



Commission Recommendation on Integrated Child Protection Systems, in the best interests of the child

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Some figures on child protection

1 out of 5

EU citizen is a child

114

children murdered in
2021 in 11 Member
States

1 out of 5

child in Europe falls
victim of sexual abuse
during its childhood

Every second

at least two images or
videos of a child's
sexual abuse are
published online

13% to 29%

of children (15 years
old) report being
frequently bullied in
the EU

190.000

girls at risks of being
genitally mutilated in
17 European
countries

222 100

first-time asylum
applicants in 2022 in
the EU were children

17%

of all asylum
applicant in 2022
were unaccompanied
children

**11% of LGBTI
children**

aged 15 to 17
experienced a
physical or sexual
attack due to being
LGBTI (2019).

**Up to 8% of
global GDP**

estimated economic
costs of violence
against children



Commission Recommendation on Integrated Child Protection systems

- Key deliverable under [the EU Strategy on the rights of the child](#), synergies with the European Child Guarantee
- Alignment with EU institutions calls: [EP](#), [Council](#), [Committee of Regions](#)
- **Close cooperation** with international organisations (UN, UNICEF, CoE), civil society organisations, broad consultation

Objective: Fight any form of violence against children

Encourage **Member States** to make sure their **child protection systems** are:

- Strong and further developed
- Working in an integrated way
- Promoting child protection as a global priority
- Making use of EU tools (legislation, policies, funding)

- Cross-policy initiative on child protection, [FRA Mapping](#)



Key principles (1)

1. Putting children at the centre

- 1,000 children consulted under the [EU Children's Participation Platform](#)
- Adapting to children's needs
- Listening to children

2. Supporting Member States to protect any child from any form of violence

3. Fostering a 'society-wide responsibility' to protect children

4. Responding to children needs online and offline

5. Protecting children's integrity and mental health, including preventing and fighting (cyber)bullying



Key principles (2)

6. **Improving coordination and cooperation**
7. **General framework of integrated child protection systems**
8. **Continuum of comprehensive and coordinated multi-disciplinary support**
9. **Better use of existing EU tools** (legislation, policies, fundings, technical assistance, exchange of good practices: EU Network on children's rights)
10. **EU external action on child protection**
 - Child protection support
 - Child labour
 - Children and Armed conflicts
 - Protection from climate change and environmental hazards



Focus – General framework of integrated child protection systems



National plans to fight violence against children



Coordination structures & mechanisms (across sectors, competent authorities at national/regional/local level, public/private)



Quality frameworks, trainings and guidance for professionals, attractivity and resources, safeguards



Data collection, monitoring violence against children and child protection systems

Focus – Continuity of comprehensive and coordinated services to address children’s needs



Prevention: preventive support, early identification, warning



Safe and inclusive environment in education: fight discrimination, respond to specific vulnerabilities



Support services to **children and families**, recommending to ban corporal punishment



Complaint and reporting mechanisms: accessible, safe, confidential, child-friendly, well-publicised



Multi-sectorial support services: assistance and support for child victims, families and caregivers

Example of resources

- [European Pillar of social rights](#), [European Child Guarantee](#), [European care Strategy](#)
- [Council Recommendation on High quality early childhood education and care systems](#)
- [Victims’ Rights Directive](#), [Proposed Directive on gender-based and domestic violence](#)
- [Child Helpline and Missing Children hotline](#)
- [European Social Fund+](#), [European Regional Development Fund](#), [Common Provisions Regulation](#), [Recovery and Resilience Facility](#)
- [Technical Support Instrument](#) CERV (Daphne call)

Focus – Alternative care and Deinstitutionalisation

Objective: De-institutionalisation and transition towards quality family and community-based care and services, in the best interests of the child

Best interests of the child as primary consideration, considering children's needs and wishes, preventive family support and services

Preventive family support and services

Prioritising and investing in **family-based and community-based care**, through **national strategies and programmes** to accelerate deinstitutionalisation and address the lack of foster families

Vetting and monitoring to **avoid multiple placements**, possibly considering family **re-integration**, supporting children transiting to adulthood

Example of key resources

- [European Child Guarantee](#)
- [Guidance on independent living and community inclusion \(planned for 2024\) complemented by Framework for social services of excellence for persons with disabilities](#)
- [European Social Fund+](#), [European Regional Development Fund](#),
- [Capacity-building under Erasmus+ to support the shift from institutions to person-centred, community-based inclusive services](#)

Synergies with the European Child Guarantee – alternative care

European Child Guarantee: fight child poverty and social exclusion

- Target group
- Key services, including housing
- Objective: De-institutionalisation and the transition towards quality family and community-based care and services, in the best interests of the child
- Examples of European Child Guarantee national action plans actions on alternative care



Child consultations: Alternative care and de-institutionalisation

1,095 children consulted via the EU Children's Participation Platform

Trust

Feeling safe

Preventive measures and family support

Communication about mental health

Social workers follow-up

Bond

Vetting, training

Communication channels among professionals to exchange information and support

Thank you very much for your attention!

“It is important for every child that they know that there are people they can contact, who will explain to them what the whole process looks like, that they feel safe while doing so, because children are afraid of what will happen to them if they report.”

Child from Croatia consulted on the initiative



Documents



Delivering on the [EU strategy on the rights of the child](#) [Factsheet](#)

Comprehensive package on integrated child protection

- [Commission Recommendation on integrated child protection systems](#)
- [Communication](#), [Annex](#) with existing relevant EU support (legislative, policy actions, funding)
- [Staff Working document](#)

Consultation

- [1,095 children](#) via the [EU Children's Participation Platform](#)
- [FRA Mapping](#) of national child protection systems
- [Call for Evidence](#) and [Open Public Consultation](#)
- [EU Network for Children's Rights](#)
(Member States, international and civil society organisations)
- ISC, ISG on children's rights and JUST contact group – Thank you!

