



Eurochild

Putting children at
the heart of Europe

**National Seminar on
Investing in Children in Slovakia:
EU policy instruments & funding
opportunities, Slovakia
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Eurochild

- A network of organisations working with & for children throughout Europe, striving for a society that respects the rights of children. We influence policies, build internal capacities, facilitate mutual learning & exchange practice & research. The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child is the foundation of all our work.
- The membership comprises 190 organisations and individuals from 33 European countries
- In 15 countries, we have ‘national partner networks’ – representative networks of child rights organisations eg. Coalition for Children Slovakia



EU policy & funding opportunities

- Eurochild has advocated for child poverty & well-being to be a political priority for the EU since 2005
- Recommendation on Investing in Children adoption in 2013 as part of Social Investment Package – an important milestone
- Explicit reference of regulations of structural funds investing in children & support for the transition from institutional to community- and family-based care = historical opportunity
- National seminars an opportunity to ensure this opportunity is not lost



Setting the broader political context

Concern that 'investing in children' lost in dominant discourse on employment & economic growth

BUT end we were successful in achieving the Written Declaration on Investing in Children – signed by 428 MEPs

Calls for:

- Use of child poverty indicators in macro-economic governance framework of EMU
- National child poverty targets
- Roadmap for implementing the Recommendation

⇒ Dec 2015 Eurochild report on European Semester: *“Is Europe doing enough to invest in children?”*



What works to break the cycle of child poverty?

- Integrated approaches – education, health, social welfare, housing etc
- Ensuring the child & family are considered as actors & involved in decision making – not *'passive recipients of support'*
- 'Good practices' need to have favorable policy context to scale-up / be sustainable

⇒ Implementation Handbook on Investing in Children

Opportunities in this funding round of ESIF?

- Strong link between funding & implementation of Europe 2020 (monitored through the Semester process)
- Code of Conduct emphasizes ‘partnership principle’ – involvement of stakeholders (including NGOs) in decision-making is key
 - In some countries Eurochild members (child rights coalitions) are in monitoring committee
- Ring-fencing of resources for poverty reduction & social inclusion

Barriers in this funding round of ESIF?

- Lack of clear targets for tackling child poverty & effective monitoring & evaluation
- On-going perception of the exclusive employment focus of ESF
- Climate of austerity – reduced budgets for education, health, care infrastructures
- Procedural & administrative barriers
 - Non-harmonised procedures across operational programmes administered by different ministries
 - High co-funding requirements
 - Late reimbursements & lack of advance payments
 - Lack of transparency on selection, evaluation etc.

THANK YOU

www.eurochild.org

www.alliance4investinginchildren.eu



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