

# **Strengthening Synergies with the European Child Guarantee and National Roma Frameworks**

**Eurochild position on the EU Anti-Poverty  
Strategy through a child rights lens**



**Eurochild**  
Putting children at  
the heart of Europe

May 2026

# Strengthening Synergies with the European Child Guarantee and National Roma Frameworks

## *Eurochild position on the EU Anti-Poverty Strategy through a child rights lens*

Eurochild welcomes the European Commission's first [EU Anti-Poverty Strategy \(APS\)](#) as an important political step towards a more comprehensive and coordinated approach to preventing and reducing poverty across the life course. The Strategy rightly recognises poverty as a structural and multidimensional challenge that affects social cohesion, equality and Europe's long-term prosperity.

We particularly welcome that the APS is designed to complement and reinforce [the Communication "Breaking the cycle of child poverty – Strengthening the European Child Guarantee" \(ECG\)](#). The two initiatives are closely interconnected, with shared objectives around integrated services, prevention, and breaking intergenerational cycles of poverty.

However, while the APS recognises child poverty as a key concern, its approach to children remains more limited than the comprehensive rights-based framework set out in the European Child Guarantee Strengthening Communication. The APS continues to frame child poverty through parental income, labour market participation and child-related benefit systems. It rightly highlights the importance of adequate child and family benefits, quality jobs, improved coordination between services and benefits, and announces a future Recommendation on child-related benefit systems in 2027.

Eurochild welcomes these measures, but stresses that tackling child poverty requires going beyond income support alone. Children are rights holders, not only dependents on labour market policies. They require integrated, child-centred policies that ensure access to quality services, family strengthening, mental health support, inclusive education, adequate housing, nutrition, participation and protection from violence. The European Child Guarantee Strengthening Communication provides this broader framework and should remain the EU's central instrument for combating child poverty and social exclusion.

The APS includes important references to social services, education and training, healthcare, housing, digital skills, food, energy, transport, financial services and other essential services. It also proposes a Council Recommendation on easier and more integrated access to services. These elements should be more explicitly aligned with the European Child Guarantee's rights-based approach.

Eurochild particularly welcomes the stronger link established between the European Child Guarantee and the Youth Guarantee, including measures to support transitions from childhood to adulthood. The proposed toolkit to strengthen coordination between both instruments is an important step towards preventing young people from falling into poverty, homelessness or exclusion when leaving care, education or family support systems.

We would have welcomed a fuller intersectional approach, addressing how poverty interacts with disability, ethnic and racial discrimination, migration status, gender, family

situation, housing exclusion, and care experience throughout childhood. The explicit references to Roma communities, persons with a minority racial or ethnic background, persons with disabilities and socio-economic discrimination are important. In particular, the Strategy reiterates the EU Roma Strategic Framework objective of reducing the poverty gap between Roma and the general population by at least half by 2030.

However, we regret the absence of explicit references to children with a migrant or ethnic minority background in the ECG Strengthening Communication, and note that in the APS, they are primarily referred to as “third-country nationals”. A stronger child-rights and inclusion perspective is needed to ensure that all children, regardless of migration status or minority background, are fully covered by anti-poverty measures and can access services without discrimination. A clearer link with the EU Anti-Racism Action Plan would also have been beneficial.

Eurochild welcomes the proposal to establish national anti-poverty frameworks and the recommendation for Member States to appoint National Anti-Poverty Coordinators, even if this remains non-binding. We also welcome the call for local and regional anti-poverty frameworks to address the specific needs of children on the ground. Eurochild welcomes the Commission’s commitment to improving poverty monitoring through the European Semester, developing new indicators by 2028, and better capturing affordability, deprivation, territorial disparities, access to basic goods and services, purchasing power, wealth and debt.

We encourage the Commission to ensure that these indicators include child-specific and disaggregated data, including by age, disability, ethnic or racial background, migration status, family situation and care experience. Eurochild strongly welcomes the strengthened participation of people experiencing poverty through the creation of a dedicated consultation forum. This forum should meaningfully include children and families with lived experience of poverty, alternative care, homelessness, discrimination, and exclusion.

On funding, the Strategy falls short of proposing dedicated anti-poverty earmarking. While the Commission proposes that at least 14% of National and Regional Partnership Plans under the next MFF should support social objectives, including child poverty and the ECG, this remains insufficient to match the scale of the challenge. Eurochild reiterates the need for:

- a strengthened and ring-fenced ESF+,
- dedicated investment for child poverty reduction and family support,
- stronger monitoring of social spending,
- horizontal rights-based and thematic ‘anti-poverty’ conditionalities linked to EU funds.

Overall, the EU Anti-Poverty Strategy represents an important framework for coordinated anti-poverty action across generations. However, the European Child Guarantee must remain the EU’s flagship instrument for tackling child poverty and social exclusion. Children must not be treated only as dependents of labour market policies, but as rights holders entitled to adequate resources, protection, participation and quality services. The

complementarity between the APS and the ECG Strengthening Communication offers a significant opportunity to move towards a truly child-centred and prevention-oriented social Europe.

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