

## EAPN response to the Consultation on the Child Guarantee Roadmap.

On 19 August, the European Commission launched a public consultation on the Roadmap for the Child Guarantee. EAPN welcomes the commitment shown by the European Commission to progress towards the development of a Child Guarantee which can have an impact on Child Poverty. We particularly welcome the Commission's proposal to launch the Child Guarantee as a Council Recommendation, with a strong implementation and monitoring framework, including through EU funds.

However, it is clear for EAPN and its members that a focus on key services alone is not sufficient to reduce poverty for children and their families, (part b of principal 11 EPSR). As we have set out in **the EAPN input/response to the consultation on the Action Plan to implement the European Pillar of Social Rights**<sup>1</sup>, the approach must recognize the multidimensionality of poverty and requires an integrated approach rooted in children's rights, recognizing that poor children grow up mainly in poor families, providing essential support to parents and families, within an overarching EU antipoverty strategy for all groups. This strategy should act as an overarching frame for the entire Action Plan implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights, to ensure that it impacts concretely on people's lives reducing poverty.

The Child Guarantee is a welcome key initiative to tackle child poverty, but must ensure access to free healthcare, free education, free childcare, decent housing and adequate nutrition for **all children, rather than a proscribed list**. It also needs to be embedded in an integrated 3 pillar approach based on the Investing in Children Commission Recommendation<sup>2</sup> supporting 1) access to resources, 2) access to services and 3) participation. Increased priority should be given to supporting play and creative activity for children, particularly from poor families, as a pre-requisite for personal growth and development and active citizenship.

As partners to the Investing in Children Alliance. We fully support and endorse **the common submission developed by the Alliance to this consultation, urging the Commission** to:

***Commit to a rights-based, integrated approach to tackle child poverty in the EU and broaden the scope of the Child Guarantee and the Council Recommendation by:***

- **Proposing that the multiannual strategies are built around the three pillars of the 2013 Investing in Children**
- **Incorporating parents' access to resources (pillar 1) and children's access to decision making (pillar 3) in the Child Guarantee Council Recommendation.**

See the full Investing in Children Alliance statement [here](#).

<sup>1</sup> [EAPN July 2020: EAPN input to the consultation on the Action Plan to implement the EPSR](#)

<sup>2</sup> EC (2013) Commission Recommendation: Investing in Children.