

Greece - 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 Greece. It is not exhaustive or evaluative.

Roll-out of key services

Early childhood education and care: Establishment of a financial support program for families to access pre-school education. Specific support for Roma and children with disabilities.

Education and school-based activities: Providing free education, including supporting the costs of transport. Specific measures support inclusive education for children with disabilities and support for the integration of Roma children and children on the move. Support is also provided for extracurricular activities.

Healthy meal each school day: Free meals to primary school students are provided through the *School Meals* programme.

Healthcare: All children in Greece have free access to vaccines and healthcare, with additional support for children on the move. Certain groups of children, such as refugees, unaccompanied minors, and those with disabilities, receive free medicines on prescription.

Healthy nutrition: The *Ministry of Health* promotes healthy eating habits through school food guidelines, obesity prevention programmes, and the promotion of breastfeeding.

Adequate housing: Programmes and interventions to improve living conditions, addressing homelessness, housing costs, energy poverty and housing insecurity. Specific programmes support children with disabilities, refugees and asylum seekers.

Alternative care: Moving from institutional care to community-based alternatives like foster care and semi-autonomous living for children, with support through training and financial aid and measure to prevent family separation.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The *National Centre for Social Solidarity* is the main body for coordinating the actions of all competent authorities, services, and actors at national, regional, and local levels. Progress is monitored by the *Centre of Planning and Economic Research (KEPE)*. The *Information System (IS)* for the Child Guarantee will record policy measures, map poverty and social exclusion at all levels, create a comprehensive database, and utilise business intelligence for statistical analysis and monitoring.

Funding to implement the Child Guarantee

Under the new *Partnership Agreement for the Development Framework (NSRF) 2021–2027*, €900 million in public expenditure is allocated to the NAP, with €684 million (12.8% of *European Social Fund+* resources) coming from EU support. The report includes a breakdown of the expenditure for each specific objective. The initiatives funded by the *Recovery and Resilience Fund (RRF)* are of pilot nature.

Target groups

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

Lessons learnt and further development

The NAP has improved coordination in tackling child poverty and social exclusion, but assessing its direct impact remains challenging due to limited data. Key efforts focus on early childhood care, inclusive education, healthcare access, and housing support. As the reporting period aligns with the finalisation of the *NSRF* actions and the early implementation of *RRF* actions, several initiatives are not yet fully activated or identified.

Relevant trends

- KEPE's multidimensional child poverty index decreased by 0.4% from 2021–2022 to 2022–2023. Regional disparities persist, with Crete having the lowest child poverty rate in 2023 (18.5%) and the Peloponnese the highest (35.7%). In 2021, Attica had the lowest rate (12.9%) and East Macedonia-Thrace the highest (29%).
- According to KEPE's analysis, the number of children lacking adequate heating decreased from 14% to 11.2% from 2022 to 2023).
- Participation in pre-school education for children under 3 in Greece rose from 29.1% in 2022 to 29.6% in 2023.
- Greece also had the highest rate of overweight or obese children (aged 10-19) in the EU in 2022 (35%).

Resources

- [Full Biennial Report on the implementation of the Child Guarantee](#)
- [Greece Child Guarantee National Action Plan – Eurochild overview](#)
- [Eurochild Greece Country Profile 2024](#)