

Belgium - 2024 Biennial report on the implementation of the Child Guarantee

This overview highlights extracted from the first Biennial report on the implementation of the Child Guarantee in Belgium. It is not exhaustive nor does it evaluate the report.

Roll-out of key services

Early childhood education and care: Initiatives aimed at improving and maintaining the quality of services in kindergartens and strengthening the collaboration of the various actors involved.

Education and school-based activities: Preventive measures to early school leaving. Incentives for children regarding school participation, ensuring quality inclusive education. Initiatives to address financial obstacles to school participation, including public transportation costs, and supporting single-parent families. Investment in school infrastructure and equipment.

Healthy meal each school day: Projects to distribute healthy and free meals to schools where the parental contributions are differentiated according to the income.

Healthcare: Measures to ensure access to healthcare for vulnerable groups and investment in infrastructures. Mental health services and support for children with disabilities and post-natal care.

Healthy nutrition: Food aid has been reinforced in the form of projects supporting social grocery stores and restaurants and promoting healthy diets in schools.

Adequate housing: Initiatives include the *Housing First* programme for youth at risk of homelessness, and the *Wallonian Observatory of Homelessness*. Support to access housing, for example, a new unified model for social housing allocation.

Resources

- [Full Biennial report on the implementation of the Child Guarantee](#)
- [Belgium Child Guarantee National Action Plan - An overview](#)
- [Eurochild Belgium Country Profile 2023](#)

Target groups

While Belgium has chosen to address children in need without identifying specific target groups, some actions focus on specific groups, such as children with disabilities and children with a migrant background.

Monitoring and Evaluation

In addition to the monitoring framework prepared by the Social Protection Committee, Federal Authorities in Belgium collected administrative data at multiple levels, providing an overview of the different groups of children in vulnerable situations.

Funding to implement the Child Guarantee

At the federal level, calls for projects have secured substantial funds. In Flanders, investments support child care and poverty reduction, while Wallonia focuses on implementing its Poverty Alleviation Plan. The German-speaking community also promotes projects to fight social exclusion for children. The French Community Commission (COCOF) is funding high-quality services to provide alternatives to institutional care.

Lessons learnt and further development

- The importance to strengthen the coordination between federal and regional authorities and services.
- The need for quantifiable targets for more in-depth monitoring.
- The need to effectively engage with vulnerable groups.
- Thematic seminars focused on the four main aspects of the National Action Plan for the German-speaking community have allowed for discussions and conclusions, which will guide future implementation efforts.

Relevant trends

For all indicators included in the European Monitoring Framework, Belgium has reference values included, separated where feasible, for AROPE and not AROPE.

- In 2023, 51.4% AROPE children have at least one parent with a disability.
- In 2023, 19.3% of AROPE children under-3 have at least one hour of access to care weekly, compared to 59.4% of not AROPE children.
- 22.9% of under-16 AROPE children do not have access to regular leisure activities, in comparison to 1.7% for not AROPE children.
- In 2022, 39.3% of AROPE lived in an overcrowded household, compared to 6.3% of not AROPE children.