

Romania - 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 Romania. It is not exhaustive nor does it evaluate the report.

Roll-out of services

Early childhood education and care: Romania is in the process of constructing, equipping and operationalising 110 nurseries and 358 kindergartens.

Education and school-based activities: Various initiatives, such as the Early Warning Mechanism in Education and support programs like *Second Chance* for those at risk of dropping out, are aimed at improving children's access to education. School supply packages and financial aid programs are being provided to high school students to allow them to continue and complete their studies.

Healthy meal each school day: The National Program *Healthy Meal (NPHM)*, consisting of a free food meal per day, represents a crucial initiative for ensuring access to proper nutrition for students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Healthcare: 3,000 primary healthcare facilities are being modernised and equipped to improve screening, early diagnosis and monitoring, with a focus on rural areas. Integrated Community Centers under the *National Recovery and Resilience Program* aim to provide comprehensive healthcare services. Education campaigns aim to promote healthy lifestyles.

Healthy nutrition: Romania's school program ensures access to healthy meal options for preschoolers and students.

Adequate housing: Efforts to improve housing conditions include interventions in informal settlements, guided by the *National Housing Strategy* and supported by various funds.

Eurochild resources

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

Target groups

The target groups have been listed in the National Action Plan and [Eurochild's overview](#).

Funding to implement the Child Guarantee

The most relevant operational programs used to implement the Child Guarantee are the *Health Program - HP* and the *Inclusion and Social Dignity Program - ISDP and Education and Employment Program - EEP*. Almost all major project calls for the 2021-2027 programming period began to be launched only at the end of 2023. The value of the calls, as presented above, funded from the ESF+, launched to date or in the consultation stage, amounts to €267,179,947.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The *Coordination Council for Child Protection and Adoption*, supported by UNICEF, is in the process of developing comprehensive monitoring and evaluation frameworks. Specific fiches, including definitions, data, and assessment of the budget, are being developed for both the National Action Plan for the implementation of the Child Guarantee, as well as for the National Strategy for Child Protection and Promotion of Children's Rights *Protected Children, Safe Romania 2023-2027*.

Final outcome indicators align with European Monitoring Framework standards, with specific targets set for early school leaving rates and other objectives. The implementation of the National Action Plan for the Child Guarantee is in its early stages, with 33 indicators identified for progress monitoring, using both direct values and proxy indicators for a holistic assessment.

Lessons learnt and further development

- The need to include children's participation in all stages of implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of the National Action Plan.
- The necessity of establishing a continuous process of inter-sectoral coordination.
- The urge to ensuring the prerequisites for the effective implementation of the objectives of the Child Guarantee at the county and local levels.

Relevant trends

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

- In 2022, 30.8% of Romanian children experienced severe material and social deprivation.
- Two in ten children reported occasional or no access to sufficient food.
- By late 2023, there were 38,000 children from Ukraine in Romania.
- The special protection system saw a reduction from 57,279 to 38,337 children by December 2023, with 73% of them placed with relatives or foster parents. Residential-type services managed by the General Directorate for Social Assistance and Child Protection decreased from 17,453 in 2014 to 8,327 in 2023.
- The mortality rate increased from 5.2% in 2021 to 5.7% in 2022.
- Regarding qualitative indicators, compulsory preschool education had been expanded to children of the age of 4.