

Slovakia - 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 Slovakia. It is not exhaustive or evaluative.

Roll-out of key services

Early childhood education and care: Construction and renovation of child care facilities, and implementation of the *National Development Strategy for Early Intervention and Care Services (2022-2030)*. Projects target marginalised Roma communities and enhance staff capacity, ensuring an effective identification and referral system.

Education and school-based activities: Introduction of a definition of segregation in education and guidelines for desegregation. Provision of inclusive education for children from marginalised Roma Communities. Preventing early school leaving through an early warning system.

Healthcare: Promoting disease prevention, healthy lifestyles for children, and involving specialists in physical activity and sports in schools.

Healthy meal each school day: The food subsidy has been expanded to cover a wide range of students, including those attending secondary school.

Adequate housing: Implementation of measures for land ownership and use in marginalised Roma Communities settlements, support housing for children and families in need, promote rental housing and improve living conditions and hygiene.

Alternative care: Establish a support network for children, parents, and foster families. Completion of the national project *Support for the deinstitutionalisation of foster care III*. Establishment of inclusion rules for children in the *Centres for Children and Families*, and enhance foster care conditions and facilities.

Resources

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

Monitoring and Evaluation

A working group comprising relevant ministries, monitors the implementation process of the European Child Guarantee. Discussions with children have also been part of the process.

Target groups

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

Funding to implement the Child Guarantee

The report details the implementation of measures from 12 April 2023 to 31 December 2023. It includes information on responsible authorities, expected values, deadline indicators, and the status of fulfilment. It also indicated the funding sources, such as the European Social Fund +, the European Regional Development Fund, or the State Budget

Lessons learnt and further development

The review of the National Action Plan will develop new measures based on monitoring data, identified gaps in child protection, and input from children’s participation. A working group, including new entities and the ombudsperson, will consider the comments of the European Commission to the National Plan. Efforts will focus on raising awareness about child poverty and social exclusion through digital channels, campaigns, and in schools and child facilities, involving children’s participation. The *National Coordination Centre on Violence against Children* will continue awareness efforts.

Relevant trends

- In 2022, 24,7% of children were AROPE, compared to 19,7% in 2021.
- The rate of children with major material and social deprivation aged 0-17 increased from 7.4 to 10.8% from 2021 to 2022
- From 2021 to 2022, the rate of children living in families with very low work intensity grew from 4.7% to 4.8%.
- The number of children benefitting from the food subsidy increased from 56,786 to 491,494 throughout 2023.