



**HIGH-LEVEL EVENT**

**10 June 2021, 15:00-17:00 (CEST)**

## **Making the European Child Guarantee a Reality**

Insights from testing the European Child Guarantee

**In coordination with**

**The Portuguese Presidency of the Council of European Union**

**Live Event:** <https://youtu.be/ukJiKegGAfE>

## Background

On 24 March 2021 the European Commission presented its proposal for a Council Recommendation establishing a [European Child Guarantee](#). According to this proposal, the Member States are expected to develop national action plans on how to implement the Guarantee.

To test the European Child Guarantee in practice, the Commission partnered with UNICEF Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia (ECARO) to run, until July 2022, pilot projects in seven Member States. Four (Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece and Italy) are developing and testing for scalability, evidence-based models of services and interventions focused on ensuring access to services for the most disadvantaged children, with a focus on the four target groups: children with disabilities, children in precarious family situations, children residing in institutions and refugee and migrant children. Along with three other Member States (Germany, Lithuania and Spain) they are also planning their interventions in relation to the Child Guarantee objectives using nationally available policy and programme information.

In November 2020, a launch event was held to kick off this pilot project. This online launch event brought together ministers and high-level representatives in charge of social affairs in the participating countries, European Commission and UNICEF to discuss the framework of the project and demonstrate political commitment for the timely rollout of the European Child Guarantee.

On 8 May 2021, the EU leaders issued the Porto Declaration, in which they stress their commitment to reducing inequalities, defending fair wages, fighting social exclusion and tackling poverty, taking on the objective of fighting child poverty and addressing the risks of exclusion for particularly vulnerable social groups such as the long-term unemployed, the elderly, persons with disabilities and the homeless. The signatories of the accompanying Porto Social Commitment call for a comprehensive approach to lifting children out of poverty by mainstreaming the child guarantee across all policy sectors while boosting investment in sustainable jobs and social support for their parents.

## Objective

This high-level event on 10 June will take stock of how the Child Guarantee pilot has progressed to date. It will provide an opportunity to share experiences and give concrete examples of good practices, models and services that are proving successful in supporting children in need and addressing child poverty and social exclusion.

The high-level event aims to

- **Mobilise widespread political support and reinforce the momentum** for the implementation of the European Child Guarantee in all Member States.
- **Learn from the experience, insights and lessons learned** from countries involved in the pilot project and share their experience and practises.

It will achieve these goals by:

- **Sharing lessons learned and insights on the policy environment and governance mechanisms** required to effectively lay the groundwork for implementation of the European Child Guarantee, while taking into account challenges like policy design, planning, programming, budgeting, governance, child participation, monitoring and evaluation.
- **Sharing insights and experience on the models of services**, which present compelling evidence that investing in children facing poverty is the most effective way of breaking the cycle disadvantage.
- **Engaging additional Member States beyond the pilot countries** around lessons learned, ideas for the future operationalisation of the European Child Guarantee in their countries and regions.

**The high-level event is organised jointly by the UNICEF Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia, the Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the European Union and the European Commission.**

# Agenda

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Time	Agenda Item	Speakers
<b>Moderator: Shada Islam</b>		
<b>Opening</b>		
15:00 – 15:20	<b>Opening remarks</b>	<p><b>Mr. David Sassoli</b>, President of the European Parliament (Video Message)</p> <p><b>Ms. Ana Mendes Godinho</b>, Minister for Employment, Solidarity, and Social Security, Portugal</p> <p><b>Mr. Nicolas Schmit</b>, European Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights</p> <p><b>Ms. Afshan Khan</b>, UNICEF Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia (ECA), and Special Coordinator for the Refugee and Migrant Response in Europe</p>
<b>Panel 1: Lessons learned from the pilot projects</b>		
15:20 – 16:05	<b>Services and interventions focusing on the most disadvantaged children</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Sharing of experience from pilot Member States</b></p> <p><b>Mr. Josip Aladrović</b>, Minister of Labour, Pension System, Family and Social Policy, Croatia</p> <p><b>Ms. Elena Bonetti</b>, Minister for Equal Opportunities and Family, Italy</p> <p><b>Ms. Domna-Maria Michailidou</b>, Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Affairs, Greece</p> <p><b>Mr. Ivan Krastev</b>, Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Policy, Bulgaria</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Reflection from:</b></p> <p><b>Ms. Florica Cherecheș</b>, President of the National Authority for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Children and Adoptions, Romania</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Reactions from other participants</b></p>
<b>Panel 2: Policies and programmes to prevent and combat child poverty and exclusion</b>		
16:05 – 16:50	<b>Accelerating and implementing policies for ending child poverty and exclusion</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Sharing of experience from pilot Member States</b></p> <p><b>Mr. Andrea Orlando</b>, Minister of Labour and Social Policies, Italy</p> <p><b>Ms. Vilma Augienė</b>, Deputy Minister of Social Security and Labour, Lithuania</p>

**Mr. Nacho Álvarez**, Secretary of State for Social Rights, Spain  
Germany (TBC)

**Reflection from:**

**Mr. Adrien Taquet**, State Secretary for Childhood and Family, France

**Reactions from other participants**

**Closing Session**

16:50 – 17:00

**Looking to the future**

**Mr. Cigler Kralj**, Minister of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, Slovenia

**Building momentum for the European Child Guarantee**

**Ms. Dubravka Šuica**, Vice-President of the European Commission for Democracy and Demography