



Fighting Child Poverty: The Child Guarantee

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Child Poverty is a Major Problem

- Child poverty rates are high – at around a quarter
- Child poverty/deprivation is an EU wide problem but also a source of inequality among member states
Rates vary from very high in BU and RO to low in CZ, DK, FI, NL, SE.
- The rates are on a downward curve since 2010
- Greatest decrease in the highest poverty countries

Child Poverty – How Should We Understand it?

- Child poverty is multidimensional - education, leisure, clothing, food, health and housing + income
- Poverty in childhood has both short- and long-term effects - an intergenerational cycle of disadvantage
- Major risk factors include: non-working parents; parental low education level; migration background; being from certain minority groups, such as Roma

Policy and its Reform: The EU Approach

- The EU a leader - significant achievements, in ideas, programmes, legal embeddedness and linkages
- Recognises significant complexity and challenge – targeting the children involved, developing multi-dimensional programmes/policy packages
- Two measures: the 2013 Recommendation and the 2015 Child Guarantee

Recommendation 2013: Investing in Children

- USP: Rights-based and integrated approach
- 3 foci: access to adequate resources; access to quality services; participation rights for children
- Achievement/Progress to date:
- Action at national level partial and slow
- Child poverty not mainstreamed into E. Semester
- Result: child poverty not receiving the attention or targeted measures necessary

Child Guarantee (2015)

- An additional and new instrument + better implementation of the 2013 Recommendation
- Focus on the poorest underlining 5 provisions that they should have access to free of charge/as a right
- Preparatory action currently underway to research which children, feasibility and conditions of implementation

Comparison of Recommendation and CG

Fields	Council Recommendation Investing in Children	Child Guarantee - EP 2015
Universal or targeted approach	Both	Targeted
Policy content	Resources (Employment of parents plus cash/tax transfers), Services (health, ECEC, education, housing, family support) Participation (see Table 2)	Services (healthcare, childcare, education, nutrition, housing)
Which children	All children suffering AROPE and other disadvantaged children	Focus on children in poverty
Focus on parents and/or children	Parents and children	Children prioritised
Child-rights approach	Mainstreamed	Mainstreamed

Suggested Way Forward

- Setting a results-oriented, child poverty target which integrates a focus on the poorest children
- Integrating child poverty and the achievement of a target into the multi-annual financial framework
- Encouraging and enabling Member States to adopt national strategies around a Child Guarantee
- Working out the modes of delivery of the Guarantee