

Child Guarantee:

An EU that helps fight child poverty



Eurochild

Putting children at the heart of Europe

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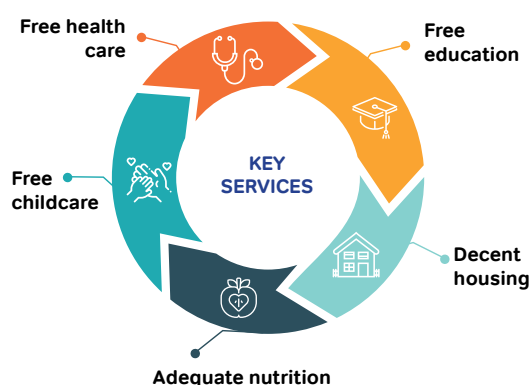
Child Guarantee: what is it for?

Child poverty is unacceptably high in Europe, one of the world's wealthiest regions. Every fourth child in the European Union is at risk of poverty or social exclusion¹.

A European Child Guarantee is planned to be included in the next EU budget (2021-2027). It is partly inspired by the existing Youth Guarantee². It should help Member States implement the European Commission Recommendation on Investing in Children: breaking the cycle of disadvantage³.

The Recommendation offers countries guidance on integrated strategies to tackle child poverty and promote children's well-being. It goes beyond welfare and labour market policies to promote access to quality services and the active participation of children themselves, and highlights the importance of EU cohesion policy in mobilising reform.

The ambition of the Child Guarantee is that every child in Europe has access to the following key services:



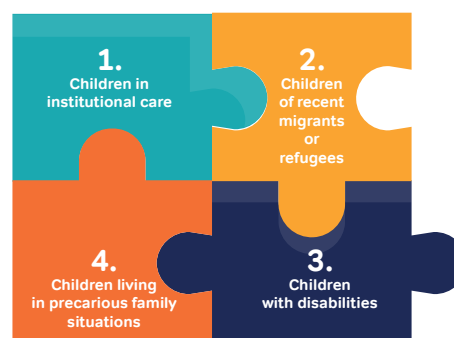
It will particularly focus on vulnerable children and those experiencing poverty, including refugee children.

To access the money, Member States need to have national strategic policy frameworks in place for poverty reduction and social inclusion with a specific attention to preventing and tackling child poverty. The Child Guarantee will help deliver the national strategies.

Feasibility

On 24 November 2015, the European Parliament approved a resolution on combatting child poverty and introducing the Child Guarantee. The European Union is now funding a Preparatory Action to explore the feasibility and analyse the conditions for the implementation of a Child Guarantee. Eurochild is a partner in the consortium carrying out this feasibility study, which will be finalised by March 2020.⁴

The study will focus on how a funding programme can improve children's access to the five key services focusing in particular on 4 vulnerable groups:



Whilst these four groups have been identified as presenting urgent and acute needs in terms of accessing these services, it is expected that results of the study will be instrumental for the design of a child guarantee policy for all children in the EU.

¹ Eurostat estimate for 2017 is 24.9% of population below age of 18 at risk of poverty or social exclusion in EU28.

² See <https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1079&langId=en#>.

³ 2013/112/EU: Commission Recommendation of 20 February 2013 Investing in children: breaking the cycle of disadvantage

⁴ The lead applicants for "Study on the Feasibility of a Child Guarantee for Vulnerable Children" are research consultancy Applica and independently-funded research institute LISER - Luxembourg Institute of Socio-Economic Research. Eurochild and Save the Children are their partners.

Funding

The EU's next seven-year (2021-2027) budget will be essential for operationalising the Child Guarantee. The financial instruments are currently under negotiation between European Parliament and Council. But the European Parliament's adopted mandate on the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) already amends the regulation to establish the European Child Guarantee, and proposes an additional budget of 5.9 EUR billion under ESF+ to deliver it. It also wants that Member States allocate at least 5% of ESF+ resources to the European Child Guarantee scheme.



What will it help achieve?



It will give **political visibility to child poverty** in Europe and put pressure on national governments to prioritise policy and legislation reforms and public spending.



It will help EU Member States **improve the services and support** to children and families in vulnerable situations. It is not expected to be a one-size-fits all. Rather Member States will use the funding according to where they need it most.



It will bring **more transparency to what is spent on children**. It will get us closer to tracking public budgets both at EU and national level and should shed light on what investment is needed to get better outcomes for children.



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