

# Supermom- Kick-Off



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## IMPORTANT

### ISSUES

- Motivate Course materials as a base of soft skills course
- Supermom research report about situation of single parents
- Questions for interview
- Concept of the film workshop
- Facebook websites as a way of promotion campaign

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## How are we going?

By Agnieszka Borowicz-Bartosik

Since December 2010 some good things have happened according to Supermom project. Let's see a short calendar of last events and activities.

The Motivate Course materials were sent via email by GingerbreadNI. The materials are all available to download from

website of the organization. Here is the link:

<http://empower.possibilitiesni.co.uk/new-motivate-training-course-materials>.

The entirety of the course is copyrighted to Gingerbread, 2010. On the basis of the Motivate Course and

Empower course materials carried out at the Wisamar competence center, a course for developing soft skills of Supermom participants is worked out. Sabine Mahhou sent it to all participants.



Sabine Mahhou welcoming to the public presentation of the project in Leipzig

The Supermom research report was made by Whitney Rozelle from GingerbreadNI. She compiled the final version of the report from responses of all project partners to the questionnaire on lone parents. Some excerpts of the report are published in this Supermom newsletter.

Some questions for the interview of future participants were suggested (continue at page 2)

## Lone Parent Demographics

Research Report On The Situation of Lone Parents in Supermom prepared by Whitney Rozelle, GingerbreadNI

Partner Countries: Italy, Germany, ITALY: 5.624 million lone parents.

Poland, France, and the United King-

(continue at page 2)



*"This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This publication reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein."*

## How are we going?

by Anne Sweeney from GingerbreadNI. The list seems to be detailed and complete.

The concept of the film workshop and the timetable of film project were developed by the team of Helden wider Willen e.V. Some significant comments and proposals were submitted by GingerbreadNI and WSInf teams.

At the moment of the composition of this Supermom newsletter Helden wider Willen e.V. is working in Leipzig on the concept of the media workshops.

The official edition of the Facebook site had started in October 2010: its name is "Supermom Kick-off 2010 - EU project for the support of single parents". It still needs a lot of work to make it visually attractive and interesting to a mass audience. It also needs good promotion with the aim of getting attention of presumably interested single parents. The German facebook site related to the Supermom project is well-developed. It documents the activities by Helden wider Willen e.V. in relation to their "Supermutter Kick-off" project.

English, Polish, German and Italian language versions of the flyer were created. In this edition of the Newsletter we can see a picture of the Polish flyer; the layout of the other flyers is analogical.



Anne Sweeney speaking about the situation of lone parents in the UK

## Lone Parent Demographics

**POLAND:** According to Institute of Public Affairs there are more than 1 million lone parent families.

**GERMANY:** 1.6 million one-parent households with children under 18

**FRANCE:** 1.758 million lone parents in 2005

*NOTE: The definition of a lone parent from the French Statistics and Research National Institute (INSEE) is a lone parent with one or more single children under the age of 25 and not having children themselves.*

*For the French Family allowance fund, the definition of lone parent is a widowed, divorced, separated or single person currently and permanently (means not part-time) supporting alone one or more children and with the condition that this person doesn't live with a partner.*

**UK:** 1.7 million lone parents in the UK (92,000 in Northern Ireland)

Proportion of all families in country headed by a lone parent:

**ITALY:** 1 in 4

**POLAND:** 1 in 6

**GERMANY:** Almost 1 in 5 (19%). Interesting detail: 27% in East Germany – 17% in West Germany

**FRANCE:** 1 in 5

**UK:** 1 in 4 (Northern Ireland: 1 in 4)

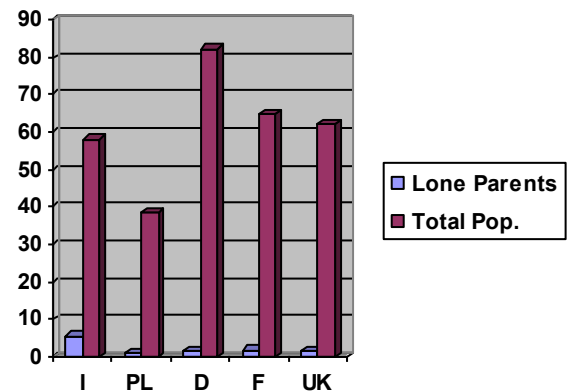


Figure 1: Lone parents compared to total population in millions. (Source for total population statistics: CIA World Factbook)

Percentage of these lone parents who are lone mothers:

- ITALY:** 90%
- POLAND:** 90%
- GERMANY:** 89,9%
- FRANCE:** 84,5%
- UK:** 90% (Northern Ireland: 93%)

Percentage of these lone parents who are lone fathers:

- ITALY:** 10%
- POLAND:** 10%
- GERMANY:** 10,1%
- FRANCE:** 15,5%
- UK:** 10% (Northern Ireland: 7%)

Main routes to lone parenthood:

\*POLAND: no data available

**Single** (never married, never in a civil partnership):

ITALY: 7%

GERMANY: 35%

FRANCE: 35,8% \*(INSEE says “A lone parent formerly in a civil partnership or in a live-in partnership stays legally single after a separation or the death of his partner.”)

UK: 47%

*I personally expect a very interesting cooperation since we are partners from countries with quite different backgrounds concerning our topic, as we got to know in the kick-off meeting. I'm really looking forward to the creative output of the different participants and I also expect that they will profit from taking part in Supermom Kick-Off 2010.*

*Jana Dobbstein,  
Wisamar*

**Widowed:**

ITALY: 54%

GERMANY: 6%

FRANCE: 9%

UK: 7%

**Divorced or Separated:**

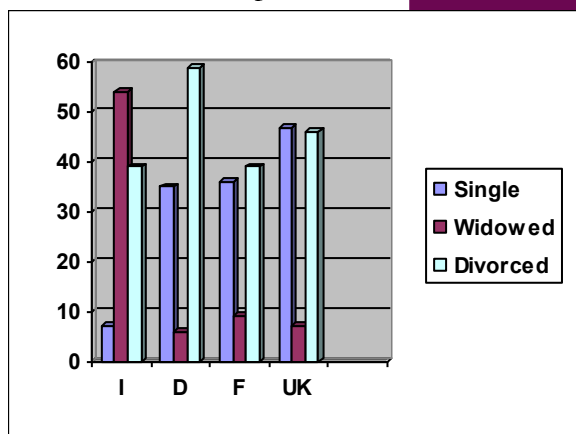
ITALY: 39%

GERMANY: 59%

FRANCE: 39,2%

\*Note 1: Most countries calculate separated and divorced lone parents as one category, so they are calculated together in the graph. The only partner country that provided different figures for separation and divorce is Germany, where

17% of lone parents are separated and 42% are divorced. These two categories taken together make up 59% of the total lone parents in Germany.



**Figure 2: Routes into Lone Parenthood** (as a percentage of total lone parents). No information is available for Poland.

**Summary of These Statistics:**

Poland has the lowest proportion of identified lone parents out of the partner countries, with approximately 1 in 6 families being headed by a lone parent. Among the partner countries, the average proportion of lone parents to total families is 1 in 5, meaning about 20% of the families in these countries are headed by lone parents.

In every country, statistics show that lone parenthood is mainly a female situation, and most of them are adult women rather than teenagers (see below).

These statistics are highly relevant to the Supermom project: the Italian partner notes that, due to social stigmas in many parts of Italy, single mothers who become lone parents due to a separation or a divorce live in greater isolation compared to widows. Thus the informal network of help is weaker for divorced or separated women than it is for widows, and such social exclusion often leads to poverty.

## Lone Parent Demographics

The breakdown of routes into lone parenthood shows a few great differences among the partner countries. In Italy, the majority (54%) of lone parents are widows/widowers, with only a small percentage of lone parents being single (never married), and a distinct minority becoming lone parents as the result of a divorce or separation (this is changing, however; see below). Germany, however, reports that a majority (59%) of its lone parents are divorced or separated, only a small percentage are widowed, and a distinct minority are single (never married). The UK and France, meanwhile, show that nearly half of all lone parents are divorced/separated, and nearly half are single (never married), while only a small remaining percentage are lone parents because of the death of their partner.

In Italy, research shows that social and cultural changes are modifying the kind of monoparental families and the reasons for them. According to ISTAT, compared to data from 1995, separations have doubled and divorces have increased by 61%. And in a context where marriages have decreased, this shows a trend in which marriage is losing its popularity. At this rate, and given the average age of widows and widowers, in the near future widowed persons will no longer account for the majority of lone parents. Rather, separations, divorces, cohabitation/civil partnerships and the choice to have a child outside of marriage are beginning to characterize this kind of family.

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## The promotion campaign

By *Agnieszka Borowicz-Bartosik*

**In Lodz a promotion campaign has already started since beginning of December 2010.**

Project posters and flyers were worked out and printed.

We are looking for single parents eager to participate in Supermom project in a couple of ways.

First, we use internet: different websites (like Mama.pl, Singlemoms.pl, samotnirodzicewsieci.pl, mamawlodzi.pl), discussion forums (like Babyboom.pl forum, Gazeta.pl Forum, mamacafe.pl forum) dedicated to parents and single parents or on community portals (like Goldenline.pl, Grono.pl).

Next, we advertised Supermom project using posters and flyers in Wyższa Szkoła Informatyki (WSInf), especially at Career Office, where students may seek some advice according to their professional future and personal situation.

We also pasted up posters at the University of Lodz, in particular at Department of Psychology, Department of Pedagogy, Department of Chemistry, Department of Economy and Sociology. Some external student of pedagogy were invited to spread flyers and information about the project among their friends and colleagues.

The poster was also pasted up at Centre of Family Service. This institution helps individuals and families in creating conditions of dignity in life and giving support to people who are not able to overcome some obstacles in their lives.

Another ngo which helped in distribution of information about Supermom was League of Polish Women.

In December 2010 the short interview was recorded for local Radio Plus about the aim of Supermom project and recruitment.

www.supermom-kick-off.eu

Jeśli jesteś samodzielną Mamą lub samodzielnym Tatą, jeśli chcesz zwiększyć swoje szanse na znalezienie ciekawej pracy, jeśli chcesz wraz z innymi rodzicami nakręcić profesjonalny film...

**PROGRAM SuperMom**

**JEST DLA CIEBIE!**

Polish version of the advertising Supermom-Kick-Off project