



Technical Support Instrument

Supporting Member State to implement specific actions of European Child Guarantee

Directorate General for Structural Reform Support
(REFORM)

Technical Support Instrument:

- **Objective:** help Member States to prepare, design and implement reforms
- **Demand-driven:** The support is solely demand-driven, and is tailor-made to the needs of the individual Member State requesting it
- Covers a **wide range of reform areas**, in any reform phase
- **€ 864 million of budget** for the period 2021-2027
- Provision of **expertise**, NOT direct financial support
- **No co-financing requirement** for MS

Timeline (annual cycle)



**Summer/autumn
2022**

Preparatory work on
priority requests

**Nov – Dec
2022**

Analysis and
selection of
requests

**As of
spring/summer
2023**

Projects launched on the
ground

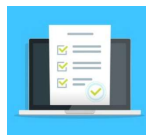


31 Oct 2022

Deadline for submission
of requests by Coordinating
Authority
(DG REFORM portal)

March 2023

Financing Decision and
Cooperation and
Support Plans



European Child Guarantee related projects

- **project with Romania** on school de-segregation;
- **project with Austria** on early childhood education and care;
- **project with Slovakia** on the inclusion of children with disabilities;
- **project with Luxembourg** on a Plan for and evaluate the European Child Guarantee;
- **project with Greece** on the overall coordination, monitoring and evaluation of the situation of vulnerable children, and on healthy nutrition and preventing child obesity

European Child Guarantee related projects

- **project with Greece** on Promoting Inclusive Education in Greece
- **multi-country project on Inclusive Education with Spain, Portugal and Italy**
- **project with France** on Enhancing the French App for special needs education ("livret numérique de parcours inclusif")
- **project with Ireland** on Towards a new governance framework for children and youth policies
- **project with Cyprus** on supporting the Expansion and Strategic Development of Early Childhood Education and Care. It isn't focused on vulnerable children, but can indirectly benefit vulnerable children



Improving staff working conditions for better quality in early childhood education and care in Austria

Goal: improve quality and access to affordable and high-quality early childhood education and care (ECEC) for children aged 0-6 years by strengthening the quality, availability, equity and stability of the ECEC workforce.

State of play

A working group has been put in place with representatives of the 9 federal provinces and a range of stakeholders from the early childhood education and care sector (ECEC).

Group has started working on a diagnosis of the ECEC sector in Austria with a focus on staff quality. This work strand is supported by a specialised Austrian research institute (as a sub-contractor to UNICEF).

A parallel work strand has begun on European good practice, with peer exchanges and a study visit (to Germany) planned for late spring. In summer the working group will begin the creation of a staff quality framework.

Implementation of the European Child Guarantee in Greece



Launched in Dec. 2022. On 31/01/2023 a first inter-ministerial meeting took place.

Requires the engagement and cooperation of several ministries and authorities because it aims at improving the evaluation of monitoring of vulnerable children through better coordination those ministries responsible for children policies.

The two key challenges are data and coordination. Interoperable systems and coordination between the various actors would lead to a better use of data The second big component of the project- preventing child obesity through healthy nutrition- also require cooperation across sectors.

Key outputs

- Report with recommendations on an effective monitoring and evaluation framework
- Technical specifications for the creation of an integrated system for the monitoring
- Report on a consolidated governance mechanism for the implementation of the National Action Plan on the Child Guarantee, with a clear set of duties, referral pathways and statutory collaboration protocols for all stakeholders involved;
- Action plan to strengthen the fight against child obesity and promote healthy nutrition

Support on the implementation of a national skills framework for learning pathways

Problem statement: In Greece, despite the high unemployment rate, evidence shows that businesses struggle to fill job vacancies. In the same vein, Greece exhibits high degree of over qualification of tertiary education graduates, who end up taking positions that do not match their skills, while vocational education is still considered a second-rate option for students. Both pathways ultimately fail to adequately support the transition to the labour market. At the same time, no real information exists or can be collected on changing skills needs to anticipate technological and other social developments that will affect the economy.

The way it is addressed: At the end of the project, the national authorities (specifically, the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, and the Greek PES) will have at their disposal the following key outputs: (i) Recommendations for the development of a skills and competences framework for primary and secondary education, in line with the needs of the market; (ii) Recommendations for the development of an evidence-based jobseeker profiling system; (iii) Recommendations for the development of feedback mechanisms to integrate labor market information into ALMP design and (iv) A proposal for a performance-based evaluation system for non-formal learning providers, to ensure the quality of non-formal education.

Expected results: The technical support is expected to increase the capacity of the Greek authorities to design and implement reforms on skills acquisition with an emphasis on upskilling and reskilling.



Support for enhancing the equity of the education system in Romania

Spilt in 2 sub-projects:

1st sub-project - 22RO06 subtask TSI2022/125.02 Support for enhancing the equity of the education system in Romania- was launched on 5 December 2022.

UNICEF is preparing the ground to collect data and have a clear overview of the functionalities and limits of the national IT system for education.

2nd sub-project- 22RO06 TSI2022/125.01 Support for strengthening the governance model in pre-tertiary education in Romania-, was launched end of October 2022

It is implemented with the OECD as provider of expertise. OECD is in the the diagnosis phase which will result in a “Report with analysis of key governance frameworks and practices for Educated Romani”, by requesting necessary feedback on the education system from the Ministry, through a questionnaire which will be followed by a fact finding mission and workshops.



Implementation of the European Child Guarantee in Slovakia

kicked off on 17 January 2023; accompanied by scoping visits by the DG REFORM and UNICEF teams.

The inception report is under preparation.

Goal: support the Slovak Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic in achieving to main goals:

- adoption of a revised model for the social inclusion of children with disabilities in substitute care. This involves the implementation of an integrated package of quality services provided by the substitute care system in cooperation with allied services. Involvement of allied services, i.e. Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education, alongside other important stakeholders is key.
- better monitoring and evaluation of the system of performance and outcomes for children with disabilities.



Plan for and evaluate the European Child Guarantee in Luxembourg

It will be launched this week. UNICEF carried out a scoping mission on 12-14 October 2022

Goal: support the Department of the Children's Rights of the Ministry of Education, Children and Youth of rights to improve their capacity to monitor and evaluate the situation of children's rights, improve the implementation of relevant policies, and put in place effective consultative processes with a whole-of-government approach, including a particular focus on children participation.

Key outputs:

- set of high quality indicators and data collection methods and a related methodology;
- roadmap to monitor and evaluate children's rights and child poverty and social exclusion in Luxembourg;
- proposal for a governance mechanism for systematic stakeholder consultations to inform policy planning and implementation on children's rights
- communication



Inclusive education

multi-country project with Spain, Italy and Portugal was launched in October 2022 (provider is EASNIE).

In January, an Inception Report was delivered, presenting the methodological approach and the steps ahead.

The project is now in an analytical phase, where country reports are being prepared about the legal, institutional and governance challenges as regards inclusive education in each of the three countries. They will be presented at a Steering Committee in March 2023.