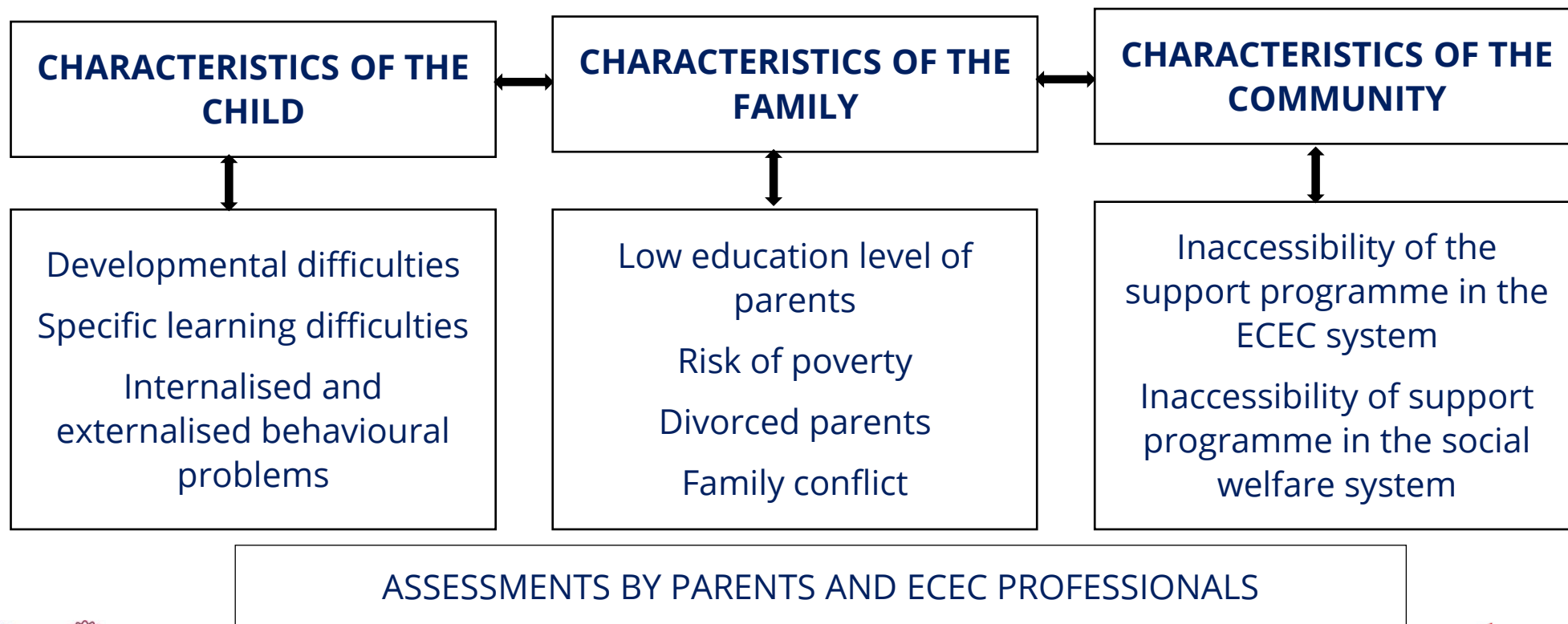
- systematising the current, and creating new, scientifically founded knowledge on the etiological, phenomenological and intervention aspects of young and preschool children at RSE

The main objective of this presentation are

- to establish the RSE of young and preschool children in the Croatian ECEC system
- to assess the share of children at RSE in the Croatian ECEC system, and
- to compare the assessments of children at RSE conducted by parents with those carried out by ECEC professionals

THE MAIN OBJECTIVES

The RSE of children are understood as a possible consequence of unfavourable circumstances arising from the characteristics of the child, the family and/or the community. They range over a continuum from low to high risks.



01

ECEC has a unique position in providing young and preschool children with appropriate support by promptly identifying children at RSE (Smith, 2020)
The positive effects of ECEC on children exposed to RSE significantly depend on its quality (Sylva et al., 2008).

02

Existing findings show (a) the persistence of unequal education opportunities for children exposed to RSE compared to their peers (Manning et al., 2019), and (b) a lack of appropriate capabilities of ECEC staff to recognize the RSE of children (Münger and Markström, 2018; Taresh et al., 2020).

03

Not identifying children exposed to RSE in due time significantly reduces the possibility of ensuring appropriate interventions, which has an unfavorable effect on the education and development of such children (Mozolic-Staunton et al., 2020).



Participants:

- 443 children of 5 to 7 years of age who were included in 10 ECEC institutions in Croatia
- 222 girls (49.4%) and 221 boys (50.1%)
- the RSE of the children was assessed by parents and by 49 ECEC professionals
- convenience sampling was used

Instruments:

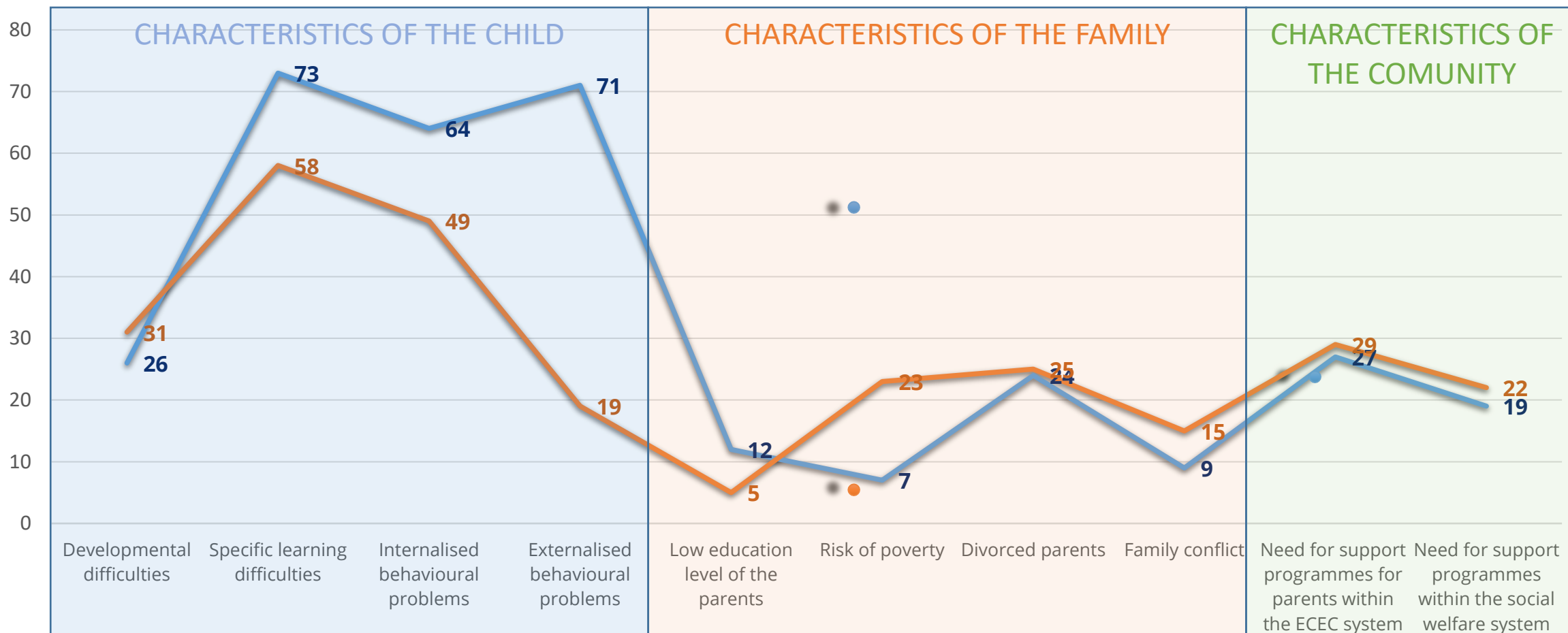
- Questionnaire to assess the etiological and phenomenological aspects of the RSE of young and preschool children (version for ECEC professionals)
- the Questionnaire for the assessment of etiological and phenomenological aspects of the development of young and preschool children (version for parents).

The data were collected in the spring of 2020 as part of piloting the application of measurement tools for the need of the MORENEC project.



METHODOLOGY

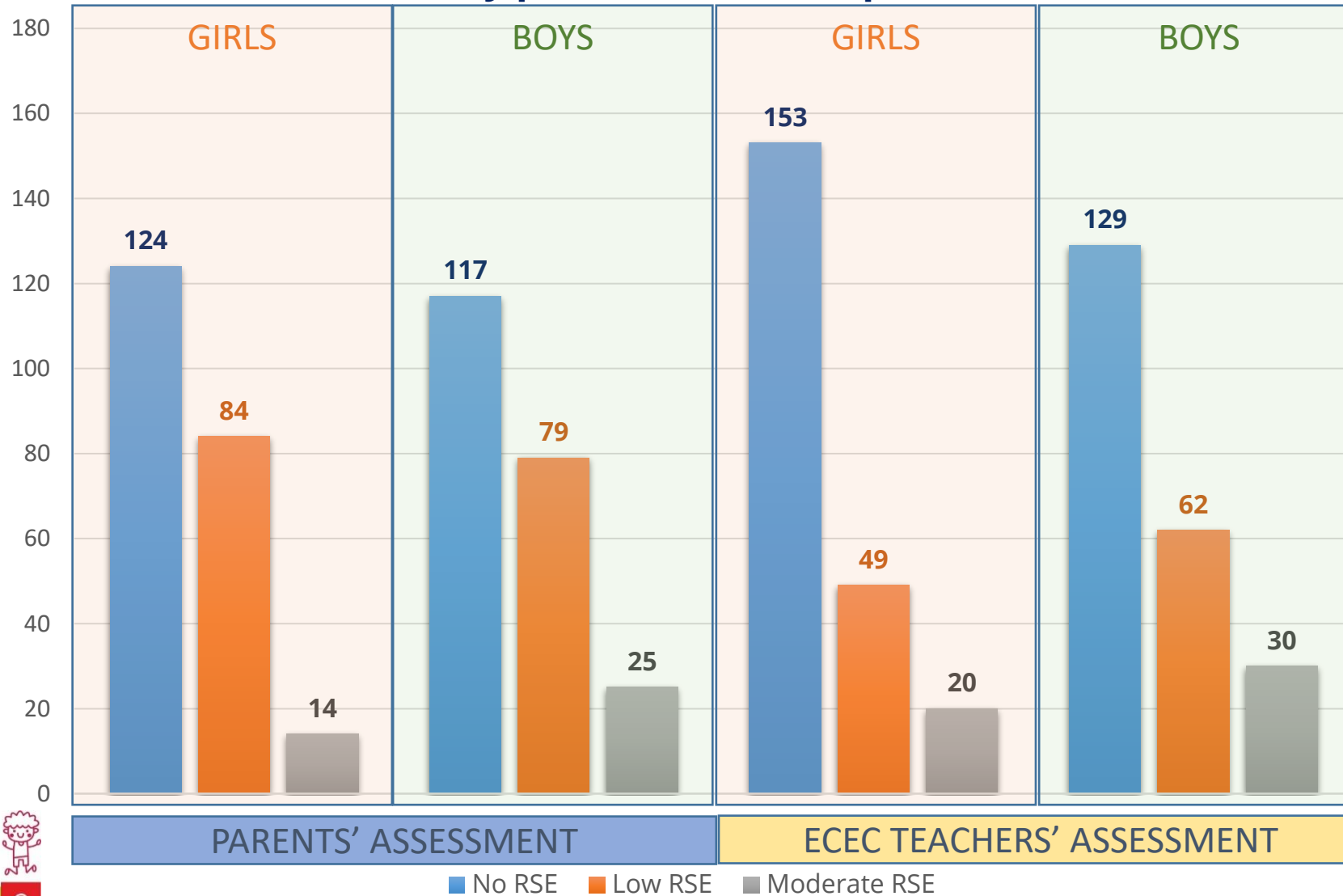
Incidence of the RSE of children: assessments by parents and ECEC professionals



—●— Parents —●— ECEC professionals



Share of children at RSE according to the level of RSE and gender: assessments by parents and ECEC professionals





01

Children who are at RSE due to their specific developmental characteristics are most represented in Croatian ECEC institutions, while other groups of children at RSE are significantly underrepresented.

02

ECEC professionals, compared to parents, are more aware of the multidimensionality of the RSE of children. Some RSEs indicated by the parents of children were not recognised by the ECEC professionals.

03

The good cooperation of ECEC professionals and the family members is a key dimension of the quality of the ECEC system and its potential to act preventively in reducing the RSE. This survey points out the need to significantly improve this quality dimension.

CONCLUSIONS



Thank you for your
attention.

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