

Programme

# Meeting of National Coordinators for the European Child Guarantee

6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> of October 2025, Copenhagen



**Danish  
Presidency**  
Council of the  
European Union



# **Adequate Housing and Quality-Based Alternative Care**

Fostering social inclusion and access to  
key services for children in need

*Venue:  
Eigtveds Pakhus  
Strandgade 25D  
1401 Copenhagen K*

## Monday 6<sup>th</sup> of October

**11:30**      **Arrival, registration and lunch**

**12:40**      **Welcome and opening remarks**

**Welcome by the European Commission - Katarina Ivanković Knežević**

**Welcome by the Danish Presidency – High-level representative from the Ministry of Social Affairs and Housing**

**Introduction by representatives from candidate countries**

*1-2 minutes per candidate country*

**13:10**      **Quality-based alternative care and ensuring access to key services for children in alternative care – the Danish approach**

**Presentation by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Housing – Astrid Leschly Holbøll (Head of Division, Children in Vulnerable Positions)**

*The Division for Children in Vulnerable Positions at the Danish Ministry for Social Affairs and Housing, will present the Danish approach to quality-based alternative care and how to ensure access to essential services for children in alternative care.*

**13:30**      **Perspectives from Denmark: Research on alternative care and the child's perspective**

**Research on alternative care – The Danish Centre for Social Science Research - Professor MSO, Tea Torbenfeldt Bengtsson**

**Alternative care from the child's perspective – The National Council on Children – Legal Special Advisor, Anna Marie Schurmann Carstens**

**14:15**      **European perspectives on quality-based alternative care**

**Presentation by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs in the Czech Republic – Petra Kačírková (Child Guarantee Coordinator and Head of Department of Family Policy, Child Protection and Social Integration) and Alexandra Lacinová (Family Policy and Childcare Services Unit)**

## **SOS Villages: Alternative Care in Europe and AcogES+ (Casa Con Familia) in Spain**

**15:00 Coffee break**

**15:15 Thematic Break-out sessions**

*Break-out sessions facilitated by the Commission and Denmark (TBC)*

Member states will indicate preferences to select a group, organizers will allocate countries to groups to ensure a good balance of participants. Member states will be invited to share challenges and provide input on their national approach (3 groups).

Indicative themes for the sessions:

- Recruitment and retention of foster families
- Ensuring quality-based family-care
- Access to key services and equal opportunities for children in alternative care

**16:15 Experience from local level by Save the Children Denmark and a Danish Municipality - or site visit to Børns Vilkår**

*Member states will indicate preferences to select a group, organisers will allocate countries to groups to ensure a good balance of participants between the following presentations or site visit:*

- Presentations by
  - A Danish municipality (TBD) will give an insight on their approach to family care and how continuous training of foster families are carried out in a Danish municipality
  - Save the Children Denmark on the project “Home to Us” (Hjem til os)
- Site visit to Børns Vilkår’s project Child Helpline (Børnetelefonen)
  - The Child Helpline is a line where volunteer counsellors, every day all year round, are ready to listen and advise children and young people in Denmark about their problems, large and small.

*Member states will be invited to ask follow-up questions based on the presentations.*

**18:00 End of programme**

**19:45          Dinner**

Dinner at Gemini – Hosted by the Presidency

## **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> of October**

**08:30          Welcome and coffee**

**09:00          Adequate housing for children and families in need**

**Conclusions from the Presidency's high-level conference on affordable and sustainable housing – Eva Ejdrup Winther (Senior Advisor, EU2025 Presidency Secretariat, Ministry of Social Affairs and Housing)**

**Presentation by Danmarks Almene Boliger (The Danish Federation of Non-profit Housing providers) (tbc) on social housing in Denmark**

**Social Housing and housing for children and families in need in Austria**

**Ensuring housing for children and families in need in Finland (tbc)**

- *A short discussion or Q/A will follow after each point*

**10:15          Use of the ESF+ for funding Child Guarantee interventions**

**Presentation by the European Commission**

**10:30          Progress made on guaranteeing effective access to adequate housing for children in need and on improving alternative care standards**

**Introduction by the European Commission**

*Tour de table (2 minutes per member state)*

**12:10          Coffee**

**12:25          Upcoming progress reports and way forward for the European Child Guarantee**

**Presentation by the European Commission**

*Open floor discussion on lessons learned and the way forward*

**13:10            Concluding remarks and closing**

**Conclusions by the European Commission - Katarina Ivanković Knežević and  
Jiri Svarc**

**Closing by the Danish Coordinator for the European Child Guarantee – Anita  
Hørby (Head of Division, Centre for Legal and International Affairs)**

**13:30            Light lunch**

*To stay or to go*

**14:00            End of meeting**



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