

EUROPEAN CHILD GUARANTEE

# Five-Year Review & New Prospects

**France**

General Directorate for Social Cohesion (DGCS),  
National ECG Coordinator

May 2026

# Overview

**01**

## **Five years of implementation**

What has worked in France

**02**

## **Three persistent tensions**

What remains difficult

**03**

## **Most promising new actions**

COM(2026) 539 — French perspective

**04**

## **Conclusion**

# 01 | Five years of implementation: what has worked



## **A coherent policy architecture**

The Solidarity Pact 2023–2027 was explicitly built 'in the logic of the ECG'. Axis 1 — Preventing poverty from childhood onwards — is its direct translation.



## **Unprecedented budgetary transparency**

The 'enfance' budget annex (PLF, since 2024) maps for the first time the consolidated financial effort of the State, Social Security and local authorities for children 0–18.



## **Substantive progress on the ground**

Public Early Childhood Service (Dec. 2023) · School Support Hubs (PAS) · Disability inclusion bonus extended · 39 Zero Non-Take-Up Territory sites deployed.

## 02 | What remains difficult: three persistent tensions



### Gap between legislative ambition and actual resources

€307M cancelled from the 'Solidarity' mission in 2024 · Five successive governments since June 2024 · Structural reforms need continuity that political cycles undermine.



### Structural shortage of early childhood professionals

13,700 vacancies in regulated childcare (EAJE) in 2024 · 47% concentrated in Île-de-France · Equalising childcare access for AROPE children remains out of reach.



### Territorial fractures and non-take-up

Child AROPE: 26.2% in France vs 24.2% EU average · 8 in 10 children in poverty in Mayotte, 6 in 10 in French Guiana · 9 of 39 TZNR sites abandoned child-targeted approaches.

# The data in focus

France — selected indicators 2024

**26.2%**

Child AROPE rate  
(France 2024)

**24.2%**

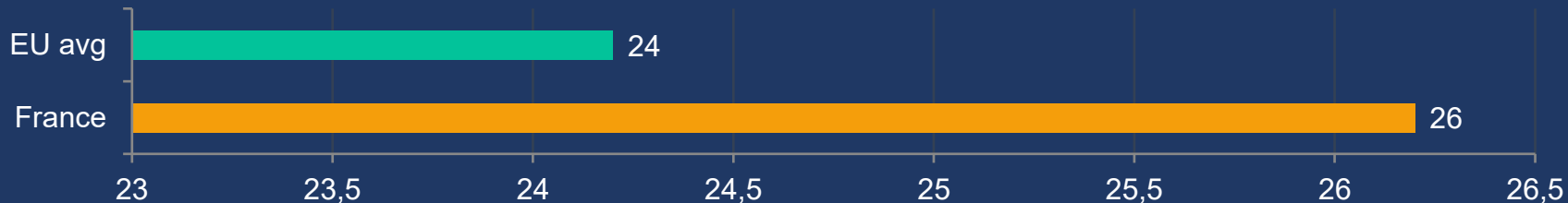
Child AROPE rate  
(EU average)

**13,700**

Childcare vacancies  
(EAJE 2024)

**8 / 10**

Children in poverty  
in Mayotte



## 03 | Most promising new actions — COM(2026) 539



### European Child Guarantee Card (pilot)

One digital gateway to coordinated entitlements: childcare, school meals, Pass Sport, health coverage, food aid. Mandatory non-digital alternative to protect the most excluded families.



### Recommendation on child benefit systems

France's paradox: generous system, limited anti-poverty effect. Addresses over-concentration of benefits on middle-income families. Supports the CMG reform (Sept. 2025) targeting lower-income households.



### ECG–Youth Guarantee linkage toolkit

220,000+ children in welfare services (ASE) face a cliff-edge at 18. Toolkit to articulate ASE, local employment missions, France Travail and Youth Guarantee into seamless pathways.

# In conclusion

**The European Child Guarantee has demonstrated its value as a framing and legitimising instrument.**

It has not yet demonstrated its capacity to lift children out of poverty at the scale required — and the French data bear this out.

The May 2026 Communication opens concrete prospects. Their implementation will need to address what is actually holding progress back:

- The shortage of professionals
- The fragmentation of service systems
- Territorial fractures — the Guarantee does not guarantee the same thing in Mayotte as in mainland France



***MERCI POUR VOTRE ATTENTION !***