

Targeted consultation on a European Child Guarantee for vulnerable children

Fields marked with * are mandatory.

Targeted Consultation on a European Child Guarantee for vulnerable children

About this consultation

Consultation period 17 January 2019 - 28 February 2019

Objective of the consultation

Despite the economic recovery and the increasingly strong EU policy context for promoting child well-being, still more than a quarter of all EU children are at risk of poverty and social exclusion.

In 2015, in order to strengthen the implementation of the [2013 EU Recommendation on Investing in Children](#), the European Parliament called to “introduce a Child Guarantee so that every child in poverty can have access to free healthcare, free education, free childcare, decent housing and adequate nutrition, as part of a European integrated plan to combat child poverty”.

Following the subsequent request in 2017 by the Parliament to the Commission to implement a Preparatory Action to explore the potential scope of a Child Guarantee for vulnerable children and in the light of the [European Pillar of Social Rights](#) (in particular principle 11), the Commission has commissioned a study to analyse the feasibility of such a scheme. The Commission has decided to focus the Action on four groups of children: children living in precarious family situations, children residing in institutions, children of recent migrants and refugees, and children with disabilities and other children with special needs.

This study includes a targeted online consultation to gather views on the feasibility, efficiency and overall benefits of a Child Guarantee from public authorities, researchers and academics, practitioners, civil society organisations working with children or concerned with child well-being, social partners.

The study, carried out by a consortium consisting of Applica, the Luxembourg Institute of Socio-Economic Research (LISER), Eurochild and Save the Children, will present draft recommendations to be discussed at a conference in early 2020.

How to submit your response

Please submit your replies via the online questionnaire. Replies can be made in any of the official EU languages.

The questionnaire should take only around 15-20 minutes to complete and you may pause at any point and continue later. You can download the questionnaire in PDF format before starting, if you wish to prepare your replies off-line. It is possible to revise and add to your replies after you have submitted them, providing that you do so before the submission deadline. Once you have submitted your replies, you can download a copy of the completed questionnaire.

Should you have any queries when completing the questionnaire, there is a [help page for participants](#) which you can consult.

Contact

Applica

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E-mail: info@applica.be

Questionnaire

1. General information about respondents

* You are replying:

on behalf of an organisation

Please give your name and the name of your organisation if replying on behalf of an organisation:

* First name

Dorota

* Last name

Sienkiewicz

* Name of your organisation

EuroHealthNet

* Email address

d.sienkiewicz@eurohealthnet.eu

* What type of organisation you work for:

Non-governmental organisation, platform or network

* Country

Belgium

* At what level are you working:

European

2. Role of the EU in the fight against poverty and social exclusion

* How important is it, do you think, that your country better fights specifically against child poverty and social exclusion?

- Very important
- Important
- Not very important
- Not important at all
- Don't know

* Do you think that the European Union (EU) should help Member States to fight against child poverty and social exclusion among children (for example, through policy advice, funding...)?

- Yes, certainly
- Yes, probably
- No, probably not
- No, certainly not
- Don't know

* If yes, do you think the EU should do more than it currently does to tackle child poverty and social exclusion?

- Yes, certainly
- Yes, probably
- No, probably not
- No, certainly not
- Don't know

3. Children's access to key social rights

It is important for all children to have access to key services (such as, in particular, healthcare, education, early childhood education and care (ECEC) and decent housing). For each of the three groups of the most vulnerable children listed below, please indicate what you think are the **THREE main barriers** that have to be overcome for each service. Please select no more than three from the following list in each case.

Children living in precarious family situations

	Healthcare	ECEC	Education	Housing
Non-availability of services in the area	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Discrimination	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Not eligible for support	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Lack of awareness, insufficient information	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Problems of physical access	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Problems of cultural access	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Problems of affordability	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Services not adapted to children's needs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other (please specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Don't know	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Children of migrants and refugees

	Healthcare	ECEC	Education	Housing
Non-availability of services in the area	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Discrimination	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Not eligible for support	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lack of awareness, insufficient information	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Problems of physical access	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Problems of cultural access	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Problems of affordability	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Services not adapted to children's needs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other (please specify)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Don't know	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

* If "other", please specify:

1500 character(s) maximum

too difficult to limit our choices to just 3

Children with disabilities

	Healthcare	ECEC	Education	Housing
Non-availability of services in the area	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Discrimination	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Not eligible for support	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lack of awareness, insufficient information	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Problems of physical access	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Problems of cultural access	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Problems of affordability	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Services not adapted to children's needs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other (please specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Don't know	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. Increasing EU political commitment?

* Do you think the EU should do more to improve access for vulnerable children to some/all of these five key social rights (healthcare, education, early childhood education and care, nutrition and housing)?

- Yes, the EU should do more
- No, what the EU does now is fine
- No, the EU has no role to play in this area
- Don't know

* Would you agree or disagree that the implementation of the 2013 EU Recommendation on Investing in children and of the European Pillar of Social Rights must be a high political priority at EU level.

- Agree
- Disagree
- Don't know

* Would you agree or disagree that the implementation of the 2017 Communication on the protection of children in migration must be a high political priority at EU level.

- Agree
- Disagree
- Don't know

5. Monitoring and reporting on child poverty and on children's access to key social rights

* Please indicate whether you agree/disagree with each of the following proposals:

Each Member State should report annually to the EU on the situation of child poverty and children's access to their social rights (e.g. free childcare, free education, free healthcare, decent housing, adequate nutrition, adequate income) in the country.

- Agree
- Disagree
- Don't know

* In monitoring national budgets, the Commission should encourage transparency and reporting by Member States on the amounts they spend on policies that fight child poverty and promote children's social rights.

- Agree
- Disagree
- Don't know

* The indicators used for monitoring the implementation of the Pillar of Social Rights (the so-called "Social Scoreboard") should contain at least one indicator specifically on the situation of children (child poverty or child specific deprivation), so that each year the performance of EU countries in this regard can be reported on and countries "to watch" or in a "critical situation" can be highlighted.

- Agree
- Disagree
- Don't know

* The Commission and Member States should be committed to assessing all economic, employment, social and environmental policies to ensure that they do not have an adverse effect on child poverty and children's well-being.

- Agree
- Disagree
- Don't know

* The EU should improve the quality and availability of data on the living conditions of vulnerable children (for example, on Roma children, children of migrants and refugees, children with disabilities and children in institutions).

- Agree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Role of EU tools for policy coordination

* Please indicate whether you agree/disagree with each of the following proposals:

The issues of fighting child poverty and promoting children's social rights should be a more central element of the European Semester (i.e. the Annual Growth Survey, National Reform Programmes, Country-Specific Recommendations and Commission Country Reports) than has been the case to date.

- Agree

- Disagree
- Don't know

* The Commission should do more to promote exchange of best practice between Member States on tackling child poverty and guaranteeing children's social rights.

- Agree
- Disagree
- Don't know

* A system of structured dialogue between the Commission and all relevant stakeholders should be established to support the effective implementation of the 2013 EU Recommendation on Investing in Children.

- Agree
- Disagree
- Don't know

* EU targets relating to child poverty and children's social rights should be established as part of any successor to Europe 2020 Strategy.

- Agree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Other EU instruments

* Please indicate whether you agree/disagree with each of the following proposals:

Member States should be encouraged to develop coordinated approaches to the integration of Roma children into society.

- Agree
- Disagree
- Don't know

* The Commission should develop and promote good standards for the social integration of migrant children, including unaccompanied minors, and ensure their access to key social rights.

- Agree
- Disagree
- Don't know

* In the implementation of the EU Recommendation on the integration of the long-term unemployed, Member States should be encouraged to give particular attention to parents at risk, such as lone parents, Roma parents, parents in jobless households, migrant parents and parents of children with disabilities.

- Agree
- Disagree
- Don't know

* The well-being of children, especially those in vulnerable situations, should be a key element in the follow through of the proposals on work-life balance for working parents and carers which the Commission has submitted to EU countries.

- Agree
- Disagree
- Don't know

* Children should be a key concern in the implementation of the European Disability Strategy 2010-2020 and in any future EU strategy relating to disability.

- Agree
- Disagree
- Don't know

* The Commission support and funding for the Joint Action for Mental Health and Well-being should emphasise the importance of a strong focus on children.

- Agree
- Disagree
- Don't know

* The implementation of the EU Recommendation on Upskilling Pathways should give particular attention to unemployed parents with low skill levels.

- Agree
- Disagree
- Don't know

EU Funding (European Social Fund (ESF), Fund for European aid to the most deprived (FEAD), European Regional Development Fund, (ERDF) Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF))

* Do you think that your country spends a sufficient amount of the EU funding it receives on relieving child poverty and increasing children's access to key social rights or that it should spend more?

- The amount my country spends is sufficient
- The amount is sufficient but should be better targeted at vulnerable children
- The amount is insufficient and should be increased
- Don't know

* Do you think that the EU should encourage Member States to spend more on combating specifically child poverty and increasing children's access to social rights?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

* How effectively do you think EU Funds have been used in your country to support the development of policies and programmes to fight against child poverty or increase children's access to key social rights (healthcare, education, childcare, nutrition, housing)?

- Very effectively
- Effectively
- Not very effectively
- Not effectively at all
- Don't know

Please indicate the degree of importance that you think should be attached to overcoming the following barriers to ensure a more effective use of EU funds to improve the situation of vulnerable children (very important, important, not very important, not important at all)

	Very important	Important	Not very important	Not important at all
* Lack of public and political awareness in the country	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* No strategic and coordinated approach to combating child poverty and promoting access of children to social rights in the country	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Lack of national and/or sub-national capacity to deal with EU funds	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Lack of EU guidance, including on exchange of best practice	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* No EU funding explicitly dedicated to ("earmarked for") child poverty and children's social rights	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* No national or regional funding explicitly dedicated to ("earmarked for") child poverty and children's social rights	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Lack of national and/or sub-national budget for co-financing EU-funded measures	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lack of sufficient good quality projects	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Lack of national and/or sub-national long-term projects	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Lack of national and/or sub-national pilot or innovative projects	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* EU funds not sufficiently linked to the implementation of the 2013 EU Recommendation on Investing in Children and the European Pillar of Social Rights	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Lack of targeting of EU funds at vulnerable groups of children	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Lack of active involvement of stakeholders	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

* Lack of evaluation on the outcome of EU-funded actions	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Don't know because no information available on this	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
* Don't know	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
* Other barriers that need overcoming (please describe briefly and say why you think it is important in the space below)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Other barriers

1500 character(s) maximum

EU funds not sufficiently linked to the European Semester process, where focus would be put on addressing child poverty and access to key social rights, including access to healthcare (prevention in particular); lack of focus of the Social Investments/Social Innovation on addressing child poverty and access to key social rights; lack of children in all policies/coherent approach at EU and (sub-)national level (cross-sector collaboration); lack of high-level fora/strategic dialogues with policy makers at EU and (sub-)national levels to discuss actions and progress; lack of clarity and commitment on how EU action on the SDGs is to address child poverty and access to key social rights;

Way forward?

* In the above questions, you have been asked to express your opinion on various policy and funding issues relating to child poverty and children's social rights. Do you think that compared to the measures and instruments that already exist at national and EU levels, a specific EU instrument would be more effective in ensuring children's social rights?

- Yes (Please describe briefly what kind(s) of instrument you think should be put in place at EU level and explain why in the space below).
- No
- Don't know

Suggested instrument(s)

1500 character(s) maximum

a specific dedicated EU fund under the ESF+ but also linked to earmarked this objective across other EU financial tools (InvestEU, HorizonEurope, Cohesion and Structural Funds (ESIF)); multiannual Action Plan to support the implementation of the 2013 Recommendation on Investing in Children, including commonly agreed, concrete and tangible targets - linked with the SDGs plans, the Semester and the EPSR;

Background Documents

[BG Privacy statement](#)

[CS Privacy statement](#)

[DA Privacy statement](#)

[DE Privacy statement](#)
[EL Privacy statement](#)
[EN Privacy statement](#)
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