

Save the Children

Reducing inequalities with a special focus on child poverty

EMPL Committee Meeting
European Parliament, Brussels,
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- **Established in 1919**, we are the world's leading organisation for children. Our work is focused on the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC - 1989)
- In Europe, we are **13 national members** working at (sub-)national and EU levels through programmes and advocacy to fulfil the rights of children
- **Our vision** - A world in which every child attains the right to survival, protection, development and participation
- **Our mission** - To inspire breakthroughs in the way the world treats children and to achieve immediate and lasting change in their lives

Save the Children EU Advocacy Office

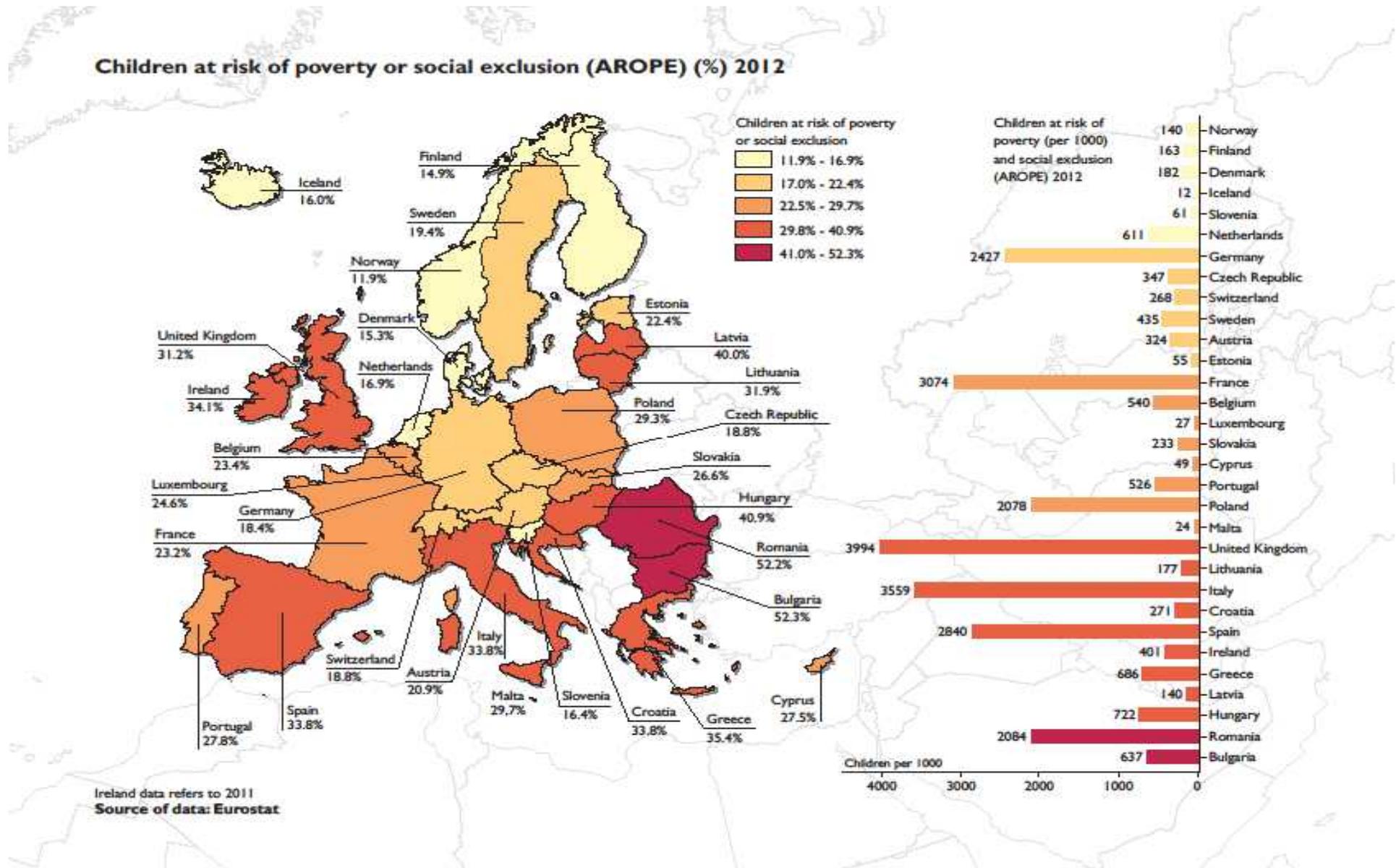
Why advocacy towards the EU?

The EU is a **Policy Maker, Legislator, Donor and Promoter of Human Rights** – in all of these roles it has a considerable impact on Children's Rights and Children's Lives – indirectly or directly

EU actions have impact on children:

- In Europe and globally
- They affect around 100 million children in the EU and several billions of children across the world

Child Poverty and Social Exclusion in Europe. A matter of Children's Rights



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Save the Children European Report:

[Child Poverty and Social Exclusion – A matter of Children's Rights \(2014\)](#)

- More than 26 million children in Europe are at risk of poverty or social exclusion (EU28 and Iceland, Norway and Switzerland)
– 27.7% in the EU
- Between 2008 and 2013, increase of almost 1 million, with half a million between 2011 and 2013
- Economic and financial crisis: increasing unemployment, and worsening employment conditions, along with cutting of social transfers, including child income support schemes and essential health and childcare services



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Investing in Europe needs to start by Investing in Children:

- Children at risk of poverty or social exclusion in every European country
- Investment in children should be seen as investment and not as a cost
- Investment in children makes sense: politically, socially and economically
- Investing in Children and promoting child rights are an obligation – not an option: UNCRC, EU Lisbon Treaty (Art. 3), EU Charter on Fundamental Rights (Art. 24)
- Addressing root causes of poverty, social exclusion, discrimination and inequalities – preventive approach – see EC Recommendation on Investing in Children

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Poverty as multi-dimensional problem:

- Household income
- Basic needs might not be met – such as food, clothes and adequate housing
- But also: social exclusion, inequalities, lack of access to services, including childcare, healthcare and high-quality education, Not being able to participate in social and cultural activities with peers etc.
- Vulnerable and marginalised children particularly affected
Children born in economically and socially disadvantaged regions or neighborhoods, children with disabilities, from a migrant or minority background

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Tackling and preventing child poverty:

- Effects of poverty and exclusion can be carried on into future generations
- Employment and redistributive state interventions
- Effectiveness of social transfers depends on level and quality of spending directly targeted at children and families

Save the Children Recommendations

Clear EU added value in addressing urgent European challenges together:

- Poverty and social exclusion might imply high costs for societies, can lead to alienation and could further undermine Europe
- Addressing poverty from a child rights perspective will ensure non-discrimination, social inclusion and cohesion, children's right to be heard, access to education, health care services and leisure activities
- Investment in children can lead to economic growth and prosperity – now and in the longer-term
- A rights-based approach to tackling child poverty also needs to be an essential part for a robust and ambitious successor to the EU Agenda on the Rights of the Child

Save the Children Recommendations

Europe 2020 mid-term review offers great opportunity to refocus on Europe that is fit for everyone:

- Europe 2020 sub-target on reducing child poverty and social exclusion
- Make the reduction of child poverty and the Investing in Children Recommendation visible in all European Semester documents
- Adopt a Roadmap for implementation of the Investing in Children Recommendation
- Further specific child poverty and social exclusion sub-indicators to assess all multi-dimensional aspects of poverty
These indicators should be rights-based and based on the existing Investing in Children Recommendation

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Thank you for your attention.

Manuela Smolinski

Advocacy Adviser

Save the Children EU Advocacy Office

Manuela.Smolinski@savethechildren.org



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