

# What is the European Child Guarantee?



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**The Child Guarantee is an EU document.**

It says that all EU countries must make an action plan.

The plan should make sure all children in the EU get:

- **care,**
- **education**
- **activities,**
- **a meal at school**
- **healthcare**
- **healthy food and**
- **good enough housing.**

Countries have to try to make sure these are **free**, or that parents have enough money to pay for any costs.

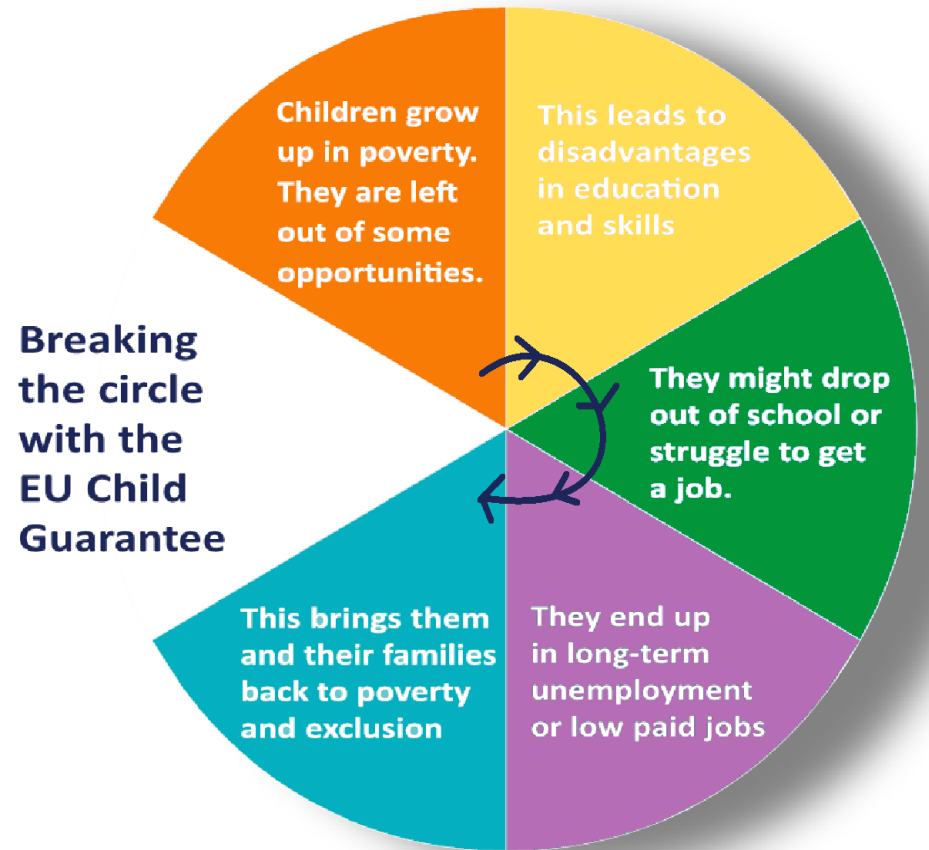


# Why is the Child Guarantee important?

It is trying to reduce the number of children who experience poverty.

It is trying to make sure that children have extra help if they live in disadvantaged situations.

The plan must be created by listening to children, children's rights organisations, municipalities and other organisations who try to make a difference for children.



# Who is the Child Guarantee for?

## The child guarantee is especially for:

- Children who are homeless
- Children with disabilities and special needs
- Children with mental health issues
- Children who are from minority ethnic backgrounds, particularly Roma children in vulnerable situations
- Children who are refugees or recent migrants
- Children in foster care or children's homes
- Children living in difficult family situations



# What does the Child Guarantee plan have to include for children?

## Care, Education and Activities

### Governments should make sure that:

- ✓ Children stay in school until they are 18 years old
- ✓ Schools give extra support for children who need it
- ✓ Schools are not separated by ethnicity or disability
- ✓ Children can do sport, play and school trips
- ✓ Schools include everyone
- ✓ Children can go to nurseries or childcare when they are young

Sometimes this means making sure things are free.



## Healthcare

### Governments should make sure that:

- ✓ Children know what being healthy means
- ✓ Children play activities and are healthy
- ✓ Doctors find out what is wrong when someone gets sick
- ✓ Illnesses are prevented
- ✓ Children receive help to be as healthy as possible



# Healthy Food

**Governments should make sure that:**

- ✓ Children have at least one healthy meal a day in schools, free
- ✓ Children have healthy meals when schools are closed
- ✓ There is very little unhealthy foods in schools
- ✓ Children know about healthy food
- ✓ Families feed children healthy food



# Good Housing

**Governments should make sure that:**

- ✓ Children do not keep moving from house to house
- ✓ Children do not become homeless because of energy costs
- ✓ Children are never taken into a children's home because of bad housing
- ✓ Children live in nice homes
- ✓ Young people leaving care are helped to become independent





# How will countries pay for all of this?

In countries where child poverty is high, **the government must use at least 5% of the money** that they get from the European Social Fund Plus.

**Countries can use money from other EU funds.** These are the European Regional Development Fund, InvestEU, the Recovery and Resilience Facility and the Technical Support Instrument.

**Countries can also help make food cheaper.** This can be using an EU programme to provide school fruit, vegetables and milk.



# Who will make sure that the Child Guarantee makes a difference?

**Countries should make sure the plans make a difference.**

**Children should be asked for their views.** They should be asked if the plans are making a difference.

**Countries should report to the EU.** Every two years, countries will have to say what has improved.

