

# The Child Guarantee Targeted Consultations Questionnaire

Fields marked with \* are mandatory.

## Data protection

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For information about the protection of your personal data, please consult the background document *Protection of your personal data*.

You can find it on the right section of this Survey.

## Introduction

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The [Political Guidelines](#) of President Ursula von der Leyen announce the adoption of a Child Guarantee. The goal is to ensure that every child in Europe at risk of poverty or social exclusion (“children in need”) has access to the “most basic of rights like health care and education”. Following up to its Communication “A Strong Social Europe for Just Transitions”, the Commission will adopt a proposal for a Council Recommendation on a Child Guarantee in 2021.

The Child Guarantee [Roadmap](#) of 19 August 2020 provides information on the Child Guarantee, the problem it aims to tackle, and the objectives it aims to meet. The objective of the Child Guarantee initiative is to **ensure access for children in need to the services that are essential for their development and well-being, in particular early childhood education and care (ECEC), health care, education, nutrition, housing and participation in cultural and leisure activities.**

Through this targeted consultation, the European Commission would like to hear your views on what actions could be taken at EU level through the Child Guarantee, to ensure that Member States provide access to the above-mentioned services for the children in need.

## Explanations

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In the framework of the Child Guarantee policy initiative, we are considering **access to the following services:**

1. Education
2. Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC)
3. Play, recreation, sport and cultural activities
4. Healthcare
5. Nutrition
6. Housing

The Child Guarantee initiative will target on **children in need** who are identified as being likely to have insufficient access to the above-mentioned services. **Children in need** include:

1. Children from precarious households: precariousness due to economic fragility, in particular income poverty or material deprivation, but also household composition, or other social risk factors;
2. Children with a migrant background;
3. Children in institutions;
4. Children with disabilities;

## Profile of the respondent

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\* 1. Please choose the capacity in which you are giving your contribution:

*at most 1 choice(s)*

- Representative of an international organisation
- Representative of a public authority, national level
- Representative of a public authority, regional or local level
- Representative of a civil society organisation (NGO)
- Representative of a service provider
- Representative of an academic research team
- Private person – an expert in the areas concerned by the initiative
- Other

\* 2. Please insert the name of your organisation as well as your position

EuroHealthNet, Policy Coordinator

\* 3. Please indicate the Member State in which you or your organisation operate, or that you use as main reference when answering the questions (pick 'EU' if you represent an EU-level organisation):

*at most 1 choice(s)*

- EU
- Austria
- Belgium
- Bulgaria
- Croatia
- Cyprus
- Czechia
- Denmark
- Estonia
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Greece
- Hungary
- Ireland
- Italy
- Latvia
- Lithuania

Luxemburg  
 Malta  
 Netherlands  
 Poland  
 Portugal  
 Romania  
 Slovakia  
 Slovenia  
 Spain  
 Sweden

## The problem tackled by the Child Guarantee: access to services for children in need

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4. From your professional experience, how easy or difficult is it for children with disabilities to access the following services, compared to children without disabilities?

	Very easy	Rather easy	No difference	Rather difficult	Very difficult	Do not know
* A. Adequate nutrition	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* B. Healthcare	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* C. Decent housing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* D. Early childhood education and care of good quality	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* E. Quality education, allowing to advance to higher education	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* F. Play, recreation and cultural activities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

5. From your professional experience, how easy or difficult is it for children with a migrant background to access the following services, compared to native-born children?

	Very easy	Rather easy	No difference	Rather difficult	Very difficult	Do not know
* A. Adequate nutrition	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* B. Healthcare	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* C. Decent housing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* D. Early childhood education and care of good quality	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

* E. Quality education, allowing to advance to higher education	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* F. Play, recreation and cultural activities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

6. From your professional experience, how easy or difficult is it for children living in institutions to have access to the following services, compared to children living at home?

	Very easy	Rather easy	No difference	Rather difficult	Very difficult	Do not know
* A. Adequate nutrition	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* B. Healthcare	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* C. Decent housing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* D. Early childhood education and care of good quality	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* E. Quality education, allowing to advance to higher education	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* F. Play, recreation and cultural activities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

7. From your professional experience, how easy or difficult is it for children from economic precarious families (experiencing poverty or material deprivation), to access the following services, compared to their better-off peers?

	Very easy	Rather easy	No difference	Rather difficult	Very difficult	Do not know
* A. Adequate nutrition	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* B. Healthcare	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* C. Decent housing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* D. Early childhood education and care of good quality	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* E. Quality education, allowing to advance to higher education	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* F. Play, recreation and cultural activities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

8. From your professional experience, in the last ten years, access by children in need to the following services, has improved or worsened?

	Improved a lot	Somewhat improved	It has remained the same	Somewhat worsened	Worsened a lot	Do not know
* <b>A.</b> Adequate nutrition	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* <b>B.</b> Healthcare	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* <b>C.</b> Decent housing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* <b>D.</b> Early childhood education and care of good quality	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* <b>E.</b> Quality education, allowing to advance to higher education	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* <b>F.</b> Play, recreation and cultural activities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

9. From your professional experience, which are the main barriers that need to be overcome to ensure that children in need get adequate access to these services?

Please, identify max 3 barriers per service

	Availability of services	Discrimination	Narrow eligibility criteria	Lack of awareness/ Insufficient information	Physical access to services	Affordability of services	Services not adapted to children's needs	Lack of monitoring	Don't know/ No opinion
* A. Adequate nutrition	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
* B. Healthcare	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
* C. Decent housing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
* D. Early childhood education and care of good quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
* E. Quality education, allowing to advance to higher education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
* F. Play, recreation, sport and cultural activities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**9 G. Other, please specify**

safety and attractiveness/diversity at least in terms of F, plus include access to public green spaces and active mobility options (walk, bike); freedom from commercial interests related to advertising and marketing of unhealthy diets in terms of A (incl. in digital space); in terms of D and E skills and competences in digital literacy plus infrastructure and equipment;

## The role of the European Union and Member States in the fight against child poverty and social exclusion

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\* **10.** To what extent do you agree that EU-level action could help address the barriers identified in the previous question (*Question 9*)?

*at most 1 choice(s)*

I totally agree

I tend to agree

I tend to disagree

I totally disagree

I do not know/ No opinion

**11.** How effective do you think that the following actions in the Member States, in the area of **education**, would be in supporting social inclusion and equality of opportunities for children in need?

	Very effective	Rather effective	Rather ineffective	Very ineffective	Do not know
* <b>A.</b> In order to enable distance learning, provide IT equipment to children in need	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* <b>B.</b> In order to enable distance learning, provide financial support for low-income families, targeted at defraying the cost of Internet connection and IT equipment	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* <b>C.</b> Provide financial support for low-income families, targeted at defraying the cost of admission fees to cultural institutions, sports and other extracurricular activities	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* <b>D.</b> In order to strengthen inclusiveness of the education system, invest in teacher training and staff incentives	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* <b>E.</b> In order to strengthen inclusiveness of the education system, reinforce multidisciplinary teams	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

* <b>F.</b> Support children with disabilities and those who suffer from other disadvantages (e.g. poor language skills), to compensate for linguistic, cognitive and educational gaps	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* <b>G.</b> Support activities for children with disabilities to be included in mainstream education and early childhood education and care	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* <b>H.</b> Develop partnership programmes between schools, parents, local communities and social services	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* <b>I.</b> Support extracurricular activities based on the preferences of children and creating a sense of belonging	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* <b>J.</b> Provide financial support for low-income families, targeted at defraying costs of ECEC (including indirect)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* <b>K.</b> Monitor, to make sure that within the ECEC establishments supported from public resources, the percentage of disadvantaged children is at least as high as their share in overall population	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* <b>L.</b> Put in place quality standards to ensure that children in vulnerable situations do not end up in lower quality ECEC provision	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* <b>M.</b> Introduce yearly health and dental screenings in ECEC establishments and schools	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**11 N.** Other, please specify

free/subsidised non-stigmatising meal schemes in educational settings incl. over holiday period bridging interventions, health screenings as per M to include mental health, cognitive/linguistic and social wellbeing (in short - comprehensive/holistic assessment)

**12.** How effective do you think that the following actions in the Member States, in the area of **health**, would be in supporting social inclusion and equality of opportunities for children in need?

	Very effective	Rather effective	Rather ineffective	Very ineffective	Do not know
* <b>A.</b> Provide free mental health and rehabilitation services, both to children in need and to their parents or guardians	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

* <b>B.</b> Provide financial support for low-income families, targeted at defraying the costs of payments for healthcare and medication	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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**12 C.** Other, please specify

mental health support services to children and their parents/caregivers - as part of a comprehensive package of support, non-stigmatising, could it be part of a broader parenting support strategy? in the Netherlands there's a very interesting system of so called Raising Up Shop - Opvoed Winkel - where parents and guardians can obtain skills, psychosocial support, as well as assessment, preventive and treatment sessions for the children.

**13.** How effective do you think that the following actions in the Member States, in the area of **nutrition**, would be in supporting social inclusion and equality of opportunities for children in need?

	Very effective	Rather effective	Rather ineffective	Very ineffective	Do not know
* <b>A.</b> Promote healthy eating habits, including by limiting advertisement of unhealthy foods and prohibiting their sales on school premises	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* <b>B.</b> Provide children in need with at least one healthy balanced and free meal per day	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**13 C.** Other, please specify

in regards to A it would make sense to embed activities taking place at the school premises within actions addressing factors in wider obesogenic environments - advertising and marketing policies and regulations (eg. the 9pm watershed on junk food marketing advertisements), affordable/subsidised fruit and vegetables, weight management services, physical activity and active mobility-supportive infrastructure, availability /accessibility of green spaces and safe play areas, good air quality, addressing noise pollution etc. Beyond action at the school premises, we recommend restrictions and regulations placed on food outlets in the schools proximity, particularly in the most deprived neighbourhoods.

**14.** How effective do you think that the following actions in the Member States, in the area of **housing**, would be in supporting social inclusion and equality of opportunities for children in need?

	Very effective	Rather effective	Rather ineffective	Very ineffective	Do not know
* <b>A.</b> Increase investment in social housing	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* <b>B.</b> Prioritise parents with children when allocating apartments in social and public housing	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

* <b>C.</b> Provide financial support for low-income families, targeted at defraying the costs of essential housing services	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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14 D. Other, please specify

15. How effective do you think that the following actions in the Member States would be in supporting the social inclusion and equality of opportunities for **children (at risk of) living in institutions**?

	Very effective	Rather effective	Rather ineffective	Very ineffective	Do not know
* <b>A.</b> Prevent institutionalisation of children through support for families in precarious situations and for people with disabilities	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* <b>B.</b> Ensure accommodation, as well as advisory services for children leaving institutional care, as well as an adequate number of after-care workers	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* <b>C.</b> Strengthen the role of social services in identifying children in need, referring them to respective services and undertaking periodic follow-up monitoring	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

15 D. Other, please specify

\* **16.** Please suggest other action(s) that could be undertaken in the Member States, in order to support the social inclusion and equality of opportunities for children in need.

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Threats to childhood health have grown and evolved in the last decades. These are now new technologies like social media, changing consumption patterns, an increasingly personalised (digital) advertising driven by the commercial interests and unregulated protection of the most vulnerable consumers, including children. Raising levels of environmental pollution have also contributed to stalled progress in childhood health improvements. At the same time cuts to national and local government public health and social services are making it harder to have a healthy, equitable and inclusive childhood. Therefore, to recap what was said earlier, at the Member States and local level the following actions could be undertaken:

- free/subsidised non-stigmatising meal schemes (incl. over holidays), affordable/subsidised fresh fruit and vegetables schemes (in addition to the EU School Fruit Scheme), further financial incentives for parents to provide healthy and sustainable diets for children and their families
- explore further regulatory and fiscal measures like junk food marketing restrictions, consumption taxes (eg. sugar tax), and the digital tax, a scale-up in easy to understand nutritional information on packaging (eg. front of the pack, colour-coded)
- investments in environmental determinants of children's health: green spaces, safe play areas, active mobility schemes, inclusive and affordable physical activity actions and infrastructure, in particular in the most deprived neighbourhoods and communities
- integrated health and social services should prioritise prevention and health promotion actions addressing key factors behind unhealthy childhood (nutrition but also alcohol and tobacco use), family and community deprivation, domestic and gender violence, focus on mental health and obesity/overweight, but also parental support, skills and competences
- investments in digital and health literacy

## Governance of the Child Guarantee

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\* **17.** To what extent do you think that services (e.g. in education, healthcare, social services, etc.) coordinate between themselves in order to take into account the specific challenges faced by children in need, in your country/region?

To a large extent

To a considerable extent

To some extent

Not at all

I do not know/ No opinion

## Final question

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\* **18.** Please provide additional comments and/or suggestions for the upcoming Child Guarantee policy initiative in the box below.

*3000 character(s) maximum*

EuroHealthNet welcomes the EU's reinforced measures to improve basic services for children through the Child Guarantee. The need for this is stronger than ever. A quarter of children in the EU are born and grow up at risk of poverty and social exclusion, with big implications for the life-course of these children and their ability to contribute to society. The negative secondary effects of COVID-19 are affecting children and families that are already vulnerable, most.

To this end, we would like to reiterate our suggestions submitted to the European Commission's open consultation on the Roadmap for Basic Services for Children in Need - European Child Guarantee.

(<https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12565-Basic-services-for-children-in-need-European-Child-Guarantee/F589061>)

## **Background Documents**

[Child Guarantee Background Note](#)

[Protection of your personal data.pdf](#)

## **Contact**

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