

## European Child Guarantee Newsletter Nº 3



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*Dear reader,*

*Over the summer, Eurostat published new estimates on poverty covering the year 2022. The number of children at risk of poverty or social exclusion turned out to be broadly stable across the EU with decreases registered in 19 Member States. This was, however, offset by increases in eight other Member States.*

*We would all hope for a large and rapid decrease in child poverty numbers. But given the circumstances of the last few years – first the COVID-19 pandemic, and then the energy crisis triggered by the Russian war of aggression – this overall stability is a positive signal. It shows how much more we would be able to achieve under more favourable conditions.*

*In this context and as we approach the 20 November - the [World's Children's Day](#), our work on the implementation of the European Child Guarantee gains even more merit.*

### **Spanish Council Presidency meeting of the European Child Guarantee Coordinators in Valencia**

Child Guarantee Coordinators from 17 EU Member States met on 3 November under the auspices of the Spanish Council Presidency in Valencia to discuss their experiences in implementation of actions under the European Child Guarantee. The meeting served as an occasion to exchange on lessons learned in the implementation of measures for the fight against child poverty, actions targeted at specific vulnerable groups of children and governance aspects of the Child Guarantee. Representatives of civil society met in parallel in a meeting organised by Eurochild and exchanged with the Child Guarantee Coordinators on a governance mechanism and on participation of different actors.



### **25 national action plans on the implementation of the European Child Guarantee submitted**

25 national action plans on the implementation of the European Child Guarantee have been so far submitted to the European Commission. The latest addition comes from Romania. All plans are available on [DG EMPL's website](#).

### **European Parliament: Motion for Resolution on the European Child Guarantee voted at the EMPL Committee Meeting (25 October 2023, Brussels)**

On 25 October the EMPL Committee at the European Parliament voted in favour of a motion for resolution [Children first - Beyond the Child Guarantee, two years after its adoption](#). The text provides a number of recommendations for both Member States' government, and the European Commission. They cover the areas of monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the European Child Guarantee, Quality of the national action plans, financing of actions, Stakeholders' involvement at all levels and governance. The resolution will be voted at the European Parliament's Plenary session on 20 November. Read the whole text [here](#).

## European Meeting on Child Participation, Spain

Invest in children's safety at home, in schools and in public spaces, include life skills and practical learning in school curricula, include children in decision making in schools, invest more in mental health, improve access to services and finally take children's concerns seriously – and work with them to find solutions – these are just some of the recommendations provided by young people during the first European Meeting on Children Participation. Spanish government made child and adolescent participation a priority during its presidency, in the hope of inspiring other European governments to follow. To this end, it organised on September 29 and 30 and October 1, in collaboration with UNICEF Spain and the Platform of Children's Organizations, the European Meeting on Child Participation in Alcalá de Henares. Children who took part in the initiative provided their recommendations on vital subjects: safety, education and mental health. See a [video](#) from the event.

## Useful reading

### Guaranteeing access to services for children in the EU



Eurofund's [policy brief](#) from September 2023 analyses trends and disparities in children's access to early childhood education and care, education, healthcare, nutrition and housing.

By 2022, already nine Member States had achieved the policy target set in the EU for 2030 of a participation rate of 45% of children below age three in early childhood education and care. For children between age three and compulsory schooling age, four Member States had achieved the 2030 target of 96%.

In 2021, 5% of low-income households with children aged under 16 in the EU had unmet medical needs. However, location matters, as reporting of unmet medical needs is rarer in cities (4.4%) than in rural areas (4.9%) and towns and suburbs (5.6%). The highest incidence of unmet health needs was recorded in certain areas of Romania (24.5%), Hungary (24.2%) and Latvia (23.8%).

There has been some progress in housing affordability with the percentage of children who were at risk of poverty or social exclusion living in households with housing cost overburden falling from 28.6% in 2015 to 21.3% in 2022.

For more information on disparities in children's access to early childhood education and care, education, healthcare, nutrition and housing please see [here](#).

### "Poverty takes away the right to childhood": Children's perceptions of poverty in 4 EU Member States

A new report by Eurochild provides an overview of the situation on the ground in Bulgaria, Croatia, Estonia, and Malta in terms of children's perceptions of poverty. The report is the final product of a series of consultations and surveys with children carried out by four National Eurochild Forums: the National Network for Children in

Bulgaria, the Society 'Our Children' Opatija in Croatia, the Estonian Union for Child Welfare, and the Malta Foundation for the Wellbeing of Society. Have a look [here](#).

### **The Russian aggression against Ukraine – Displaced children finding protection in the EU by Fundamental Rights Agency**

Russia's invasion created enormous suffering for children of Ukraine and posed new challenges for the EU. As a result of the scale of people's displacement, the EU activated for the first time the Temporary Protection Directive. More than 1.3 million children sought international protection in the EU. This [bulletin](#) explores the respect, protection and fulfilment of the fundamental rights of displaced children and ways to safeguard their rights. The third in a series, it builds on the previous and recent evidence collected by the Fundamental Rights Agency. Read the whole paper [here](#).

### **International Monetary Fund on Child Poverty in Europe: Mitigating the Scarring from the COVID-19 Pandemic**

Both labour and fiscal policies have a role to play in reducing child poverty – concludes an IMF working paper looking back at the impacts of Covid-19 pandemic. An econometric analysis highlights that difference in child poverty dynamics across EU countries since the global financial and sovereign debt crises is strongly associated with structural features, such as income inequality, average household size, and share of children with single parenthood. Reforms that reduce the obstacles to work by increasing working hours flexibility, promoting work-life balance, reducing gender biases in employment, and increasing access to childcare for low-income parents would facilitate combining work and parental responsibilities. This would foster an increase in working hours and in labour market participation and would be particularly impactful for single parents. Read full analysis [here](#).

### **Access to Early Childhood Education and Care for Undocumented Children and Families**

In their latest report, Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants looks at whether and to what extent undocumented children and their parents can access ECEC in Finland, France, Greece, the Netherlands and US. Read the report [here](#).

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[EMPL-CHILD-GUARANTEE@ec.europa.eu](mailto:EMPL-CHILD-GUARANTEE@ec.europa.eu)