



Eurochild

Putting children at
the heart of Europe

(In)visible children - Eurochild 2022 report on children in need across Europe

Child poverty

Hungry for attention to food poverty: How can the EU address rising food poverty while reaching its Green Deal and Farm-to-Fork objectives?

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Eurochild – a Civil Society Organisation

Our vision

A society where children grow up happy, healthy and confident, and respected as individuals in their own rights.

Our mission

Promoting the rights and well-being of children in policy and practice through advocacy, membership-exchange and research.

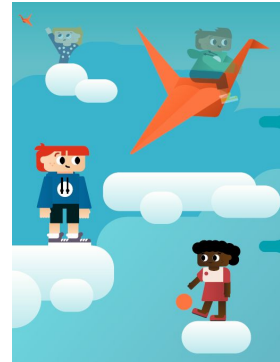


(In)visible children report



Aim of the Report

- To provide timely and relevant information collected from our members working at national level, to **make children in Europe visible**.
- To live up to the **partnership principle** – to broaden policy making by stakeholders' participation.
- 2022 Report - assessments provided by **35 Eurochild members** in **22 countries**



Child poverty

- **Child poverty – 19.8 million children** (24,4 % of all children) in the EU are at risk of poverty and social exclusion.
- **The Covid-19** pandemic has exacerbated existing inequalities even further, and **the increasing cost of living** and **energy crisis** will likely push more children into poverty.
- Romania remains the highest at 41.5%, Spain is now second highest in EU for child poverty at 33.4%, overtaking Bulgaria 33%.



Child poverty

- Compared to 2020, increases have been noted in **17 countries**.
- Children are **the second highest** demographic group in Ireland at risk of poverty.
- An analysis of food security shows that **families with 3 or more children** are 3 times more vulnerable to **food insecurity** when compared to adults with no children.



Child poverty: children's views

- A large number of children identified hunger as a direct result of poverty at home.
- Increased bullying in schools.
- Poverty can impact isolation, **children's physical and mental health**.
- Recommendations: jobs and better salaries as well as the importance of **donating resources**, such as food or clothing to children and families; **free school lunch for children** or to set up more foodbanks for families in vulnerable positions.



Recommendations: strengthening social welfare systems

- To fight child poverty, **financial** and **infrastructural** measures need to be combined. (child benefit, create a universal child allowance, minimum income).
- **An integrated approach is needed**, focusing on the causes of poverty & social exclusion to break the intergenerational cycle of poverty. Cross-sector cooperation.
- **ECEC and education** – accessibility and quality for the most vulnerable e.g. Roma, migrants' children should be ensured.
- **Health-care** – access to quality health-care for children including development of community-based health-care services for children with disabilities.
- **Housing** – social housing needs to be developed including the respective legislation, cross-sector cooperation and public-private partnerships.
- **European Child Guarantee** – NAPs are adopted, properly **financed, implemented, monitored** and **evaluated**.



Recommendations: nutrition

- **Free school meals** for the children most in need are offered them in a way that does not embarrass or discriminate them.
- Children most in need should receive **an equivalent of a free meals on the days that they are not in school**. This includes those who are excluded, do not attend (for whatever reason) and during weekends and school holidays.
- Set-up a system of **cash benefits** and **food vouchers** for most vulnerable families.



Good practice

- The Get Active Programme operates across 4 different areas in Northern Ireland through local Youth Organisations and is aimed at tackling 'Holiday Hunger'. This is a term used to denote food insecurity among children and young people throughout the school holidays.
- In 2021, 6000 children attended this programme aiming at provision of meals and skills.
- Evaluations show improved health and wellbeing, educational attainment, increased confidence & skills, and higher level of social interaction.

