

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

This summary provides key highlights from the first Biennial report on the Child Guarantee implementation in Cyprus. It is not exhaustive or evaluative.

Roll-out of key services

Early childhood education and care: There is a plan to create a quality framework for Early Childhood Education and Care, subsidise care, expand free preschool education for children up to 4 years old, and create multidisciplinary teams responsible for assessing children in vulnerable situations.

Education and school-based activities: Programmes to address early school leavers, and support students with special needs.

Healthcare: Creation of a Center for Children with Neurodevelopmental Disorders and preventive services, including for families with children with hearing impairment aged 0-3.

Healthy meal each school day: Access to healthy meals is provided outside of school days. The *Feeding Students in Need Project* also provides eligible students in vulnerable situations with daily free breakfast.

Adequate housing: Provision of the housing benefit Minimum Guaranteed Income, support for vulnerable families through the *Baby Dowry* scheme, and provision of services for unaccompanied minors.

Alternative care: In 2023, a bill regulating alternative care for children, foster parent approval, semi-independent living, aiming to improve child protection and care services is expected to be adopted.

Resources

- [Full Biennial report on the implementation of the Child Guarantee](#)
- [Cyprus Child Guarantee National Action Plan – Eurochild’s overview](#)
- [Eurochild Cyprus Country Profile 2023](#)

Monitoring and Evaluation

The Cyprus Statistical Service provided data based on the final outline prepared by the European Social Protection Committee, including the revised AROPE indicator in the various target groups.

Target groups

Children in preschool education and care (0-3 years) have been added to the list of the target groups of the National Action Plan.

Funding to implement the Child Guarantee

The current and planned actions are funded by both national and EU funding. A series of actions are covered by the Cohesion Policy Programme *Thaleia 2021-2027* and the European Social Fund+, the *Recovery and Resilience Plan*, *Erasmus+ KA3 Programme* on support to policy development and cooperation, the *European Regional Development Fund*, *Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund*, *TAME* and *EEA and Norway (EEA) Financing Mechanisms (2014-2021)*.

Lessons learnt and further development

- A comprehensive data collection system incorporating both quantitative and qualitative objectives, as well as gender and age-disaggregated statistics, is needed.
- The *National Strategic Framework for the equality, inclusion and participation of the Roma in Cyprus 2021-2030* and the *National Disability Action Plan* support the implementation of the National Plan.

Relevant trends

- In 2022, 31,000 children (18.1%) were at risk of poverty, down from 35,000 (20.3%) in 2019.
- The rate of children under 3 years old attending preschool education and care dropped from 29.3% in 2019 to 24.4% in 2022.
- In 2021, 28.9% of AROPE children lacked access to education, compared to 5.1% of non-AROE children.
- 1.8% of AROPE households faced unmet medical needs in 2021.
- The percentage of AROPE and non-AROE children living in a household facing excessive housing costs rose to 8.14% in 2022.