

# Feedback from:

## EU Alliance for Investing in Children

The EU Alliance for Investing in Children welcomes the initiative for a future Council Recom. on Quality in Early Childhood Education and Care (QECEC).

Investing in children is imperative – morally, economically, socially and politically. It is key to overcoming social, economic and health inequalities, and to reaching the Europe2020 anti-poverty target, by contributing to equitable social and economic development of the present and future generations. Early disadvantage can have profound effects across the life course, affecting health, education outcomes, and participation in the labour market and in society. Investing in children through a preventive approach is a cost-effective way of ensuring a more sustainable future.

We recommend the following points be reflected in the prospective QECEC Recom.:

► The Recom. on QECEC should promote both universal policies, aimed at promoting the wellbeing of all children without discrimination, and targeted approaches, aimed at supporting the most disadvantaged groups, including children living in poverty, children in alternative care, stateless children, homeless children, children with disabilities, and

migrant children regardless of status.

- ▶ Ensure alignment with and encourage full implementation of the European Commission Recom. on Investing in Children – Breaking the Cycle of Disadvantage. An EU Roadmap for the implementation of the Recommendation for Investing in Children (IiC) would be very useful.
- ▶ Apply a rights-based, comprehensive and integrated approach to tackling the root causes of the challenges described in the QECEC Roadmap, such as child poverty. This needs to be reinforced both at EU and national level.
- ▶ Promote the implementation and monitoring of the key principles of a Quality Framework for Early Childhood Education and Care, proposed in 2014, and emphasise the links between quality care in early childhood and social inclusion and wellbeing of all children benefitting society as a whole.
- ▶ Develop child-specific indicators to assess whether and how policies impact children’s lives and to inform evidence-based policy development. An effective monitoring framework should be put in place to ensure follow-up on the basis of monitoring indicators. This should include an assessment of child-specific budget allocations at national level. Introduce an indicator on the risk of child poverty or social exclusion within the social dimension of the EMU.
- ▶ Encourage Member States to introduce specific national and sub-national targets for reducing child poverty and social exclusion, with a view to contributing to the Europe 2020 poverty reduction target, and implementing the Recom.. Targets need to be applied to effectively drive policy development tied to resources.
- ▶ Place children’s rights at the heart of the European Semester: the Annual Growth Survey and National Reform Programmes should include a specific section on children, and particularly on investing in children.
- ▶ Use the European Semester, the European Pillar of Social Rights,

and the Child Guarantee to more effectively monitor and evaluate the implementation of the Recom. on QECEC and Recom. on liC at Member State level.

► Develop guidelines, building on existing good practices, shaping children's involvement in the development, implementation and monitoring of all relevant legislation, policies, services and programmes affecting their lives.

► Ensure that sufficient EU funds are allocated in the post-2020 MFF to support the delivery of the Recom. on QECEC and Recom. on liC. Local level take-up of European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) should be encouraged. The use of ESIF for investing in children should be conditional to the existence of comprehensive national action plans or strategies to tackle child poverty.

► Involve civil society and other stakeholders in national seminars promoting the Recom. for liC.

Please, see the signatory list in the attached document.

### Report an issue with this feedback

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- ▶ Involve civil society and other stakeholders in **national seminars** promoting the Recom. for liC.

Please see the listing of signatory organisation from the Alliance in the attached document.

*The EU Alliance for Investing in Children has been advocating for a multidimensional, rights-based approach to tackling child poverty and promoting child wellbeing since 2014.*

*This inception impact assessment feedback on 'Quality in Early Childhood Education and Care' was endorsed by the following partner organisations of the EU Alliance for Investing in Children: **Alliance for Childhood European Network Group, Don Bosco International, Caritas Europe, COFACE Families Europe, European Association of Service providers for Persons with Disabilities (EASPD), European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN), EuroChild, Eurodiaconia, EuroHealthNet, International Step by Step Association (ISSA), Mental Health Europe (MHE), Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM), Save the Children, SOS Children's Villages International.***