

Slovenia - 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 Slovenia. It is not exhaustive or evaluative.

Roll-out of key services

Early childhood education and care: Pre-school education fees are based on family income. Efforts focus on integrating vulnerable children, particularly Roma, through financial incentives and specialised support.

Education and school-based activities: Free textbooks for the first years of primary school, with a lending system for later years. Support is provided for school transport, along with subsidised extracurricular activities and school excursions. Additional support is available for children with a migrant background and children from ethnic minorities as well as children with disabilities.

Healthy meal each school day: Schools offer free morning snacks for low-income students, subsidised kindergarten meals, and free lunches for eligible primary students.

Healthcare: All children have free access healthcare, with expanded mental health services, psychological counselling, and addiction prevention, though challenges remain with wait times and disparities in access for low-income and Roma children. There are 22 child and adolescent mental health centres in Slovenia.

Healthy nutrition: Promoting healthy school meals through initiatives like the *fruit and milk scheme*.

Adequate housing: Investments in public rental housing, rent subsidies, and housing reforms to support low-income families, with an anti-homelessness strategy in progress. In October 2023, the government adopted a decree on ensuring suitable accommodation, care and treatment of unaccompanied minors.

Social inclusion: A cost-of-living allowance was introduced for families entitled to child benefit. A special interdepartmental government working group on Roma was set up in 2023 to address the issue of social exclusion of Roma from several angles.

Monitoring and Evaluation

While the national coordinator was appointed and an interdepartmental working group was set up, there is also an advisory group to provide feedback and facilitate civil society involvement and child participation. Slovenia has developed indicators in cooperation with the *Social Protection Institute of the Republic of Slovenia*. Some indicators are included in the biennial report, but updates are expected as measures develop. EU-wide frameworks and international statistics support monitoring efforts.

Funding to implement the Child Guarantee

The Child Guarantee Action Plan 2022-2030 in Slovenia is financed through integrated national resources, local community budgets, and EU co-financing, with 12.76% of funding from European sources expected to rise through the European Cohesion Policy (2021-27). In 2023, EUR 196.999 million was allocated, increasing to EUR 214.8 million in 2024. Social protection spending on families and children in 2022 amounted to 8.1% of GDP.

Target groups

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

Lessons learnt and further development

Despite efforts to address poverty and social exclusion, some vulnerable children in Slovenia, including Roma children, single-parent families, and migrant children, still face significant challenges. Limited foster care capacity, crisis center overcrowding and a shortage of trained professionals hinder child protection efforts. Ongoing studies and initiatives aim to improve social inclusion, education incentives, and systemic support, but further research and policy adjustments are needed to address these gaps effectively.

Relevant trends

- In the 2022/23 school year, 84.6% of all children attended kindergartens.
- 49.8% of all children in primary education were provided with a free morning snacks registered for free morning snacks in 2022/2023.
- In 2022, 84.8% of Slovenian primary schools took part in the *fruit and milk scheme*.
- 17.8% of all households lived in unsuitable housing in 2022.
- Slovenia has one of the lowest school dropout rates in Europe at 4.2%.
- As of late December 2023, 759 children and adolescents were living in foster families.

Resources

- [Full Biennial Report on the implementation of the Child Guarantee](#)
- [Slovenia's Child Guarantee National Action Plan - An overview](#)
- [Eurochild Slovenia Country Profile 2024](#)