By establishing the European Child Guarantee, the Council recommended¹ to the Member States to guarantee for children in need effective and free access to high quality early childhood education and care, education and school-based activities, at least one healthy meal each school day and healthcare; effective access to healthy nutrition and adequate housing.

The Recommendation defines “children in need” as all children at risk of poverty or social exclusion, and specific disadvantages experienced by some groups of children (e.g. children with a migrant background) need to be taken into account when designing the measures to implement the Recommendation. There is no limit as regards the number of children to benefit.

The Recommendation set 15 March 2022 as the deadline for submission of the national action plans on implementation of European Child Guarantee to the Commission. By 11 July 2022, eleven Member States have submitted their action plans. The plans are available online².

Measures to support early childhood education and care and its accessibility for children in need are envisaged in all action plans received so far. Provisions related to migrant or refugee children are included in the Belgian, Danish, Finnish, French, Irish, Italian, Maltese, Spanish, and Swedish action plans.

The EU funds, notably the European Social Fund Plus, the European Regional Development Fund, the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, and InvestEU are available to the Member States to complement their national resources for the implementation of the European Child Guarantee. The Recovery and Resilience Facility is also available to help Member States fund structural reforms in this area. No additional EU funding is envisaged by the Commission.