Czechia - 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 Czechia. It is not exhaustive or evaluative.

Roll-out of key services

Early childhood education and care: The Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs is introducing a new care service type – home-based children's groups. A project is underway to develop an evaluation framework for pre-school education to identify barriers to children's participation.

Education and school-based activities: The capacity of school counselling facilities and support for extracurricular activities for disadvantaged children was strengthened through the *OP JAK programmes*. Schools received funding for mobile digital devices and equipment, especially for pupils from socioeconomically disadvantaged backgrounds.

Healthy meal each school day: In 2023, the call *Food aid for children in social need* was launched with an allocation of CZK 300 million. 774 schools were involved and almost 12 000 children were supported.

Healthcare: The Ministry of Health has increased the number of residency places for child psychiatrists and supported the creation of a new telemedicine service.

Healthy nutrition: The *State Institute of Health* implemented a project to promote health in families at risk of poverty and social exclusion, which included courses on nutrition, exercise and disease prevention.

Adequate housing: New interventions are being prepared to strengthen the availability of housing for families with children, single parents and vulnerable groups.

Alternative care: Since 2025, there has been a ban on placing children under the age of 3 in institutional care

Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring is carried out through interministerial cooperation and cooperation with civil society organisations. The report identifies the need for a better data base to monitor impact.

Funding to implement the Child Guarantee

The sources of funding include the state budget, the *European Social Fund* and the *National Recovery Plan*. Every year the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs announces the national subsidy title *Family*, which supports preventive activities to support the family, partnership and parenthood and provides support for families in the field of social and legal protection of children. The challenge is to ensure the long-term sustainability of funding and coordination between the different funds.

Target groups

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

Lessons learnt and further development

The report highlights the importance of inter-ministerial cooperation, the involvement of local actors and the flexibility of systemic measures. Experience shows that targeted and individualised approaches are most effective.

Relevant trends

- Income and absolute poverty is increasing, with the highest risk being faced by single parent households (34.1%), solo seniors (37.8%), and households with lower educational attainment (48.5%).
- A total of 12 445 persons living in 10 358 households with 1 393 children under the age of 15 are in housing need (in hostels and other accommodation facilities).
- In 2022, the trend of declining numbers of children in children's homes for children under three years of age continued. In the spring of 2023, a total of 410 children were living there, which is 239 fewer than in 2018.

Resources

- Full Biennial Report on the implementation of the Child Guarantee
- <u>Czechia's Child Guarantee National Action Plan An overview Eurochild</u>

