Poland - 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 Poland. It is not exhaustive or evaluative.

Roll-out of key services

Early childhood education and care: Planning to revise needs assessment and support methods to enhance inclusive education for children with disabilities. A new early childhood development model will integrate support services for families and children from birth to school age, focusing on continuous, coordinated assistance and improved cross-sectoral cooperation.

Housing: Improving the availability of housing and its conditions by reforming public rentals, boosting financial support, and collaborating with social rental agencies. Specific support for children with disabilities.

Children with disabilities: The *For Life Programme* in Poland provides comprehensive support to children and their families. Activities include coordinated neonatal and pediatric care, supporting early child development and early detection, respite care for parents or guardians and promoting breastfeeding.

Healthcare: Reforming the mental health care system to create a community-based model, ensuring equal access and early detection. This involves three reference levels for tailored support: community care, mental health centres, and specialised 24-hour care. Additional support for migrant children and Ukrainian refugees.

Alternative care: Planning to create a common register of residential care facilities.

Actions targeting children in a precarious family situation: The Act of 9 March 2023 broadens the definition of domestic violence. New laws from July 2023 strengthen protections for children, introducing child representatives (child participation) and mandatory risk assessments. The Winning Family programme aims to support families in impoverished and socially degraded areas.

Children from Ukraine: Families from Ukraine with children can apply for benefits from the social assistance system, including school scholarships and allowances, family benefits, family care capital and specific support for parents with children with disabilities.

Resources

- Full Biennial report on the implementation of the Child Guarantee
- Poland Child Guarantee National Action Plan Eurochild's overview
- Eurochild Poland Country Profile

Relevant trends

- In 2022, Poland's AROPE rate for children rose to 16.7%, with an increase of 0.6 percentage points compared to 2020.
- In 2022, the AROPE rate for households with one adult raising dependent children decreased by 6.5 percentage points compared to 2020.
- Family benefits reached 15.3% of children in 2023, despite regional disparities.
- There were 323,400 children with disability certificates, an 8.4% increase since 2020, alongside a 1.2% drop in the overall child population.
- Children with mental health issues have surged by 71% since 2019.
- Alternative care placements increased by 1.9%.
- Foster care in 2022 comprised 1,306 centres and 56,600 children in family settings, representing 1% of all Polish children.
- Social assistance for families due to alcoholism fell by 9.8%, while drug addiction cases rose by 7.6%.
- The report provides key data on the number of children in residential care, including the type of setting in each voivodeship (province).
- The one-off benefit of 300 Polish zloty was received by 1,311,590 people coming from Ukraine.

Funding to implement the Child Guarantee

The report outlines the funding allocated to various services and the number of individuals benefiting from the range of support provided. However, it does not specify the sources of this funding.

Target groups

The target groups have been listed in the National Action Plan and Eurochild's overview.

