



Republic of Cyprus

**National Action Plan
for the Child Guarantee -
First Biennial Report on the implementation
of the National Action Plan**

March, 2024

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INTRODUCTION

The National Action Plan (NAP) of the Republic of Cyprus for the Establishment of the European Guarantee for Children refers to the social priorities of the Republic of Cyprus, for the period up to 2030, based on the scope of the Council of the European Union's Recommendation entitled: «Establishing a European Child Guarantee» (2021/1004), which was decided on 14/06/2021.

The NAP was drawn up on the basis of the guidelines of the European Commission and on the basis of the national laws and practices in force in the Republic of Cyprus.

The NAP of the Republic of Cyprus aims to ensure that every child at risk of poverty or social exclusion has access to the full range of basic services in terms of free healthcare, free education and care, as well as adequate housing and healthy nutrition. As such, it contributes to making child and family policies more consistent with child rights and their full implementation in the Republic of Cyprus.

SUBMISSION DATES

As defined in paragraph 11 - point (f) of this recommendation¹, Member States are recommended to report to the European Commission every two years on the progress in implementing this recommendation, in accordance with the national action plan referred to in point (c) .

Consequently, Member States should send to the Commission their First Biennial Revised Report on the progress of the implementation of the NAP by 15 March 2024 and the Second Biennial Report by 15 March 2026. This timetable will allow the timely preparation of the report from the Commission to the Council, which in accordance with paragraph 12 (e) expires on 14 June 2026.

Therefore, this Report will be sent by 3/15/2024 to the European Commission, as defined in said recommendation.

SOURCES AND REFERENCES

The reports are based on the participation of national stakeholders, whose participation role is highlighted in paragraph 11 - point (e) of the NAP Recommendation, as well as the Commission's comments on the NAP.

The Commission sent its observations to the Republic of Cyprus on 7/2/2023, which were taken into account during the preparation of this Report. During the preparation of the Report, the indicators of the Social Protection Sub-Committee included in the outline prepared by the European Commission within 2023 have also been taken into account.

Finally, during the preparation of the Report, other sources were also taken into account, such as the reports of the European Social Policy Analysis Network

¹ Recommendation of the Council of the European Union: "Establishment of a European Child Guarantee"

on the access of children in need to the basic services covered by the NAP and by other organizations (e.g. Unicef , Eurofound and Eurochild).

1. CONTEXT

The NAP of the Republic of Cyprus was prepared and submitted in 2022 to the European Commission on the basis of the Recommendation of the Council of the European Union entitled: "Establishment of a European Guarantee for Children" (2021/1004), which was voted on 14/06/2021 and describes the social priorities of the Republic of Cyprus, for the period up to 2030 for the child.

The ESA of Cyprus was drawn up in the Greek language. The First Biennial Report is expected to be submitted to the European Commission within the schedule (March 2024), both in English and in Greek.

The NAP was approved by the Council of Ministers on 18/10/2022 and after a Consultation with children on 20/10/2022, it was submitted to the European Commission on 30/11/2022.

The Deputy Ministry of Social Welfare was designated as the National Coordinator for the coordination and implementation of the NAP for the Establishment of the European Child Guarantee.

In this context, a Technical Committee was established with representatives from all the co-competent Ministries, Departments or Services, which develop actions and programs for children.

As the first National Coordinator of the National Action Plan, Dr. Marina Ioannou-Hasapi was appointed in 2021, acting as Deputy General Director of the Deputy Ministry of Social Welfare, who participated in all the scheduled Coordinators' meetings held at the European level.

As of August 2023, Ms. Maria Th. Yiangou, Social Services Officer A' (Deputy Ministry of Social Welfare), was appointed as the new National Coordinator, who also participates in all the scheduled Coordinators' meetings that are organized. The aim of the Deputy Ministry is the coordination of all competent Ministries in improving and increasing actions with a significant increase in funds for the benefit of children in relation to principle 11 of the European Pillar of Social Rights, which concerns the «Care and support of all children».

The ESA is an illustration of the effort made by the Republic of Cyprus for the protection of children and their holistic access to services related to the following areas:

- I. Integrated approach to reducing child poverty and social inclusion or improving the well-being of Children
- II. Care for children attending schools
- III. Educational and School Activities
- IV. Healthy diet
- V. Health Care
- VI. Suitable Roof

The Action Plan in question includes existing actions that are already being implemented, as well as new actions that are expected to be implemented based on national resources or with EU co-financing within the ten-year time horizon, namely until 2030.

The NAP aims with its actions to reduce the number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion in the EU by at least 15 million by 2030, at least 5 million of whom should be children. For every person who does not have sufficient means of maintenance, a Guaranteed Minimum Income (GIE) is provided to combat child poverty and social exclusion.

In addition, accompanying allowances are provided to families with children (depending on their family income, the number of children and their particularities such as child allowance and single-parent family allowance), the «Baby Dowry», while revised in 2023 and the New «Concession Scheme Benefits to Families with Triplets and Above». Detailed data are presented in Appendix I.

Noting the progress that has been achieved in Cyprus in the last 6 years, a steady reduction of the revised risk of poverty or social exclusion index for children under 18 (ARPE²) from 21.7% in 2017 to 18.10% in 2022³ with coordinated actions which mainly concern interventions that contribute to tackling child poverty which correspond to 6.08% of the resources of the European Social Fund+ (ESF+)⁴. In addition, the NAP includes specific measures to support children in alternative care and/or promote reforms related to deinstitutionalization and the transition from institutional to family and community care options⁵.

The national child poverty target set for 2030 was to reduce the number of children under 18 who are «at risk of poverty or social exclusion» from 35,000 in 2019 to 32,000 by 2030⁶.

This national target of Cyprus has been achieved since 2022, after children under 18 who are «at risk of poverty or social exclusion» decreased to 31,000 children, a rate of 18.1% compared to 20.3% (35,000) which was in 2019.

Based on the Commission's recommendations for a common European Mechanism for monitoring the implementation of the NAPs, this Report will use the 1st version of the monitoring framework for the European Child Guarantee which was approved by the Social Protection Committee in November 2023⁷ and includes seven sections, of which the first section is dedicated to monitoring the number and status of children in need, identified as a target.

In this 1st edition of monitoring of the NAPs, indicators are included that briefly concern the following:

- effective and free access to at least one healthy meal per school day,

² AROPE: At-Risk-of-Poverty and Social Exclusion

³ Cyprus Statistical Service, Household Income and Living Conditions Survey, 2017-2022

⁴ DG Development Ministry of Finance Partnership Agreement 2021-2027, 2022

⁵ UNICEF & Eurochild, 2023, Children in alternative care in the Child Guarantee NAP, A summative analysis

⁶ The target is linked to the European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan to reduce the number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion in the EU

⁷ Revised note for publication of the ECG monitoring framework, 2023

- effective and free access to education and school activities,
- effective and free access to pre-primary education and care,
- effective and free access to health care,
- effective access to healthy nutrition and
- effective access to quality housing.

On the basis of the Committee's observations in the NAP of Cyprus in 2/2023, all the Ministries involved, after studying the comments, submitted improved recommendations, which will be presented in the current Report. The revised NAP, as amended following the comments of the European Commission, will be submitted together with the Biennial Report, to be published as «Revised National Action Plan for the Establishment of a European Child Guarantee, 2024».

The members of the Technical Committee are constantly informed about the decisions promoted in the framework of the planned meetings of the National Coordinators and have submitted improvements or examples of good practices for the information of all Member States.

In the context of the Recommendation for consultation, as noted in paragraph 30, on the need to ensure the participation of relevant stakeholders, including non-governmental organizations promoting the rights of the child, as well as the participation of the children themselves, this Report received an electronic consultation⁸ on the electronic platform of the Republic of Cyprus «e-Consultation», in an effort to free access to information and access to environmental information concerning the ESA by all interested parties, before submit the Report to the EU.

2. TARGET GROUPS

The Republic of Cyprus fully promotes the principles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, which it signed and ratified in 1991. In the Republic of Cyprus, children's rights are guaranteed by International and European Conventions and relevant national legislation on the basis of non-discrimination, regardless of their origin, family background or other characteristics.

According to paragraph 4 of the Council of Europe Recommendation on the Establishment of a European Child Guarantee, Member States guarantee for children in need substantial and free access to early childhood education and care of high quality, in education and school activities, in at least one healthy meal every school day and in health care and meaningful access to healthy food and adequate housing.

The NAP aims to improve services for specific target groups of children who are in a vulnerable position, such as the following target groups:

⁸ The Consultation is a form of public dialogue, and aims to record opinions and suggestions on issues of common interest

- Children who are in alternative care (under the protection of Social Welfare Services⁹),
- Children with an immigrant background, including unaccompanied minors (under the protection of the Social Welfare Services¹⁰),
- Children in precarious family situations,
- Children with disabilities¹¹,
- Children of minority racial or ethnic origin (especially Roma¹²),
- Children facing housing problems (families identified by the competent Services such as the Social Welfare Services and the Welfare Management Service),
- Children with mental health issues,
- Children facing violence,
- Children in preschool education and care (0-3 years),
- Children whose families are at risk of insufficient income.

This Report reports progress on the revised AROPE indicator in the above target groups (where statistics are applicable and available), based on the first edition of the monitoring framework for the European Child Guarantee adopted by the Social Protection Committee.

As mentioned above, children under 18 who are at «Risk of Poverty or Social Exclusion» (the AROPE index), from 20.3% (19.5% of boys, 21.2% of girls), i.e. 35,000 children (17,000 boys and 18,000 girls) that were in 2019, decreased to 18.1% (18.0% of boys, 18.2% of girls), i.e. 31,000 children.

2.1. «Risk of Financial Poverty» Index

Children living in households at «Risk of Financial Poverty» from 16.7% in 2019 (29,000 children) decreased by 1.8 percentage points to 14.9% (26,000).

2.2. «Severe Material and Social Deprivation» Index

Children living in households with «Severe Material and Social Deprivation» from 5.8% in 2019 (10,000 children) decreased by 1.4 percentage points, to 4.4% (8,000 children).

⁹ A child is a person under eighteen years of age, according to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, ratified by the Republic of Cyprus with the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Enforcement) Law of 1990

¹⁰ The Refugee Law of 2000 designates the Director of Social Welfare Services as the guardian of children who enter the Republic of Cyprus without their parent or legal guardian and have submitted an application for international protection

¹¹ The Department of Social Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities (DSID) has been designated as the Central Point for Monitoring and further promoting the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities through the National Disability Action Plan

¹² On the basis of the National Strategic Framework for the equality, inclusion and participation of the Roma in Cyprus 2021-2030

2.3. «Very Low Work Intensity» Index

Children living in households with «Very Low Work Intensity» from 5.4% in 2019 (9,300 children) decreased by 2.9 percentage points, to 2.5% (4,300 children).

Another target group is children with activity limitations due to health problems where, in 2021, 2% of children under the age of 16 stated that they had activity limitations due to health problems¹³.

3. DEVELOPMENT OF SERVICES

The NAP drawn up in 2022 aims, among other things, to inform about the measures and structures that are already in force or those that are planned to be implemented by the relevant Ministries/Departments, communication of the best policies and practices to combat poverty and social exclusion to inform the Member States or other involved bodies and in the definition of the National Monitoring Framework, based on which the evaluation of the progress in the implementation of the recommendation is promoted.

Participation in pre-school education (from the age of 3 to the age at which compulsory primary education starts) has increased significantly over the last decade, reaching 82.6% in 2022¹⁴, which is close to the European average (93, 0%). Cyprus aims to increase the participation rate in pre-school education through the actions described below, in an effort to meet the target of reaching 96% by 2030.

Accordingly, participation in compulsory education is particularly high in Cyprus. Specifically, for the school year 2023-2024, 10,553 children were enrolled and studying in public kindergartens (against 10,425 in the 2022-2023 school year), in primary education 51,511 (against 50,492 the previous year) and in secondary education (High School) 23,866 (against 24,138 of the previous year¹⁵).

3.1. Preschool Education and Care

The provision of high quality early childhood education and care in Cyprus aims to provide equal opportunities for all children, to further strengthen and support all families with children and to reconcile family and professional life. Cyprus recognizes the provision of high quality early childhood education and care as a prerequisite for promoting children's early development and subsequent school performance.

Early childhood offers a critical window of opportunity to shape the trajectory of a child's holistic development and build the foundation for their future. The European Pillar of Social Rights states that all children have the right to affordable and good quality early childhood education and care (ECEC¹⁶). It is in the early years of a child's life that the foundation and ability to learn is laid, and this is built throughout life. Learning is a gradual process. Building a strong foundation in the early years is a prerequisite for the development of higher-

¹³ New statistical data will be available with the 2024 Survey (Statistical Service)

¹⁴ Eurostat, "Survey of Household Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC)

¹⁵ https://archeia.moec.gov.cy/mc/407/statistika_el.pdf

¹⁶ Early Child Education and Care

level skills and educational success, as it is essential for children's health and well-being.

In preschool education and care it is necessary to address the different individual needs and particularities of children, related to their vulnerability, while it is important to provide adequate support for learning. Finally, effective practices should be implemented, the right resources should be made available to combat bullying and violence, and the participation of children in all decisions concerning them should be ensured.

Cyprus based on the Revised Barcelona targets set for 2030 (Barcelona targets and European council's recommendations), on the participation of children in formal Preschool Education or Care corresponding to the percentage of 45% participation of children under 3 years of age and 96% participation of children aged 3 years up to the age of compulsory education is in the process of achieving the goals with the implementation of the pioneer Tuition Subsidy and Feeding Scheme for Children up to 4 years of age. The data regarding the effect of the above Plan in terms of the monitored indicators will be available within 2024, as it has been implemented since the 2022-2023 school year with a significant extension in the 2023-2024 school year.

The percentage of children under the age of 3 who participated in formal Preschool Education or Care rose in 2019 to 29.3%, while in 2022 it decreased to 24.4%.

The percentage of 3-year-old children up to the age of compulsory education who participated in formal Preschool Education or Care rose in 2019 to 91.0%, while in 2022 it dropped to 82.6%.

In 2022, children under the age of 3 who are at «Risk of Poverty or Social Exclusion» participated in formal Preschool Education or Care with a rate of 13.5%, while children of those ages who are not at «Risk of Poverty or Social Exclusion», participated with a percentage of 26.9%. The total participation is 24.4%.

3.1.1. Project / Study "Supporting the Expansion and Strategic Development of Pre-Primary Education and Care in Cyprus"

The Project in question has specific objectives, including informing the competent authorities (YFKP/YKE and YPAN¹⁷) about the current state of the PEF sector, the development together with the competent authorities and the involved bodies of the national PEF¹⁸ quality framework and its subsequent ratification, as well as the submission of recommendations for the preparation of the first National Strategy and the accompanying Action Plan for PEF in Cyprus until the end of 2024 (as well as the relevant milestone in the Recovery and Resilience Plan).

¹⁷ Deputy Ministry of Social Welfare, Social Welfare Services and Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth

¹⁸ Preschool Education and Care

3.1.2. Preparation of a National Strategy and Action Plan for Preschool Education and Care in Cyprus

In accordance with the commitments of the Recovery and Resilience Plan, the Republic of Cyprus will prepare and adopt by the end of 2024 (Q4 2024) the mentioned Strategy and Action Plan.

3.1.3. Tuition Subsidy and Feeding Scheme for Children up to 4 years of age

The Plan aims to strengthen families, and especially families with small children, by subsidizing care services for dependent children up to 4 years of age through the direct payment to the nurseries of part of the monthly cost for their children's education.

The Plan was approved for the first time in 7/2022 and was implemented in the school year 2022-2023, with a significant investment of 12 million euros per year (increasing to 16 million per year from the school year 2023-24 due to the extension of the program) and is co-financed during 60% from the European Social Fund (ESF) of the Political Cohesion Program «THALEIA 2021-2027¹⁹». The number of potential beneficiaries was 15,000 children for the first year of implementation and this number increased to 21,500 with the extension of the Scheme from 2023-24. Provides for the provision of a monthly subsidy covering up to 80% of the cost of quality care and education services for children up to 4 years of age, with a particularly increased maximum subsidy amount for children up to 2 years of age, which is the age group with a particularly low participation rate in formal education and supports the demographic policy of the state, the development of equality and social justice for all children, the reconciliation of family and professional life and the achievement of the revised goals of Barcelona 2022, for the participation of children in formal education.

During the first year of the Plan's implementation, total costs of €11,943,846 (9/2022-8/2023) were paid with the participation of 7,792 beneficiary children.

During the 2nd current year of implementation of the Plan, it has been expanded to cover about 10,550 eligible children corresponding to 52% of potentially eligible children, including all children belonging to the first 5 deciles of the income distribution. The budget for the school year 2023-24 is 16.5 million euros and the expenditure for the period 9/2023 – 12/2023 was €5,882,935.

From the implementation and evaluation of the Plan, it can be seen that the initial objectives were largely achieved, as based on applications submitted by parents and approved, about 49% of potential beneficiaries participated in the first year of implementation and this percentage increases to 52% of potential beneficiaries in the 2nd year, i.e. 10,550 children in total benefit from the Scheme.

¹⁹ In the context of the «THALEIA 2021-2027» Cohesion Program, interventions are being promoted that contribute to tackling child poverty, which corresponds to 6.08%

3.1.4. Creation of Multipurpose Centers for children and Child Care Centers

The proposed investment aims to strengthen the availability of quality child care and development structures, through the provision of state aid to ATA and NGOs, for the creation of at least 30 new or the expansion of existing Child Care Centers (i.e. Nursery Centers for children aged 0-4) and Multipurpose Centers for Children (i.e. Nursery for children aged 0-4 and Child Protection and Employment Centers for children aged 6-13) until June 2026 (intermediate target: the creation of 11 new structures until 31.12.2024).

Creation of projects/structures for children (e.g. Houses, Day Care Centers, Multidisciplinary Center)

For the implementation of the Investment (C5.2I3) of the Recovery and Resilience Plan concerning the creation of structures / projects for vulnerable children and children under the legal care of the state.

3.1.5. Extension of free and compulsory pre-primary education from the age of 4

The Council of Ministers on 4/1/2024 approved the gradual expansion of free compulsory pre-primary education from the age of four from the school year 2024-2025, which will be completed in the school year 2031-2032, within the framework of the National Recovery Plan and Durability. The approval refers to the gradual extension of the age limit for compulsory pre-primary education from four years and consequently the extension of attendance at compulsory pre-primary education from 1 year and four months to two years. The proposal of the MESY²⁰ to the House of Representatives to amend the relevant legislation is pending. Approximately 22,500 children will benefit from this project, while the state, in addition to the amount that will be allocated from the fund in the context of the implementation of the Recovery and Resilience Plan amounting to 12.25 million, calculates to allocate approximately 127 million for the creation of new jobs, the grant of community departments and the building upgrade and expansion of public kindergartens.

3.1.6. Paying low fees or exempting fees in public kindergartens

Younger children occupying vacant places in public kindergartens pay low fees, a nominal amount of €42 per month or full fee exemption is given to poor families²¹, while a fee reduction to €25 per month is given to families with four children or more.

²⁰ Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth

²¹ As "Poor Families" the Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth defines the beneficiaries of the Minimum Guaranteed Income, based on defined financial criteria

3.1.7. Grant of expenses for community kindergartens

The Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth provides a grant to cover certain costs²² for community kindergartens, which operate in cases where the available public kindergarten classes do not meet the needs of all children in the community.

3.1.8. Project to support children in kindergartens with auxiliary staff

In the school year 2023-2024, the Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth is implementing a new project that focuses on (a) the needs of children with an immigrant background, (b) violence and delinquency, and (c) learning disabilities. A number of preschools have been staffed with classroom support staff targeting these specific areas. The Pedagogical Institute, in collaboration with the Directorate of Primary Education, implements a training program that takes place remotely and concerns the kindergarten teachers who implement the specific program.

In addition, the Ministry of the Interior is implementing the project: «I Learn Greek in Kindergarten: Program to Support the Attendance of Third-Country Children in Preschool Education» until September 2024. The project trains kindergarten teachers in teaching children of third-country nationals and prepares special material for children of third-country nationals of infant age.

3.1.9. Actions that are part of the «Restructuring of Social Welfare Services» Project which is implemented within the framework of the Cohesion Policy Program «THALEIA 2021-2027», with the co-financing of the EU

i. Establishment of Provincial Multidisciplinary Teams and Central Multidisciplinary Team (EPO/KEPO) which are responsible for the assessment of vulnerable people, including families with children, with the aim of formulating an individualized action plan with the necessary actions to be promoted. This action is part of the «Restructuring of Social Welfare Services» Project, which is implemented within the framework of the «THALEIA 2021-2027» Cohesion Policy Program, with EU co-financing (Decision of the Council of Ministers).

ii. In 2020, it was decided by a Decision of the Council of Ministers to set up an Ad Hoc Ministerial Committee consisting of Ministers of competent Ministries in the field of child protection. According to this decision, the Ad Hoc Ministerial Committee aims to strengthen cooperation in the field of child protection and to develop more effective policies and actions. It is planned to carry out a study on the child protection system in Cyprus, Creation and Implementation of a National Strategy and Action Plan for Child Protection.

iii. Purchase of Professional Services (psychologists, psychiatrists, social needs assessors) to strengthen the interdisciplinary approach to service provision (Decision of the Council of Ministers).

²² By the term "certain costs" they refer to part of the annual operating costs, required for the operation of community kindergartens

iv. Provision of specialized (Companions/Mentors) to children under the care of the Director of Social Welfare Services and to children of high-risk families, as well as to persons with disabilities residing in State Institutions of Social Welfare Services (Decision of the Council of Ministers).

v. «Neighborhood Social Worker» within the framework of the Social Welfare Services Program of the Deputy Ministry of Social Welfare, to secure Social Workers in communities or clusters of communities and in Local Government Authorities. The Program contributes to social investment at the local level with the aim of increasing the local network and improving citizens' access to social services in the community.

3.2. Education and school activities

The right to education of all children is guaranteed by article 20 of the Constitution of the Republic of Cyprus. The equality of all children enrolled in schools is also guaranteed by legislation. More specifically, the law on compulsory attendance and the provision of free education (Law 24(I)/1993) ensures that all children residing in the Republic of Cyprus are entitled to free and compulsory education from the age of 4 years and 8 months and above up to 15 years old²³.

The Republic of Cyprus promotes the continuous upgrading of the education provided to ensure equal learning opportunities for all children, through the implementation of an educational policy governed by the values of equality, inclusiveness, creativity and innovation, with the aim of lifelong balanced and all-round development, while strengthening sports and empowering the youth.

The participation of children in compulsory education is high, while the Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth places special emphasis on free and inclusive education, reducing early leaving of education and training and supporting students with disabilities or other special educational needs.

Additional actions and measures are taken for students born abroad (unaccompanied minors/applicants for international protection) since the early dropout rate is higher than students born in Cyprus (27.9% compared to those born in Cyprus 3.9%, which is lower than the European average which is 8.5% in 2021²⁴). Additional measures are taken (such as specialized educational programs) for all other children with an immigrant background.

The Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth implements a large number of actions, which are described in detail in the NAP of Cyprus for the Establishment of a European Guarantee for Children (2022). Then, reference will be made to the most important actions concerning education, noting their evolution during the years 2022-2023, aiming at actions that strengthen children who are in a vulnerable position, such as children who are in alternative care, with a migrant background, disabled, of minority racial or ethnic origin and children in vulnerable situations.

²³ The Cabinet on 4/1/2024 approved the gradual extension of free compulsory pre-primary education from the age of four from the school year 2024-2025 to complete the school year 2031-2032, as part of the National Recovery and Resilience Plan.

²⁴ Education and training monitoring report 2022, Cyprus

In 2021, 5.2% of children under 16 who were at «Risk of Poverty or Social Exclusion» experienced deprivation due to financial difficulties of their household, in participating in school trips and events that cost money, while the corresponding percentage between among children who were not at "Risk of Poverty or Social Exclusion, it was 3.2%.

In 2021, 28.9% of children under the age of 16 who were at "Risk of Poverty or Social Exclusion" experienced a deprivation due to economic difficulties of their household, in participating in regular leisure activities, while the corresponding percentage among children who were not in «Risk of Poverty or Social Exclusion», it was 5.1%.

In 2018, the rate of underachievement of 15-year-old students in «reading, maths and science» by socio-economic category was as follows:

- 39.0% of «low socioeconomic class» children
- 25.7% of «middle socio-economic class» children
- 13.6% of «high socioeconomic class» children

In 2022, the rate of underachievement of 15-year-old students in mathematics by socio-economic category was as follows:

- 69.8% of «low socioeconomic class» children
- 32.7% of «high socioeconomic class» children

Finally, in 2019, public expenditure on education per pupil as a percentage of GDP per capita at the Primary Education level was 27.9%, at the Lower Secondary Education level it was 33.5% and at the Upper Secondary Education level it was 36 .8%.

3.2.1. Supporting children facing learning, emotional and other difficulties

Referral of children to educational psychologists for formal assessment and recommendation for their reinforcement. The Counseling and Vocational Training service maintains a record of statistical data, which includes the number of referrals for assessments.

3.2.2. School and Social Integration Actions+ Program and Program to deal with learning impairment and early school leaving

The program concerns a strategy to combat early school leaving and includes prevention, intervention and compensation measures, as well as remedial teaching in a total of 178 schools (2023-2024). For this program know-how is used from other EU countries and the target group is children attending all schools (kindergartens, primary schools, secondary schools, high schools and technical schools).

Regarding the program to deal with learning impairment and school dropout, Cyprus applied for and is receiving support from the Technical Support Instrument (TSI) program of the European Commission (2022-2024). The program recommends for Cyprus the creation of five interdependent pillars of actions as follows:

- The creation of an alternative learning program, sections of core knowledge, which for the high school cycle will aim to empower students who are lagging behind, so that they can improve their basic skills and either rejoin the regular class, or improve their self-image and his sense of belonging at school. For high school and technical education, it provides for the creation of a new (seventh) direction or an apprenticeship program. At the end, the students of the alternative learning program will receive an equivalent high school diploma and will be given the prospect of continuing in post-secondary or higher education programs.
- The creation of a school mentor institution among teachers, who will undertake the monitoring of high-risk students throughout their three-year education, in the Gymnasium, High School or Technical School.
- The creation of an early warning system (Early Warning System, EWS) with the development of tools for gathering information through appropriate questionnaires separately in High School and High School/Technical Schools, as well as the utilization of the School Management System (SMS) that is currently underway).
- The strengthening of professional learning programs with specific targeting at three points: (a) the development of the ability of teachers to recognize students with characteristics of school disengagement, (b) the empowerment of teachers in the search for providing the appropriate, in each case, support for students with characteristics of school dereliction, (c) the correct treatment of indifferent or delinquent students.
- The creation of a learning structure for students under 18 who wish to return to education.

3.2.3. Greek language learning programs

The Programs were and continue to be offered to primary and secondary school students through a variety of formats. The Migrant Biography Section of the Directorate of Secondary General Education, in close cooperation with the Interdepartmental Committee for the Integration of Children with a Migrant Biography in the Cypriot Education System, in which representatives of the Directorates of Education (Middle General, Secondary Technical and Vocational Education and Training, Primary Education) participate) of the Pedagogical Institute and CERE²⁵, as well as according to the recommendations of the experts of the European Commission who visited Cyprus in March 2019, it operates a variety of educational programs for students with an immigrant background, which aim to meet the learning and emotional needs of the children in question.

Specifically, five different specialized educational programs are offered for students with an immigrant background, which operate on a pan-Cypriot basis (in the morning) in Secondary Education schools (High School, High School and Technical Schools), as well as in the afternoon in the State Training Institutes. For example, in this school year 2023-2024, the Program of Transitional High School Classes (in 27 school units), the Short-hour

²⁵ Center for Educational Research and Evaluation

Program (in 4 school units), the Program of Transitional High School Classes (in 11 school units) is offered on a pan-Cypriot scale units), as well as the Program for Unaccompanied Minors/Applicants for International Protection (in 9 school units). Information measures/good practices/actions taken/implemented by the Ministry of Education, for the inclusion of children with an immigrant background in schools:

- Drafting of a Policy Text for the inclusion of children with an immigrant background in the Cypriot education system by the Interdepartmental Committee, which has been approved by the Minister of Education, Sports and Youth in May 2016.
- Development of a Curriculum with Success and Proficiency Indicators for the teaching of Greek as a second language, based on the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR).
- Granting of a diagnostic essay by the Center for Educational Research and Evaluation, which is granted to all students with an immigrant background during their studies in the 6th grade of elementary school.
- Monitoring the children's progress by giving a Greek test (interim assessment) in February/March, which is used for formative assessment purposes.
- Training of the teachers who teach Greek as a second language and the teachers of the other subjects in collaboration with the Pedagogical Institute and the Inspectors of Secondary Education.
- Conducting school networks for teachers who teach in schools, where Programs for students with Immigrant Biography operate. Specifically, the Department of Immigrant Biography, in close cooperation with the Pedagogical Institute, as well as with the school units/directorates, planned and implements the conduct of networks in schools, where Programs for students with Immigrant Biography operate. The ultimate goal is the continuous training of teachers in issues that concern them and arise, as well as the presentation of differentiated teaching strategies, through activities that promote cooperation and interaction.
- Regular visits by the officers of the Department of Migration Biography to the involved school units in which the various programs for learning Greek as a second language operate.
- Purchase and use of books for teaching Greek as a second language (Click on Greek, published by the Greek Language Center).
- Offering the expanded ACTION+ program to specific schools that offer Programs for students with an immigrant background. Through the program, a second teacher is provided in classes with students with immigrant background, remedial teaching courses are offered in the afternoon, as well as targeted actions involving parents and guardians of children with an immigrant background are implemented.
- Conducting student competitions and other activities,

The ultimate goal of the above is for students to become aware of the issue of acceptance and social integration of children with an immigrant background and

to become members of the new reality, within the framework of cooperation, respect and tolerance. At the same time, the promotion of universal values is sought, such as equality and hospitality. In addition, through their involvement children have the opportunity to cultivate their critical thinking, expression and creativity and to tap into their inclinations and interests.

3.2.4. Dealing with complex cases of children

School health professionals, in collaboration with Counseling and Vocational Education teachers, actively participate in interdisciplinary teams to discuss complex cases of children in the care of the welfare state, in order to promote their health and well-being.

3.2.5. Students with special educational needs

For children with special needs, the Provincial Committee for Special Education and Education can decide the educational context of the child's attendance (general public school class, Special Unit, Special School, home education), the provision of specialized educational or therapeutic assistance, specialized equipment, free transportation, support staff and the creation of building or other infrastructure at the school unit where the child attends. Children with special needs are assessed by the Provincial Committees for Special Education and Education and receive various benefits, facilities, reasonable adjustments (speech therapy, home education, support, service from a school assistant/aide) at all levels of education (primary, secondary, technical education).

3.2.6. Benefits for students with special needs

The Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth has resources related to: building adaptations for the accessibility of students with special needs (e.g. disabled toilets, lifts, ramps, markings, installation of appropriate flooring in classrooms for children with hearing loss and children on the autism spectrum) and resources for the employment of school aides/carers, responsible for their safety and self-care. Most students with special needs attend the mainstream classroom and receive accommodations to meet their special educational needs. Finally, some of the students with special needs attend special units of public schools with an individual education program.

3.2.7. Institution of «Open Schools» and operation of «State Training Institutes»

Through the institution of Open Schools, the Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth and the cooperating Municipalities aim at lifelong learning, creative activity, sports, entertainment and education for children, teenagers and adults, at affordable prices in schools during afternoon hours. It aims to reduce social exclusion, through the support of vulnerable groups of citizens - children and adults, who, due to financial difficulties, do not have opportunities to participate in creative, educational, sports activities.

At the same time, with the operation of the State Training Institutes under the auspices of the Directorate of Secondary General Education, courses are offered to students of all levels of education, as well as to adults, both in urban and rural areas. Specifically, the Service of State Training Institutes (KIE), offers, on the basis of relevant Decisions of the Council of Ministers, various reliefs to support families with socio-economic vulnerability. Furthermore, in order to serve the student population more fully, KIEs operate in remote and rural areas, which offer free transportation for students to and from the Institutes. Finally, free tuition is offered to Greek Cypriots attending Turkish courses and to Turkish Cypriots, as well as to children of returnees and immigrants attending Greek courses.

3.3. Healthy lunch on every school day

The Republic of Cyprus signed the Declaration Combating Child Poverty by Leaving No Child Behind, recognizing the reduction of the impact of poverty on child development through the Child Guarantee and effective access to six key services: free high-quality pre-school education and care, free education and out-of-school activities, at least one free healthy meal per school day, free health care, adequate housing and healthy nutrition and accessible social services in the community to protect children at risk of poverty and social exclusion.

The Republic of Cyprus promotes continuous actions to ensure at least one free healthy meal per school day, as well as free access to fresh fruit and vegetables, through specific measures it takes through the school units, which are then recorded with the aim of ensuring that every child has a meal the day.

In 2021, only 0.6% of children under 16 who were at 'Risk of Poverty or Social Exclusion' experienced deprivation due to household financial difficulties in having one meal a day of meat, chicken, fish or a vegetarian equivalent meal.

3.3.1. Allowance for meals in Optional Full-Day Schools

Families in Cyprus who receive a Minimum Guaranteed Income or children of low socio-economic status receive a subsidy for the meals provided to them by the Parents' Associations in the optional full-day primary schools. In the Optional Full-day primary schools for the school year 2023-2024 a grant of €321 was granted for the feeding of 1232 students (a rate of approximately 14%) from the total of 9155 students participating in the full-day schools, compared to 1125 from a total of 8237 students in the previous school year (2022-2023).

3.3.2. «Feeding Students in Need» Project

The Project aims to provide free breakfast to children, who attend public schools (at all levels of education), and who need help. The purpose of granting this social benefit is to ensure the basic good of breakfast to those children whose family cannot afford it and to ensure adequate nutritional standards for the students in question. Eligible students are offered a daily free breakfast from the school canteen.

The breakfast items offered are selected from the approved price list for school canteens, which is determined by the Central Committee for Control of School Canteens (KEESK), in accordance with the relevant legislation (THALEIA, EKT+, national funds). The Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth Students are selected on the basis of six financial criteria (families receiving Minimum Guaranteed Income or Public Assistance, unemployed parents, orphaned children, single-parent or large families with insufficient income and particularly insufficient income of the parents/guardians for other reasons), after an assessment them by an advisory committee.

3.4. Health Care

The General Health System (GHS) now operates in Cyprus, which offers equal access to health services for all citizens, with the possibility of choosing a health care provider, both from the private and public sectors. The NHS is an integrated health system that offers equal access to health services for all citizens, with the option of choosing a health care provider, both from the private and public sectors. GeSY covers all health care needs of the beneficiaries, including chronic, rare and serious diseases. It provides lifetime financial protection to all beneficiaries even for unexpected and costly health care needs. The right to health within the NHS is independent of the payment of contributions. Beneficiaries without income (unemployed, children, students, soldiers and others) have equal access to health care services, while the dimension of disability is integrated into the NHS.

Children who are beneficiaries of GeSY have equal access to all services. All children who are beneficiaries and are registered in the NHS, are registered in an individual list of a personal doctor for children (pediatrician) of their choice of their parents/guardians, including children, such as for example children who are in alternative (especially institutional) care, children with a migrant background, including unaccompanied minors, children in precarious family situations, children with disabilities, children of minority racial or ethnic origin (especially Roma) and children experiencing housing problems and children with mental health issues.

Children who are not beneficiaries of the General Health System and belong to susceptible and vulnerable categories of the population are covered by the Public Hospitals according to the relevant Circular of the Ministry of Health (2/12/2011). In Cyprus there is free and fully subsidized access to health care services (vaccination, personal physician, baby nurses, specialist care, dental care, prescription drugs) for all children (including families with low-income children). The main actions of the Ministry of Health are noted below.

In 2021, 1.8% of children under 16 who were at 'Risk of Poverty or Social Exclusion' said their needs for medical examination or treatment were not met, while for children who were not at 'Risk of Poverty or Social Exclusion' Social Exclusion" the corresponding percentage was with a small difference, at 1.4%.

In 2021, 84.8% of children under the age of 16 who were at "Risk of Poverty or Social Exclusion" reported having «very good health», while for children who were not at «Risk of Poverty or Social Exclusion» the corresponding percentage was a little higher, at 89.7%.

During the 2021-2022 school year, 11, 13 and 15-year-olds said they «felt hungry more than once a week», with 22.0% of boys in the low socio-economic category, while boys in the high socioeconomic category with 16.0%. The corresponding percentages for girls were 31.0% in both categories.

3.4.1. Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services

The Directorate of Mental Health Services of the State Health Services Organization (OKYpY) implements the "Creation of a Center for Children with Neurodevelopmental Disorders" Project. The Center addresses children and adolescents with neurodevelopmental disorders and its main goals are the timely and valid diagnostic evaluation, by a multidisciplinary team of experts, of possible neurodevelopmental disorders among children and adolescents in Cyprus, multilevel handling of each case, counseling and psychological support for parents/ of guardians, referral and liaison with other services involved and collection of epidemiological data on Neurodevelopmental Disorders.

The Center is unique of its kind in the public sector and its creation contributes to the adoption of a good practice in Europe, due to the direct cooperation that will exist between all the experts within the framework of the Center's operation. The Center is based on the concept of a one-stop Clinic through which continuity of treatment and supervision is provided by specialized staff working as a team in the same space.

3.4.2. Strategy Implementation for Children's Rights in Health: 2017-2025

Through this Strategy, the creation of an action framework is promoted to improve the existing situation through methods of cross-sectoral cooperation to provide holistic health care to the child, with the active involvement of the same. The pillar actions refer to Child Health Services, Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs), Nutrition and Breastfeeding (MT), Infectious Diseases – Vaccinations, Violence and Accident Prevention, Alcohol, Substances, Tobacco, Environment and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SAUD).

3.4.3. Sexual and Reproductive Health Strategy for Children's Rights to Health: 2017-2025

The mentioned Strategy is aimed at the age group of young people 15-29 years old and aims to create an action framework to improve the existing situation through methods of cross-sectoral cooperation to provide holistic health care to young people regarding their sexual and reproductive health, with the active involvement of the same. Its Action Pillars focus on Parental Health, Family Planning – Infertility – Contraception – Unwanted Pregnancy – Abortion, Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD) – HIV/AIDS – Infections of the Reproductive System, in the Prevention of Cancer of the Reproductive System and in the Prevention and Management of Cases of Sexual Violence. In this context, actions are planned at the legislative and political level, at the level of health services and other services as well as at the level of information, education and training.

3.4.4. Health Education

Health education is implemented by the Medical Service during their contacts with students and during applied health education programs, which aim to provide knowledge and develop skills to adopt healthy behaviors. The main topics of Health Education are the prevention of infectious diseases, vaccinations, physical exercise, healthy eating habits, accident prevention, personal hygiene, smoking, adolescence, prevention of sexually transmitted diseases, contraception, etc.

3.4.5. Mother and Child Protection Centers (MCP) and Multidisciplinary Team for dealing with hearing impaired children aged 0-3 years

HCMCs offer preventive services to the mother, the infant/child and the whole family in general, with the aim of maintaining and promoting health and preventing disease.

The main objectives of the Maternity Protection and Child Welfare Centers are the early detection and treatment of infant and child health problems, the development of healthy attitudes and behaviors of prospective parents/guardians and the prevention of infectious diseases.

Specifically, the services provided at the Maternity Protection and Child Welfare Centers include general monitoring of infants and pre-school children by conducting preventive examinations, such as checking the normal development of the infant and child, screening the infant's vision and carrying out visual acuity preventive check of the 3-5 year old child, the auditory acuity preventive check of the 7-9 month old infant and the 4-5 year old child.

In addition, the goal of the Multidisciplinary team is to treat hearing loss quickly and in time, so that children with hearing loss can reach levels similar or even equal to their hearing classmates. Research shows that countries that provide an early intervention program have reduced costs for specialized education, social welfare and social integration of people with hearing loss.

3.4.6. School Medicine Service and School Dentistry Service

The main objective of the School Medical Service is to prevent diseases as well as to promote the health and well-being of students. The examination of the children is carried out by the staff of the School Medical Service (School Doctors and Health Visitors).

Accordingly, the Dental Service attaches particular importance to the promotion of oral health, which is considered inextricably linked to general health and quality of life. For this purpose, preventive programs are implemented which aim, on the one hand, to adopt from childhood correct eating habits, oral hygiene and visits to the dentist, but also to detect dental diseases early and receive the necessary dental care.

In the context of good oral hygiene practices, the institution of children's brushing has been piloted in selected primary schools attended by children with an immigrant background.

3.5. Healthy diet

With regard to the healthy diet of children, a series of actions are promoted that help improve the hygiene of children, in the fight against obesity, but also malnutrition, while programs for the development of breastfeeding are promoted as a measure to improve the level of healthy nutrition of children.

In 2021, only 1.1% of children under the age of 16 who were at 'Risk of Poverty or Social Exclusion' experienced deprivation due to their household's financial difficulties in having at least once a day fresh fruit or vegetables.

3.5.1. Support access to healthy meals outside of school days

The Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth supports access to healthy meals also outside school days, including through in-kind or financial support, especially in exceptional cases such as school closures (such as during the pandemic period).

3.5.2. Central School Classroom Control Committee

The Central School Canteen Control Committee ensures that the products available in school canteens meet specific nutritional needs, taking into account the recommendations of the World Health Organization for the proper nutrition of school children.

3.5.3. Program to provide free fruits, vegetables and milk to students in public/private primary schools and public/community kindergartens

The Project is co-financed by the EU through which it is possible through the school program to provide fruit, vegetables, bananas and milk to children attending recognized educational institutions (Programme for Schools), with the aim of developing good eating habits from children. It was implemented for the first time in the 2009-2010 school year as a pilot in two provinces, while it was then extended throughout Cyprus. The main objectives of the program are the following: to achieve a steady increase in the share of fruits and vegetables and milk in the children's diet, at the stage in which their eating habits are formed, correct and balanced nutrition, with the aim of gradually improving the health of citizens, etc.

Each year, the allocation of available financial resources is carried out by the Department of Agriculture, based on the number of students in public/private primary schools and public/community kindergartens who express interest in participating in the program for schools.

The Ministry of Health's Academic Service and the Ministry of Health's Nutrition Sector offer supportive educational programs on the consumption of fruit, vegetables and milk.

In addition, the School Medicine Service organizes healthy breakfast days where, in collaboration with the parent associations, they offer a healthy breakfast to the students. The offer of the healthy breakfast is made in

conjunction with the implementation of the Health Education Program for Healthy Eating.

3.5.4. Advertising restriction

This action promotes a restriction of advertising and a restriction of the availability of foods high in fat, salt and sugar in pre-school and care and education institutions, by banning all advertising in public schools. There is a list approved by the Central School Canteen Control Committee of the products available in school canteens. Foods high in fat, salt and sugar are not included in the item price lists. However, there are no restrictions on what children bring from home to eat during breaks.

The Nutrition Sector considers limiting the advertising of foods high in fat, sugar and salt to be particularly important. In collaboration with the European Best Remap program, it implements various actions to limit advertising to children.

3.5.5. National control programs on: foods intended for infants and young children

The State General Chemistry, in cooperation with the competent authorities, develops and implements preventive and targeted official national control programs on: foods intended for infants and young children, as well as foods provided in school canteens, regarding, among others, the fat, salt and sugar content.

3.5.6. Programs to promote healthy eating

The Nutrition Department and the School Medicine Service implement health education programs to promote healthy eating habits. The Health Education Programs of the School Medical Service include the healthy diet «I eat right and healthy» in the 3rd grade and «I love my heart» in the 4th grade.

3.5.7. Comprehensive curricula / Courses that provide students with extensive knowledge and skills on healthy eating and related topics

In the curricula there are specific subjects (such as Home Economics, Health Education, etc.) that provide students with extensive knowledge and skills about healthy eating and related topics. The central aim is to enable students and schools to act as agents of health, addressing the social inclination towards unhealthy lifestyles.

3.5.8. Preparation of communication material also addressed to parents/children/young people

The State General Chemistry prepares communication material aimed at parents/children/youth (i.e. fats and oils, Omega fatty acids, salt and sugar in our diet).

The campaign to inform Cypriot citizens about Food Safety (#EUChooseSafeFood campaign) was carried out, in collaboration with the

European Food Safety Authority, from May to October 2023. The aim of the campaign was to raise awareness and properly inform Cypriot citizens, and especially future and new parents, and encourage them to make food choices with a sense of certainty and confidence, strengthening their perception of the fact that food safety is based on science. In particular, issues that concern them in particular were raised such as: Food Allergens, Nutritional Supplements and Foodborne Diseases (relevant informational material was distributed, Press Releases, Diffusion in the NQD, Articles and Interviews by experts on radio and TV, promoted at a Music festival and Food Street Festivals). The coordinator of the campaign was the State General Chemistry and the Health Services of the Ministry of Health and the Veterinary Services of the Ministry of Agriculture, A&P participated.

3.5.9. Protection, Promotion and Support of Breastfeeding

Promotion and Support of Breastfeeding in Cyprus through legislative and other actions.

With the amendment of the Criminal Code (2018), any actions to prevent/prohibit breastfeeding in any public place is considered a criminal offence.

The amendment to the Maternity Protection Law (2018) gives the working mother the right to breastfeed or express breast milk during her working hours and requires employers to provide the necessary facilities to mothers.

3.6. Adequate housing

The NAP ensures the provision of appropriate and safe housing for all children in Cyprus, whether they come from families in a vulnerable position, whether they are children with a migrant background, or whether they are unaccompanied children found in Cyprus and in need of protection. For this purpose, in October 2023 two special actions were approved within the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund 2021-2027 with a significant budget, which are expected to offer more beds and more specialized accommodation services for unaccompanied children and children separated from their parents, who are Nationals of third countries²⁶, while other horizontal actions are expected to strengthen the protection of unaccompanied children (such as the increase of Guardians of unaccompanied children and Institutional Officers employed by the Social Welfare Services in the contexts and shelters of unaccompanied children).

It should be noted that there is no analytical system for collecting data on the difficulty of families with children at risk of poverty or social exclusion to enjoy a sufficiently warm home without excessive housing costs or face severe housing deprivation.

Based on the data available for Cyprus in the context of the 1st edition of the monitoring framework for the establishment of the European Child Guarantee approved by the Social Protection Committee in November 2023, in 2022, 8.1%

²⁶ The implementation of these actions has not yet begun

(lower than the European average) of children at «Risk of Poverty or Social Exclusion» lived in households that faced an excessive housing cost burden, while for children not at «Risk of Poverty or Social Exclusion» the rate is particularly low and in particular the percentage was only 0.4%.

In 2020, 9.8% of children under the age of 18 who were at «Risk of Poverty or Social Exclusion» lived in overcrowded households, while for children not at 'Risk of Poverty or Social Exclusion' the corresponding percentage was 2.7%.

In 2022, 59.7% of children under 18 who were «at risk of poverty or social exclusion» lived in households that could not afford to keep their home adequately warm, while children who were not «Risk of Poverty or Social Exclusion» the corresponding percentage was 14.7%.

3.6.1. Minimum Guaranteed Income (MIG) – Provision of housing benefit

For every person who does not have sufficient means of maintenance, the Minimum Guaranteed Income is provided to combat child poverty and social exclusion.

The Guaranteed Minimum Income aims to ensure a minimum socially acceptable standard of living for individuals and their families legally residing in the Republic of Cyprus, as long as they meet the necessary conditions of the legislation.

The allowance changes according to the applicant's income and according to the family members and their special needs.

Housing Benefit and Childcare Supplement are provided under the EEE. The provision of housing may be increased by 20% for a disabled person and by 50% for a disabled person traveling in a wheelchair and/or a disabled person with increased needs for care, accessibility and other adaptations.

3.6.2. Project «Baby Dowry»

The Baby Dowry Scheme was co-financed by the European Union's European Aid to the Needy Fund and the Republic of Cyprus within the Cyprus Operational Program for «Food and/or Basic Material Assistance» for the period 2014-2020 and from 1/ 1/2023 is co-financed within the framework of the THALEA Program for the program period 2021 - 2027. Beneficiaries of the Plan are recipients of the Minimum Guaranteed Income or Public Assistance, as well as cases that are supervised by the Social Welfare Services and are evaluated as beneficiaries based on criteria.

The «Baby Dowry» Project is implemented from 1/1/2018 with retroactive effect from September 2017. Beneficiaries of the Plan are recipients of the Minimum Guaranteed Income or Public Assistance, as well as cases supervised by the Social Welfare Services and are evaluated as beneficiaries on the basis of criteria. From the beginning of the Project until 31/12/2023, approximately 4,400 families have benefited.

3.6.3. Scheme to grant benefits to families who have triplets or more

On 12/2022, by decision of the Council of Ministers, the new Scheme for Concession of Benefits to Families that acquire Triplets and above was approved. The Plan provides for the following:

- a) The family that acquires triplets or more can submit an application for granting the benefits before the completion of the 5th year of the children's age.
- b) One-off amount of €1,306 for each child.
- c) Grant of total maternity/paternity leave, 52 weeks, for one of the two working parents.
- d) Provision of a care allowance for a period of twelve months (in a period before the completion of compulsory schooling), equal to the amount granted by the Minimum Guaranteed Income for care purposes (currently €102 for each child).
- e) Covering schools for the children to attend a Nursery School/Kindergarten at least for the age of 1-5 years (beginning of compulsory education), with the amount up to €250 per month.
- f) In the case of a non-working mother or a single parent, payment of an additional, one-off amount of €1,728 for each child.

3.6.4. Vulnerable electricity customers and measures to protect them

The categories of vulnerable electricity customers and the protection measures for these customers are defined in a relevant Decision and relevant Decrees of the Minister of Energy, Trade and Industry (EEB) which were issued on the basis of articles 111, 129 and 130 of the Electricity Market Regulation Laws of 2021 to 2023.

1. The Decision of the Minister of EEB to impose on all holders of electricity supply licenses, Obligations to Provide Public Service and specifically special electricity pricing for vulnerable customers
2. On the Determination of the Criteria of Energy Poverty Decree of 2023 (C.D.P. 308/2023) and on the Definition of the Concept of Vulnerable Customers and the Categories of Vulnerable Customers Decree of 2023 (C.D.P. 309) /2023), the categories that fall under Energy Poverty and Vulnerable Electricity Customers are defined, which are beneficiaries of the measures below, in accordance with the 2023 Decree on Measures to Combat Energy Poverty and Protection Measures for Vulnerable Electricity Customers (K.D.P. 310/2023):
 - (a) The non-disconnection or reconnection of electricity during critical periods for persons whose uninterrupted supply of electricity is necessary for reasons related to their health, after approval by a competent Medical Board.
 - (b) The provision of financial incentives through their participation in Grant Schemes of the Ministry of Education and Culture
 - (c) The provision of financial incentives through their participation in the Program for energy upgrading of homes

In the event that a child falls into the categories of vulnerable electricity customers, his family may benefit from the measures in question.

3.6.5. Children in precarious family situations - TAME Programming Period 2014-2020

The operation of an open Hospitality Center for unaccompanied minors of third-country nationals, with a total capacity of 45 people, is co-financed until the year 2022. In addition to accommodation, the Center offers residents various services that are supportive, educational or recreational in nature.

The employment of additional staff by the Social Welfare Services (YKE) was co-financed under the Emergency Assistance of TAME, with the aim of improving the management of cases of Unaccompanied Minors/Applicants for international protection, including the examination of applications for the provision of material reception conditions, involvement as guardians of Unaccompanied Minors Minor Applicants for international protection, supporting the operation of existing shelters/programs for Unaccompanied Minors and providing other relevant support services.

In addition, the Project aims to support the development of an expanded Reception System, increasing the possibility of receiving Unaccompanied Minor Applicants for international protection or those who claim to belong to this group. In practice, TAME is expected to provide support to the Nicosia Center for Unaccompanied Minors and support for improving the operation of existing structures/programs for Unaccompanied Minors.

3.6.6. Handling of Unaccompanied Minors

Unaccompanied Minors entering the Republic of Cyprus are placed under the guardianship of the Director of Social Welfare Services, who acts as their guardian, taking all necessary measures for their access to their rights, based on the best interests of the child.

These children can live in the following structures:

- Foster Families
- Children placed in Child Protection Institutions
- Semi-Independent Living²⁷

In total, for 2022, 1727 children were under the legal care of DYKE, including unaccompanied minors (486 children under care + 1241 unaccompanied minors).

At the end of 2022 the total number of unaccompanied minors was 1241. In total for 2022 it concerns 1727 children, including unaccompanied minors (486 children under care + 1241 unaccompanied minors). The expenditure for 2022 for children in care (foster and semi-independent care) amounted to €4,513,234. It is clarified that the Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth,

²⁷ Based on the 2 special actions within the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund 2021-2027, an increase in beds in semi-independent living and perhaps the implementation of a Center for unaccompanied children is expected

through the Immigrant Biography Section of the Directorate of Secondary General Education in close cooperation with the Social Welfare Services and the Service of the State Training Institutes, as well as with all the involved school units throughout Cyprus, offer breakfast and afternoon specialized educational programs for learning Greek as a second language for Unaccompanied Minors/Applicants for International Protection.

3.6.7. The Adoption Law

It aims to create new Legislation to modernize the adoption process, with the aim of ensuring the best interests of the child with respect to their fundamental rights as recognized by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, ratified in 1990 and the Convention of the Hague for the Protection of Children and Cooperation in respect of Intercountry Adoption, ratified in 1994 and the European Convention on the Exercise of the Rights of the Child, ratified in 2005 by the Republic of Cyprus.

The bill is expected to be sent for legislative review in June 2024 and by September 2024 to be submitted to the Council of Ministers.

3.6.8. The Treatment of Children in the Parental Care or Custody or Care of the Director of Social Welfare Services Act 2023

The bill regulates all forms of alternative care, the services provided to the child, the conditions and procedure for the approval of foster parents, the criteria for the inclusion of a child in semi-independent living and supervision. The proposed legislation is expected to improve the procedures and effectiveness of the child protection and care services provided and to regulate the semi-independent living program aimed at the smooth transition of the child to adulthood.

The new legislation under development is expected to be sent for legislative review within January 2024 and submitted to the Council of Ministers by June 2024.

3.7. Children with Disabilities

The Department for Social Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities, as the Focal Point for the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, is in the process of consultation with the relevant Ministries/Deputy Ministries and the representative organizations of persons with disabilities for the preparation of the Revised National Strategy and Action Plan for Disability 2024-2028. One of the seven thematic pillars for which actions to be implemented over a five-year period will be defined is "early child and family intervention".

The aim is to ensure that targeted measures are taken to increase the access of children with disabilities and their families to early intervention services, including timely and correct information and guidance regarding their rights, the services and benefits/allowances they are entitled to, etc. and that the legislation, regulations and measures implemented are based on the principles

laid down by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

4. INDICATORS, OBJECTIVES AND MONITORING

In this section, based on the final outline prepared by the European Social Protection Committee for the selection of indicators related to the NAP Guarantee, a relevant Appendix (Annex II) was prepared by the Statistical Service that presents the indicators related to the NAP. The main developments in the most important indicators are presented below.

4.1. Monitoring the size of the «Children in Need» population

The «AROPE» indicator which concerns the number and percentage of children at risk of poverty or social exclusion. As described in the 2023 Annual Report of the Social Protection Committee, the 2030 National Goal for the reduction of poverty and social exclusion of children in Cyprus has already been achieved in 2022²⁸.

In particular, the aim was to reduce the AROPE index for children (the indicator of risk of poverty or social exclusion) from 35,000 children in the year 2019 to 32,000 children by 2030 (i.e. 3,000 fewer children). The 2022 AROPE index in Cyprus showed that 31,000 children or 18.1% of children under the age of 18 were at risk of poverty or social exclusion, while in 2019 there were 35,000 AROPE children or 20.3%²⁹. This index is available annually.

4.2. Monitoring free and effective access to Early Childhood Education and Care

The indicator «Percentage of children who regularly attend Preschool Education and Care» (PEF) by age group. For the age group under 3 years in 2022 it was 24.4% (EU27=34.8%), while in 2019 it was 29.3%. (Council recommendation new target=45.0%).

The same indicator for the age group from 3 years to the minimum compulsory school age in 2022 was 82.6% (EU27=88.4%), while in 2019 it was 91.0%. (Council recommendation new target=96.0%).

These indicators are available annually.

4.3. Monitoring free and effective access to education (and school activities)

The indicator «Percentage of children who have free and effective access to education and school activities» with the percentage of children (<16) «AROPE» and «Not-AROPE», while in 2021 it amounted to 28.9% of «AROPE» children, while correspondingly, 5.1% of children who were not «AROPE» were deprived of these activities³⁰.

²⁸ Data taken from the Social Protection Report, 2023

²⁹ For comparison: in 2022, AROPE children in EU27= 24.7%

³⁰ For comparison: in 2021, EU27 AROPE= 24.1%, Not-AROPE= 3.9%

This indicator is calculated by Eurostat specifically for the Monitoring Framework of the Social Protection Commission. We await the new data for 2024, when the special section for children will take place in the EU statistics on income and living conditions (EU-SILC).

English

4.4. Monitoring free and effective access to at least one healthy meal per school day (access to healthy nutrition)

The indicator of «free and effective access to at least one healthy meal per school day» (effective access to a healthy diet) with percentage of children (<16) «ARPE» and «non-ARPE» suffering from forced lack of access to a meal per day with meat, chicken or fish (or vegetarian equivalent) in 2021 amounted to 0.59% of ARPE children, while 0.0% of non-ARPE children were not deprived of these meals³¹. This indicator is calculated by Eurostat specifically for the Monitoring Framework of the Social Protection Commission. We expect the new data for 2024, when the special section for children will take place at EU-SILC.

4.5. Monitoring free and effective access to fresh fruit and vegetables at least once a day (access to a healthy diet)

In addition, the indicator "Percentage of children (<16) «ARPE» and «non-ARPE» suffering from the forced lack of access to fresh fruit and vegetables at least once a day rose in 2021 to 1.1% of «ARPE» children who suffered from a forced lack of access to fresh fruits and vegetables at least once a day, while a percentage (0.0%) of «non-ARPE» children were not deprived of these items³² in 2021.

This indicator is calculated by Eurostat specifically for the Monitoring Framework of the Social Protection Commission. We await the new data for 2024, when the special section for children will take place at EU-SILC.

4.6. Monitoring free and effective access to health care

The index for the percentage of households with dependent children «ARPE» and «Not – ARPE» with unfulfilled needs for medical examination or treatment was 2021 to 1.8% of ARPE children, while 1.4% of «not – ARPE» they had these unfulfilled needs respectively for 2021³³.

This indicator is calculated by Eurostat specifically for the Social Protection Committee Monitoring framework. We expect the new data for 2024, when the special section for children will take place at EU-SILC.

³¹ For comparison: in 2021, EU27 ARPE= 10.05%, Not-ARPE=1.00%

³² For comparison: in 2021, EU27 ARPE= 7.6%, Not-ARPE=0.7%

³³ For comparison: in 2021, EU27 ARPE= 5.74%, Not-ARPE=3.0%

4.7. Monitoring effective access to adequate housing

The index for the percentage of «AROE» and «not-AROE» children living in a household facing excessive housing costs rose in 2022 to 8.14% of «AROE» children, while correspondingly 0.4% of «not -AROE» children faced this burden³⁴. This is an indicator calculated by Eurostat specifically for the Social Protection Commission Monitoring Framework and is available annually from EU-SILC data.

5. FUNDING

The existing actions that are already implemented and the new actions that are planned to be implemented in the horizon until 2030 concern both national funds and European funding from the EU. In addition, it is noted that there are also actions that are included in the main work of Departments and Ministries/Deputy Ministries which are horizontal and are included in the national funds and state sponsorships of the Departments.

Specifically, a series of actions are covered within the framework of the Political Cohesion Program «THALEIA 2021-2027» and the European Social Fund+ (ESF+), from the Recovery and Resilience Plan, Erasmus+ KA3, European Regional Development Fund Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund - TAME and EEA and Norway (EEA) Financing Mechanisms-(2014-2021).

5.1. Ministry of Energy, Trade and Industry: €10,000,000.00

A fund of €10,000,000 per year: for the implementation of special pricing for vulnerable electricity customers, which are proportionally covered by all electricity consumers.

5.2. Deputy Ministry of Social Welfare – Welfare Benefits Management Service: €165,000.00 per year

A fund of €16.500.000 per year: for the Tuition and Feeding Subsidy Scheme for Children up to 4 years of age to support families with young children, by subsidizing care services for dependent children up to 4 years of age through the direct payment to nurseries of part of the monthly costs for their children's education (national funds 40% and co-financing from the EKT 60% of the Cohesion Political Program «THALEIA 2021-2027»).

A fund of approximately €42.000.000 per year: for monthly EEE provision for beneficiaries under 18 and beneficiaries under 18 with a disability, housing allowance, as well as care needs for minors and/or children with disabilities (national funds).

A fund of approximately €118.000.000 per year: for monthly and/or annual provision of child benefit and monthly single-parent family benefit (national funds).

³⁴ For comparison: in 2022, EU27 AROPE children= 21.68%, Not-AROE children=2.42%

5.3. Deputy Ministry of Social Welfare – Social Welfare Services: €823,145,000

A fund of approximately €745.000 per year: to cover emergency needs for families with minor children based on the provisions of article 11 of the legislation on the provision of EEE.

A fund of approximately €1.700.000 per year: for the operation of a Private Children's Home for unaccompanied minors (national funds of €700,000 and co-financing from the ECB €1,000,000.00).

A fund of approximately €7.500.000 per year: for the care and protection of minor children (including unaccompanied minors) in foster care, in State child protection institutions and semi-independent care (national funds).

A fund of approximately €480.000 per year: for the operation of the «Women's House» program for free access of all women (and their minor children) victims of violence, without any discrimination (national funds).

Fund of approximately €465.000 per year: for the operation of the Children's House program to provide the full range of necessary services, under one roof, pursuing justice in a child-friendly manner, in the management of cases of sexual abuse and child exploitation, while ensuring the child's best interests, safety, protection and well-being through a multi-disciplinary approach (national funds).

Fund of €17.400.000: for the creation of Multipurpose Centers for children and Child Care Centers and residential structures for children, adolescents with behavioral and social development disorders for children (Recovery and Resilience Plan).

Fund amounting to €48.000.000: for the «Restructuring of Social Welfare Services» Project which is implemented within the framework of the Cohesion Policy Program «THALEIA 2021-2027» with EU co-financing. The Project includes, among others, the «Neighborhood Social Worker» program, carrying out a study «Reform of the child protection system in Cyprus, need for structures and programs», recruitment of professionals to strengthen the interdisciplinary approach to the provision of services and the provision of specialized services (Accompanies) to children under the care of the DYKE of the YKE and to children of high-risk families, as well as to disabled people residing in State Institutions of the Social Welfare Services.

Fund amounting to €2.600.000: for the «Baby's Dowry» Project for the provision of free specified basic consumer goods (equipment, linen, baby diapers and personal hygiene and care items for babies), as well as Accompanying Measures, to reduce material deprivation and limiting the risk of social exclusion of beneficiary families and children. Beneficiaries are families with a child/children up to 2 years old and who are beneficiaries of the Minimum Guaranteed Income or Public Assistance Recipients, or families facing serious problems of material deprivation. The Project was included in the new program period THALEIA 2021-2027. For 2024, the fund amounts to €3.000.000.

5.4. Deputy Ministry of Social Welfare – Department for Social Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities: €60.500.000 per year³⁵

Fund of €5.000.000: for the creation of a new family intervention and support center for Autism (Co-financed Project - EKT).

Fund of €10.500.000: for the further expansion of the Disability Assessment System (Co-financed Project – EKT).

Fund of €45.000.000: for the provision of social benefits and allowances for Persons with Disabilities (including children with Disabilities) (national funds).

5.5. Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth:

National Fund for welfare commission, meal allowances, extension of free and compulsory pre-primary education up to the age of 6, payment of low fees or exemption from payment of fees in public kindergartens.

Fund for School Actions and Social Integration Program + (Co-financed Project – EKT 60% and national funds).

Fund for tackling learning impairment and early school leaving (Co-financed Project – Technical Support Instrument).

Fund to provide a comprehensive toolkit (EU Funding – Erasmus + KA3).

Fund for the Project "Feeding students in need" (Co-financed Project - ESF, national funds and local sponsors).

National Fund for special education regarding the equipment of new special units and special education rooms, the creation of infrastructure, the purchase of educational materials/equipment, the provision of specialized equipment to students of public kindergartens, primary and special schools.

National Fund for special education regarding the employment of school assistants/accompaniers for children with special needs in Primary Education, transport of children to special schools, transport of Primary Education children who for various reasons cannot attend a school in the area in which they live, financial support of the Associations of Parents of Special Schools.

5.6. Ministry of the Interior: €32.514.285,69

Fund amounting to €17.514.285,69: In the context of the new Program 2021-2027, there are three projects under planning related to unaccompanied children. Also in the framework of the Program 2014-2020 another ongoing project which was completed in 2022:

1. Operation of an Open Reception Center for Unaccompanied Minors of Third Countries. Timetable 11.2017-09.2022. Budget €1,214,285, 69 FP 2014-2020.

³⁵ The amount concerns the wider population for Persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities.

2. In the context of the new FP 2021-2027, a call for proposals was announced for a Center for Unaccompanied Children with a budget of 1.3 million (for third years starting from March 2024).³⁶

3. In the context of the new FP 2021-2027, a special action was approved with a budget of approximately 15 million (90% community funding). Part of the budget will be given to create semi-independent structures for unaccompanied minors. We do not yet know if the project and the rest will be implemented to staff the YKE with guardians for minors.

Fund of €15.000.000: for an integration project by Local Authorities/NGOs with a target group of Third Country Nationals (including their minor children (Asylum, Immigration and Integration Fund – TAME):

1. In the context of the new FP 2021-2027, a special action was approved with a budget of approximately 15 million (50% community funding) to create a center/centers for unaccompanied minors. We do not yet know if the project will be implemented.

5.7. Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment- Department of Agriculture: €870,000

Fund of €870.000: to provide free fruit, vegetables and milk to students of public/private primary schools and public/community kindergartens in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, the Cyprus Agricultural Payment Organizations (KOAP) and the Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth (Funding from the EU and national funds).

5.8. Ministry of Health: €48,510,000

Fund of €33.142,97: for Public and Environmental Health services of the Ministry of Health (national funds).

A fund of €486.769: for dental care through the Dental Services for children under 18 and preventive dental care for children under 12 (national funds).

Fund of €680.000: for Child and Adolescent Mental Health services in collaboration with the State Health Services Organization (OKYPY) of the Ministry of Health (Funding from the EEA Norway 2014-2021-national funds).

A fund of €7.246.188: for the services of Health Visitors and Scholarly Services (national funds).

A fund of €454.722: for the services of the School Dental Service (national funds).

A fund of €503.980: for neonatal detection programs (national funds).

Fund of €40.005.000: for the construction of a Mental Health Center - Upgrading of services offered in collaboration with OKYPY (national funds).

³⁶ The project implementation process is currently pending

6. COURSES AND FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

June 2024 marks three years since the adoption of the European Union Council Recommendation «Establishing a European Child Guarantee» (2021/1004). Since then, a series of actions and policies have been promoted that support the implementation of the Recommendation across Europe. All Member States responded positively, preparing and publicizing their National Action Plans for the Establishment of a European Child Guarantee.

Identifying important differences, both in the way of preparing the ESAs, and in the diversity or absence of statistical indicators, the European Commission through the Social Protection Committee achieved the approval of the first monitoring framework of the relevant Recommendation. This monitoring framework includes indicators in seven sections and was used as a Statistical Analysis Guide during the preparation of this Report (First Biennial Report for the implementation of the National Action Plan).

The aim of both the Recommendation, the NAPs and the reports that were prepared is the effective implementation of the Recommendation and the holistic presentation of programs and policies that have the child at its center with the provision of services that ensure their healthy development in the health sectors, of education, housing and care.

There are ongoing challenges for Member States to fully implement the Recommendation and ensure appropriate child-centred policies. One of the most important challenges is the gaps in the collection of statistics available in Cyprus, so that they can specialize actions to improve their national goals that remain focused on reducing child poverty or social exclusion to 32,000 by 2030. The Member States should achieve the uniform collection of statistical data and the continuous improvement of the indicators described in this report and achieve the European objectives.

Cyprus also taking into account the Comments of the European Commission on the National Action Plan for the Establishment of a Guarantee for children included in this Report for a more comprehensive diagnosis, based on the development of appropriate quantitative and qualitative objectives, as well as statistics and indicators that are available in terms of combating child poverty and social exclusion. It is noted that statistical data separated by gender and age were also included in the indicators, where available.

This report also comments on the free and free access to basic services and access, however, the non-inclusion of basic values or even target values that must be achieved regarding the children that should be reached with the corresponding measures remains a challenge.

In addition, reference is made to a number of other horizontal actions based on other National Strategies, which act as complements, facilitating the implementation of the European Child Guarantee in Cyprus, namely the National Strategic Framework for Roma equality, inclusion and participation in Cyprus 2021-2030 and the National Disability Action Plan.

Finally, this Report promotes the active participation of all involved bodies (Ministries, Departments, Services, Non-Governmental Organizations) for a horizontal, holistic response to all challenges concerning children.

7. CONCLUSIONS

In this Report, an attempt was made to include gaps and deficiencies that had been identified and commented on by the European Commission in the National Action Plan for the Establishment of a European Guarantee for children. The writing of this Report was carried out on the basis of the single outline prepared by the European Commission, providing the possibility of extracting comparative results for all Member States. Having said that, joint actions/practices/policies are promoted for further improvement in the interest of the child.

In the field of Preschool Education and Care, the Tuition and Feeding Subsidy Scheme for Children up to 4 years of age is detailed in response to the challenge of Cyprus to improve the indicators for the Revised Barcelona Goals for 2030 to meet the 45% participation rate of children under of 3 years and 96% participation of children aged 3 and up to the age of compulsory education, while positive developments are expected with the preparation of «National Quality Framework for Preschool Care and Education» in Cyprus, but also the creation of versatile Centers for children and Child Care Centers, measures that are expected to further improve the reconciliation of professional and family life and improve the demographic problem of Cyprus.

In the field of Education and school activities, positive measures are described with programs to deal with learning impairment and early school leaving, and the Greek language learning program for students with an immigrant background with the aim of providing a specialized offer to the target group of children with a migrant background, including unaccompanied minors living in Cyprus.

The Healthy Lunch section each school day features the meal allowances provided to Optional Full Day Schools and the Feeding Students in Need Project in an effort to ensure a healthy meal for every student each school day.

Furthermore, in matters of Health, Cyprus with the full operation of the General Health System (GHS) has managed to offer equal access to health services for all citizens, as the right to health within the GHS is independent of the payment of contributions, while the pioneer is considered Creation of a Center for Children with neurodevelopmental disorders, which will be unique of its kind in the public sector with the direct cooperation of all specialists in the context of holistic treatment of the problems presented by the children who will be referred to the Center.

In the field of Healthy Nutrition, the support for children's access to healthy meals outside of school days and the programs to promote healthy nutrition implemented in primary schools are positively described.

In addition, in the area of Adequate Housing, the possibility of providing a housing allowance to any person who does not have sufficient means of maintenance, through the Minimum Guaranteed Income, is noted with the aim of ensuring a minimum socially acceptable standard of living for individuals and families legally residing in the Republic of Cyprus , on the basis of the provisions of the relevant legislation, while special electricity pricing with Code 08 is provided to specific categories of vulnerable electricity customers.

In conclusion, the actions included in this Report, combined with the good practices described, contribute to the improvement of the services provided, in areas where gaps or deficiencies were identified for children under 18 years of age.

The Report concludes with the presentation of three good practices for improving the quality of children in Cyprus regarding the Tuition Subsidy and Feeding Scheme for Children up to 4 years of age, Oral Health Education and free dental care for all children aged 11 in Cyprus attending Primary Schools (public and private schools) and the operation of departments through the Mental Health Services for Children and Adolescents in Cyprus.

7.1. Tuition Subsidy and Feeding Scheme for Children up to 4 years old

The «Tuition and Feeding Subsidy Plan for Children up to 4 years of age» implemented by the Welfare Benefits Management Service of the Deputy Ministry of Social Welfare provides for the provision of a subsidy for quality care and education services for children up to 4 years of age, with a particularly increased amount of subsidy for children aged up to 2 years old which is the age group with a particularly low participation rate in formal education and supports the demographic policy of the state, the development of equality and social justice for all children, the reconciliation of family and professional life and the achievement of the revised goals of Barcelona 2022, for the participation of children in formal education.

In accordance with the provisions of the Plan, from September 2022 through the Benefit Management Service up to 80% of tuition fees and children's meals will be subsidized for families approved for Child Benefit under the Child Benefit Laws for the year in which the school year, with children of which at least one must be up to 4 years of age at the start of the school year, with an annual family income for the previous calendar year that does not exceed the established limits.

The Plan was approved for the first time in 7/2022 and was implemented in the school year 2022-2023 with a significant investment of 12 million euros per year (increase to 16 million. per year from the school year 2023-24 due to the extension of the program) and is co-financed by 60 % from the European Social Fund (ESF) of the Political Cohesion Program «THALEIA 2021-2027».

The number of potential beneficiaries amounted to 15,000 children for the first year of implementation and this number increased to 21,500 with the extension of the Scheme from 2023-2024. Provides for the provision of a monthly subsidy covering up to 80% of the cost of quality care and education services for children up to 4 years of age, with a particularly increased maximum subsidy amount for children up to 2 years of age, which is the age group with a particularly low participation rate in formal education and supports the demographic policy of the state, the development of equality and social justice for all children, the reconciliation of family and professional life and the achievement of the revised goals of Barcelona 2022, for the participation of children in formal education.

During the first year of the Plan's implementation, total costs of €11.943.846 (9/2022-8/2023) were paid with the participation of 7,792 beneficiary children.

During the 2nd current year of implementation of the Plan, it has been expanded to cover about 10,550 eligible children corresponding to 52% of potentially eligible children, including all children belonging to the first 5 deciles of the income distribution. The budget for the school year 2023-24 is 16.5 million euros and the expenditure for the period 9/2023 – 12/2023 was €5,882,935.

From the implementation and evaluation of the Plan, it can be seen that the initial objectives were largely achieved as based on applications submitted by parents and approved, about 49% of the potential beneficiaries participated in the first year of implementation and this percentage increases to 52% of the potential beneficiaries. beneficiaries in the 2nd year, i.e. 10,550 children in total benefit from the Plan.

It is noted that in the proposal of the European Commission for the investment priorities of Cyprus for the period 2021-2027 of the Cohesion Funds, included in the Cyprus Report, a relevant investment priority «increasing the supply of affordable and quality pre-school education and care» has been included, a recommendation which is repeated continuously in the context of the country-specific recommendations of the European Semester as this specific investment reflects significantly on a number of the monitored indicators for:

Support for the wider demographic policy of the state

- Reduction of the risk of poverty and social exclusion, especially with regard to child poverty.

- Increase the percentage of children attending registered day care facilities, achieving and exceeding the revised Barcelona targets of 45% of children up to 3 years of age.

- Strengthening Social Justice in terms of access to child care services for all children in the target group.

- Breaking the intergenerational cycle of poverty and social exclusion through timely and significant investments in children.

- Reconciliation of family and professional life.

Inclusion of the unemployed in the labor market who are burdened with the care of dependent members (children) of their family, mainly women.

- Increasing the participation rate of the inactive labor force in the labor market.

- Persistence of workforce in the labor market.

- Obtaining or increasing income due to joining the labor market.

- Dealing with the up to now undeclared work in the child care sector, which in many cases also falls short in terms of quality.

- Increasing the provision of accessible, affordable, flexible and quality childcare services for children up to 4 years of age.

- Ensuring adequate levels of care and education for all children.

It is noted that the Plan will continue after 2025 as it is, with an expenditure of around 16.5 million per year.

7.2. Oral health education and free dental care for all children aged 11 in Cyprus attending Primary Schools (public and private schools)

Oral health education and free dental care is a program of the Dental Services of the Ministry of Health that is addressed to all school children of 11 years of age in Cyprus, regardless of nationality or region of residence.

The program is implemented in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth and the All Cyprus Dental Association. Its objectives include the following measures:

-Provision of oral health education to all children including demonstration of correct brushing techniques, nutritional advice and distribution of information leaflets.

-Offer a dental examination to all children in the 5th grade of Primary School (11-year-old children - about 8,000 children) by government dentists provided that their parents or guardians give written consent. The examination is carried out on the school premises using disposable mirrors and probes in accordance with the guidelines of the World Health Organization (WHO).

-After the examination, the parents/guardians receive a letter and a text message (sms) informing them of the state of their children's oral health and if any treatment is needed. If dental problems are detected, the children are given the opportunity to receive free dental care from a private dentist of their choice participating in the program. The costs of the treatment are covered by the budget of the Public Dental Services based on the state price list.

-Budget (program cost): €150,000 (including the compensation of private dentists).

The Dental Service keeps statistics on:

- a) number of children whose parents/guardians have given their consent to be tested,
- b) number of students found to have oral problems and referred for free treatment,
- c) number of children who received free dental care,
- d) average cost of care per student,
- e) number of private dentists who participated in the program and
- f) annual total cost,

At the same time, the Dental Services proceed with a sample check of the children who requested dental treatment to confirm that the necessary treatment was carried out.

7.3. Mental Health Services for Children and Adolescents in Cyprus

The Mental Health Services of the State Health Services Organization (OKYpy) operate Multidisciplinary Departments of Outpatient Clinics in all the main regions of Cyprus, Adolescent Clinic in a Mother-Child Hospital (Archbishop Makarios III Hospital), Multidisciplinary Center for Detection and Early Intervention of Autism Spectrum Disorders and Special Multidisciplinary Center for Eating Disorders of Children and Adolescents. The latter two centres, as well as the internal clinic, have been considered Good Practice services.

All children and adolescents who visit the Mental Health Services for Children and Adolescents in Cyprus have equal access to services related to the early diagnosis and treatment of diseases and developmental problems. Unaccompanied minors, asylum seekers and/or children with a migrant background are not charged by the scheme. The same applies to people leaving Ukraine.

The Inpatient Clinic is developed according to international protocols, offering a therapeutic environment and based on the principles of Family Therapy. It also offers specialized Family Therapy for Eating Disorders based on the Maudsley model.

The Center for Child and Adolescent Eating Disorders also offers therapeutic programs based on Family Therapy for Eating Disorders for children and adolescents based on the Maudsley Model and also Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT).

The Center for Detection and Early Intervention of Autism Spectrum Disorders was funded by European Norwegian Grants and is newly established and currently operational.

8. ANNEX I

The EEE aims to ensure a minimum socially acceptable standard of living for individuals and their families legally residing in the Republic of Cyprus, as long as they meet the necessary conditions of the legislation. In particular, any person whose income and other financial resources are not sufficient to cover their basic and special needs, as defined by the relevant legislation, as well as any person with a disability, regardless of age, provided that the disability is certified by the Disability Assessment System can apply for the EEE.

The allowance changes according to the applicant's income and according to the family members and their special needs.

The amount provided as basic needs of the EEE consists of:

a) The monthly amount corresponding to the living needs of the applicant/beneficiary is included in the minimum living basket as follows:

- €480 for the applicant-beneficiary
- €240 for the wife and for each family member over 14 years of age
- €144 for each family member under the age of 14

The Deputy Ministry also grants child allowances (on a monthly or annual basis depending on the number of children) and a Single Parent Family allowance.

Child benefit is granted to the family only for the number of unmarried and dependent children living with the family under the same roof. The amount of child benefit is related to the number of children in the family, as well as the gross annual income of the family accumulated within the previous calendar year. In families with one or two dependent children the benefit is paid in an annual installment, while in families with three or more dependent children it is paid on a monthly basis.

Every family that has legal and continuous residence in the areas where the Republic exercises effective control, by five, at least, years preceding the submission of the application, she is entitled to child benefit for her dependent children who live under the same roof, as long as her family income falls within the income criteria set out in the Annex to the Child Benefit Provision Law.

Single-parent families, which are entitled to a child allowance, are paid a single-parent family allowance, as specified in the Annex to the Law on the Provision of Child Allowance, provided that this family has legal and continuous residence in the areas where the Republic exercises effective control, during the five, at least, years preceding the submission of the application on the date of submission of the application for payment of allowance, in accordance with the provisions of the said Law.

Additional Accompanying Measures for Families receiving Child Benefit for three or more children:

The Council of Ministers on 18 May 2023 approved the granting of a lump sum as additional support to families with three or more dependent children who receive child benefit, to deal with inflationary pressures and for the purpose of covering part of the expenses during the summer period.

Grant of a summer lump sum for the year 2023 to families receiving child benefit for three or more dependent children. The total number of beneficiaries/families was 7,853 with a total expenditure of €1,943,070.00.

For families with three children, €70 was granted for each child and for families with four children €100 was granted for each child. The one-time sponsorship concerned more than 25,000 children.

In December 2023, an extraordinary Christmas Gift was granted to the same categories of beneficiaries, the same way it was granted in 2022, according to the Decision of the Council of Ministers no. 94.076 and date 30/11/2022. Specifically, the beneficiaries of the Single Parent Family Allowance, who are not beneficiaries of EEE or Public Assistance, were granted an amount of €100, provided that the family's gross income for 2022, as calculated on the basis of the Law on the Provision of Child Allowance, does not exceed € 19.500,00 and the amount of the deposits, based on the latest data kept in the Social Benefits Registry, does not exceed €10.000,00. Specifically, the extraordinary Christmas Gift was granted to 4,561 beneficiaries with a total expenditure of €456.100,00.

Both the amount of the Child Benefit and the amount of the Single Parent Family Allowance are adjusted every 1 January of each subsequent year, by the percentage increase of the average of the Automatic Price Adjustment (ATA) during the last year, compared to the average of this index during the immediately preceding year.

Article 11 of the Minimum Guaranteed Income (MIG) – Covering emergency needs

Regardless of the provisions of the EEE legislation, the Deputy Minister may provide assistance to a person who does not receive a monthly minimum guaranteed income and is in extremely urgent and/or emergency need as a result of personal circumstances or an unexpected or emergency situation if these needs are not met from other government resources or from another source.

Type of Allowance	Target group (definition and size)	Involved Carriers	Timetable implementation	Available financial resources and the source of funding
Minimum Guaranteed Income (GMI)	<p>Families with minors</p> <p>Minors with Disabilities</p> <p>On 31/12/2023 there were 2370 minors with Disabilities who received EEE as beneficiaries, regardless of family income and assets.</p> <p>In addition, 2901 minors received EEE for their basic needs or housing needs as dependents of their parents who are beneficiaries of EEE.</p>	HYDEP	It is implemented	<p>National resources</p> <p>2023: €41,721,817 paid for minor beneficiaries (with disabilities) and for minor dependents of their parents who are beneficiaries of PWD</p>
<p>Child and Single Parent Family Allowance.</p> <p>In families with one or two dependent children the benefit is paid in an annual installment, while in families with three or more dependent children it is paid on a monthly basis.</p>	<p>Target group:</p> <p>Every family that has legal and continuous residence in the areas where the Republic exercises effective control, during the five (5), at least, years preceding the submission of the application, is entitled to a child allowance for its dependent children who live under the same roof, as long as her family income falls within the income criteria specified in the Annex of the Law on the Provision of Child Allowance.</p>	HYDEP	It is implemented	<p>National resources</p> <p>Amounts paid and number of families in 2023</p> <p>(Child Benefit):</p> <p>Beneficiaries: 59,452</p> <p>Amount: €79,666,048</p> <p>Amounts paid and number of families in 2023:</p> <p>(Single Parent Family Allowance):</p> <p>Beneficiaries: 11,511</p> <p>Amount: € 38,624,025</p>

9. ANNEX II - Indicators for monitoring the National Action Plan for the establishment of a European Child Guarantee, Cyprus 2024

A/A	Indicators Δείκτες	Indicators' names in Greek Όνομα δείκτών στα Ελληνικά	Source Πηγή	Latest year available for Cyprus Το τελευταίο έτος διαθέσιμο για την Κύπρο	Previous years for Cyprus Προηγούμενα έτη για την Κύπρο			EU27
					2021	2020	2019	
Monitoring of the size of the population of "children in need" Παρακολούθηση του μεγέθους του πληθυσμού των «παιδιών που έχουν ανάγκη»								
1	Share and Number of children (<18) at risk of poverty or social exclusion (AROPE)	Ποσοστό και αριθμός παιδιών (<18) που βρίσκονται σε κίνδυνο φτώχειας ή κοινωνικού αποκλεισμού (AROPE)	Eurostat	2022 Total/ Σύνολο: 18,1%, 31.000 Males/ Αγόρια: 18,0%, 16.000 Females/ Κορίτσια: 18,2%, 16.000	Total/ Σύνολο: 19,2%, 33.000 Males/ Αγόρια: 18,4%, 16.000 Females/ Κορίτσια: 20,0%, 17.000	Total/ Σύνολο: 19,0%, 33.000 Males/ Αγόρια: 18,7%, 17.000 Females/ Κορίτσια: 19,2%, 16.000	Total/ Σύνολο: 20,3%, 35.000 Males/ Αγόρια: 19,5%, 17.000 Females/ Κορίτσια: 21,2%, 18.000	<u>2022</u> 24,7%
2	Share and Number of children (<18) AROPE, broken down by components (monetary poverty, severe material and social deprivation, living in households with very low work intensity)	Ποσοστό και αριθμός παιδιών (<18) AROPE, καταγεγραμμένα ανά συνιστώσα (χρηματική φτώχεια, σοβαρή υλική και κοινωνική στέρηση, διαβίωση σε νοικοκυριά με χαμηλή ένταση εργασίας)	Eurostat	2022 AROP: 14,9% (M:13,8%, F: 15,9%) SMSD: 4,4% (M:4,6%, F:4,2%) LWI: 2,5% (M:3,1%, F:1,8%)	AROP: 15,8 % SMSD: 4,2% LWI: 4,8%	AROP: 16,1 % SMSD: 6,4% LWI: 3,9%	AROP: 16,7 % SMSD: 5,8% LWI: 5,4%	<u>2022</u> AROP: 19,3 % SMSD: 8,4% LWI: 7,6%
3	Relative median at-risk-of-poverty gap for children (<18) in % of the AROPE threshold	Χάσμα σχετικού κινδύνου φτώχειας για τα παιδιά (<18) στο % του ορίου κινδύνου φτώχειας	Eurostat	2022 18,1%	16,70%	18,70%	16,10%	<u>2022</u> 24,4%
4	Share of children (<16) with limitations due to health problems	Ποσοστό παιδιών (<16) με περιορισμούς λόγω προβλημάτων υγείας	Eurostat	2021 2%				<u>2021</u> 4,4%
5	Share of AROPE children (<18) with at least one parent born outside the EU	Ποσοστό AROPE παιδιών (<18) με τουλάχιστον έναν γονέα γεννημένο εκτός της ΕΕ	Eurostat	2020 40,2%				<u>2020</u> 25,0%
6	Share of AROPE children (<18) living in a single-parent household	Ποσοστό AROPE παιδιών (<18) που ζουν σε μονογονεϊκή οικογένεια	Eurostat	2020 15,1%				<u>2020</u> 23,0%
7	Share of AROPE children (<18) who have at least one parent with a disability	Ποσοστό AROPE παιδιών (<18) που έχουν τουλάχιστον έναν γονέα με αναπηρία	Eurostat	2020 33,3%				<u>2020</u> 28,0%
8	Number of children in alternative care, broken down by care type— residential in large institutions, formal in family-like settings, and other as relevant in particular national system; and share of children in residential care out of the total number of children in alternative care	Αριθμός παιδιών σε εναλλακτική φροντίδα, καταγεγραμμένα ανά είδος φροντίδας— διαμονή σε μεγάλα ιδρύματα, επίσημα σε οικογενειακά περιβάλλοντα και άλλα ανάλογα με την περίπτωση στο εθνικό σύστημα— και ποσοστό παιδιών σε ιδρύματα φροντίδας επί του συνολικού αριθμού παιδιών σε εναλλακτική φροντίδα	National	2018 In altern. Care/ Σε εναλ. φροντίδα: 608 In resid.care/ Διαμονή με φρονι.: 398 (65,5%) In formal family-based care/ Σε οικογ. περιβ.: 210 (34,5%)				39% in residential care
9	Persistent child poverty rate (<18)	Ποσοστό παρατεταμένου κινδύνου παιδικής φτώχειας (<18)	Eurostat	2022 11,04%	13,40%	9,80%	9,30%	n.a
Monitoring of free and effective access to ECEC Παρακολούθηση της δωρεάν και αποτελεσματικής πρόσβασης στην επίσημη προσχολική εκπαίδευση και φροντίδα (ECEC)								
10	Shares of children (<3) attending formal ECEC for at least 1 hour/week for AROPE and not AROPE children	Ποσοστό παιδιών (<3) που συμμετέχουν στην επίσημη προσχολική εκπαίδευση και φροντίδα (ECEC) για τουλάχιστον 1 ώρα/βδομάδα, στα AROPE και εκτός AROPE παιδιά	Eurostat	2022 TOTAL: 24,4% AROPE: 13,5% NOT-AROPE: 26,9%				2022 TOTAL: 34,8% AROPE: 21,7% NOT-AROPE: 38,7%
11	Age at which there is a legal entitlement to ECEC free of charge and guaranteed place	Ηλικία κατά την οποία υπάρχει νόμιμο δικαίωμα στην δωρεάν και εγγυημένη θέση στην επίσημη προσχολική εκπαίδευση και φροντίδα (ECEC)	Eurydice	2021/2022 Compulsory ECEC/ Υποχρεωτική προσχ.εκπ. φρονι.: 4 & 8/12 Primary/ Δημοτική: 6				na
12	Public expenditure on ECEC per child in ECEC in % of per capita GDP	Δημόσιες δαπάνες για την επίσημη προσχολική εκπαίδευση και φροντίδα (ECEC) κατά παιδί στο % του κατά κεφαλή ΑΕΠ	Eurostat	2019 7,8%				<u>2019</u> 19%
Monitoring of free and effective access to education (and school-based activities) Παρακολούθηση της δωρεάν και αποτελεσματικής πρόσβασης στην εκπαίδευση (και στις σχολικές δραστηριότητες)								
13	Share of low-achieving 15 years old in reading, maths and science, by socioeconomic category	Ποσοστό παιδιών ηλικίας 15 ετών με χαμηλές επιδόσεις στην ανάγνωση, τα μαθηματικά και τις φυσικές επιστήμες, ανά κοινωνικοοικονομική κατηγορία	PISA	2018 Low status/ χαμηλή κατηγ.: 39,0% Country Avere/ Μέση κατηγ.: 25,7% High status/ Υψηλή κατηγ.: 13,6%				2018 Low status/ χαμηλή κατηγ.: 23,5% High status/ Υψηλή κατηγ.: 4,2%
14	Share of low-achieving 15 years old in maths, by socioeconomic category	Ποσοστό ατόμων ηλικίας 15 ετών με χαμηλές επιδόσεις στα μαθηματικά, ανά κοινωνικοοικονομική κατηγορία	PISA	2022 Low status/ χαμηλή κατηγ.: 69,8% High status/ Υψηλή κατηγ.: 32,7%				na

A/A	Indicators Δείκτες	Indicators' names in Greek Ονόματα δεικτών στα Ελληνικά	Source Πηγή	Latest year available for Cyprus Το τελευταίο έτος διαθέσιμο για την Κύπρο	Previous years for Cyprus Προηγούμενα έτη για την Κύπρο			EU/27
					2021	2020	2019	
15	Share of children living in a household reporting great difficulties to pay for formal education	Ποσοστά παιδιών που διαμένουν σε νοικοκυριά τα οποία δηλώνουν μεγάλες δυσκολίες να πληρώσουν για την τυπική εκπαίδευση για τα παιδιά AROPE και εκτός AROPE	Eurostat	2016 AROE: 42.3% NOT AROPE: 18.5% TOTAL: 26.0%				2016 AROE: 17.5% NOT AROPE: 2.6% TOTAL: 6.7%
16	Shares of children (<16) AROPE and not AROPE who suffer from the enforced lack of access to school trips and school events that cost money	Ποσοστά παιδιών (<16) AROPE και εκτός AROPE που υποφέρουν από την αναγκαστική έλλειψη πρόσβασης σε σχολικές εκδρομές και σχολικές εκδηλώσεις που κοστίζουν χρήματα	Eurostat	2021 AROE: 5.2% NOT AROPE: 3.2% TOTAL: 3.7%				2021 AROE: 16.9% NOT AROPE: 2.1% TOTAL: 5.7%
17	Shares of children (<16) AROPE and not AROPE who suffer from the enforced lack of access to regular leisure activities	Ποσοστά παιδιών (<16) AROPE και εκτός AROPE που υποφέρουν από την αναγκαστική έλλειψη πρόσβασης σε τακτικές δραστηριότητες αναψυχής	Eurostat	2021 AROE: 28.9% NOT AROPE: 5.1% TOTAL: 11.2%				2021 AROE: 24.1% NOT AROPE: 3.9% TOTAL: 8.6%
18	Shares of Early school leavers, broken down by sex	Ποσοστά ατόμων που εγκαταλείπουν πρόωγα το σχολείο, καταναμημένα ανά φύλο	Eurostat	2022 Total/Σύνολο: 8.1% Males/Αρσένια: 9.4% Females/Κορίτσια: 6.9%	10.2	11.5	9.2	2022 Total/Σύνολο: 9.6%
19	Number of students (aged 15) per teacher in schools, by schools' socioeconomic profile	Αριθμός μαθητών (15 ετών) ανά εκπαιδευτικό στα σχολεία, ανά κοινωνικοοικονομικό προφίλ των σχολείων	PISA	2018 Bottom Quarter/Υποδίο.παιρσογ.: 5.4 Top Quarter/Κορυφ.παιρσογ.: 8.0				na
20	Public expenditure on education per pupil in % of GDP per capita broken down by education level (primary education and secondary education)	Δημόσιες δαπάνες για την εκπαίδευση κατά μαθητή στο % του κατά κεφαλή ΑΕΠ ανά βαθμίδα εκπαίδευσης (προτομβάθμια και δευτεροβάθμια εκπαίδευση)	Eurostat	2019 Prim./Αμμ.: 27.9% LS./Κατ.Μέση: 33.5% US/ Ανωτ.Μέση: 36.8%				2019 Prim./Αμμ.: 21.9% LS./Κατ.Μέση: 24.0% US/ Ανωτ.Μέση: 23.0%
Monitoring of the free and effective access to at least one healthy meal per school day <i>Παρακολούθηση της δωρεάν και αποτελεσματικής πρόσβασης σε τουλάχιστον ένα υγιεινό γεύμα ανά σχολική ημέρα</i>								
21	Shares of households AROPE and not AROPE with children not able to afford a meal with meat, chicken, fish (or vegetarian equivalent) every second day	Ποσοστά νοικοκυριών AROPE και εκτός AROPE με παιδιά στο νοικοκυριό, που δεν μπορούν να αντέξουν οικονομικά ένα γεύμα με κρέας, κοτόπουλο, ψάρι (ή χορτοφαγικό ισοδύναμο) κάθε δεύτερη ημέρα	Eurostat	2022 AROE: 6.53% NOT AROPE: 0.65%				2022 AROE: 24.2% NOT AROPE: 3.24%
22	Shares of children (<16) AROPE and not AROPE who suffer from the enforced lack of access to fresh fruits and vegetables at least once a day	Ποσοστά παιδιών (<16) AROPE και εκτός AROPE που υποφέρουν από την αναγκαστική έλλειψη πρόσβασης σε φρέσκα φρούτα και λαχανικά τουλάχιστον μία φορά την ημέρα	Eurostat	2021 AROE: 1.1% NOT AROPE: 0.0% TOTAL: 0.3 %				2021 AROE: 7.6% NOT AROPE: 0.7% TOTAL: 2.3%
23	Shares of children (<16) AROPE and not AROPE who suffer from the enforced lack of access to one meal with meat, chicken or fish	Ποσοστά παιδιών (<16) AROPE και εκτός AROPE που υποφέρουν από την αναγκαστική έλλειψη πρόσβασης σε ένα γεύμα με κρέας, κοτόπουλο ή ψάρι	Eurostat	2021 AROE: 0.6% NOT AROPE: 0.0% TOTAL: 0.2 %				2021 AROE: 10.1% NOT AROPE: 1.0% TOTAL: 3.1%
Monitoring of free and effective access to healthcare <i>Παρακολούθηση της δωρεάν και αποτελεσματικής πρόσβασης στην υγειονομική περίθαλψη</i>								
24	Shares of children (<16) AROPE and not AROPE with "very good" health	Ποσοστά παιδιών (<16) AROPE και εκτός AROPE με «πολύ καλή» υγεία	Eurostat	2021 AROE: 84.8% NOT AROPE: 89.7% TOTAL: 88.7%				2021 AROE: 62.7% NOT AROPE: 70.9% TOTAL: 68.7%
25	Shares of children (<16) AROPE and not AROPE with unmet needs for medical examination or treatment	Ποσοστά παιδιών (<16) AROPE και εκτός AROPE με μη ικανοποιημένες ανάγκες για ιατρική εξέταση ή θεραπεία	Eurostat	2021 AROE: 1.8% NOT AROPE: 1.4% TOTAL: 1.5%				2021 AROE: 5.7% NOT AROPE: 3.0% TOTAL: 3.6%
26	Free/fully subsidised access to healthcare services (vaccination, GP, infant nurses, specialist care, dental care, prescribed medicines) for all children low-income children	Δωρεάν/πλήρως επιδοτούμενη πρόσβαση σε υπηρεσίες υγειονομικής περίθαλψης (εμβολιασμός, πρωτοβάθμια φροντίδα, οδοντιατρική περίθαλψη, συνταγογραφούμενα φάρμακα) για όλα τα παιδιά/παιδιά χαμηλού εισοδήματος	European Social Policy Analysis Network (ESPAN)	2023 ALL: Vaccination and GP LIMITED: Infant nurses, Specialist care, Prescribed medicines ΟΛΟΙ: Εμβολιασμός και Πρωτοβάθμια ΠΕΡΙΠΟΙΕΜΕΝΑ: Βρεφ. νοσηλεύτριες, εξ.π.δ.φροντ., οδοντ.π.κ. (όχι ορθοδοκ.), συντ.φάρμ.				
27	Free/fully subsidised access to regular health monitoring (general hearing, vision and dental screenings) for all children low-income children, broken down by age (post natal, first and school years)	Δωρεάν/πλήρως επιδοτούμενη πρόσβαση σε τακτική παρακολούθηση της υγείας (γενικές ακουστικές, οπτικές και οδοντιατρικές εξετάσεις) για όλα τα παιδιά/παιδιά χαμηλού εισοδήματος, καταναμημένα ανά ηλικία (μεταγεννητικά, πρώτα και σχολικά έτη)	National	YES: For all dimensions NA: Για όλες τις διαστάσεις				
28	Infant Mortality	Βρεφική θνησιμότητα	Eurostat	2019 2.7/1000	2.7/1.000	2.1/1.000	2.7/1.000	3.2/1.000

A/A	Indicators Δείκτες	Indicators' names in Greek Ονόματα δεικτών στα Ελληνικά	Source Πηγή	Latest year available for Cyprus Το τελευταίο έτος διαθέσιμο για την Κύπρο	Previous years for Cyprus Προηγούμενα έτη για την Κύπρο			EU27
					2021	2020	2019	
28	Infant Mortality	Βρεφική θνησιμότητα	Eurostat	2019 2,7/1000	2,7/1.000	2,1/1.000	2,7/1.000	3,2/1.000
29	Share of children (11, 13, 15 years old) who reported feeling low more than once a week by gender and family affluence	Ποσοστό παιδιών (11, 13, 15 ετών) που ανέφεραν ότι αισθάνονται αχαριά περισσότερο από μία φορά την εβδομάδα ανάλογα με το φύλο και την οικογενειακή ευημερία	HBSC (WHO)	2021/2022 Low status, Boys/ Χαμηλή κατηγ. αγόρια: 22% High status, Boys/ Υψηλή κατηγ. αγόρια: 16% Low status, Girls/ Χαμηλή κατηγ. κορίτσια: 31% High status, Girls/ Υψηλή κατηγ. κορίτσια: 31%				2017/2018 Low status, Boys/ Χαμηλή κατηγ. αγόρια: 16% High status, Boys/ Υψηλή κατηγ. αγόρια: 12% Low status, Girls/ Χαμηλή κατηγ. κορίτσια: 27% High status, Girls/ Υψηλή κατηγ. κορίτσια: 22%
Monitoring of effective access to healthy nutrition Παρακολούθηση της αποτελεσματικής πρόσβασης στην υγιεινή διατροφή								
30	Shares of children (<16) AROPE and not AROPE who suffer from the enforced lack of access to fresh fruits and vegetables at least once a day	Ποσοστά παιδιών (<16) AROPE και εκτός AROPE που υποφέρουν από την αναγκαστική έλλειψη πρόσβασης σε φρέσκα φρούτα και λαχανικά τουλάχιστον μία φορά την ημέρα	Eurostat	2021 ARPE: 1,1% NOT AROPE: 0,0% TOTAL: 0,3%				2021 ARPE: 7,6% NOT AROPE: 0,7% TOTAL: 2,3%
Monitoring of effective access to adequate housing Παρακολούθηση της αποτελεσματικής πρόσβασης σε κατάλληλη στέγαση								
31	Shares of children (<18) AROPE and not AROPE living in a household facing housing cost overburden	Ποσοστά παιδιών (<18) AROPE και εκτός AROPE που ζουν σε νοικοκυριά που αντιμετωπίζουν υπερβολικά δαπάνες στέγασης	Eurostat	2022 ARPE: 8,1% NOT AROPE: 0,4% TOTAL: 2,2%				2022 ARPE: 21,7% NOT AROPE: 2,4% TOTAL: 6,9%
32	Shares of children (<18) AROPE and not AROPE facing severe housing deprivation	Ποσοστά παιδιών (<18) AROPE και εκτός AROPE που αντιμετωπίζουν σοβαρή στέρηση στέγασης	Eurostat	2020 ARPE: 4,5% NOT AROPE: 1,7% TOTAL: 2,2%				2020 ARPE: 15,9% NOT AROPE: 3,3% TOTAL: 6,7%
33	Shares of children (<18) AROPE and not AROPE living in an overcrowded household	Ποσοστά παιδιών (<18) AROPE και εκτός AROPE που ζουν σε υπερπληθεις νοικοκυριά	Eurostat	2020 ARPE: 9,8% NOT AROPE: 2,7% TOTAL: 3,7%				2020 ARPE: 41,5% NOT AROPE: 21,0% TOTAL: 24,9%
34	Shares of children (<18) AROPE and not AROPE living in households that are unable to keep home adequately warm	Ποσοστά παιδιών (<18) AROPE και εκτός AROPE που ζουν σε νοικοκυριά που δεν είναι σε θέση να διατηρήσουν το σπίτι επαρκώς ζεστό	Eurostat	2022 ARPE: 39,7% NOT AROPE: 14,7% TOTAL: 22,8%				2022 ARPE: 24,4% NOT AROPE: 4,2% TOTAL: 9,2%
<p>ARPE : At-Risk-of-Poverty or Social Exclusion / Σε Κίνδυνο Φτώχειας ή Κοινωνικού Αποκλεισμού NOT AROPE: Not At-Risk-of-Poverty or Social Exclusion / Εκτός Κινδύνου Φτώχειας ή Κοινωνικού Αποκλεισμού AROP : At-Risk-of-Poverty (monetary) / Σε Κίνδυνο Χρηματικής Φτώχειας SMSD: Severe Material and Social Deprivation/ Σοβαρή Υλική και Κοινωνική Στερήση LWI: Low Work Intensity / Χαμηλή Ένταση Εργασίας</p>								