



## Working Paper on the Mapping of Activities and priorities on child poverty and child well-being

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The EU Alliance for Investing in Children aims to **promote comprehensive policies** to tackle child poverty and promote well-being, by **providing expert support** in the **development of EU and national policies, legislation and funding programmes**, in line with the European Commission Recommendation [\*Investing in Children – Breaking the Cycle of Disadvantage\*](#).

It aims to bring together the perspectives, experience and expertise of different EU networks and their national members.

This working document presents the results of a mapping exercise carried out in February 2014 to understand the specific expertise of Alliance members related to child poverty and well-being. 17 organisations<sup>1</sup> completed the survey, providing a wealth of information on the work done and underway to reduce child poverty and promote child well-being across Europe.

The mapping shows the wealth of knowledge and expertise available within the EU Alliance across all three pillars of the Investing in Children Recommendation.

Many networks are working in the area of Pillar 2, 'Access to affordable quality services'. Health, housing and living environments are particular priorities of many Alliance members.

Many organisations focus their work on the most disadvantaged children: e.g. migrant children, Roma, children with disabilities, children in alternative care.

The mapping also highlights the expertise and knowledge available in horizontal areas: advocacy, building of strategic alliances, contributing to and shaping key EU processes such as the National Reform Programmes, Country Specific Recommendations, the European Semester framework, peer reviews and public events. The link between *thematic* work and broader EU processes e.g. in the framework of the EU2020 priorities and targets is recognised as very important, and use of EU Structural Funds for social inclusion and the implementation of the Investing in Children Recommendation are key opportunity to pursue.

This mapping will inform future action of the EU alliance and will be updated regularly with new outputs of Alliance members and if/when new members join. Thanks goes to Miriana Giraldi Alliance Coordinator (January – March 2014) for preparing this first version of the mapping.

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<sup>1</sup>Alliance for Childhood, Caritas Europa, COFACE, EAPN, EASPD, European Child Safety Alliance, ENSA, Eurochild, Eurodiaconia, EuroHealthNet, EPHA, European Social Network, FEANTSA, Mental Health Europe, PICUM, Save the Children, SOS Children's Villages International.

## Areas of Expertise:

The survey started by asking respondents to describe the areas of work related to child poverty and well-being in which they've been active as a European Network. This was an open question, and respondents could include as many areas as they wished.

A first look at the results of the survey shows that there's a very broad range of areas of expertise in which EU Alliance members have been involved<sup>2</sup>:



The *Investing in Children Recommendation* calls for the development of integrated strategies based on three key pillars: access to adequate resources, access to affordable care services and children's rights to participate. Analysing data according to these principles shows that a great number of partner organisations have experience in the broad area of providing access to affordable quality services, which may be a reflection of the composition of the EU Alliance:

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<sup>2</sup> Text size corresponds to number of mentions

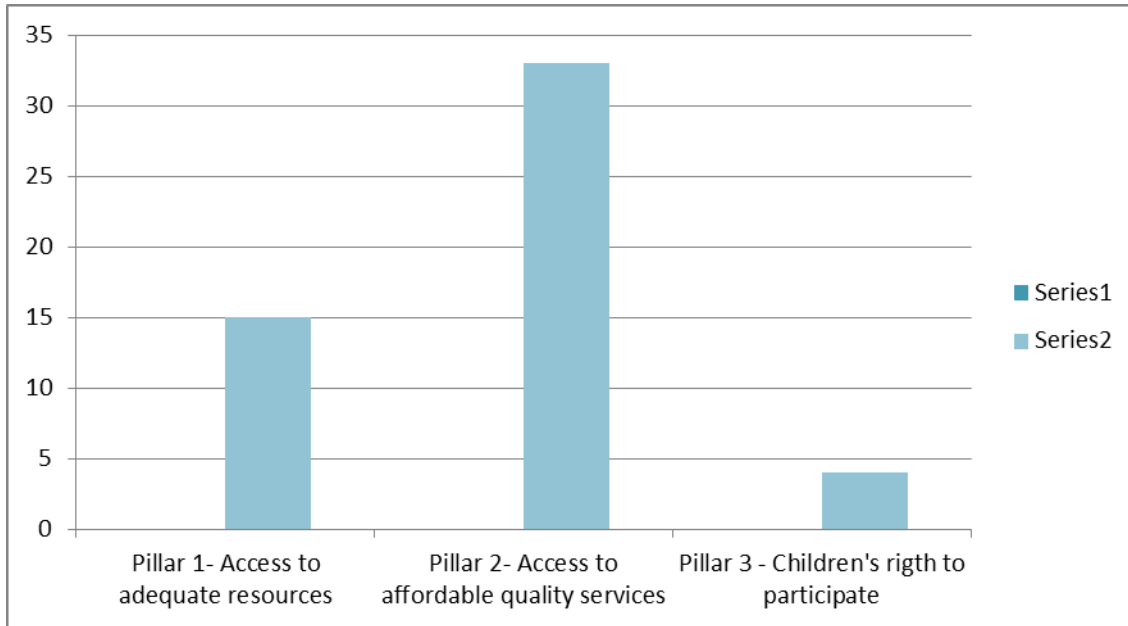


Figure 1 - Areas of Expertise by 'pillar' [multiple choice question.]

A closer look at this field of expertise reveals that many organisations have been working on access to and quality of health systems, but there's equally a lot of experience in the other service areas: early childhood education and care, education systems, adequate housing and living conditions:

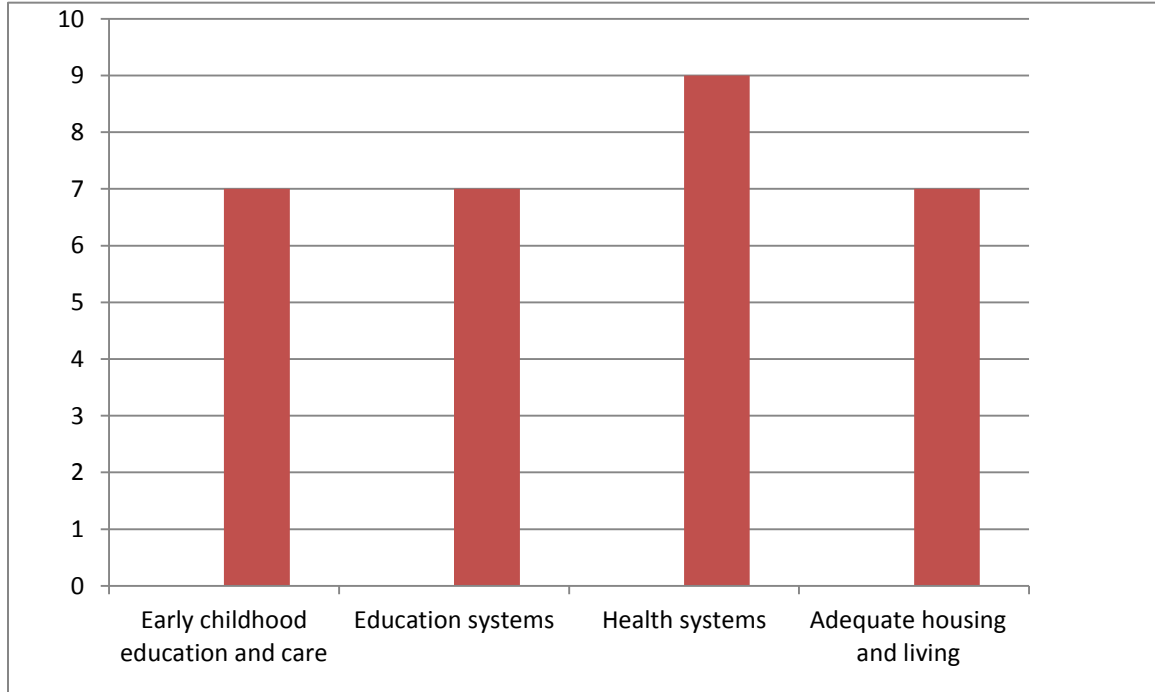


Figure 2 – Detailed areas of expertise in services [multiple choice question.]

## 1. Access to adequate resources:

The *Investing in Children* Recommendation recognises access to adequate resources as one of the key components for the eradication of child poverty and the promotion of child well-being. Two main strands are identified in this area: support to parents' participation in the labour market, including for example, provisions to ensure that work pays and access by all families, including the most vulnerable, to affordable, quality, early childhood education and care (ECEC), thus making labour market participation a real possibility.

EAPN (European Anti Poverty Network) has done a lot of work on minimum income, social protection and social rights. Currently, it coordinates a major project, funded by the European Commission, on guaranteeing an adequate minimum income: [EMIN](#). Concerns about guaranteed adequate income for children and families are key. EAPN is also a partner in the [Drivers Project](#) coordinated by EuroHealthNet on the social determinants of health inequalities, of which Eurochild is also a partner, where it is engaged in the work package on social protection and social rights, carrying out case studies with focus groups assessing the impact of changes in social protection systems and social rights and the link with health inequity.

Eurodiaconia has been following the issue of child poverty and social exclusion for several years in the framework of its overall work on poverty and social exclusion, and within its marginalisation and exclusion network. This work has been brought together in a [policy paper on child poverty and social exclusion published in 2012](#) that highlights increasing child poverty levels linked to the persistent economic and financial crisis and recommends ensuring access to adequate resources to children and their families as a specific tool to reverse the situation of poor children and families in Europe.

ENSA, the European Network of Social Authorities, has been engaged in issues to do with access to child care and support to families and parents in developing parental skills and accessing child care services. For example, the network was involved in a project on early intervention to support new parents in child care skills – [Chain](#).

SOS Children's Villages has been active in enhancing family support and the quality of alternative care settings, and in supporting parents' participation in the labour market, particularly for parents at risk of family separation.

Undocumented migrant children are at high risk of poverty and are often excluded from services, with significant impact on their well-being. PICUM, the Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants, advocates for fair working conditions for all, regardless of status, as undocumented migrants often work in exploitative conditions and are thus in-work poor.

COFACE, the Confederation of Family Organisations in the EU, has also looked into the issue of access to adequate resources. Specifically, they've been focusing on family and social policy; reconciling work and family life to prevent family and child poverty; Early Childhood Education and Care, in terms of availability of accessible, affordable and quality services for young children and Carers, i.e. provision of support to families with a family member with disabilities. They've also been working on financial inclusion, specifically on access to a basic bank account and over indebtedness; early school leavers and migration (employment for migrants, transnational families and children left behind).

Caritas Europa's work focuses on home life and family support. Its work on child poverty is carried out within the broader context of the situation of the entire family – as in most cases, child poverty occurs within the family and they have been advocating for family support as a result.

Save the Children promotes adequate investment in children as a means of achieving lasting positive changes to the lives of children growing up in poverty and to society as a whole. Investment in children should be a fiscal principle recognising that resources allocated to children today will deliver benefits to society now and in the future. Save the Children also believes that universal welfare should be strengthened as its implementation does not stigmatise and has proven to be an important factor to ensure social mobility and cohesion in society.

The European Child Safety Alliance has advocated for many years that the investment in child injury prevention from all relevant sectors at the national and European levels has not been commensurate with the size of the problem; with Injury (unintentional and intentional injury) being the leading cause of death, disability, burden and inequity to Europe's children. Ensuring children's right to safety will provide support to raise the level of health, well-being and growth for European children and society at large.

Across the EU, 27,9%<sup>3</sup> of children are at risk of poverty and social exclusion compared to an average of 17% for the total population. The main groups of children at risk of poverty or social exclusion are: children in lone-parent families, those in large families, those with unemployed or underemployed parents, children in immigrant and ethnic minorities' families, and disabled.

We live in a society where the socio-economic status into which children are born is still probably the most important determinant of their well-being, education outcomes, and employment prospects. Eurochild believes that it is absolutely crucial to take a child-centred approach based on the principles enshrined in the UNCRC. Such an approach ensures that children's well-being is addressed in a holistic way and that their needs are seen from their perspective.

Eurochild also focuses on a rights-based approach to moving families out of material poverty, putting effective child-centered measures in place to create decent employment opportunities for parents, thus bringing a child-rights focus to work to the reconciliation debate. For Eurochild, policies and measures that aim to reconcile work and family life should be at the heart of Europe's recovery from the financial, economic and social crisis. Parents' access to work is an important part of the solution, but jobs alone are not enough. It is important to reflect on some key questions that will help devise better policy proposals in this respect: Are jobs sufficiently paid to give families adequate income? Are working parents still physically and emotionally available for their children? This is very important since the quality of relationships and the quality time spent by children with their parents is crucial for their well-being. Are quality services, allowing parents to work, safe in the knowledge that their children are nurtured by caring professionals in place? Improving working conditions and increasing support measures such as parental leave and access to affordable quality ECEC are essential for proper integration in the labour market, just as ensure that the family has all the necessary material support as well as appropriate social interventions that enable parents to fully embrace their responsibilities towards their children.

## **2. Access to affordable quality services:**

Social services are seen as a key tool to reducing poverty and social exclusion: early childhood education and care services can be used as a **social investment** to address inequalities at a young age and in tackling specific challenges faced by disadvantaged children. Education systems can be improved to have a real impact on the emotional, social, cognitive and physical development of all children. Health care services should be responsive so as to address effectively the needs of children, who are also entitled to live in safe and adequate housing and environments. Finally, The Recommendation stresses the importance of enhancing family support and the quality of alternative care settings.

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<sup>3</sup> [Eurostat](#) statistics on people at risk of poverty and social exclusion, as of 14<sup>th</sup> March 2014.

## Reduce inequalities at an early age by investing in early childhood education and care

Several organisations are involved in work to ensure access to child care and support to families and parents in parental skills, e.g. ENSA. SOS Children's Villages International are committed to the reduction of inequalities at an early age by ensuring access to affordable early childhood education and care services (spanning the range of ECEC services and also education, health and housing), particularly for children and young people without parental care or at risk of losing it.

Undocumented children are at high risk of poverty and are often excluded from services, with significant impacts on their well-being. PICUM advocates actively for access to services for all children regardless of residence or migration status. The organization has carried out legal analysis for several EU Member States on access to education, health care and housing for undocumented children, as well as mapping the situation in practice and identifying good practices. They've also prepared a number of reports on access to education, health care and housing for undocumented children, and on realizing the rights of children and families in an irregular migrant situation.

Eurochild's work on Early Years Education and Care is based on the principle that universal, non-discriminatory accessible and affordable provision of ECEC services should be available to all children. For services to support adequately children's development, a few key conditions must be in place: **quality provision**, to support the psychological and social development of children and especially those from deprived backgrounds; the best interest of the child should be the primary concern on how to meet demand and organize services. The **availability of additional resources for children with diverse learning needs**, so that ECEC services can really contribute to social development and cohesion. A **coordinated policy framework for children and their families**, and the **development of pedagogical approaches** that respect the child and reach out to parents and communities.

## **Improve education systems' impact on equal opportunities**

As stated in the [Learning for Well-being Charter](#), education needs to nurture the individual capacities of every child. Standardised approaches to education need to be challenged to fully embrace diversity and respect differences – whether due to the child's cultural, social or physical circumstances or whether they relate to different patterns of processing, learning and communicating. These are the principles on which Eurochild bases its work on education.

EASPD, the European Association of Service providers for Persons with Disabilities, has been working on inclusive education, as well as on transition from school to the labour market for children and young people with disabilities. However much it is legally forbidden to discriminate against persons with disabilities, they still face important barriers to inclusion. BITSE is a research project that seeks to identify the barriers that prevent persons with disabilities to find employment after school. The Association coordinates the INVESTT project, with a goal to improve the transition from vocational education and training (VET) towards employment and provide vocational schools and enterprises with specific information and practical suggestions to implement universal design in the VET context. The objective of this is to guide all students, including those with disabilities, towards the open labour market. The [Manifesto on Inclusive Learning](#) outlines the path to follow to ensure inclusive education is a right for all children with disabilities across Europe.

Equal access to free high quality education is central to securing equal opportunities and to breaking poverty cycles. Primary and secondary school outcomes are influenced by the family's background. Offering a greater variety of education and training opportunities, both formal and informal, as well as after-school programmes could support the reduction of early school leaving. Costs for education hinder participation by children experiencing poverty and should be removed. Save the Children advocates for free quality education for all children and for Early Childhood Education and Care services, in particular for vulnerable and/or marginalised children.

SOS Children's Villages recognises that accessible and inclusive education tremendously contributes to breaking the cycle of child poverty. Through the development of Education Programmes, SOS children's Villages are actively working to redress the misbalance in the attainment of a quality education. In countries across the EU, the organisation seeks to provide, inclusive education services to some of the most disadvantaged children and young people. In many of their Educational Programmes, services are offered to all children living in the community as a means of breaking the social stigma that is often associated with children without parental care and promoting their social inclusion. Over the last number of years SOS Children's Villages has expanded its area of expertise to work successfully with children with disabilities as to ensure their right to access and obtain a quality education. The importance of education as a prerequisite to breaking the cycle of poverty is well documented in the "[I Matter Peer Research](#)" Project, a project which was funded by the European Commission. This project, involving young people in and leaving care, demonstrated the importance of education in preparing care leavers for the transition from care to a successful life of independence.

## **Improve the responsiveness of health systems to address the needs of disadvantaged children**

EuroHealthNet aims to stimulate and support actions that address the social determinants of health and health inequalities and to contribute to better health for European citizens, with greater equity within and between states and regions. The cross-cutting theme in their work is health inequalities. It is well known that health inequalities begin very early in life and are best addressed through early,



multi-sectoral interventions, to mitigate the effects of early disadvantage and to ensure these are not compounded over the life-course. EuroHealthNet actively seeks to strengthen collaboration between health and other sectors (particularly the social sector) to improve the social determinants of health.

Recent initiatives relating to the issue of child poverty are the [DRIVERS](#) research project aiming at the promotion of health equity through policy and practice in **early childhood development**, employment and working conditions and income and social protection; the [GRADIENT](#) project, that identified what actions are effective to level up the gradient in health inequalities, focusing on families and children, since the greatest impact on reducing the health gradient can be achieved through early life policy interventions and by creating equal opportunities during childhood and adolescence. The project led to the development of a Gradient Evaluation Framework tool, and it looked at the effects of community social capital on children.

In addition, it looked into social welfare systems, and unsurprisingly found that the countries that invest most in family friendly policies have more level socio-economic gradients.

EuroHealthNet was also involved in the [Joint Action on Health Inequalities \(Equity Action\)](#), where they contributed to a work-strand on regional approaches to health inequalities reduction, looking at ways to involve public health authorities in the application of Structural Funds for this purpose, as well as on stakeholder engagement.

The European Childhood Safety Alliance works with country partners in more than 30 countries for the effective adoption, implementation and enforcement of evidence based strategies known to reduce injuries. Effective prevention strategies exist but are they not consistently available or in place throughout Europe, especially for disadvantaged families. In fact the social class gradient in child injury is steeper than for any other cause of childhood death or long term disability (Marmot 2010). Efforts to increase the uptake of evidence based child injury prevention strategies for both unintentional and intentional injuries are underway as post of the TACTICS project <http://www.childsafetyeurope.org/tactics/index.html>

Mental Health Europe has done some research on violence against children and its impact on mental health. They have concentrated their efforts on youth, early intervention and prevention. Some of their members are also involved in provision of services to children with mental health problems, early intervention parenting programme, and so on.

Child poverty and social exclusion and the promotion of children's health and well-being have been in the European Public Health Alliance's (EPHA) focus throughout their ongoing policy and advocacy work aimed to improve population health and increasing healthy life years (with a concrete focus on the conditions of early years development). Their aims are to increase equity and access in health and reduce health inequalities (with a concrete focus on contribution from high quality, accessible, affordable and adequate healthcare system and services), including around SRHR (sexual and reproductive health rights) and maternal health; and to support a European institutional framework promoting health and well-being. This would place children's (and other vulnerable groups') health, the fight against poverty and social exclusion and the impact of the economic crisis and austerity measures on the spot whilst debating economic, social, research and governance frameworks. This is done from a health-in-all-policies approach, addressing children's health inequalities and child poverty across sectors – according to the macro- and micro-level socio-economic determinants of health principle.



Eurochild's work on children's health follows the World Health Organisation's definition of health as the "complete state of physical, mental and social well-being" which provides a more holistic perspective, as recognized in the Learning for Well-being Charter. Even if a child lives with chronic illness or disability, it is possible for them to lead 'healthy' lives by drawing upon and nurturing their innate strengths and capacities.

SOS Children's Villages ensures that children and young people in its family support and care programmes have access to quality health services. It also works together with parents and communities, and local governments to improve community health services or create them where they do not exist. The outcome of these experiences clearly shows that quality health care for mothers and children is critical in helping keep families together, enabling children growing into healthy citizens and breaking the cycle of poverty.

### **Provide children with a safe, adequate housing and living environment**

FEANTSA, the European Federation of National Organisations working with the Homeless, has focused on children in the [ETHOS typology](#) categories of rooflessness, houselessness, insecure housing and inadequate housing and have carried out stock tacking exercises on child homelessness over the years. Additionally, FEANTSA has analysed the impact of homelessness and/ or housing exclusion on children and families, as well as on the health of children. Homeless services are, in principle, not for children as they are referred to child protection services or are placed in care. But in practice, homelessness is on the increase and social services are under huge pressure, so that homeless services in many countries also host families with children. FEANTSA services are increasingly reaching out to housing providers (social, private) to ensure more sustainable housing and support solutions to end homelessness. Prevention of youth homelessness is another area that FEANTSA focuses on, highlighting the need to ensure smooth transitions from adolescence to independent living (especially for adolescents with a history of State care).

One of the key recommendations of SOS' Peer Research comprises that young people leaving care should receive adequate support in selecting housing that best matches their assessed needs. SOS Children's Villages supports young people leaving an SOS programme in founding housing arrangements that respect minimum standards agreed on by the organization. Young people actively participate in the process of solving their accommodation.

### **Enhance family support and the quality of alternative care settings**

Eurochild, EASPD, ESN, COFACE, FEANTSA, Mental Health Europe and UNICEF have been engaged, with other organisations, in developing and promoting a "[deinstitutionalisation roadmap](#)" supporting a sustained transition from institutional care to family-based and community-based alternatives for children, persons with disabilities, persons with mental health problems and older persons in Europe.

Across Europe, hundreds of thousands of children are growing up in institutional care. The consequences are devastating for children, families and for society as a whole. This situation persists in spite of overwhelming evidence which demonstrates that a loving family environment is crucial to a child's development and that family-based care is more effective than institutional care for children in the long term. Eurochild is fully committed to the process of deinstitutionalisation and to the provision of quality alternative care for children without parental support. Work in this field is carried out mainly via the "[Opening Doors for Europe's Children](#)" Campaign, a pan-European Campaign that operates at EU level and in 12 countries across the continent, calling on the EU and

national governments to prioritise the transition from institutional to family-based care. Through its strategic advocacy, the campaign can boast the achievement of major goals at EU level, such as an objective to enhance family support and the quality of alternative care settings in the EC Recommendation Investing in Children and the inclusion of deinstitutionalisation as a priority in the Structural Funds Regulations, and work is underway to ensure that these ‘wins’ can be translated at National level.

The goal of the campaign is to improve the quality of life of children and young people in, at risk of entering, or leaving institutional care across Europe. We want to achieve this by promoting the transition from institutional to family-based care.

Now more than ever, the EU has a critical role to play. Parts of the next 7-year budget of the EU (2014-2020), in particular structural funds and pre-accession funds, can be used to support the transition from institutional to community and family-based care. In February 2013 the European Commission’s Social Investment Package calls on member states to invest in human capital and social cohesion. Within that the Recommendation “Investing in children, breaking the cycle of disadvantage” explicitly calls on member states to ‘stop the expansion of institutional care settings for children without parental care; and promote quality, community-based care and foster care within family settings instead, where children’s voice is given due consideration’.

Concerted political will to implement policy guidance given in the Social Investment Package, the Investing in Children Recommendation and the Structural Funds regulations and to use EU funding has the potential to transform the lives of hundreds of thousands of children across Europe.

SOS Children’s Villages International helps families care for their children and provide quality alternative care for children who cannot live with their biological families. In this framework, they developed *Care for ME!*, SOS Children’s Villages’ first global advocacy campaign, aiming at promoting the use of the UN Guidelines for Alternative Care of Children and to improve child care protection systems in the campaign countries based on national needs assessments.

As a horizontal priority, EASPD is also committed to work on quality of services and staff training and on social services innovation – see, for example, the [INNOSERV](#) project.

### **3. Children’s right to participate:**

‘Children’s right to participate’ encompasses both support for the participation of children in play, recreation, sport and cultural activities, including informal learning activities, and the opportunity for children to express their views – through mechanisms promoting participation in decision making affecting their lives.

Eurochild is committed to giving a voice to children and young people in Europe aiming to get them increasingly engaged in dialogue with adults and participating actively as equal partners in shaping decisions that impact their lives. To this end, Eurochild works with members and partners advocating and creating opportunities to make the right of children to be heard a reality.

For example, Eurochild led a European project – Speak up! – aiming at giving a voice to European children in vulnerable situations, and have consulted with children on key policy issues, e.g. on poverty, and have published papers outlining the contribution of children’s participation to fighting poverty and social exclusion.

Learning for Well-being ([www.learningforwellbeing.org](http://www.learningforwellbeing.org)), one of the partners of the Alliance for Childhood, is a 'work in progress' of a consortium of NGOs, researchers, practitioners and foundations aiming to highlight the interconnectedness of problems and situations, and the necessity for cooperation across multiple service providers and sectors. Learning for Well-being proposes a vision of inclusive societies where children and young people are recognised as competent partners who must participate actively in decisions about their own lives to enhance well-being for all. It offers a holistic definition of well-being, derived from major declarations by international and European organisations: 'a journey of realizing one's unique potential through physical, emotional, mental and spiritual development in relation to self, others, and the environment'.

Caritas Europa's work is based on participation of children and their voices are included in their advocacy on child poverty.

Save the Children has its starting point in the UNCRC: a human-rights-based approach constitutes the basis for their fight against child poverty. Save the Children want to inspire a change in the perception of child poverty in Europe and generate an increased awareness and recognition of the scale and impact of child poverty which constitutes one of the principal sources of child rights violations in Europe. Save the Children advocates for children's right to participation and child-friendly justice, as fulfilling children's rights is central to combating poverty and social exclusion. Children must participate in all decisions affecting them and all children, including migrant children, should have equal access to justice.

SOS Children's Villages supports the participation of children in decision making processes that affect their lives. For all children in SOS programmes, a child development planning process is carried out with the full participation of each child. The planning process to develop new SOS programmes applies various participatory methods, including consultation with children. Furthermore, youth participation and empowerment are an important component of SOS Children's Villages' advocacy work. For instance, *I Matter* advocacy campaign, a 5-year campaign that was carried out in 21 countries in Europe and Central Asia, promoted the participation of young people with alternative care experience in the campaign by the creation of an International Youth Council (IYC). One of the main tasks of the IYC was to feed into the international campaign, for example by giving feedback to documents and decisions, shaping key messages for the campaign, and presenting these key messages to international stakeholders. One of the most important activities of the *I Matter* campaign was a [peer research](#) project. This research project was conducted with strong input from young people with care experience, who were trained as peer researchers and were involved in the design, implementation and evaluation of the project. Recently, SOS Children's Villages and the Council of Europe issued their publication "[Securing Children's Rights: A Guide for Professionals Working in Alternative Care](#)". Young people with care experience were consulted in the drafting process and provided direct input to the guide's content.

#### **4. Horizontal issues: making full use of relevant EU instruments**

In addition to proposing the three-pillar approach, the Investing in Children Recommendation recognises the need to further develop necessary governance, implementation and monitoring arrangements if the Recommendation is to make a positive difference in practice. This means strengthening synergies across sectors and improving governance arrangements and strengthening the use of evidence-based approaches.

Making full use of EU financial instruments will be essential for the successful implementation of the strategy outlined within the Recommendation. Addressing child poverty and social exclusion as a key issue within the Europe 2020 Strategy and mobilising relevant EU financial instruments to support identified policy priorities are spelled out as the key tools to translate priorities into practice.

Many EU Alliance partners are involved in, or have considerable experience of, feeding into EU policy processes, such as the Social Open Method of Coordination (Social OMC), the EU2020 Strategy, the European semester – as well as on the Structural Funds and their use to promote Social Inclusion.

Using the Europe 2020 Strategy has been recognised as a main way of pressing for implementation of the Recommendation, together with the European Semester and the Social OMC – particularly the National Social Reports. EAPN has long-standing experience of engaging with the EU processes with its members at national level, and child poverty and the promotion of child well-being are key concerns and have been a key area for questions and recommendations with a specific focus given to the implementation of the Investing in Children Recommendation.

EAPN have developed considerable expertise on EU financial instruments, particularly Structural Funds, and how to use them for Social Inclusion. A number of tool kits and publications have been produced. In a recent mapping document, several EAPN members highlighted how EU funds could be used for support to children and youth inclusion. EAPN have also worked with members, including Eurochild, to propose how EU funds can be used to deliver on the Recommendation, involving NGOs in the partnership principle.

ESN has been actively involved in the preparation of the investing in Children Recommendation, including stakeholders' consultations, participation in Presidency conferences, and the Annual EPAP Convention. They also participate in Peer Reviews and organise conferences.

Eurodiaconia has been feeding into EU policies looking at this specific topic, especially through various conferences at EU level (EU Presidency, European Parliament, EU NGOs, etc.) consultations with the Social Protection Committee and the European Commission, and consultations as one of the stakeholders of the European Platform against Poverty, etc.

Eurochild requests feedback from its members on the NRPs and Country-specific recommendations and uses this input to create its own Alternative Country-Specific Recommendations and a synthesis report analyzing the NRPs. These documents also feed into broader NRP analysis and Alternative Country-specific recommendations composed in conjunction with the EAPN and other European networks. Eurochild also publishes Presidency score cards which assess the out-going Presidencies commitment to children's rights and the implementation of the Recommendation on Investing in Children. In addition, Eurochild encourages its members to use the structural funds to implement the Recommendation on Investing in Children through toolkits and guidance notes and will be monitoring, through its members, how the partnership principle is applied in Member States

SOS Children's Villages has been closely involved in the preparation of the Investing in Children Recommendation since 2010 under the Belgian EU Presidency. SOS Children's Villages supports its Member Associations to make use of EU processes, such as Europe2020 and ESIF funding.

## Main areas of interest and priority for future work:

Respondents were asked to indicate their main areas of interest for future work, in order of importance. As shown in the graph below, a very broad range of policy areas was mentioned.

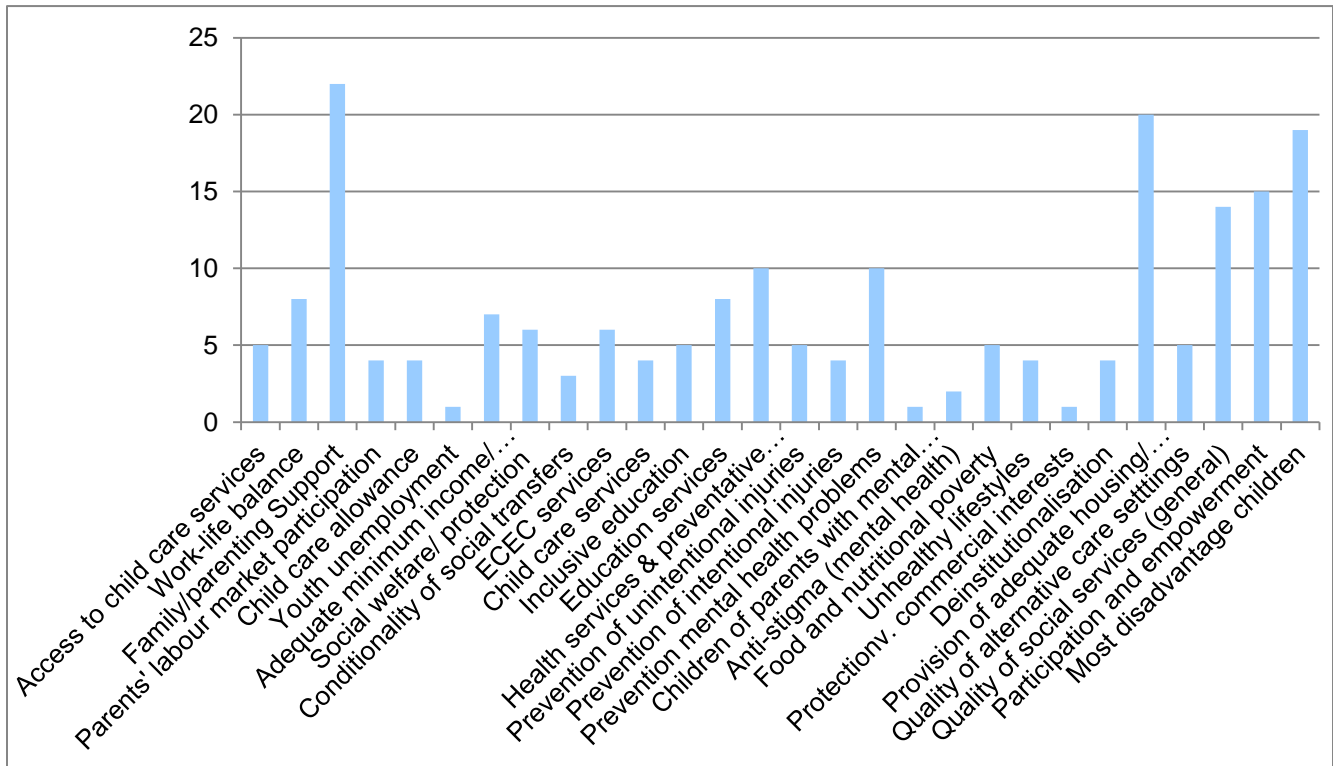


Figure 3 Areas of priority - multiple choice question, answers ranked from most to least important.

In analysing results, a weight of '5' was attributed to the most important priority for each organisation, down to a weight of '1' to the least important. Where more than 5 priorities were given, all mentions after the 5<sup>th</sup> were also given a weight of '1'.

In the following paragraphs, we will describe priorities by key pillar, i.e. grouped by topic only, while rankings will be shown through graphs.

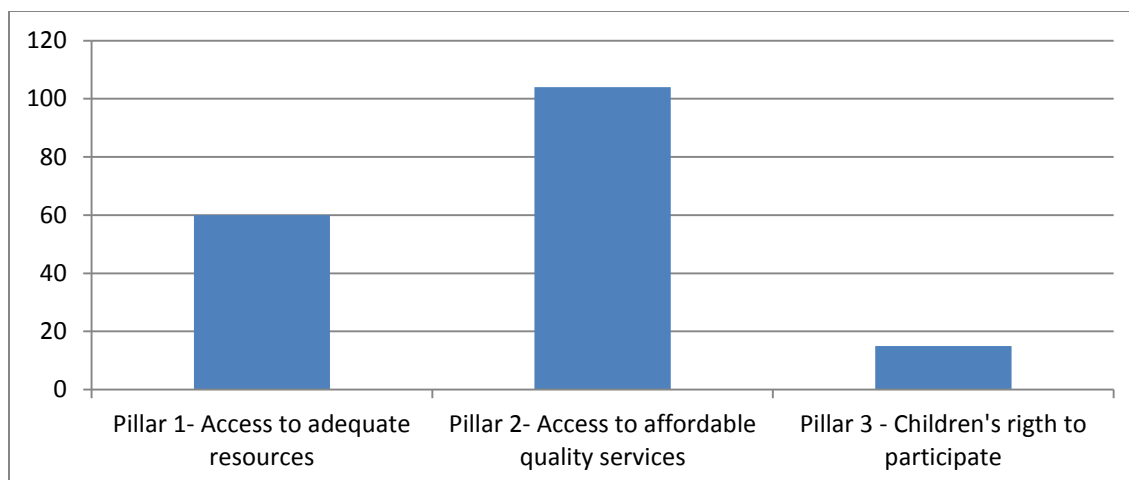


Figure 4 - Priority areas by pillar - multiple choice question. Answers weighted by order of importance.

## 1. Access to adequate resources

One of EAPN's main priorities is that of adequate resources, an area in which the organisation has particular expertise, through the EMIN project, the campaign on minimum income, as well as EAPN's work on in-work poverty and quality work. Here our concern is to ensure adequate family income, with specific focus on children's needs.

EAPN are also interested in making progress in the areas of inequality reduction and Tax Reform – how to finance universal social protection, including child benefits. 'Well-being and beyond GDP' is another theme of interest, also in terms of how well-being as an objective can be pushed higher up the EU and national agendas, particularly in relation to progress on an index of multiple indicators, to replace GDP as the sole trigger.

Reconciling family time and working time is one of ENSA's priorities. SOS Children's Villages' are also interested in supporting parents' participation in the labour market, particularly for parents at risk of family separation. Mental Health Europe are also interested in parenting support as a theme.

As 2014 is the European Year of Reconciling Work and family Life, Coface will invest a lot of efforts in related activities. They will also continue prioritizing their work on family and social policy, financial inclusion, early school leavers and migration, including employment for migrants, transnational families and children left behind.

Caritas Europa has a particular interest in ensuring adequate minimum income for families, at least above the relative poverty threshold, to prevent and combat child poverty and in promoting a greater integration of family aimed at breaking the cycle of poverty and the transmission of disadvantage across generations.

## 2. Access to affordable quality services

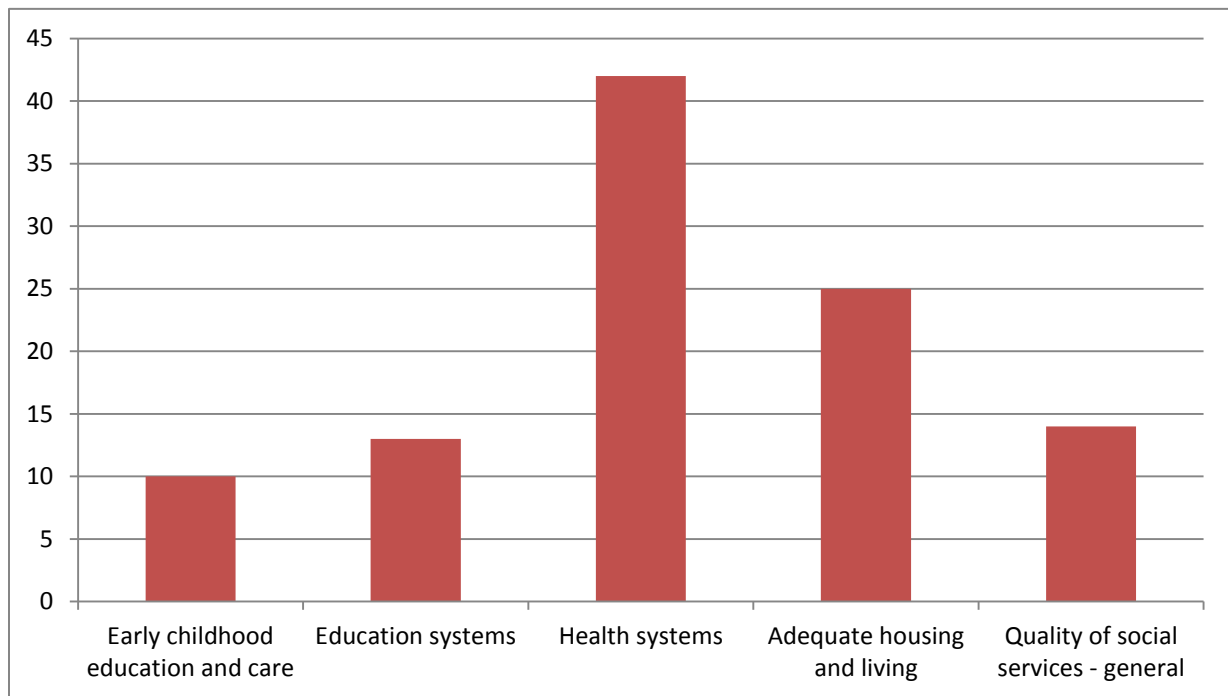


Figure 5 - Areas of priority for pillar 2: access to quality services; multiple choice question, answers ranked in order of importance

EuroHealthNet are interested in identifying effective policies and interventions across the EU that benefit children that are less and least-well off and that can thereby help to improve their physical and mental health and curb health inequalities. They are also interested in specific health problems afflicting children, such as child obesity, and how these can be prevented and addressed, particularly amongst lower socio-economic groups.

Mental Health Europe is particularly interested in prevention and early detection of mental health problems from childhood, in adequate support and affordable services to children with mental health problems, anti-stigma, and on children of parents with mental health problems.

EPHA, the European Public Health Alliance are to focus on a range of issues to do with improving the responsiveness of health systems to address the needs of disadvantaged children, namely food and nutritional poverty, unhealthy lifestyles and poor daily living conditions. Access to quality health care, especially preventive measures, mental health and protecting children against commercial interests (e.g. advertising, marketing, internet) will be further priorities.

Inclusive education, deinstitutionalization, quality of services and staff training will continue to be EASPD's key concerns going forward. One of Eurodiaconia's priorities will continue to be access to affordable and quality services, while homelessness and housing exclusion, and their impact on children and families, will continue to be main areas of work for FEANTSA. PICUM prioritises access to services for its future work.

ENSA, the European Network of Social Authorities, is particularly interested in access to and the quality of child care services.



SOS Children's Villages will continue to work on the enhancement of family support and the quality of alternative care settings, and on ensuring access to affordable quality services (ECEC, education, health and housing), particularly for children and young people without parental care or at risk of losing it.

European Child Safety Alliance is interested in reducing the inequities that exist between Member States as a result of injury. Evidence based policy assessments have been undertaken for unintentional injury and intentional injury throughout the EU by the Alliance and results clearly demonstrate that more could be done to reduce the inequity that exists by adopting, implementing and enforcing where appropriate what has been proven to work. They will continue to advocate for uptake of evidence based measures and policies to reduce child road injuries, drowning, fall injuries, poisoning, burn/scalds, choking/strangulation, maltreatment, peer violence, and suicide. Support for cross cutting themes and policies in the areas of leadership, infrastructure and capacity building are also areas of interest for the Alliance to be advocated to enhance the safety, health and wellbeing of children.

### **3. Children's right to participate**

Participation of all people, of all ages, experiencing poverty is a central mission for EAPN. They support the focus of the Alliance on promoting the participation specifically of children and young people, and particularly those experiencing directly exclusion and poverty.

The Alliance for Childhood's priorities are advocating for a dialogue in society concerning children to make them more important in the political discourse, stimulating organisations to reflect about the image of the child that they hold and their own actions for and with children. They'll also strive to deepen knowledge about child policies in all relevant areas and to maintain a community of people that work on this.

Participation of young children is a priority also for ENSA. Participation and empowerment will play a key role for PICUM in the future.

Caritas Europa is interested in adopting a multi-dimensional, rights-based approach to tackling child-poverty based on the standards and principles enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, and in ensuring participation of children in line with its Art. 12.

Child and youth participation will continue to be a focus issue for SOS Children's Villages.

#### 4. Horizontal issues: making full use of relevant EU instruments

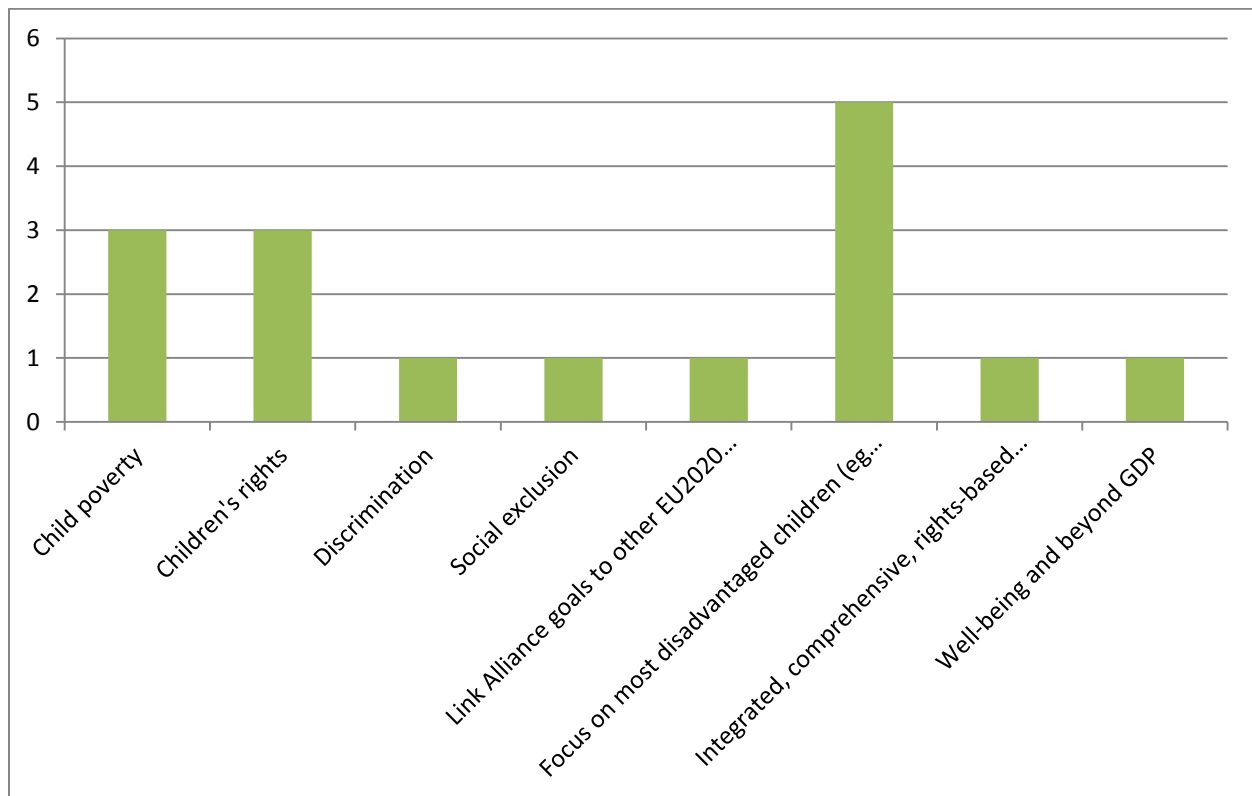


Figure 6 - Areas of priority - horizontal; multiple choice question, answers ranked

EuroHealthNet are very interested in how public health and health promotion professionals can work with other sectors to apply EU Structural and Investment Funds to sustainable initiatives that can improve the well-being of children in deprived environments and thereby contribute to the reduction of health inequalities.

EAPN's overarching priority is the implementation of the Recommendation by ensuring integrated, comprehensive and right's based approaches to tackling child poverty and well-being. EAPN are committed to using the European Semester and the Europe 2020 processes as well as EU funds to try to deliver this. They are particularly concerned about how to make progress and prevent the erosion of rights in the current austerity context which is generating increased child and other poverty, including in countries suffering from Troika programme arrangements.

Eurodiaconia will focus on the prioritisation of the poverty reduction target (including child poverty) in the framework of the Europe 2020 target and the European Semester.

Caritas Europa will work on strengthening the "inclusive growth" elements of the Europe 2020 Strategy, in particular the European Platform against Poverty and Social Exclusion which identified child poverty as an issue of concern for Member States. They'll also aim at giving greater visibility to children in poverty and their families in the EU's Multi-Annual Financial Framework (2014-2020) and at ensuring the availability of more adequate and timely child poverty and social inclusion data at EU and Member State level.

## **5. Thematic Horizontal Issues**

Eurodiaconia's priorities include supporting children and families, and focusing specifically on children from vulnerable groups such as migrant and Roma children.

The European Social Network particular concern lays with most disadvantaged children – children with disabilities, children with mental health problems, children in alternative care, children at risk of neglect or abuse, undocumented child migrants/asylum-seekers, Roma and traveller children.

## Library:

Documents sent by the EU Alliance partners highlighting their work on child poverty and child well-being, including policy papers, event report, project results:

### Alliance for Childhood:

- Alliance for Childhood's sessions of the Working Group on the Quality of Childhood at the European Parliament:

Four yearbooks were published with the reports of these sessions:

- Session 1-16: Improving the Quality of Childhood in the European Union: Current Perspectives.
- Session 17-23: Improving the Quality of Childhood in Europe 2011, Volume 2.
- Session 24-30: Improving the Quality of Childhood in Europe 2012, Volume 3.
- Session 31-37: Improving the Quality of Childhood in Europe 2013, Volume 4.

All books can be downloaded free of charge from: <http://www.ecswe.org/publications.php>

### Learning for Well-being publications:

- Ilona Kickbusch (2012), **Learning for Well-being: A Policy Priority for Children and Youth in Europe. A process for change**, [http://www.eurochild.org/fileadmin/Events/2012/02\\_L4WB/L4WB-A\\_Policy\\_Priority\\_for\\_Children\\_and\\_Youth\\_in\\_Europe.pdf](http://www.eurochild.org/fileadmin/Events/2012/02_L4WB/L4WB-A_Policy_Priority_for_Children_and_Youth_in_Europe.pdf)
- Ilona Kickbusch (2012), **Learning for Well-being: A Policy Priority for Children and Youth in Europe. A process for change**, Executive Summary, 2012 [http://www.ilonakickbusch.com/kickbusch-wAssets/docs/PG\\_Executive-Summary\\_2012--2-.pdf](http://www.ilonakickbusch.com/kickbusch-wAssets/docs/PG_Executive-Summary_2012--2-.pdf)
- O'Toole L. & Kropf D. (2010). **Learning for Well-being. Changing Paradigms, Sharing our Hearts, Beginning a Dialogue**, Universal Education Foundation. <http://www.eiesp.org/hosting/a/admin/files/L4WB%20Booklet%20V2-02%20SMALL.pdf>
- Learning for Well-being, **Core capacities** (2013) <http://www.uef-l4wb.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/L4WB-BROCHURE-Core-Capacities-v05-PRINT.pdf>

### Caritas Europa:

- [Caritas Europa] Child Poverty: ten-pack of recommendations: <http://www.caritas.eu/sites/default/files/childpovertytenpacklight.pdf>
- [Caritas Europa] Child Poverty: Good Practices from Caritas' Projects in Europe <http://www.caritas.eu/sites/default/files/goodpractices.pdf>
- [Caritas Europa] Child Poverty: State of Play in Europe 2011 <http://www.caritas.eu/sites/default/files/goodpractices.pdf>
- [Caritas Europa] Child Poverty: Listen to the Voices of Children in Poverty! [http://www.caritas.eu/sites/default/files/light\\_print\\_child\\_poverty\\_2013\\_0.pdf](http://www.caritas.eu/sites/default/files/light_print_child_poverty_2013_0.pdf)

## COFACE – Confederation of Family Organisations in the EU:

- <http://www.coface-eu.org/en/Policies/Family-Social/Child-and-Family-poverty/>
- <http://www.coface-eu.org/en/Policies/Family-Social/Reconciliation-family-private-professional-life/>
- <http://www.coface-eu.org/en/Policies/Family-Social/Migrant-families/>
- <http://www.coface-eu.org/en/Policies/Consumers-Health/Services/>
- <http://www.coface-eu.org/en/Policies/Education-ICT/Early-School-Leavers/>
- <http://www.coface-eu.org/en/Policies/Education-ICT/Parenting/>

## EAPN – European Anti Poverty Network:

### Child Poverty and ChildWell Being

- 2010: Joint press release by EAPN, Médecins du Monde, the HUMA network, PICUM and EWL in [access to health care for undocumented children and women](#)
- 2011: [EAPN's Input to 2012 Commission Recommendation on Child Poverty](#) (Dec 2011)
- 2012: [Roadmap for implementation of the Recommendation](#) – EAPN drafted, as part of Ad-hoc Alliance
- 2012: [EAPN speaks in EPHA event on child poverty](#), health and well-being
- 2013: Press Release on [Joint Event in Dublin \(UNICEF/Eurochild/EAPN\)](#)
- 2013: [Joint Explainer on child poverty/well being: Towards children well-being](#) in Europe (EAPN/Eurochild)
- 2013: [Joint Seminar on child poverty and well being](#)/Mallorca, Spain – organized with EAPN Balearic Islands and EAPN Spain.

Some key EAPN Publications where Child poverty and support to the implementation of the Recommendation are highlighted, as part of integrated strategy, working with EU instruments and processes:

- [EAPN Report assessing how the Partnership Principle is applied in the Partnership Agreements and Operational Programmes, ie how social NGOs have been actively involved in their drafting of these programming documents, which are key tools for implementing the new Structural Funds 2014-2020](#) (Dec 2013)
- [EAPN's position paper on in-work poverty \*WORKING AND POOR\*](#) (Nov 2013)
- [EAPN Assessment of the National Reform Programmes 2013 Widening the Gap](#) (Sept 2013)
- [EAPN's Response to the Social Investment Package: Will it reduce poverty?](#) (June 2013)
- [Joint proposals on Country-Specific Recommendations - Civil Society proposals for smart, sustainable and inclusive recovery - REPORT and PRESENTATIONS from Public Hearing in the European Parliament](#) (14 May 2013)
- EAPN [Assessment of Country-Specific Recommendations \(CSRs\) and proposals for Alternative CSRs \(National and EO Members\)](#) (March 2013)
- EAPN [Toolkit on engaging in the National Reform Programmes and National Social Reports 2013](#) (March 2013)
- EAPN's Crisis Report 2009: [Social Cohesion at stake - The social impact of the crisis and of the recovery package](#)

## **EASPD – European Association of Service providers for Persons with Disabilities**

- BITSE project, <http://www.easpd.eu/en/content/bitse-1>
- INNOSERV project, <http://www.inno-serv.eu/>
- P2i & INVESTT project, <http://www.investt.eu/>
- Dublin declaration on Inclusive Education, [http://www.easpd.eu/sites/default/files/sites/default/files/SCEDUC/dublin\\_manifesto\\_on\\_inclusive\\_education.pdf](http://www.easpd.eu/sites/default/files/sites/default/files/SCEDUC/dublin_manifesto_on_inclusive_education.pdf)

## **EPHA - European Public Health Alliance:**

- Report on the EP seminar '[From Rhetoric to Action - Tackling Child Poverty and Promoting Children's Health and Well-being in the EU](#)'
- [Open Letter](#) to EPSCO Council to strengthen children's health dimension of the draft Council conclusions on Child Poverty
- [EPHA Briefing on Children's Health](#)
- Analysis of the European Commission Recommendation [Investing in Children: breaking the cycle of disadvantage](#)
- [Policy Recommendations on Child Poverty, Health and Well-being](#)
- Press Release: [EU School Fruit Scheme - How to harvest public goods amidst EU-wide crisis](#)
- [EPHA Contribution](#) to the UN High Commissioner on Human Rights on the Right of the Child to Health

## **Eurochild:**

### **Child poverty and well-being:**

- [Eurochild & EAPN \(2013\) Explainer "Towards Children's Well-Being in the EU"](#)
- [Eurochild \(2013\) Assessment of the European Commission Recommendation](#)
- Background papers to mutual learning workshops at Dublin event (11/04/2013) on
  - [Europe 2020](#)
  - [Awareness raising](#)
  - [Structural Funds](#)
- [Open Letter to Commissioner Andor: EU Networks Proposals for implementing the Child Poverty and Well-Being Recommendation \(2013\)](#)
- [Eurochild \(2012\), Report on "How the economic and financial crisis is affecting children and young people in Europe"](#)
- [Eurochild statement on tackling child poverty & promoting child well-being in times of crisis](#)
- [Eurochild \(2012\) Assessment of SPC report on "Tackling and preventing child poverty, promoting child well-being"](#)
- [Eurochild \(2011\) Policy Position: Child poverty and family poverty - are they one and the same? - A rights-based approach to fighting child poverty](#)
- Eurochild ([2011](#); [2012](#); [2013](#) - upcoming) Analyses of National Reform Programmes (NRP) from a child poverty and well-being perspective

- [Belgian Presidency of the EU conference \(2010\) Background paper to the EU Presidency Conference: Child Poverty and Child Well-being](#)

#### **Family and Parenting Support:**

- [Grandparents as carers: Trends and Support Services in Europe](#)

#### **Children in Alternative Care:**

- [De-Institutionalisation and Quality Alternative Care for Children in Europe](#)
- [De-Institutionalisation Myth Buster](#)

#### **Early Years Education and Care:**

- [Eurochild's recommendations for EU action on early childhood education & care](#)

Further information and documents on all of the above policy areas is available on [Eurochild's website](#).

#### **Eurodiaconia:**

- [Eurodiaconia policy position on child poverty and social exclusion](#)
- [Eurodiaconia briefing to members on child poverty and social exclusion](#)
- [Eurodiaconia briefing on “Investing in children: breaking the cycle of disadvantage”](#)

#### **EuroHealthNet:**

- **DRIVERS:** a three-year (2012-2014) research project funded by the 7<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme aiming to promote health equity through policy and practice :: work on early childhood development, led by the University College of London: <http://health-gradient.eu/early-childhood-2/>
- **GRADIENT:** three year (2009 – 2012) research project co-funded by the 7<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme: final publication: “The Right Start to a Healthy Life” see: <http://health-gradient.eu/about/other-research/gradient/>
- **Joint Action on Health Inequalities** (Equity Action), final report: “**Health Equity and Regional Development in the EU (Applying EU Structural Funds)**“, available at: <http://www.equityaction-project.eu/regions/structural-funds/> and “Together for Health Equity from the Start”, a guide on Stakeholder Engagement, and factsheet on Health Equity and Education: <http://www.equityaction-project.eu/stakeholders/factsheets-guide/>



## European Child Safety Alliance:

- Paper: New High Commissioner Report on Rights of the Child Puts Greater Emphasis on Injury Prevention: <http://www.childsafetyeurope.org/archives/news/2013/apr-15-high-commissioner-report.html>
- Child Injuries at Home event report: <http://www.childsafetyeurope.org/archives/news/2013/jan-29-child-injuries-at-home.html>
- Poverty and Child injury seminar report: <http://www.childsafetyeurope.org/archives/news/2012/dec-07-poverty-and-child-injury.html>
- Child Safety Report Card 2012: Europe Summary for 31 countries <http://www.childsafetyeurope.org/publications/info/child-safety-report-cards-europe-summary-2012.pdf>
- Child Safety Good Practice Guide: good investments in unintentional child injury prevention and safety promotion  
<http://www.childsafetyeurope.org/publications/goodpracticeguide/info/good-practice-guide.pdf>
- National Action to Address Child Intentional Injury report: <http://www.childsafetyeurope.org/archives/news/2014/info/ciir-report.pdf>

## European Social Network:

### Events and Projects:

- [Investing in Children Services, Improving Outcomes](#)
- [ESN Peer Review Investing in Children Services](#)
- [ESN Spring Seminar Vulnerable Youth in Transition: Care and Support into Adulthood](#)
- [ESN Autumn Seminar Investing in Children: Early Years Services and Child Protection](#)

### Publications:

- [Investing in Children. ESN analysis of the European Recommendation](#)
- [ESN's position paper on Child Poverty and Wellbeing in Europe](#)
- [Tackling and preventing child poverty, promoting child wellbeing](#)
- [Children's services: combating poverty, promoting wellbeing](#)
- [Family and parenting support. The role of public services](#)
- [ESN's response on early school leaving](#)
- [Breaking the cycle of deprivation](#)

## FEANTSA

- ETHOS typology categories of rooflessness, houselessness, insecure housing and inadequate housing – full typology in all languages: <http://www.feantsa.org/spip.php?article120&lang=en>, also available on the European Commission's website on homelessness: <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1061&langId=en>
- [FEANTSA webpage on Youth homelessness](#)  
<http://www.feantsa.org/spip.php?rubrique35&lang=en>

- Power point presentation on child homelessness based on a stocktaking in 2007  
<http://www.feantsa.org/spip.php?article698&lang=en>
- FEANTSA 2007 stocktaking report on Child Homelessness in Europe
- <http://feantsa.org/spip.php?rubrique171&lang=en> FEANTSA Magazine on homelessness among children, families and youth  
<http://www.feantsa.org/spip.php?article132&lang=en>

### **PICUM – Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants:**

- UNICEF’s submission to the 2012 CRC DGD on the rights of children in the context of migration (prepared by PICUM):  
[http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/CRC/Discussions/2012/Submissions/UNICEF\\_1.doc](http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/CRC/Discussions/2012/Submissions/UNICEF_1.doc)
- A blog entry welcoming the EC Recommendation on “Investing in Children”:  
<http://guests.blogactiv.eu/2013/03/21/children-first-and-foremost-%E2%80%93-tackling-child-poverty-of-undocumented-children-is-vital-for-europe/>
- A report of a workshop we held in Cyprus on the issues:  
[http://picum.org/picum.org/uploads/publication/FINAL\\_Roundtable%20on%20Child%20poverty%20and%20well-being%20of%20migrant%20children%2017%20October\\_Report%20Update%20with%20speakers%20approval.pdf](http://picum.org/picum.org/uploads/publication/FINAL_Roundtable%20on%20Child%20poverty%20and%20well-being%20of%20migrant%20children%2017%20October_Report%20Update%20with%20speakers%20approval.pdf)
- On access to services: PICUM publications on undocumented children: [Children, First and Foremost](#): a guide for realising the rights of children and families in an irregular migration situation (2013);
- [Country briefs](#) on access to education, health care and housing in law and in practice in the UK, France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Spain, Italy and Poland;
- [Undocumented Children in Europe: Invisible Victims of Immigration Restrictions](#) (a comparative review of access to education, health care and housing in law and practice in 9 MS) (2009)

### **Save the Children EU Office:**

- Save the Children statement welcoming the EC Recommendation
- Save the Children position paper “Investment in Children 2014-2020: Reducing and preventing child poverty in Europe through a rights-based approach

### **SOS Children’s Villages:**

- ‘Care for ME!’ Campaign: <http://www.sos-childrensvillages.org/what-we-do/child-care/quality-in-care/advocating-quality-care/care-for-me>
- Quality Assessment Tool: <http://www.sos-childrensvillages.org/getmedia/6ab3f27d-f678-47ad-9870-8369e7124e51/120416-Final-assesment-tool-EN.pdf?ext=.pdf>
- To promote the participation of young people with alternative care experience in the campaign, an International Youth Council (IYC) was created <http://www.sos-childrensvillages.org/news-and-stories/stories/childrens-rights/international-youth-council-evaluation>
- When Care Ends: Lessons Learned from Peer Research: <http://www.sos-childrensvillages.org/getmedia/0249c48e-e799-4544-9bde-2de9f7040a73/European-Report-correction-Finland-WEB.pdf?ext=.pdf>
- Ageing out of Care: <https://www.sos-childrensvillages.org/about-us/publications/imatter-publications-on-leaving-care/ageing-out-of-care-international-analysis>

- I Matter Briefing Papers: <https://www.sos-childrensvillages.org/about-us/publications/imatter-publications-on-leaving-care>
- Other reports and publications:
  - Securing Children’s Rights, developed by SOS Children’s Villages and the Council of Europe, aims to promote a child rights-based approach to social and care work, and to provide practitioners with new tools for their everyday work with children and young people in alternative care [http://www.coe.int/t/dg3/children/childrenincare/SecuringChildrensRights\\_GBR.pdf](http://www.coe.int/t/dg3/children/childrenincare/SecuringChildrensRights_GBR.pdf)
  - Children and young people in care - Discover your rights!, developed by SOS Children’s Villages and the Council of Europe
  - <http://www.sos-childrensvillages.org/what-we-do/childrens-rights/advocacy-in-action/childrenandyoungpeopleincare-discoveryourrights>
  - Moving Forward: Implementing the ‘Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children’, developed with the support of SOS Children’s Villages <http://www.alternativecareguidelines.org/Home/tabid/2372/language/en-GB/Default.aspx>
  - Quality4Children Standards for out-of-home child care in Europe, developed by SOS Children’s Villages, IFCO and FICE
  - [http://www.quality4children.info/ps/rup/utills/download.php?alias=q4c\\_docudb&mdhash=70d2c1336e183875e98d457338eb2e73&praefix=cms2\\_&name=Q4C\\_colour.pdf](http://www.quality4children.info/ps/rup/utills/download.php?alias=q4c_docudb&mdhash=70d2c1336e183875e98d457338eb2e73&praefix=cms2_&name=Q4C_colour.pdf)
- Quality Care Counts: the right of every child to positive caring relationships, <https://www.sos-childrensvillages.org/getmedia/9f3713d5-3fc0-4ded-a396-6185de81cfd6/QualityCareCounts-final-web.pdf?ext=.pdf>