

Growing up in cities

Local solutions for children

5–7 November 2025, Ljubljana

Social Innovation Lab



Learning Lab GREEN – Child poverty: Localising the EU Child Guarantee with Eurochild

5 November 2025, 15:30 – 17:30 CET

Background

Despite political commitments, the EU is not on track to meet its 2030 target of reducing by 5 million the number of children at risk of poverty or social exclusion. In fact, the number rose to **19.5 million children in 2024** – nearly one in four (24.2%). Poverty is not just a socio-economic condition, but a denial of rights, opportunities, and development, in breach of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The situation varies across countries: rates reach 35.1% in Bulgaria, 34.6% in Spain, and 33.8% in Romania, and are also high in high income countries such as France (26.2%) and Luxembourg (25.6%). In the EU enlargement countries, the figures are even more concerning, with child poverty affecting 40–65% of children in Albania, Türkiye, and Ukraine.

14 June 2025 marks four years since the adoption of the Council Recommendation establishing a European Child Guarantee (ECG). The ECG provides a clear framework to address these challenges, ensuring children's access to free healthcare, inclusive education, nutritious food, adequate housing, and early childhood education and care.

Since championing this initiative in 2015, Eurochild has remained a leading civil society voice for its effective implementation and monitoring. We have tracked the development of the National Action Plans and are now producing overviews of the biennial implementation reports published by Member States.

Cities are crucial actors in delivering the European Child Guarantee. Being closest to children's everyday realities, they are uniquely placed to address inequities and ensure access to essential services. Their ability to connect sectors such as education, health, housing, and social protection allows them to provide more integrated and holistic support. At the same time, cities act as incubators of innovation: they can pilot solutions that respond to local needs and later be scaled nationally. By carrying out needs assessments and collecting data at the local level, cities also play a vital role in monitoring progress and shaping evidence-based policies.

This workshop will explore how local authorities can use the European Child Guarantee as a practical tool to reduce child poverty and exclusion, build integrated service delivery, and strengthen collaboration with national governments and civil society, and will include a presentation of Barcelona's fresh [Strategy to combat child poverty for the period 2025-2030](#).

Speakers

- **Francesca Pisanu**, EU Advocacy Officer, Eurochild
- **Elisa Stinus**, Researcher at Institute for Childhood and Adolescence, Barcelona

Objectives

- Increase participants' understanding of the European Child Guarantee and its relevance for cities.
- Share inspiring local practices and lessons learned from implementation so far.
- Highlight gaps, opportunities, and innovative approaches at the local level.
- Discuss how cities can work with national governments, NGOs, and communities to ensure equal access to services for all children.
- Strengthen the role of cities as drivers of innovation in tackling child poverty and promoting children's rights.

Programme

15:30 – 15:40	<i>Welcome & Introduction</i> • Welcoming remarks • Ice-breaker
15:40 – 16:25	<i>Introductory Presentation</i> • Key services • Overview of a National Action Plan and Governance and Reporting, overview of the Biannual reports • Target groups • Barcelona's Strategy on Combating Child Poverty • Cities and the European Child Guarantee
16:25 – 17:10	<i>Interactive Exercise: From Theory to Practice</i> Each group will work with guiding questions, share local experiences, and propose actionable steps for cities to take forward on the topics of ECEC and inclusive schooling, adequate housing and health and healthy nutrition.
17:10 – 17:30	<i>Joint reflections</i>

Contacts

Eurocities	Olivia Grenier	olivia.grenier@eurocities.eu	+32 2 552 08 44
Eurochild	Francesca Pisanu	francesca.pisanu@eurochild.org	