This report is part of the RAND Corporation research report series. RAND reports present research findings and objective analysis that address the challenges facing the public and private sectors. All RAND reports undergo rigorous peer review to ensure high standards for research quality and objectivity.
Parenting Support Policy Brief

Barbara Janta

RAND Europe

RR-187-DG Employment
April, 2013
Prepared for the European Commission’s Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion
The research described in this report was prepared for the European Commission, Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion.

RAND Europe is an independent, not-for-profit policy research organisation that aims to improve policy and decisionmaking for the public interest through research and analysis. RAND’s publications do not necessarily reflect the opinions of its research clients and sponsors.

RAND® is a registered trademark

© European Union, 2013
Reproduction is authorised provided the source is acknowledged.

RAND OFFICES
SANTA MONICA, CA • WASHINGTON, DC
PITTSBURGH, PA • NEW ORLEANS, LA • JACKSON, MS • BOSTON, MA
DOHA, QA • CAMBRIDGE, UK • BRUSSELS, BE
www.rand.org • www.rand.org/randeurope
From the 1990s onwards, we can observe a growing number of initiatives in the area of parenting support in Europe. This broad range of national, regional and local initiatives includes the development of legislation and national strategies, as well as policies and specific programmes and practices. The scope, organisation, delivery and funding of parenting support services varies considerably across and within Member States. Nevertheless, a common set of characteristic features of parenting support can be identified in the European context.

Parenting support is typically organised and delivered in an integrated approach that facilitates collaborative working between practitioners from different sectors such as health, education and social services. Services are mostly universally accessible and include counselling, provision of support and information, and training programmes. The overall aim of parenting support programmes is to enable people to become better parents, provide better support to their children and create a positive family environment.