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20th Meeting of the Child Guarantee Coordinators

OECD Draft Recommendation on Promoting Child Well-being in Times of Profound Change

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The OECD Centre for Well-being, Inclusion, Sustainability and Equal Opportunity (WISE) and

- WISE was created in 2020, building on previous OECD work on well-being measurement and on inclusive growth.
- WISE reports to the Committee on Statistics and Statistical Policy (CSSP) and the Employment, Labor and Social Affairs Committee (ELSAC), **bridging statistical underpinning and policy-relevant insights**.
- Current strategic priorities include: **well-being at the heart of the digital and ecological transitions**.

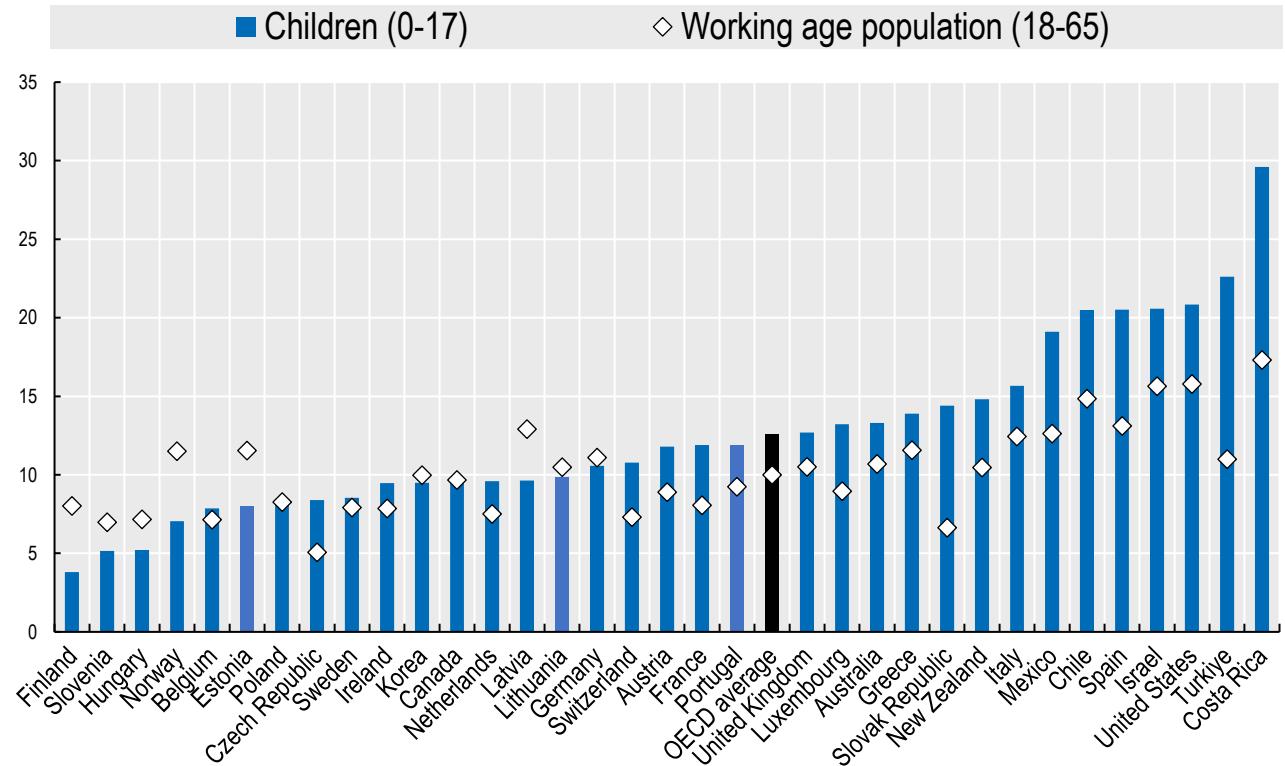
Work on child well-being

- **Measurement of multidimensional child well-being outcomes. Development of new measures and monitoring indicators.**
- **Policy analysis and case studies of what works to deliver better outcomes, including on service integration to meet the need of vulnerable groups of children.**
- **In-depth comparative analysis, including on child poverty, deprivation and vulnerability, as well as on emerging topics such as child well-being in the digital age, cost of raising children, child friendly neighbourhoods.**
- **Dedicated bilateral support, such as on implementation of the European Child Guarantee in Ireland and Portugal (financed through SG REFORM TSI).**

Child well-being in a changing world

- **Policy attention is growing**, and most OECD countries have an integrated policy plan for child well-being.
- Yet in crucial areas performance is **stalling and even reversing**, with lasting effects in childhood and over the life-cycle.
- Profound **megatrends and societal shifts** (climate change, digital transformation, demographic change) bring new uncertainties, data needs and impetus for new analysis on required policy action.
- **Policy approaches need to be more responsive to children's voices.**
- **Budgetary realities require policy interventions to be able to demonstrate value.**

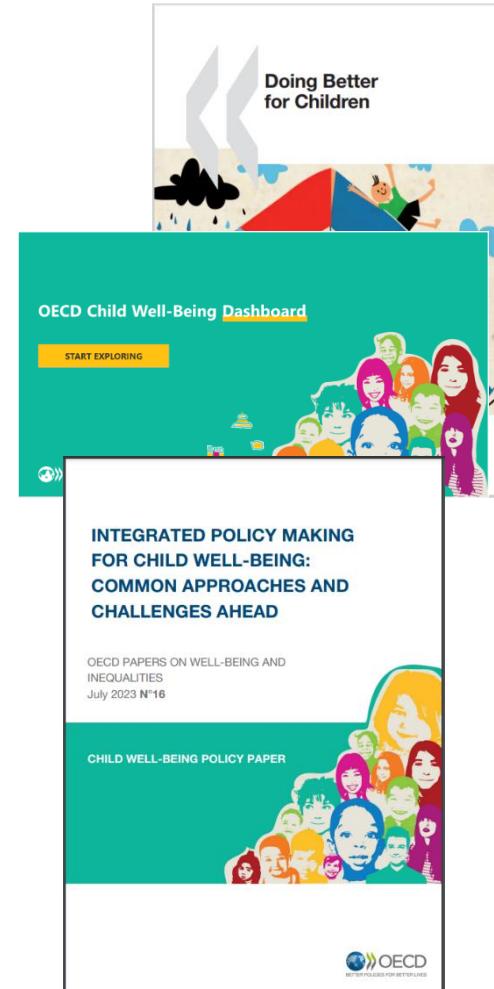
Relative income poverty rates (%) after taxes and transfers, for children (0-17 year-olds) and for the working age adult population (18-65 year olds), 2022-23 or latest available year.



Notes: Income year data refer 2023 for Costa Rica; 2022 for Chile, Finland, Latvia, Mexico, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and the United States; 2021 for Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, the Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Korea, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Poland, Portugal, Romania, the Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain and the United Kingdom and Turkey; 2020 for Germany and Switzerland.
Source: OECD Income Distribution Database.

What is the OECD draft Recommendation?

- Amplifies **political commitment** to promoting better outcomes and more equal opportunities for all children.
- Guides a **common approach** for Adherents to develop the policies, tools and integrated service delivery mechanisms that enable all children to thrive.
- Consolidates **foundational OECD work** on measurement, policy, analytical tools and dedicated bilateral work across relevant directorates.
- Shares and disseminates **good practices in the OECD**, notably the efforts to implement the European Child Guarantee.
- Supplements **human rights-based approaches** guided by the UN convention on the rights of the child by adding consideration for **multi-dimensional well-being**.
- Complements **existing OECD Standards**, notably on youth, children in the digital environment, gender, and mental health.
- Gives impetus for **regular check-in** on pertinent and emerging issues for child well-being.



Five Content Building Blocks

Build statistical capacity and measurement frameworks for child well-being

- Assess data needs and gaps.
- Put safeguards in place.
- Improve collection, disaggregation, harmonisation, sharing.
- Strengthen skills and capacities.

Adopt an anticipatory approach to child well-being

- Anticipate future needs and developments
- Assess impacts of megatrends (e.g. interplay between life off-line and online)
- Develop tools to assess returns from social investment
- Close digital gaps

Develop and implement evidence-based policies targeting specific child well-being outcomes

- Prevention, early intervention and protection
- Continuum of supports to children and families
- Material, health, cognitive, educational, social and emotional outcomes
- Support complex needs
- Context of triple planetary crisis

Strengthen coordination and integration of child well-being policies and service delivery

- Whole-of-government approach to policy-making and service delivery
- Intersectional coordination and corresponding budget allocations
- Clear and shared priorities, with focus on disadvantaged children and families
- Clear roles and accountability mechanisms

Enhance participation, agency and influence of children and relevant stakeholders in decision- and policymaking

- Meaningful, transparent, predictable and sustained mechanisms for engagement
- Age-appropriate methods
- Accessible to underrepresented groups

Possible implementation supports to Adherents

Exchange and peer learning:

- Regular event or Forum (every 3-4 years) on pressing issues regarding child well-being, inspired by innovative policies and approaches emerging in OECD Member and partner countries.
- Workshops on pertinent issues in the context of the OECD Knowledge Exchange Platform on Well-being Metrics and Policy Practice (KEP).

Collection of statistics and development of indicators:

- Tackling gaps by making better use of existing surveys and data collection instruments
- Developing innovative data production methods to capture situations of hard-to-reach populations.
- Develop new indicators, e.g. for outcomes in early childhood, on legal and justice needs.

Analytical work on new topics and future needs:

- Impact of digital technologies on well-being outcomes and behaviours, with a focus on mental health, social connectedness and anti-social behaviours.
- Impacts of diverse family arrangements.

Guidance on whole-of-government approaches, service integration and monitoring frameworks.

Implementation toolkit, including a depository of good practices.

Regular reporting on the implementation, dissemination and continued relevance of the recommendation, to the extent possible drawing on existing reporting and monitoring mechanisms, notably on the implementation of the European Child Guarantee.

Thank you!

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OECD Child Well-being Data Portal:

<https://www.oecd.org/els/family/child-well-being/data>

Learn about the OECD WISE Centre:

<https://www.oecd.org/wise>