

Malta - 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 Malta. It is not exhaustive or evaluative.

Roll-out of key services

Early childhood education and care: Malta provides free ECEC services, expanded in 2023 to cover 51% of children under 3.

Education and school-based activities: Measures aim to prevent school drop-out and ensure the provision of inclusive, high-quality education with specific attention to migrant children.

Healthy meal each school day: Initiatives include providing children whose parents are employed or studying with the opportunity to have a healthy breakfast.

Healthcare: Particular attention is given to the right to healthcare for families at risk of poverty or social exclusion. Mental health services are provided free of charge.

Healthy nutrition: The *Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived* and the *State-Funded Food Distribution Programmes* provide regular food boxes to children.

Adequate housing: Measures support housing for children by providing financial assistance and promoting accessible and affordable housing for families through targeted schemes and initiatives.

Alternative care: Malta provides a foster care allowance, foster care services, and support to young people leaving institutional care.

Social inclusion: Malta offers *children's allowances*, *children's allowance supplements*, a *disabled child allowance*, and several holistic interventions and services targeting children in precarious situations.

Resources

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

Monitoring and Evaluation

A total of 115 measures were implemented and tracked, with robust data on the beneficiaries across social protection, education, healthcare, and housing. Stakeholder consultations, including non-governmental organisations, have been crucial to progress tracking. The National Action Plan (NAP) is in line with Malta's renewed *National Strategy for Poverty Reduction and Social Inclusion 2025–2035*. A child-friendly version of the NAP is also available.

Funding to implement the Child Guarantee

Funding comes from the *European Social Fund Plus* and national sources. New budgetary measures aimed at children were announced in Malta's 2024 Budget, and their implementation is underway.

Target groups

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

Lessons learnt and further development

The discussions with stakeholders focused on key aspects, including ensuring maximum reach of services, the need for further efforts to address health concerns such as obesity and tobacco exposure among children, and the importance of raising awareness of mental health issues.

Relevant trends

- In 2023, the number of single-parent households with one or more dependent children was 48.3%.
- A total of 44,499 families benefited from the *Children's Allowance*.
- There were 2,330 beneficiaries of the *Disabled Child Allowance*.
- In 2022, 4,177 children benefited from the *State-Funded Food Distribution programme*.
- The *Child Protection Directorate* handled 3,671 cases in 2023.
- In the 2023/2024 academic year, 819 students attended the integration course offered to non-Maltese students.