

### Czech Republic: Build your own enterprise as a way to connect work with childcare

**Description:** “Build your own enterprise as a way to connect work with childcare” is a project that supports entrepreneurship for parents on or exiting parental leave. The aim of the project is to provide information on self-employment and business start-up to parents to support them in business creation. The project was implemented in the capital city of Prague between 1 June 2011 and 31 May 2013.

**Problem addressed:** The project responds to the low employment rate of women with young children by addressing some of the perceived barriers related to self-employment, including fear of the unknown and a lack of confidence. Families with young children face many practical challenges in balancing family and professional life, such as child care and time management. These challenges can be even greater for entrepreneurs with young children due to unpredictable income and the financial demands of launching a business.

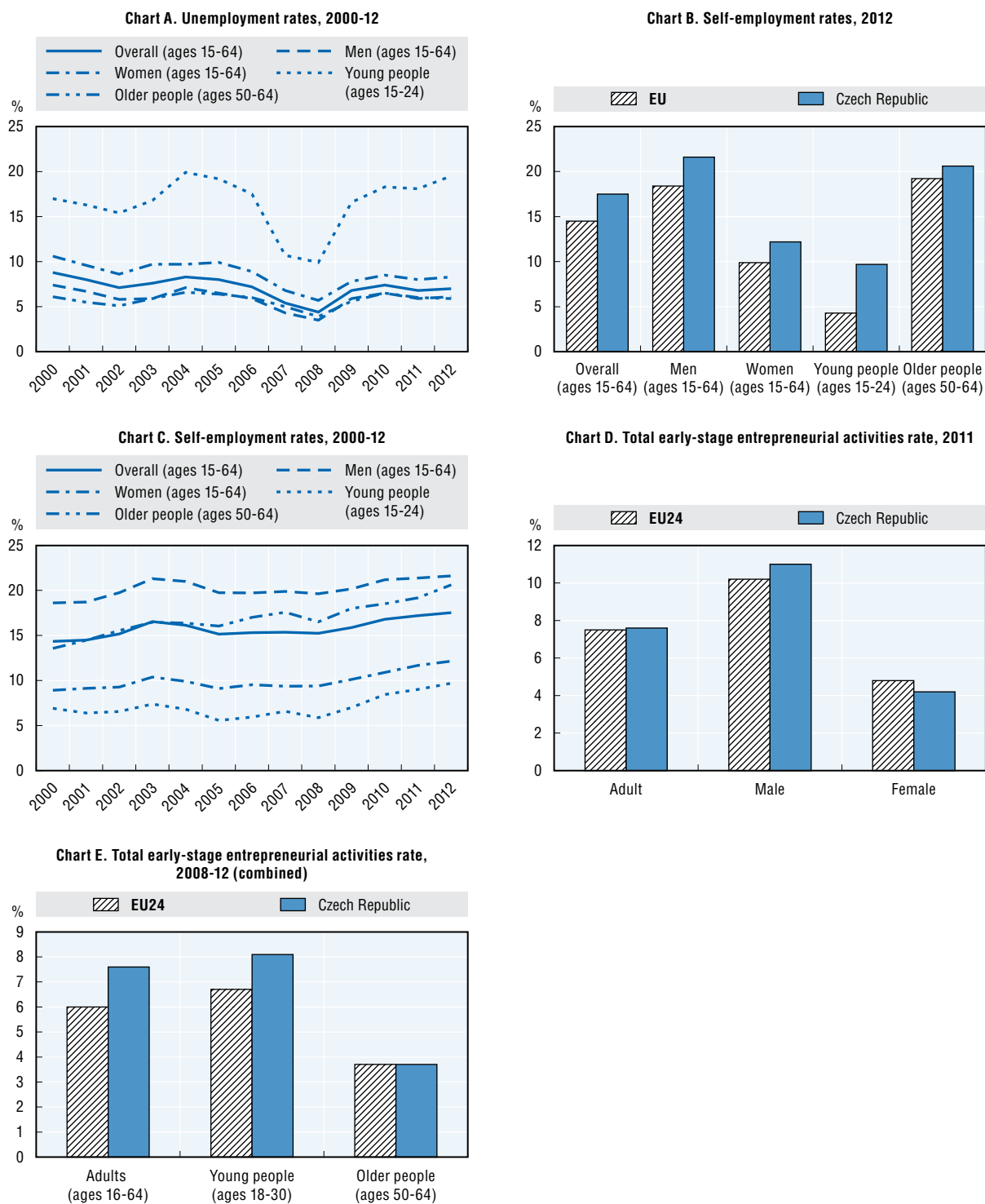
**Approach:** This project provides an integrated support package that includes training and advisory services. The target client group is parents on parental leave (mostly mothers) who live in the capital city of Prague in the Czech Republic. Most parents were in the last year of parental leave (which is up to 3 years) or had recently finished it. All were eligible regardless of employment status and educational attainment. The support consisted of five phases. First, interviews were conducted by business advisors to provide personal diagnostics and to help clients identify potential business ideas. Second, two months of training were provided, covering legal matters and general business skills such as marketing. Third, specialised courses were provided according to the needs of the participants and their projects. Fourth was an internship in a small business was used to deliver the practical knowledge of running a business. Finally, individual consulting and advisory services were provided during the business start-up phase. In addition, the project produced an e-learning system and a website that includes educational materials (e.g. case studies, homework, and textbooks) and an archive of business advisory material. The project also arranged child care while clients were participating in seminars and training sessions. The project budget was EUR 244 562, 85% being funded by ESF.

**Impact:** A key indicator for the success of the project was the number of project graduates who started their own business. Altogether, 160 people participated in the project. The full course was successfully completed by 152 people (95%) and 103 of the graduates (64%) started a business.

**Consideration for success:** Keys to the success of the project were the identification of the specific needs of the target client group and using the experience of other parental support projects. Project participants reported that the internships in SMEs, organised through the Association of SMEs and Crafts had the greatest impact, in terms of gaining know-how, experience and insights in to business in their field of work.

**Key inclusive entrepreneurship data**

**Figure 16.1. Entrepreneurship and self-employment data for the Czech Republic**



Sources: Chart A. Eurostat, Labour Force Survey, 2000-12; Chart B. Eurostat, Labour Force Survey 2012 ; Chart C. Eurostat, Labour Force Survey, 2000-12 ; Chart D. Special tabulations of the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor adult population survey, 2011; Chart E. Special tabulations of the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor adult population survey, 2008-12.



**From:**  
**The Missing Entrepreneurs 2014**  
Policies for Inclusive Entrepreneurship in Europe

**Access the complete publication at:**  
<https://doi.org/10.1787/9789264213593-en>

**Please cite this chapter as:**

OECD/European Union (2014), “Czech Republic: Build your own enterprise as a way to connect work with childcare”, in *The Missing Entrepreneurs 2014: Policies for Inclusive Entrepreneurship in Europe*, OECD Publishing, Paris.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1787/9789264213593-19-en>

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