



European Commission

European Child Guarantee



24 March 2021
#EUChildGuarantee
#EUChildRights



EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child Part 2: socio-economic inclusion, health and education

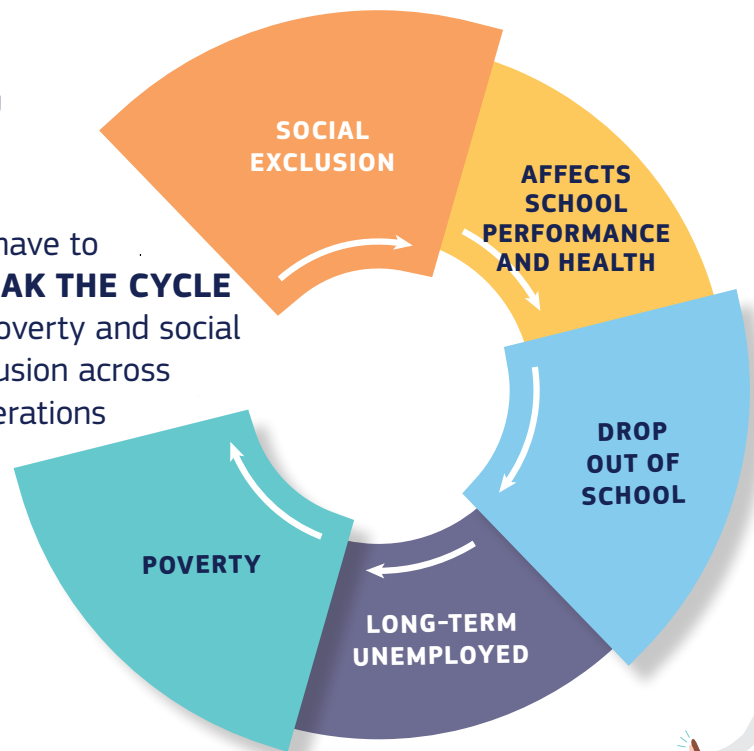
Children in need

In 2019, 22.2% of children (under 18s) in the EU were living in households at risk of poverty or social exclusion. That amounts to nearly **18 million children in need.**



Around **60%** of Roma children live in severe material deprivation and **80%** are at risk of poverty or social exclusion

We have to **BREAK THE CYCLE** of poverty and social exclusion across generations



European Pillar of Social Rights Principle 11: Childcare and support to children

[...] Children from disadvantaged backgrounds have the right to specific measures to enhance equal opportunities.

Children at risk of poverty or social exclusion are twice as likely to have unmet medical needs than children from more affluent families



The European Child Guarantee provides guidance and tools for Member States to support children in need: persons under the age of 18 who are at risk of poverty or social exclusion. Member States should take into account the specific needs of those from disadvantaged backgrounds, such as those experiencing homelessness, disabilities, with precarious family situations, migrant, minority racial or ethnic backgrounds or those in alternative care.

Member States should guarantee

Free and effective access for children in need to:



early
childhood
education
and care



education
and school-
based
activities



at least
one healthy
meal each
school day



healthcare

Effective access for children in need to:



healthy
nutrition



adequate
housing

19.9% of learners with disabilities leave early from education and training, compared to **9%** of pupils without disabilities



EU funds

Member States most affected must spend 5% of their allocated funds under the **European Social Fund Plus** on fighting child poverty and social exclusion. Member States can also make use of the **European Regional Development Fund**, **InvestEU** and the **Recovery and Resilience Facility** to fund measures combatting child poverty and social exclusion.

Pilot programmes

The Commission has been working with UNICEF on pilot child guarantee programmes in 7 Member States



For example in Bulgaria...

they are piloting a home visiting service for caregivers and pregnant women, with a particular focus on families in precarious situations and children with disabilities.



And in Greece...

they are piloting an inclusive education programme ensuring quality education for all children, including those with disabilities, in families or in institutional care and migrant children.

