



The EU's Technical Support Instrument (TSI)

*Supporting Member States to implement
the European Child Guarantee*



DG Structural Reform Support
REFORM.B4 Labour, Education, Health and Social Services

Technical Support Instrument:

Objective: help EU countries to prepare, design and implement reforms.

Demand-driven: The support is based on demand and is tailor-made for the beneficiary Member State requesting it.

Covers a wide range of reform areas, in any reform phase

€ 864 million budget for the period 2021-2027.

Provision of expertise, NOT direct financial support.

More than **1500 reform projects have been supported in 27 Member States.**

Policy Context – The European Child Guarantee (ECG)



- Aims to ensure that every child in Europe has access to the basic rights and services they need to grow and develop in a healthy and safe environment.
- Adopted as a Recommendation in June 2021 in order to prevent and combat social exclusion by guaranteeing effective access of children in need to a set of key services, including education, healthcare, housing, nutrition, and childcare.
- Targets groups of children who are particularly vulnerable - disadvantaged backgrounds, Roma children, children with disabilities, and migrant children.
- MS with a level of child poverty above the EU average should allocate at least 5% of ESF+ to tackle child poverty. All other MS required to allocate an appropriate amount of their ESF+ resources to combat child poverty.
- MS to submit action plans which should cover the period until 2030 and take into account national, regional and local circumstances as well as existing policy actions.

The TSI and the ECG

- **Flagship on the Implementation of the ECG (2021)** - technical support for implementing concrete actions and policies that prevent and combat child poverty and social exclusion, such as:
 - reviewing or developing legislative frameworks on education, social benefits and access to health care for vulnerable children; developing strategies and funding mechanisms for delivering services for children; stakeholder consultations on local and national level; designing monitoring and evaluation mechanisms and tools, or capacity-building activities.
- **Flagship YOUTH FIRST (2022)**- further support to the implementation of the ECG projects .



Specific support measures


- Reviewing or developing **legislative frameworks** to implement the European Child Guarantee
- Developing **strategies, action plans and funding mechanisms** for delivering better services for children
- Designing **monitoring and evaluation mechanisms** and tools to assess the effectiveness of child related policies and actions
- Improving **working conditions** of staff leading to an increased quality of the Early Childhood Education and Care
- **Benchmarking exercises, capacity-building and stakeholder engagement** at local, regional and national level


European Child Guarantee Projects (I)

 Supporting Greece in the efficient implementation of the National Action Plan on the European Child Guarantee developed in March 2022 (22EL12) - *The project supports in the efficient implementation of the National Action Plan on the European Child Guarantee developed in March 2022.*

Implementation of the European Child Guarantee - Promoting Inclusive Education in Greece Phase II (22EL22) - *The project supports with the implementation of the policy framework and methodologies developed under a previous TSI project on inclusive education.*

 Supporting Luxembourg in developing a Plan for the European Child Guarantee (22LU03) - *The project supports monitoring the implementation of the protection of children rights and consulting children.*

 Support for enhancing the equity of the education system in Romania (22RO06) - *The project supports with developing the legal framework for school desegregation and building the capacity of the education system to prevent and combat school segregation.*

 Improving staff working conditions for better quality in early childhood education and care in Austria (22AT11) - *The project supports to improve access and quality of early childhood education and care (ECEC) for children aged 0-6 years.*

 Implementation of the European Child Guarantee and development of the next policy framework for children and young people (22IE17) - *The project supports the implementation of the ECG and improving monitoring and evaluation, by building a whole-of-government, cross-sectoral and integrated policy approach.*

European Child Guarantee Projects (II)



Inclusion of children with disabilities in the context of deinstitutionalisation of substitute care in Slovakia (22SK01) - *The project supports with adopting a revised model for the social inclusion of children with disabilities in substitute care through the implementation of an integrated package of quality services.*



Enhance the French App for special needs education - "livret numérique de parcours inclusif" (22FR11) - *The project supports with reducing some of the educational inequalities in France by making the specific support provided to pupils with special educational needs more effective through an application.*



Supporting the Expansion and Strategic Development of Early Childhood Education and Care (22ART7.2CY01) - *The project supports with raising the quality, affordability, accessibility and inclusiveness of ECEC, by guiding investments and reforms in the sector as outlined in the national RRP.*



Multi-country project on combatting disparities in access to inclusive education in Portugal, Italy and Spain (22ES04) - *The project supports with improving the design, the consistency of the implementation and the quality of the inclusive education policies in Portugal, Italy and Spain*



Developing structural tools to support the implementation of the European Child Guarantee in Portugal (23PT11) - *The project supports with improving child well-being and tackling child poverty and the social exclusion of children and young people by focusing on the successful implementation and monitoring of ECG.*



Developing a comprehensive framework for the monitoring and evaluation of early childhood education and care in the Czechia (23CZ04) - *The project supports with the development of a monitoring and evaluation system for the quality of ECEC for the youngest children (0-3 years).*



Implementing the National Action Plan on the European Child Guarantee in Greece (22EL12)

Problem statement: The project aims to support Greece's Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs in the efficient implementation of the National Action Plan on the European Child Guarantee developed in March 2022

Project status: ongoing

Support measures:

- Designing an effective monitoring and evaluation framework for child-related policies and outcomes, including technical specifications for the creation of a registry for children in need.
- Consolidated governance operating model, with a clear set of duties, referral pathways and statutory collaboration protocols for all stakeholders involved.
- Proposing an actionable implementation plan to strengthen the fight against child obesity and promote healthy nutrition for vulnerable children.

Expected

1. Effective monitoring and evaluation framework for child-related policies and outcomes is developed and endorsed by the Greek authorities;
2. The Greek authorities have a consolidated governance operating model for the implementation of the National Action Plan on the Child Guarantee
3. The Greek authorities have an actionable implementation plan to strengthen the fight against child obesity and promote healthy nutrition for vulnerable children

results:



Developing a national strategy for the national action plan on the European Child Guarantee in Luxembourg (22LU03)

Problem statement: Child poverty is a persistent and increasing challenge in Luxembourg, in particular as regards vulnerable groups. Without adequate child consultation, monitoring and proper evaluation accepted by stakeholders, Luxembourg might continue to under-address child poverty and more generally failed to protect enough children's rights.

Project status: ongoing

Support measures:

- Facilitating access to relevant and reliable data, in fields covered by the Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Improving monitoring and evaluation methods
- Proposing a mechanism for consultative governance to involve stakeholders, especially to consult children
- Analysing good practices from other countries

Expected results: The Luxembourg authorities will better understand the challenges in monitoring the implementation of the protection of children rights and consulting children. In the short term, they will know how to improve monitoring, evaluation and consultation methods and tools, based on peer exchange and stakeholders consultation. In the medium term, they should hold tested methods to monitor, evaluate and consult children, so as to adjust and improve their policies systematically.

Preliminary lessons learnt



- **Political commitment** is crucial to ensure sustainability of the topic in the political agenda
- An **analysis phase** is necessary to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the existing policy and governance frameworks
- A review of **international/European benchmarks** is useful to point out transferrable good practice
- A **whole-of-government approach** is needed, involving national, regional and local stakeholders, multi-sectoral actors and civil society
- Development of child- related legislation needs to be accompanied by **sound implementation methodologies and adequate funding**, blending national and European funds.
- Development of strategies and action plans needs to be seconded by **solid monitoring and evaluation frameworks, including qualitative and quantitative indicators**



Thank you for your
attention!

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