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Glossary

Administrative data	Units and data derived from an administrative source. They are collected for the purposes of registration, transaction and record-keeping, usually during the delivery of a service by the administrative source. They are not collected primarily for research or statistical purposes. ¹
Adoption	The legal and permanent transfer of parental rights and responsibilities for a child. Adoption is the establishment of legal ties between two persons who may not be blood-related, one of them usually a child deprived of parental care. Through adoption, one or two persons become legal parents of a child, permanently acquiring all the corresponding rights and responsibilities. Usually, adoption has to be declared by a judicial body. ²
Aggregated data	Data that are the result of combining individual datapoints. ³
Alternative care	Relates to any arrangement, formal or informal, that aims to ensure the protection and well-being of children who are deprived of parental care or who are at risk of this. ⁴
Assessment	In the context of alternative care: A process that is undertaken and recorded that identifies the physical, intellectual, emotional and social needs of the child ⁵ and determines his or her best interests on entry into care and at reviews of placement.
Care plan	In the context of alternative care: A written document that outlines how, when and who will meet the child's needs. The child will have been involved in the development of this plan. The care plan is ideally prepared by the service providers or competent authorities after the referral of the child to care to decide, among other things, about the placement of the child based on the best interests principle. ⁶ In some countries the care plan is written after the best interests assessment has been done and a decision on placement has been made.
Child	Every human being below the age of 18 years unless, under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier. ⁷ The age group is indicated as 0-17 in this report, signifying all children up to their eighteenth birthday.
Children in migration situations	Covers all third-country national children who migrate from their country of origin to and within the territory of the EU in search of survival, security, improved standards of living, education, economic opportunities, protection from exploitation and abuse, family reunification or a combination of these factors. They may travel with their family or independently (unaccompanied child) or with an extended family or a non-family member (separated child). And they may be 'left behind children'. They may be seeking international protection, family members, dependents of labour migrants, victims of trafficking, and/or undocumented migrants. ⁸
Chronic illness	One that lasts for a long period of time and typically cannot be cured. It is, however, sometimes treatable and manageable. ⁹
Deinstitutionalisation	Deinstitutionalisation should not be understood as simply the closure institutions for children. It is the process of comprehensively transforming national structures for the protection of children. It includes the introduction of preventive and protective measures to ensure necessary and suitable alternative care solutions are in place for children unable to stay with their biological families. ¹⁰
Disability	Disability is conceived as an umbrella term for impairments, activity limitations and participation restrictions. It denotes the negative aspects of the interaction between a person's health condition(s) and that individual's contextual factors (environmental and personal factors). ¹¹

Disaggregated data	Data that have been broken down by detailed sub-categories, for example by marginalised group, gender, region, or level of education. Disaggregated data can reveal deprivations and inequalities that may not be fully reflected in aggregated data. ¹²
Ethnicity	Ethnic origins are mutable grounds, comprising nationality, colour, descent, religion, language, culture and traditions. ¹³
Family strengthening	A research-informed approach to increase family strengths, enhance child development, and reduce the likelihood of child abuse and neglect. It is based on engaging families, programmes, and communities in building five key protective factors: Parental resilience, social connections, knowledge of parenting and child development, concrete support in times of need, and social and emotional competence of children. ¹⁴
Formal alternative care	All care provided in a family environment that has been ordered by a competent administrative body or judicial authority, and all care provided in a residential environment, including in private facilities, whether or not as a result of administrative or judicial measures. ¹⁵
Formal family-based care	A short- or long-term care arrangement agreed with, or ordered by, a competent authority, whereby a child is placed in the domestic environment of a family whose head(s) have been selected and prepared to provide such care, and who are financially and non-financially supported in doing so. ¹⁶
Formal kinship care	Provided by relatives or other caregivers close to the family and known to the child. While such arrangements have so far tended to be informal, some countries are now making increased use of formalised placements within the extended family (kinship foster care). ¹⁷
Foster care	Foster care is provided by authorised couples or individuals in their own homes, within the framework of formal alternative care provision. ¹⁸
Gatekeeping	In the context of alternative care: The prevention of inappropriate placement of a child in alternative care; placement should be preceded by some form of assessment of the child's physical, emotional, intellectual and social needs, and matched to whether the placement can meet these needs based on its functions and objectives ¹⁹ - a best interests assessment.
Gender	<p>Gender refers to the roles, behaviours, activities, attributes, and opportunities that any society considers appropriate for girls and boys, and women and men. Gender interacts with, but is different from, the binary categories of biological sex.</p> <p>A person's sex, as determined by his or her biology, does not always correspond with his or her gender. It is a concept that describes how societies determine and manage sex categories; the cultural meanings attached to men and women's roles; and how individuals understand their identities including, but not limited to, being a man, woman, transgender, intersex, gender queer and other gender positions. Gender involves social norms, attitudes, and activities that society deems more appropriate for one sex over another. Gender is also determined by what an individual feel and does.²⁰</p>
Homelessness	<p>All living situations that amount to forms of homelessness across Europe:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • rooflessness (without a shelter of any kind, sleeping rough) • houselessness (with a place to sleep but temporary in institutions or shelter) • living in insecure housing (threatened with severe exclusion due to insecure tenancies, eviction, domestic violence) • living in inadequate housing (in caravans on illegal campsites, in unfit housing, in extreme overcrowding).²¹

Indicator	<p>A statistical indicator is the representation of statistical data for a specified time, place or any other relevant characteristic, corrected for at least one dimension (usually size) so as to allow for meaningful comparisons. It is a summary measure related to a key issue or phenomenon and derived from a series of observed facts. Indicators can be used to reveal relative positions or show positive or negative change. Indicators are usually a direct input into EU and global policies. In strategic policy fields, they are important for setting targets and monitoring their achievement. By themselves, indicators do not necessarily contain all aspects of development or change, but they contribute hugely to their explanation. They allow comparisons over time between, for instance, countries and regions, and in this way assist in gathering 'evidence' for decision-making.²²</p>
Informal care	<p>In the context of alternative care: Any private arrangement provided in a family environment, whereby the child is looked after on an ongoing or indefinite basis by relatives or friends (informal kinship care) or by others in their individual capacity, at the initiative of the child, his/her parents or other person without this arrangement having been ordered or being overseen by an administrative or judicial authority or a duly accredited body.²³</p>
Institutional care	<p>In the context of alternative care: Residential care where residents are isolated from the broader community and/or compelled to live together; Residents do not have sufficient control over their lives and over decisions that affect them; and the requirements of the organisation itself tend to take precedence over the residents' individualised needs. Size is an important factor when developing new services in the community: smaller and more personalised living arrangements are more likely to ensure opportunities for the choices and self-determination of service users and to provide a needs-led service.²⁴</p>
Line Ministry	<p>A ministry, autonomous organisation, or any other government agency that has full responsibility in any sector.²⁵</p>
Mental health	<p>A state of well-being in which the individual realizes his or her own abilities, can cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively and fruitfully, and is able to make a contribution to his or her community.²⁶</p>
Necessity Principle	<p>Preventing the need for and using as a last resort alternative care through family strengthening and prevention of family separation; and is, as much as possible, a temporary solution until the child can return to his/her family.²⁷</p>
Neglect	<p>When a parent or caregiver who is responsible for caring for a child fails to do so. It can be a result of carelessness, indifference, or unwillingness and abuse. Unintentional neglect is related to the lack of parenting, caring capacities, abilities, or the lack of resources. It may include the failure to provide sufficient supervision, nourishment, or medical care, or the failure to meet other needs that the victim cannot meet themselves.²⁸</p>
Placement review	<p>In the context of alternative care: A regular meeting of the child and those responsible for the child's best interests during which the progress, current and future, of the care plan is discussed.²⁹</p>
Prevention	<p>In the context of alternative care: Prevention includes a wide range of approaches that support family life and prevent the need for the child to be placed in alternative care, in other words to be separated from his/her immediate or extended family or other carer.³⁰</p>
Reintegration in the family	<p>The process of a separated child making what is anticipated to be a permanent transition back to his or her immediate or extended family and community (usually of origin), in order to receive protection and care and to find a sense of belonging and purpose in all spheres of life.³¹</p>

Residential care	In the context of alternative care: A collective living arrangement where children are looked after by adults who are paid to undertake this function. Could include a variety of services including homes offering temporary shelter overnight where parents do not stay with the child/children. All forms of residential care are included in the concept of alternative care. ³²
Small group home	One or more surrogate parents serve as caregivers, although not in those persons' normal home environment, ³³ and a limited number of children live together in one unit.
Statelessness	Individuals who are not considered citizens or nationals under the operation of the laws of any country. A person's citizenship and nationality may be determined based on the laws of a country where an individual is born or where her/his parents were born. A person can also lose citizenship and nationality in a number of ways, including when a country ceases to exist or a country adopts nationality laws that discriminate against certain groups. ³⁴
Substance abuse	The harmful or hazardous use of psychoactive substances, including alcohol and illicit drugs. Psychoactive substance use can lead to dependence syndrome – a cluster of behavioural, cognitive, and physiological phenomena that develop after repeated substance use and that typically include a strong desire to take the drug, difficulties in controlling its use, persisting in its use despite harmful consequences, a higher priority given to drug use than to other activities and obligations, increased tolerance, and sometimes a physical withdrawal state. ³⁵
Suitability Principle	Determining the most appropriate care form of alternative care placement for the child through a best interests assessment and care plan, as well as monitoring the child's progress, revising care arrangements periodically; and in general providing bonding opportunities, support and services that ensure respect for his/her rights. ³⁶
Unaccompanied minor	A person considered to be an unaccompanied minor is a child (aged less than 18) who arrives on the territory of the Member States unaccompanied by an adult responsible for him or her whether by law or by the practice of the Member State concerned, and for as long as he or she is not effectively taken into the care of such a person. It includes a minor who is left unaccompanied after he or she has entered the territory of the Member States. ³⁷
Variable	A characteristic of a unit being observed that may assume more than one of a set of values to which a numerical measure or a category from a classification can be assigned (e.g. income, age, weight, etc., and 'occupation', 'industry', 'disease', etc.). ³⁸

Endnotes

- 1 European Statistical System (ESS) Handbook for quality and metadata reports – 2020 edition, Eurostat, Luxembourg (<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-manuals-and-guidelines/-/ks-gq-19-006>) accessed July 2021.
- 2 BCN and UNICEF, Manual for the Measurement of Indicators for Children in Formal Care, 2009; and FRA, 'Consent to adoption' web-page, European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights Agency, Vienna (<https://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2017/mapping-minimum-age-requirements/consent-to-adoption>) accessed July 2021.
- 3 See the definition from Statista.com via this link: https://www.statista.com/statistics-glossary/definition/304/aggregated_data/ (accessed July 2021).
- 4 United Nations, Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children, A/RES/64/142, 18 December 2009.
- 5 BCN and UNICEF, Manual for the Measurement of Indicators for Children in Formal Care, 2009.
- 6 Ibid.
- 7 OHCHR, United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Geneva, 1989(<https://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/crc.aspx>) accessed July 2021.
- 8 10th European Forum on the rights of the child, The Protection of Children in Migration, 29-30 November, 2016 (https://europa.eu/newsroom/events/10th-european-forum-rights-child-protection-children-migration_en).
- 9 Definition from Healthline.com: <https://www.healthline.com/health/chronically-ill> (accessed July 2021).
- 10 Opening Doors for Europe's Children campaign, Deinstitutionalisation of Europe's Children: Questions and Answers, 2017 (<https://www.eurochild.org/uploads/2021/02/Opening-Doors-QA.pdf>) accessed July 2021.
- 11 Eurostat definition: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Glossary:Disability> (accessed July 2021).
- 12 Definition from Right-to-Education.org: <https://www.right-to-education.org/monitoring/content/glossary-disaggregated-data> (accessed July 2021).
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- 14 For more on this approach see the Centre for the Study of Social Policy, The Strengthening Families Approach and Protective Factors Framework, Washington, D.C., 2014 (<https://cssp.org/our-work/project/strengthening-families/>), accessed July 2021. The definition provided is not necessarily a globally accepted one, as no globally accepted definition currently exists.
- 15 UN General Assembly, Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children, 18 December, 2009.
- 16 This adapts the definition given in the European Expert Group on the Transition from Institutional to Community-based Care, Common European Guidelines on the Transition from Institutional to Community-based Care, 2012.
- 17 Cantwell, Nigel, et al., Moving Forward: Implementing the 'Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children', 2012.
- 18 Ibid.
- 19 BCN and UNICEF, Manual for the Measurement of Indicators for Children in Formal Care, 2009.
- 20 Definition from the World Health Organisation: <https://www.who.int/health-topics/gender> (accessed July 2021).
- 21 Definition from FEANTSA (European Federation of National Organisations Working with the Homeless): <https://www.feantsa.org/en/toolkit/2005/04/01/ethos-typology-on-homelessness-and-housing-exclusion?bcParent=27> (accessed July 2021).
- 22 Definition taken from Eurostat: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Glossary:Statistical_indicator (accessed July 2021).
- 23 UN General Assembly, Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children, 18 December, 2009
- 24 This adapts the definition given in the European Expert Group on the Transition from Institutional to Community-based Care, Common European Guidelines on the Transition from Institutional to Community-based Care, 2012.
- 25 Taken from Law Insider's dictionary: <https://www.lawinsider.com/dictionary/line-ministry> (accessed July 2021).
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- 28 Definition taken from National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC): <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-child-abuse/types-of-abuse/neglect/> (accessed July 2021).
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- 30 This adapts the definition given in the European Expert Group on the Transition from Institutional to Community-based Care, Common European Guidelines on the Transition from Institutional to Community-based Care, 2012.
 - 31 Wedge, Joanna, Abby Krumholz and Lindsay Jones, Reaching for home: Global learning on family reintegration in low and lower-middle income countries, Interagency Group on Reintegration, 2013 (<https://bettercarenetwork.org/library/principles-of-good-care-practices/leaving-alternative-care-and-reintegration/reaching-for-home-global-learning-on-family-reintegration-in-low-and-lower-middle-income-countries>), accessed July 2021.
 - 32 BCN and UNICEF, Manual for the Measurement of Indicators for Children in Formal Care, 2009.
 - 33 Cantwell, Nigel, et al., Moving Forward: Implementing the 'Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children', 2012.
 - 34 See UN Conventions on Statelessness, available via UNHCR's website:<https://www.unhcr.org/un-conventions-on-statelessness.html> (accessed July 2021).
 - 35 World Health Organisation's International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD): <https://icd.who.int/browse10/2019/en/#/> (accessed July 2021).
 - 36 Cantwell, Nigel, et al. Moving Forward: Implementing the 'Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children', 2012.
 - 37 Taken from the European Commission's definition: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Glossary:Unaccompanied_minor (accessed July 2021).
 - 38 Definitions available from the OECD Glossary of Statistical Terms: <https://stats.oecd.org/glossary/> (accessed July 2021).
 - 39 Lerch, Véronique, Estonia: Mapping of data and data systems regarding children in alternative care, 2019, unpublished.