



Republic of Cyprus

**National Action Plan
establishing a European Child Guarantee**

2022 – 2030

November 2022

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Introduction

The National Action Plan (NAP) of the Republic of Cyprus establishing a European Child Guarantee covers the social priorities of the Republic of Cyprus for the period 2022 to 2030, based on the scope of Council Recommendation (EU) 2021/1004 of 14 June 2021 establishing a European Child Guarantee.

The National Action Plan has been drawn up on the basis of the European Commission's guidelines and national laws and practices.

The National Action Plan of the Republic of Cyprus aims to ensure that every child at risk of poverty and/or social exclusion has access to all basic services including free healthcare, free education and care, as well as adequate housing and healthy nutrition. It therefore contributes to making child and family policies more consistent with the rights of the child and their full implementation in the Republic of Cyprus.

The aims of the National Action Plan for Children include providing information about the measures and structures adopted or expected to be adopted to implement the Recommendation, sharing best policies and practices for tackling child poverty and social exclusion with other Member States or other stakeholders, and setting up the National Monitoring Framework for the purpose of assessing progress in implementing the Recommendation.

The Deputy Ministry of Social Welfare has been appointed as National Coordinator for the Child Guarantee National Action Plan.

A Technical Committee has been set up, with representatives from all the jointly competent Ministries, Departments and Services, which will be responsible for monitoring the implementation of the actions included in the National Action Plan.

1. General Background

The Council of the EU adopted the Recommendation establishing a European Child Guarantee on 14 June 2021, which seeks to prevent and combat social exclusion by guaranteeing access to a set of basic services for children under the age of 18 who are at risk of poverty or social exclusion.

The European Child Guarantee Recommendation implements Principle 11 of the European Pillar of Social Rights, 'Childcare and support to children'.

The National Action Plan is one part of the efforts undertaken by the Republic of Cyprus to protect children and their full access to services in the following areas:

- I. Integrated approach to reducing child poverty and to social inclusion and improving children's well-being
- II. Care for children at school
- III. Educational and school-based activities
- IV. Healthy nutrition
- V. Healthcare
- VI. Adequate housing

This Action Plan includes current actions that are already being implemented and new actions that are expected to be implemented using national resources or with EU co-financing. All the actions are included in Part 12 of this document.

2. National Coordinator

The National Coordinator for the National Action Plan is Dr Marina Ioannou-Chasapi, Deputy Director-General of the Deputy Ministry of Social Welfare, who has participated in all the scheduled meetings of coordinators held at European level.

3. Recognition of children in need and barriers to access to services

In the course of implementing the National Action Plan, the barriers faced by children in need in accessing basic services have been discussed and recognised.

I. Ensuring the rights of children in vulnerable situations

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 the international and European Conventions and the relevant national legislation based on non-discrimination, regardless of origin, family background or other characteristics.

Despite efforts to ensure that all children have full access to their rights, there may be difficulties, especially in times of crisis or emergency, where there is a worsening of the negative impact on vulnerable groups of the population, including children, such as children in alternative (especially institutional) care, children with a migrant background, including unaccompanied minors, children in precarious family situations, children with disabilities, children with a minority racial or ethnic origin (especially Roma), children facing housing problems and children with mental health issues. As a result, not all children are given equal opportunities to integrate into society. It has also been observed that children in a more vulnerable position may not have immediate access to required services.

In addition, while the subject of discrimination is enshrined in national legislation, further steps are being taken in this direction.

II. Protecting children from violence

Violence experienced in childhood, whether directly or indirectly, is an important risk factor for an individual's development and well-being in later life as an adult and an active citizen in society.

Although legislation and measures are in place to prevent and combat violence against children, it continues to occur, as in many cases it is not always easily visible, making it difficult for the competent services to respond effectively and quickly to children's support needs.

III. Social care and healthcare services for children and families

Although provision of these services is shared among different Departments/Services, which may create difficulties in terms of a holistic approach to providing services to children, nevertheless the implementation of relevant protocols and guidelines sets the framework for the provision of high-quality, effective and child-centred services.

Also, with a view to safeguarding children's rights in the Republic of Cyprus and the universal provision of services to the child, the services offered are provided on the basis of a multidisciplinary approach.

IV. Early childhood education and care

High-quality early childhood education and care helps to balance differences and inequalities in well-being arising from a child's background.

It is generally accepted that when a child drops out of school or has learning difficulties before completing basic education, the risk of exclusion increases.

In early childhood education and care it is necessary to address the different individual needs and specificities of children related to their vulnerability. It is also particularly important that there is sufficient learning support.

Finally, effective practices must be applied, proper resources must be allocated to combating bullying and violence, and children must be involved in all decisions affecting them.

V. Adequate income for families

Adequate income for families is an important factor for children's well-being. It is up to the public authorities to provide support to families to ensure children's well-being and personal development.

The creation of a stronger social safety net will make it easier to reduce the difficulties faced by families with a view to further combating poverty in families with children and mitigating the detrimental effects on children's well-being.

Improving the well-being of families requires flexible possibilities and options to reconcile work and family life at the various stages of their children's development.

4. Targeted categories of children in need

The Action Plan concerns in particular the following target groups of children in need:

- Children in alternative (especially institutional) care (under the protection of the Social Welfare Services);
- Children with a migrant background, including unaccompanied minors (under the protection of the Social Welfare Services);
- Children in precarious family situations (supported by the Social Welfare Services and receiving benefits from the Welfare Administration Service);
- Children with disabilities;
- Children with a minority racial or ethnic origin (in particular Roma);
- Children facing housing problems (families identified by the relevant services such as the Social Welfare Services and the Welfare Administration Service); and
- Children with mental health issues.

5. Visibility and Awareness-raising

Raising awareness in society is a key factor in promoting the improvement of the quality of life of children and the success of their equal participation in the socio-economic life of the country.

The Republic of Cyprus will achieve its objective by using the appropriate means to inform and publicise the actions of the Plan, both to the competent bodies and to the wider public, with a view to raising their awareness and encouraging their participation, wherever possible. As part of the active participation of children in political and democratic life, public consultation is promoted with children from the target groups of the National Action Plan (children with a migrant background, children with disabilities and children in precarious family situations). Following the public consultation, actions to publicise the National Action Plan will be promoted.

The following public communication actions will therefore be implemented through the following:

- I. Creation of publications in printed and electronic form;
- II. Organisation of events;
- III. Presence in the media; and
- IV. Use of social media.

6. Stakeholder Involvement

The National Action Plan involves all relevant government departments, as well as non-governmental organisations and other bodies that help to promote the rights of children in need, including the social inclusion of children in inclusive education and non-discrimination.

The Technical Committee, which was set up with representatives from all the jointly competent Ministries, Departments and Services, will be responsible for monitoring the implementation of the actions to be included in the National Action Plan, according to competence.

The Ministries/Services involved in drawing up and implementing the National Action Plan under the coordination of the Deputy Ministry of Social Welfare are as follows:

1. Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance
2. Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth
3. Ministry of Health
4. Ministry of the Interior
5. Ministry of Energy, Commerce and Industry
6. Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment
7. Ministry of Transport, Communications and Works
8. Social Welfare Services
9. Welfare Benefits Administration Service

The implementation and monitoring of the National Action Plan, as set out in the tables below, will be carried out by the Technical Committee set up by the competent Ministries/Services under the coordination of the Deputy Ministry of Social Welfare and in continuous consultation with children and civil society.

7. Objectives

The Republic of Cyprus aims to fully implement the National Action Plan.

In order to better monitor the implementation of the National Action Plan, the indicators used will include the following:

Result indicators

1. Share of children regularly participating in early childhood education or care (<3, 3 to compulsory school age) by full-time or part-time attendance
2. At-risk-of-poverty or social exclusion rate among children <18
3. At-risk-of-poverty rate among children <18
4. Relative poverty risk gap among children <18
5. At-persistent-risk-of-poverty rate among children <18
6. Material deprivation specific to the needs of children (1-15)

Performance indicators

1. Gap in percentage of children (<18) in 1st and 5th income quintiles regularly participating in early childhood education or care
2. Impact of social transfers (excluding pensions) on reducing child poverty <18
3. Gap in percentage of children (<18) living in households with a housing costs burden
4. Gap in percentage of children (<18) living in households in deprived housing conditions

The objective of the Republic of Cyprus is to improve the current results shown by the indicators for previous years. The target for reducing poverty and social exclusion for children in Cyprus by 2030 is to reduce the number of children at risk of poverty and social exclusion by 3 000.

8. Measures, Financial Resources and Timetables

The current actions, as well as the actions that will be implemented, are set out in the Table in Part 12 of this document. The resources to achieve the actions of the Plan come from either national or EU funds. The timetable for implementation refers to each action in the Table.

9. Policy Context

The National Action Plan sets out the objectives of the Republic of Cyprus on the rights of the child in the context of the European Child Guarantee Recommendation.

It focuses on non-discrimination, equality of children, child poverty measures and strengthening the rights of children, in particular children belonging to vulnerable groups.

This implementation plan also includes actions to set up coordination structures for the implementation of the Child Guarantee. This takes into account the ongoing measures and projects that promote the policy guidelines of the strategy by defining 93 actions.

All the competent Ministries/Services which have an active role in the National Action Plan and are responsible for implementing the actions have included in this Plan the actions from all the National Actions of their Ministries (such as disability, lifelong learning and digital skills).

In addition, the Social Welfare Services (of the Deputy Ministry of Social Welfare), in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth, are promoting the preparation of a study on early childhood education and care in Cyprus, as part of the Recovery and Resilience Plan (2021-2026) and specifically under Investment 2 'Establishment of Multifunctional Centres for Children and Childcare Centres' of the European Commission's Technical Support Instrument. On the basis of the findings of this study, Cyprus will prepare the first National Strategy and Action Plan for Early Childhood Education and Care.

10. EU Funding

The EU finances actions through the Recovery and Resilience Plan aimed at combating child poverty and social exclusion.

Part of the expenditure is planned to be implemented under the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) to combat child poverty and social exclusion.

Other sources of EU funding used are:

- I. Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF)
- II. Erasmus+ KA3
- III. Technical Support Instrument (TSI)
- IV. Recovery and Resilience Plan
- V. Operational Programme 'Thalia - Foundations of Change, Prosperity, Equality and Development' 2021-2027

11. Data Collection, Monitoring and Evaluation

Data collection at national level is essential for monitoring and evaluating child guarantee issues.

Data are collected by recording the available statistics, which are extracted from the relevant Ministries/Services. Statistics are also extracted from the Statistical Service of the Republic of Cyprus, whose information is of key importance for establishing other statistics and comparative statistical data among EU Member States. Where possible, the relevant indicators will be disaggregated by age.

Please note that efforts will be made to introduce procedures in involved Departments/Services/Bodies to record data which are either missing at this stage or will contribute to a more comprehensive picture for the holistic approach to the subject.

At national level,

the actions listed in Part 12 of this document will be monitored and evaluated by the Technical Committee which has been set up, chaired by the National Child Guarantee Coordinator and in conjunction with other involved bodies, if appropriate.

This National Action Plan outlines actions for children, and will be adapted on the basis of the data and if deemed appropriate.

This document was approved by the Council of Ministers on 18 October 2022.

12. Annex – Table of Actions of National Action Plan 2022 – 2030

12.1. Integrated approach to increase social inclusion, improve children’s well-being and reduce child poverty

No	Policy measure (description and geographical scope)	Target group (definition and size)	Bodies involved	Timetable for implementation	Available financial resources and source of funding
1.	<p>Scheme to subsidise tuition fees and meals for children up to the age of 4</p> <p>The project aims to support families, in particular families with young children, by subsidising childcare services for dependent children up to the age of 4 by paying part of the monthly cost of their children’s attendance directly to crèches.</p>	Concerns children up to 4 years of age	Welfare Benefits Administration Service	Ongoing	<p>Budget of EUR 16 million per year</p> <p>National funding 40% ESF co-financing 60%</p>
2.	<p>Vulnerable electricity customers and measures to protect such customers</p> <p>The categories of vulnerable electricity customers and the measures to protect those customers are laid down in a relevant Decision and Decree of the Minister for Energy, Commerce and Industry, which were adopted on the basis of the provisions of the previous legislation regulating the electricity market.</p> <p>The latest Decision of the Minister for Energy, Commerce and Industry (RAA [= Regulatory Administrative Act] 286/2016) relates exclusively to special electricity pricing under Code 08 and indicates which categories of vulnerable electricity customers may submit an application to the Electricity Authority of Cyprus (EAC) for inclusion in the special Code 08 tariff. Children who fall within the categories of vulnerable electricity customers may benefit from the protection measures.</p> <p>The latest Decree of the Minister for Energy, Commerce and Industry (RAA 289/2015) lists all measures to protect vulnerable electricity customers and which categories of vulnerable electricity customers may submit an application to be included in each measure. These measures concern:</p> <p>(a) The right to submit an application for inclusion in the special household tariff under EAC Code 08. The special tariff is laid down in Decision RAA 286/2016.</p> <p>(b) The right to apply for inclusion in the measure guaranteeing that electricity will not be cut off or will be reconnected at critical</p>	Families with minors	Energy Service	Ongoing	<p>Measure (a): The reduced revenues of EAC resulting from application of the special tariff (approximately EUR 2.5-3 million per year) are covered proportionally by all electricity consumers through public service obligations in their final electricity bills.</p> <p>Measure (b): Any amounts due that may arise must be recovered through arrangements between the beneficiaries of the measure and EAC.</p> <p>Measure (c): The subsidy is provided by the RES and Energy Efficiency Fund (approximately EUR 3 million per year for all vulnerable categories), which is financed by the consumption charge paid by all consumers in their final electricity bills.</p>

No	Policy measure (description and geographical scope)	Target group (definition and size)	Bodies involved	Timetable for implementation	Available financial resources and source of funding
	<p>times for those vulnerable customers facing serious health problems.</p> <p>(c) Financial incentives for the installation of a household photovoltaic system using the net-metering method.</p> <p>(d) Financial incentives for the energy upgrading of homes through the 'Saving – Upgrading Houses' scheme.</p> <p>The Electricity Market Regulation Act of 2021 recently entered into force with revised provisions concerning vulnerable electricity customers and energy poverty. Therefore, Decision RAA 286/2016 and Decree RAA 289/2015 are expected to be revised in order to comply with the provisions of the new legislation after consultation with the bodies involved.</p>				<p>Measure (d): The subsidy is provided by the European Regional Development Fund and the Republic of Cyprus (around EUR 1 million is spent each year on all categories of vulnerable persons).</p>
3.	<p>Free transport to school</p> <p>The Ministry of Transport, Communications and Works has issued a Notification on fares per passenger for the provision of public domestic road passenger transport services on regular routes. That Notification states that:</p> <p>The following persons travel for free on domestic road passenger services on regular routes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Children under 6; - Beneficiaries who receive public assistance from the Social Welfare Services and members of their family (adults and other children over 6), who carry a personalised smart card which they can obtain from ticket sales points on presentation of a card or a certificate from the Welfare Office and provided that they do not receive any aid under public assistance for travel by road passenger transport on regular routes; - Special groups agreed between the Contracting Authority and the concession holder who carry a personalised smart card which they can obtain from ticket sales points on presentation of a card or appropriate certificate; - Pre-primary and primary pupils in the public education system travelling by bus operating school routes. 	<p>Children under 6;</p> <p>Families with children receiving public assistance;</p> <p>Pre-primary and primary pupils in the state education system travelling by bus operating school routes.</p>	<p>Ministry of Transport, Communications and Works</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Covered by the public passenger transport concession holder of each District on the basis of concession contracts.</p>

No	Policy measure (description and geographical scope)	Target group (definition and size)	Bodies involved	Timetable for implementation	Available financial resources and source of funding
	<p>In addition, the second point above includes children who are classified as deprived by the Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth.</p> <p>The above applies to all children regardless of nationality/religion or belief.</p>				
4.	<p>Article 11 of Guaranteed Minimum Income – Emergency cover</p> <p>Independently of the provisions of the legislation on Guaranteed Minimum Income, the Deputy Minister may grant assistance to a person who does not receive a monthly guaranteed minimum income and is in a situation of exceptional urgency and/or emergency as a result of personal circumstances or an unexpected or exceptional situation, if those needs are not covered by other government resources or from any other source.</p>	Families with minors in situations of extreme urgency or emergency	Social Welfare Services	Ongoing	<p>National resources</p> <p>Total expenditure for 2021 was EUR 744 799, including exceptional assistance provided to families with children.</p>
5.	<p>National Strategic Framework for Equality, Inclusion and Participation of Roma 2021-2030</p> <p>Council Directive 2000/43/EC of the European Commission on equality, inclusion and participation of Roma established a framework to combat discrimination based on racial or ethnic origin throughout the European Union as regards employment, education, social protection, including social security and healthcare, social benefits and access to and supply of goods and services, including housing. One of the objectives of the Recommendation is to contribute to the effective implementation of the Directive, without impinging on the responsibilities of the Member States, and to provide new and strengthened guidelines setting out measures that Member States may adopt to achieve these objectives. The Social Welfare Services, as the National Contact Point for Roma, have coordinated and prepared the National Strategic Framework for Roma, which is structured in accordance with the European strategic framework for inclusion and participation of Roma entitled 'A Union of Equality: EU Roma Strategy Framework for equality, inclusion and participation' and the Council of Europe Recommendation on Roma equality, inclusion and participation.</p>	Roma families	Social Welfare Services	Ongoing	<p>National resources</p> <p>The National Strategic Framework includes actions by various Ministries/Services, the costs of which concern each Ministry/Service. No costing available.</p> <p>There is no separate budget for the actions of the Social Welfare Services.</p> <p>Expenditure is included in the total expenditure of programmes targeting families and children.</p>

No	Policy measure (description and geographical scope)	Target group (definition and size)	Bodies involved	Timetable for implementation	Available financial resources and source of funding
6.	<p>Unaccompanied minors Article 10 of the Refugee Act – Unaccompanied minors entering the Republic of Cyprus are placed under the guardianship of the Social Welfare Services Director, who acts as their guardian, taking all necessary measures to ensure that they have access to their rights, on the basis of the best interests of the child.</p>	<p>Unaccompanied minors</p> <p>A total of 660 unaccompanied minors were provided with services in 2021.</p>	<p>Social Welfare Services</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>National resources</p> <p>Expenditure relating to unaccompanied minors is included in the general expenditure for children in care. There is no specific budget.</p> <p>The private children's shelters for unaccompanied minors run by the agency HFC ('Hope for Children') receives co-financing from European funds. Under the latest funding the agency received EUR 1 000 000 for the period November 2019 – March 2022. In view of a shortfall in the agency's budget, approximately EUR 700 000 was given for subsistence expenses for children in care.</p>
7.	<p>Care and protection of children The Social Welfare Services Director undertakes the care and protection of children (parental responsibility) in cases where parents abandon their children or are unable to fulfil their parental obligations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Foster families; - Children placed in residential institutions; - Semi-independent living. 	<p>Children under the legal guardianship of the Social Welfare Services Director</p> <p>In 2021 this concerned a total of 900 children, including unaccompanied minors.</p>	<p>Social Welfare Services</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>National resources</p> <p>For children in care (foster and semi-independent care) expenditure amounted to EUR 2 566 000 in 2021.</p> <p>Total expenditure for children placed in state institutions for 2020 was EUR 4 981 559. 49% of the total budget of the Social Welfare Services relates to expenditure on</p>

No	Policy measure (description and geographical scope)	Target group (definition and size)	Bodies involved	Timetable for implementation	Available financial resources and source of funding
					families with children, and children.
8.	<p>Programme of preventive work with families with minors Preventive services aim to ensure the smooth functioning of the family through early intervention in dysfunctional families. The focus of intervention is on the best interests of the child and the creation of conditions for their development to the best of their potential. Professionals assess children's needs and ways to improve the parents' response, provide counselling and social support, and refer family members to other professionals or services, where necessary, seeking multidisciplinary cooperation and coordination in order to best serve those concerned.</p>	Services are currently being provided to 2 600 families	Social Welfare Services	Ongoing	National resources 49% of the total budget of the Social Welfare Services relates to expenditure on families with children, and children.
9.	<p>Programme for the prevention and combating of violence in the family Social services officers are authorised to act as family counsellors. The handling of violence in the family by family counsellors is based on the 'Handbook of interdepartmental procedures for dealing with incidents of violence in the family', which was approved by the Council of Ministers in 2002, and on the 'Handbook of interdepartmental procedures for dealing with incidents of violence in the family for children', which was approved by the Council of Ministers in 2017. The National Action Plan was adopted for implementation by the Council of Ministers in 2017 and covered the period 2017-2019. The Women's Shelter has also been operational since December 2020. The Shelter provides services to women who are victims of violence and their families by specially trained professionals working under one roof, based on a multidisciplinary/interdisciplinary approach.</p>	Children up to the age of 18	Social Welfare Services	Ongoing	National resources 49% of the total budget of the Social Welfare Services relates to expenditure on families with children, and children. For the Women's Shelter, the state subsidy amounted to EUR 479 348.
10.	<p>Preventing and combating sexual abuse and child sexual exploitation The National Strategy for Preventing and Combating Sexual Abuse and Sexual Exploitation of Children, adopted by the Council of Ministers in 2016, identified as a top priority the creation of the Children's House (based on the Icelandic model),</p>	1 100 cases have been referred since the Children's House opened in 2017.	Social Welfare Services	Ongoing	National resources State subsidy 2021 EUR 465 000

No	Policy measure (description and geographical scope)	Target group (definition and size)	Bodies involved	Timetable for implementation	Available financial resources and source of funding
	<p>with the aim of providing the child with immediate access to necessary services and reducing any possibility of re-victimisation and stigmatisation of the child victim. The Children's House has been operational since September 2017 and the programme has been entrusted to the non-governmental organisation 'Hope For Children' CRC Policy Center. The Children's House is run under the supervision of and in close cooperation with the Social Welfare Services and other services involved and is fully funded by the Republic of Cyprus.</p> <p>The Children's House provides a multidisciplinary, child-friendly approach to handling child sexual abuse, based on good practices already in place in other European countries.</p>				
11.	<p>Establishment of Multidisciplinary Children's Centres and Childcare Centres</p> <p>The proposed investment aims at subsidising local authorities and NGOs to create and provide affordable quality care and social development services for children.</p>	Workers with children aged 0-3 years and 8 months and children of school age up to the age of 13.	Social Welfare Services	2022-2026	Recovery and Resilience Plan The budget to implement the investment is EUR 15 000 000.
12.	<p>Setting up homes for children, adolescents with behavioural disorders and persons in need of long-term care (LTC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Purchase and refurbishment of facilities for children for the operation of state-run child protection institutions; - Homes (non-government-run) for the 24-hour care of children aged 15-18, mainly unaccompanied minors, subsidised through the State Aid Scheme; - Specialised home for pregnant young girls and young mothers with infants in need of care and protection, subsidised through the State Aid Scheme; - Centres for the provision of daytime and 24-hour services to adolescents with behavioural disorders, subsidised through the State Aid Scheme. <p>Model Community Care Centres for specific groups of people in need of long-term care, subsidised through the State Aid Scheme.</p>	Minors with behavioural disorders aged 12-18, children under the care of the Director of Social Welfare Services, unaccompanied minors, persons in need of long-term care.	Social Welfare Services Ministry of Health	2024-2026	Recovery and Resilience Plan The budget to implement the investment as regards the development of state-run facilities (Programme 1) is EUR 4 800 000. The budget to implement the investment as regards Programmes 2-3 is EUR 7 600 000.

No	Policy measure (description and geographical scope)	Target group (definition and size)	Bodies involved	Timetable for implementation	Available financial resources and source of funding
	The Food Department of the Ministry of Health provides a healthy menu for the residents of the facilities and offers guidance on healthy lifestyle (exercise and nutrition).				
13.	Establishment of District Multidisciplinary Teams and a Central Multidisciplinary Team responsible for assessing vulnerable people, including families with children, with a view to formulating a personalised action plan with the necessary actions to be taken (Decision of the Council of Ministers).	Families with minors	Social Welfare Services Competent Ministries	Ongoing	National resources
14.	In 2020 it was decided, by Decision of the Council of Ministers, to set up an Ad Hoc Committee comprising Ministers of competent Ministries in the field of child protection. In accordance with that Decision, the Ad Hoc Ministerial Committee aims to strengthen cooperation in the field of child protection and to develop more effective policies and actions. A study is planned on the reform of the child protection system in Cyprus and the need for facilities and programmes.	Families with minors	Social Welfare Services Competent Ministries	Ongoing	Co-financed project with a total budget of EUR 37 million for the period 2021-2027
15.	Recruitment of professionals (psychologists, psychiatrists, social needs assessors) to strengthen the multidisciplinary approach to service provision.	Families with minors	Social Welfare Services Competent Ministries	Ongoing	
16.	Provision of specialised services (accompanying assistants) to children under the care of the Director of Social Welfare Services and children from high-risk families, as well as to persons with disabilities living in state institutions run by the Social Welfare Services.	Minors under the legal care of the Social Welfare Services Director and families with minors	Social Welfare Services	Ongoing	
17.	'Programme for the provision of social workers to communities or community groups and local authorities' of the Social Welfare Services of the Deputy Ministry of Social Welfare, which will contribute to social investment to improve access to social services in the community.	Families with minors	Social Welfare Services	Ongoing	European Union co-financed project with a total budget of EUR 11 million for the period 2021-2027

No	Policy measure (description and geographical scope)	Target group (definition and size)	Bodies involved	Timetable for implementation	Available financial resources and source of funding
18.	<p>Guaranteed Minimum Income Any person who does not have sufficient means of subsistence is provided with a Guaranteed Minimum Income (GMI) to combat child poverty and social exclusion. The GMI aims to ensure a minimum socially acceptable standard of living for people and their families legally residing in the Republic of Cyprus, provided that they meet the necessary statutory requirements. Specifically, any person whose income and other financial resources are insufficient to cover their basic and specific needs, as defined by the relevant legislation, as well as any person with disabilities, regardless of age, provided that their disability is certified by the Disability Assessment System, may apply for the GMI. The allowance varies according to the income of the applicant and depending on the family members and their special needs. The amount provided by the GMI as basic needs comprises the following: (a) The monthly amount corresponding to the subsistence needs of the applicant/beneficiary is included in the minimum subsistence basket as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EUR 480 for the applicant/beneficiary; - EUR 240 for the spouse and each family member over 14 years old; - EUR 144 for each family member under 14 years old; <p>(b) There are also some additional payments for emergencies and care and assistance needs or if disability is certified;</p> <p>(c) Furthermore, on the basis of the relevant legislation, persons with disabilities of any age may apply for the GMI and care needs as a separate unit, provided that the statutory requirements are met, without taking into account the income of their family unit.</p>	<p>Total number of GMI beneficiaries under 18 years = 6 356 Total number of GMI beneficiaries under 18 years (with disabilities) = 2 074</p> <p>Beneficiaries of childcare in preschools = 42 Beneficiaries of childcare in crèches and in Culture, Sports and Environment Centres (KEPAP), etc. = 20</p>	Welfare Benefits Administration Service	Ongoing	<p>National resources</p> <p>2021</p> <p>2 107 GMI recipients (APPLICANTS) <=18 were paid</p> <p>EUR 21 009 408.21</p> <p>2 033 GMI recipients (APPLICANTS) <=18 (with disabilities) were paid</p> <p>EUR 20 552 870.67</p> <p>Amounts paid and number of beneficiaries:</p> <p>A total of EUR 103 083 was paid to 115 persons</p>

No	Policy measure (description and geographical scope)	Target group (definition and size)	Bodies involved	Timetable for implementation	Available financial resources and source of funding																									
		Disabled minors (0-18 years)			Amounts paid and number of beneficiaries: 2 033 GMI recipients (APPLICANTS) <=18 (with disabilities) were paid EUR 20 552 870.67																									
19.	<p>Child and single-parent family allowance. The child allowance is granted to the family only for the number of unmarried dependent children living with the family under the same roof. The amount of the child allowance depends on the number of children in the family and the family's gross annual income earned in the previous calendar year. Families with one or two dependent children are paid the allowance in one annual instalment, while those with three or more dependent children are paid monthly.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="197 813 947 1284"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="5">Annual allowance per child</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Previous annual family income (EUR)</th> <th>One dependent child (EUR)</th> <th>Two dependent children (EUR)</th> <th>Three dependent children (EUR)</th> <th>Four dependent children (EUR)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Up to 19 500</td> <td>475</td> <td>570</td> <td>1 045</td> <td>1 675</td> </tr> <tr> <td>From 19 500 to 39 000</td> <td>425</td> <td>520</td> <td>995</td> <td>1 525</td> </tr> <tr> <td>From 39 000 to 49 000</td> <td>380</td> <td>380</td> <td>760</td> <td>1 260</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Annual allowance per child					Previous annual family income (EUR)	One dependent child (EUR)	Two dependent children (EUR)	Three dependent children (EUR)	Four dependent children (EUR)	Up to 19 500	475	570	1 045	1 675	From 19 500 to 39 000	425	520	995	1 525	From 39 000 to 49 000	380	380	760	1 260	<p>Target group: Any family which has resided legally and continuously in the areas where Cyprus exercises effective control for at least 5 years prior to submission of the application is entitled to the child allowance for their dependent children living under the same roof, provided that their family income falls within the income criteria laid down in the Annex to the Child Allowance Act.</p> <p>Single-parent families entitled to the child allowance are paid a single-parent family allowance, as set out in the Annex to the Child Allowance Act, provided that the family has resided legally and</p>	Welfare Benefits Administration Service	Ongoing	<p>National resources</p> <p>Amounts paid and number of families: Beneficiaries: 61 828 Amount: EUR 74 076217</p> <p>Amounts paid and number of families: Beneficiaries: 11 619 Amount: EUR 34 757 428</p>
Annual allowance per child																														
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Family income	Monthly allowance for each dependent child																			
EUR 0 - 39 000	EUR 180																			
EUR 39 000 - 49 000	EUR 160																			
20.	New Centre for Family Intervention and Support for Autism					Concerns 300 preschool age children with autism and their families	Department for Social Inclusion of Persons with	2021-2027	5 million co-financed by the ESF											

No	Policy measure (description and geographical scope)	Target group (definition and size)	Bodies involved	Timetable for implementation	Available financial resources and source of funding
	The new Centre, inaugurated in October 2021, will continue to provide support and education to 300 preschool age children with autism and their families throughout Cyprus.		Disabilities (DSIPD)		
21.	Further extension of the Disability Assessment System Continued operation of the 3 Disability Assessment Centres in Nicosia, Limassol – Paphos and Larnaca – Famagusta, with 4 500 assessments per year. Extension of the assessment mechanisms to new social inclusion services and benefits, with a view to improving the quality of life of every person with disabilities.	Concerns persons with disabilities (including children with disabilities)	DSIPD	2021-2027	10.5 million co-financed by the ESF
22.	Social benefits/allowances Supporting persons with disabilities for social protection and social inclusion, disability.	Concerns persons with disabilities (including children with disabilities)	DSIPD	Ongoing	45 million per year
23.	United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Monitoring and further promotion of implementation of the Convention and preparation and monitoring of the National Disability Action Plan.	Concerns persons with disabilities (including children with disabilities)	DSIPD	Ongoing	Not applicable
24.	Welfare Committee In each school there is a welfare committee headed by an Assistant Principal. The welfare committee aims to identify and assist pupils with financial problems.	At the beginning of each school year, an Advisory Committee is set up in each school, consisting of the school Principal or an Assistant Principal, a representative of the Teachers' Association, a representative of the Parents' Association and a representative of the appropriate School Board. The Advisory Committee (if necessary also in cooperation with other local bodies that understand pupils' real	Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth	Ongoing	National resources

No	Policy measure (description and geographical scope)	Target group (definition and size)	Bodies involved	Timetable for implementation	Available financial resources and source of funding
		needs) is responsible for identifying the pupils who are in need of assistance and who will receive a free breakfast. Pupils in the following categories may be selected to receive a free breakfast: 1. Families receiving the Minimum Guaranteed Income or public assistance; 2. Unemployed parents; 3. Orphans; 4. Single-parent families; 5. Large families; 6. Parents' income is particularly inadequate for other reasons.			
25.	Meal allowance Families entitled to the Guaranteed Minimum Income or children of low socio-economic status can benefit from a meal allowance provided by the Parents' Associations in optional all-day schools. The beneficiaries are those receiving the Guaranteed Minimum Income and children of low socio-economic status. The Food Department prepares a menu and a list of foods for children's nutritional needs for their proper development.	Around 7 200 children are fed in optional all-day schools each year, and around 15% of these (some 1 045 children) receive a subsidy of EUR 321 for food.	Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth	Ongoing	National resources
26.	Children in precarious family situations AMIF programming period 2014-2020: An open reception centre for unaccompanied minors who are third-country nationals, with a total capacity of 45, is being co-financed up to the end of 2022. In addition to accommodation, the Centre offers residents various services of a supportive, educational or recreational nature. With co-financing by AMIF emergency assistance, additional staff from the Social Welfare Services have been employed to improve the handling of cases of	The new 2021-2027 AMIF programming period provides co-financing for the accommodation of unaccompanied minors who have applied for international protection. Please note that the construction and	Ministry of the Interior	2014-2020	Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) and national resources The amount foreseen in principle is approximately EUR 3 million. No funds have been committed so far, pending the approval of the

No	Policy measure (description and geographical scope)	Target group (definition and size)	Bodies involved	Timetable for implementation	Available financial resources and source of funding
	<p>unaccompanied minors applying for international protection. This work includes examining applications for material reception conditions, becoming guardians of unaccompanied minors applying for international protection, supporting the running of existing shelters/programmes for unaccompanied minors and providing other relevant support services.</p> <p>AMIF programming period 2021-2027: The 2021-2027 AMIF programming period aims to support the development of an extended reception system by increasing the capacity to host unaccompanied minors applying for international protection or persons claiming to belong to that group. In practice, the AMIF is expected to provide support to the Nicosia Centre for unaccompanied minors and support to improve existing facilities/programmes for unaccompanied minors.</p> <p>This programming period is also expected to address the staff shortages of the Social Welfare Services.</p>	<p>operation of the additional Centre for unaccompanied minors applying for international protection is not included in the provisions of the 2021-2027 AMIF programming period. For the 2014-2020 programming period, a total budget of approximately EUR 3.2 million was made available for projects that co-financed a shelter for unaccompanied minors applying for international protection. During the 2014-2020 programming period and around the end of 2021, 59 minors applying for international protection were housed in that shelter.</p>		2021-2027	<p>AMIF national programme by the EU, following which the Responsible Authority will be able to launch a call for proposals for an action that co-finances accommodation for unaccompanied minors. The target group for the project will be unaccompanied minors applying for international protection.</p> <p>For the project to strengthen the Social Welfare Services with additional staff, the amount provided for in principle under the 2021-2027 programming period is approximately EUR 2.3 million (for the recruitment of staff/social welfare officers to provide services to unaccompanied minors, but also for other purposes, such as serving adult applicants for or beneficiaries of international protection).</p>

12.2. Early Childhood Education and Care

No	Policy measure (description and geographical scope)	Target group (definition and size)	Bodies involved	Timetable for implementation	Available financial resources and source of funding
1.	<p>Extension of free compulsory pre-primary education up to the age of 6 Pre-primary education is compulsory and free of charge for children attending state-run preschools. A reform approved by the Council of Ministers gradually delays the starting age for primary education to 6 years and consequently extends compulsory pre-primary education from 1 year to 1 year and 4 months.</p>	Concerns children aged between 5 years 8 months and 6 years	Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth	Ongoing	National resources
2.	<p>Payment of low tuition fees or exemption from tuition fees in state-run preschools Younger children taking up places in state preschools pay low tuition fees, a symbolic amount of EUR 42 per month. A full fee exemption is granted to poor families. A reduction in fees (EUR 25 per month) is also granted to families with 4 children or more.</p>	Concerns children aged 3 years to 4 years 8 months	Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth	Ongoing	National resources
3.	<p>Subsidy for community preschools A grant covers certain costs for community preschools, which operate where there are not enough classes available at the state preschool to meet the needs of all the children in the community. By 'certain costs', we refer to part of the annual costs of running a community preschool. The annual grant provided by the Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth covers only part of the annual operating costs. The remaining costs are covered by the tuition fees paid for registered children or by other income of the authority (parents' association, local council, etc.) that runs the community preschool.</p>	Concerns children aged 3 to 6 years	Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth	Ongoing	National resources
4.	<p>Gradual extension of free compulsory pre-primary education from the age of 4 Gradual extension of free compulsory pre-primary education to start at the age of 4.</p>	The target group of this action is children aged between 4 years and 4 years 8 months. The	Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth	From 2023	EU Recovery and Resilience Fund

No	Policy measure (description and geographical scope)	Target group (definition and size)	Bodies involved	Timetable for implementation	Available financial resources and source of funding
		maximum total number of children to benefit is 10 500			
5.	<p>Support for children with learning, emotional and other difficulties</p> <p>If a teacher observes that a pupil is not responding to the learning process, they follow the procedures to identify and support children with possible learning, emotional and other difficulties. If this procedure does not meet the needs of the pupil, the school will refer them to the educational psychologist for a formal assessment.</p>	Concerns children of 3 years and over	Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth	Ongoing	National resources

12.3. Educational and School-Based Activities

No	Policy measure (description and geographical scope)	Target group (definition and size)	Bodies involved	Timetable for implementation	Available financial resources and source of funding
1.	<p>Direct Intervention Team</p> <p>The Direct Intervention Team supports schools dealing with violence or delinquency at all levels of education.</p>	Pupils at risk of leaving school early and pupils with problems of delinquency	Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth	Ongoing	National resources
2.	<p>School and Social Inclusion Actions+ Programme</p> <p>The School and Social Inclusion Actions+ ('DRASE+') Programme is a comprehensive strategy to combat early school leaving and includes prevention, intervention and compensation measures. Additional tutoring is also provided at primary schools.</p> <p>Since the school year 2022-2023, DRASE+ schools have increased in number from 170 to 208. The 170 schools in the 2021-2022 school year comprised 52 preschools, 92 primary schools, 24 secondary schools and 2 Technical Schools for Vocational Education and Training.</p>	Primary and secondary schools (170 schools)	Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth	Ongoing	National resources and co-financed by the ESF (85%)

No	Policy measure (description and geographical scope)	Target group (definition and size)	Bodies involved	Timetable for implementation	Available financial resources and source of funding
	<p>The 208 schools comprise 65 preschools, 109 primary schools, 31 secondary schools and 3 Technical Schools for Vocational Education and Training.</p> <p>The total numbers of schools in Cyprus are: Preschools: 271 Primary schools: 329 Secondary schools: 112 Technical Schools for Vocational Education and Training 11</p>				
3.	<p>Greek language learning programmes Programmes to teach Greek to pupils with a migrant background and pupils of Cypriot origin.</p>	<p>Primary and secondary schools. Total number of primary children for 2021-2022: 52 013 Total number of pupils with a migrant background who did not have Greek as their mother tongue: 8 291 Total number of pupils with a migrant background who participated in Greek language support classes: 3 718 Total number of secondary school pupils with a migrant background who followed a Greek language course: 606</p>	Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth	Ongoing	State budget
4.	<p>Additional tutoring Additional tutoring covers all lower secondary schools. Additional tutoring is provided to support pupils who have been found to be at risk of functional illiteracy.</p>	All pupils in lower secondary school classes at risk of functional illiteracy	Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth	Ongoing	State budget

No	Policy measure (description and geographical scope)	Target group (definition and size)	Bodies involved	Timetable for implementation	Available financial resources and source of funding
5.	<p>Programme to tackle learning difficulties and early school leaving</p> <p>Concerns a comprehensive programme to address learning difficulties and early school leaving as an outcome of a TSI project. This is an attempt to tackle the problem of learning difficulties in a comprehensive way by using know-how from other EU countries.</p> <p>The target group are secondary schools (junior and senior high schools and technical schools).</p>	School children up to 15 years old	Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth	<p>Planned to be implemented gradually from 2023</p> <p>The funding for the second phase is EUR 250 000. This is the highest funding provided by the TSI programme. The first tranche, for the study, was EUR 180 000. Additional aid was requested from the TSI for implementation and concrete examples of successful implementation of similar programmes in education. Aid was to begin to be provided by the European Commission in January, but there has been a delay and the process will start in September. After carrying out the</p>	<p>Financed by European Union funds – Technical Support Instrument (TSI)</p> <p>The funding for the second phase is EUR 250 000. This is the highest funding provided by the TSI programme. The first tranche, for the study, was EUR 180 000.</p>

No	Policy measure (description and geographical scope)	Target group (definition and size)	Bodies involved	Timetable for implementation	Available financial resources and source of funding
				study and putting forward proposals on what to do to tackle learning difficulties and early school leaving, the programme is in the process of identifying corresponding policies in education. The competent authority is expected to establish a timetable for its implementation. The TSI continues to provide support on how to effectively implement the programme, but also other improvement programmes.	
6.	Apprenticeship Scheme The Apprenticeship Scheme is open to pupils aged 14 to 18. The main objective is to offer alternative ways of learning to adolescents who leave the formal education system and need to develop specific skills or professional skills, by acquiring the appropriate tools either for further study options offered by the education system or for employment in the labour market.	Pupils aged 14 to 18	Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth	Ongoing	State budget

No	Policy measure (description and geographical scope)	Target group (definition and size)	Bodies involved	Timetable for implementation	Available financial resources and source of funding
	The target group for Preparatory Apprenticeship is young people (14-16 years) who have not completed their compulsory education (junior high school – ‘ <i>gymnasio</i> ’). Core Apprenticeship is offered to pupils (16-18 years) and is the programme that gives apprentices the opportunity to be in education and at the same time to be placed in industry for their practical training.				
7.	Night schools Night schools tackle the problem of early school leaving, as well as social exclusion. At the same time, they give adult learners another opportunity to develop their skills and qualifications, which should improve their quality of life. There are 5 night schools and 5 technical night schools operating in Cyprus.	Pupils aged 15 to 18	Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth	Ongoing	State budget
8.	Gender equality policy There is an integrated gender equality policy developed in accordance with the international Conventions. The policy focuses on ensuring equal opportunities in education for all genders on an impartial basis at all levels. An Action Plan promoting gender equality has been developed to support the inclusion of gender equality in matters related to the structures of the education system and in-service teacher training.	School-age children	Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth	Ongoing	State budget
9.	Addressing complex child cases School health professionals actively participate in multidisciplinary teams to discuss complex cases of children in the care of the welfare state in order to promote their health and well-being. Other members of these teams include representatives of the Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth, social welfare officers, psychologists and other mental health professionals, police and educational psychologists.	Children up to the age of 18	Ministry of Health	Ongoing	State budget
10.	Pupils with special educational needs: Children with special needs aged 3 to 12 may be granted the following:	Primary education: 6 912 pupils with special needs, aged 3 to 12,	Ministry of Education,	Ongoing	State budget

No	Policy measure (description and geographical scope)	Target group (definition and size)	Bodies involved	Timetable for implementation	Available financial resources and source of funding
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Special needs education - Speech therapy - Home schooling - Support from their class teacher - Free transport to and from school - Technological and other equipment - Adaptation of buildings - Disability-accessible bus transport for excursions and visits - Support from a school assistant. <p>Secondary school pupils with special educational needs are granted some or all of the following adjustments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Additional time in examinations, depending on their needs. - Rest periods or supervised breaks in or outside the examination room. - Alternative ways of evaluating tests. - Exemption from spelling and punctuation in written examinations. - Where appropriate, adjustments are made to the visual display of the paper or test. - Alternative ways of presenting answers (e.g. using an amanuensis). - Individual course support and exemption from specific courses. - Home schooling if the pupil cannot attend school because of health problems. 	<p>attending mainstream state preschools and primary schools</p> <p>Secondary education: Junior high school (<i>gymnasio</i>): 2 781 pupils receive special needs education, 289 pupils receive only some adjustments/learning support</p> <p>Secondary education: Senior high school (<i>lykeio</i>): 1 284 pupils receive special needs education, 350 pupils receive only some adjustments/learning support</p> <p>Secondary education: Technical Vocational Education and Training: A total of 1 391 pupils receive special needs education and adjustments/learning support</p>	Sport and Youth		

No	Policy measure (description and geographical scope)	Target group (definition and size)	Bodies involved	Timetable for implementation	Available financial resources and source of funding
11.	<p>Employment of special needs teachers and speech and language therapists</p> <p>The Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth employs special needs teachers and speech and language therapists to provide support to children with learning and speech problems. Class teachers are also trained in how to support children attending mainstream schools.</p>	Children of school age (6 893 children aged 3 to 12 attending special classes and special pre-primary and primary education facilities in the school year 2021-2022)	Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth	Ongoing	National resources
12.	<p>District Committees for Special Needs Education</p> <p>The District Committees for Special Needs Education are made up of officials from the Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth, social workers from the Deputy Ministry of Social Welfare and experts from the Ministry of Health. All these professionals work together and take decisions to meet the needs of pupils with special needs.</p>	Pupils aged 3 to 21 and students	Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth	Ongoing	National resources
13.	<p>Music schools</p> <p>Pupils with the required musical skills and talent can enrol in music schools, without any limitation as regards their previous knowledge and experience. Talented pupils who may not be able to follow after-school music classes have the opportunity to follow appropriate, high-quality music studies at music schools. Many pupils can receive a scholarship to attend a music school, or even borrow a musical instrument of their choice if they cannot afford one. Finally, pupils with special needs can take part in after-school group classes at music schools.</p>	<p>There are 10 music schools operating in Cyprus</p> <p>Children attending secondary schools</p>	Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth	Ongoing	National resources
14.	<p>Sports schools</p> <p>The purpose of sports schools is to give multifaceted support to schoolchildren/athletes who excel in sport to appropriately prepare them and promote sport, and to support the objective of creativity, innovation and excellence in sport. Sports schools seek to help raise the level of academic and sporting performance and to enhance school sports through specialised programmes to support academic and coaching activity. The success of secondary sports schools, with pupils achieving</p>	<p>There are 10 sports schools operating in Cyprus</p> <p>Children attending secondary schools</p>	Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth	Ongoing	National resources

No	Policy measure (description and geographical scope)	Target group (definition and size)	Bodies involved	Timetable for implementation	Available financial resources and source of funding
	excellent results in both sporting and academic performance, continued in the 2021-2022 school year.				
15.	<p>State Training Institutes State Training Institutes operate under the auspices of the Directorate for Secondary General Education. They offer courses to pupils at all levels of education, including adults, both in urban and rural areas. They thus offer equal learning opportunities and contribute to lifelong learning. State Training Institutes perform social work by offering allowances and scholarships to pupils in need or to gifted pupils. At the same time, they employ both experienced and newly qualified teachers. Full or partial scholarships for pupils in need are offered to 10% of pupils. In addition, careful consideration is given to cases of pupils or adults who may receive allowances or pay reduced fees. The third child of the same family does not pay any fees. Free tuition fees are offered to Greek Cypriots attending Turkish language courses and to Turkish Cypriots and children of returnees and migrants attending Greek language courses.</p>	<p>46 State further education institutes operate throughout Cyprus, involving more than 17 000 pupils each year.</p> <p>School-age children</p>	Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth	Ongoing	National resources
16.	<p>Children with a migrant background or with an ethnic minority background</p> <p>AMIF programming period 2014-2020</p> <p>Until July 2022, a project under the 2014-2022 programming period offers Greek language courses for unaccompanied minors who are nationals of third countries and provides mediation services in schools. Greek language support courses are offered to unaccompanied minors from third countries after school or during the summer holidays. At the same time, mediation services are offered in schools by people who speak the mother tongue of children and their families who are from third countries.</p>	School-age children	Ministry of the Interior	2014-2020	Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) and national resources

No	Policy measure (description and geographical scope)	Target group (definition and size)	Bodies involved	Timetable for implementation	Available financial resources and source of funding
	<p>2021-2027 AMIF programming period</p> <p>The draft National Programme for the 2021-2027 AMIF programming period includes, so far: A project promoting the learning of Greek by minors from third-countries and/or the provision of mediation services in schools, as a possible continuation of a project under the 2014-2020 programming period. However, a review is ongoing with the Ministry of Education regarding which actions will be included in the project that may be financed by the AMIF (as a similar project may be financed under the ESF+). Integration measures by local authorities or non-governmental organisations which will very probably include the care of children of third-country nationals and the provision of other services to families of third-country nationals.</p>			2021-2027	
17.	<p>Benefits for pupils with special needs</p> <p>The Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth has resources for the adaptation of buildings to facilitate use by pupils with special needs (e.g. accessible toilets, lifts, ramps, signage, appropriate flooring in rooms used by deaf and autistic pupils). To meet pupils' needs, school assistants are employed, to be responsible for their safety and personal care. Most pupils with special needs are studying in the mainstream system and adaptations are made to meet their special educational needs. Teachers differentiate teaching and evaluation methods (e.g. adapted tests). Some pupils with serious problems attend special units and receive an individual education programme. These children are integrated into the mainstream classroom on the basis of their individual education curriculum. Each school has a liaison officer who facilitates close</p>	<p>Primary education: 7 433 pupils with special needs, aged 3 to 21, attending mainstream state preschools and primary schools – Secondary education: – Total number of pupils with special needs in general secondary education and technical secondary education and benefiting from facilities and support: 5 845</p>	Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth	Ongoing	National resources

No	Policy measure (description and geographical scope)	Target group (definition and size)	Bodies involved	Timetable for implementation	Available financial resources and source of funding
	cooperation between the school, families, other professionals and the Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 177 pupils receive special educational equipment - 243 pupils are supported by school assistants throughout Cyprus - 331 pupils attend special units - 20 liaison officers are employed <p>These figures vary from one school year to another, depending on the decisions taken by the District Committees for Special Needs Education with regard to children with special needs.</p>			
18.	<p>Legislative reform</p> <p>The Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth has worked with the Directorate-General for Structural Reform Support on reforming the legislation on inclusive education. The process was completed in June 2021. Priority is given to pupils with special needs aged over 3 years old to attend mainstream preschools. An early intervention programme for babies and children up to 3 years old is being implemented at the School for the Deaf.</p>	278 pupils with special needs aged between 3 years and 4 years 7 months attending preschools and 30 pupils up to 3 years old are supported by the early intervention programme	Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth	Ongoing	National resources

No	Policy measure (description and geographical scope)	Target group (definition and size)	Bodies involved	Timetable for implementation	Available financial resources and source of funding
19.	<p>Anti-racist policy through the ‘Code of Conduct against Racism and Guide for Managing and Recording Racist Incidents’ in schools</p> <p>The Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth promotes an anti-racist policy through the ‘Code of Conduct against Racism and Guide for Managing and Recording Racist Incidents’ in schools.</p> <p>The Code provides schools with a detailed plan on how to deal with and prevent racist incidents, includes definitions of key concepts, describes the responsibilities and commitments expected from each member of the school community and outlines the steps for dealing with racist incidents. The Pedagogical Institute supports the implementation of anti-racist policy by creating a network of schools and providing information, training and reflection meetings.</p>	School-age children	Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth	Ongoing	National resources
20.	<p>‘Resilient Preschools’ project</p> <p>The Pedagogical Institute takes part in the ‘Resilient Preschools’ project, which focuses on building the capacity of preschool teachers in order to foster psychological resilience in preschool children and ensure their overall well-being. The project, co-financed by the European Commission, with the participation of 6 stakeholders in Europe, aims to develop quality tools for a positive culture in preschools, based on positive psychology practices and scientific findings.</p>	Children of preschool age	Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth	Ongoing	National resources
21.	<p>Provision of special equipment</p> <p>Special equipment is provided (e.g. special chairs, tablets, interactive whiteboards, access and communication software). Braille books are provided for visually impaired children. For pupils in financial need, Secondary Technical and Vocational Education provides uniforms required by their field of study.</p>	<p>Since 2018, 177 secondary school pupils have received special equipment to meet their special educational needs.</p> <p>This figure concerns children in secondary education who have</p>	Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth	Ongoing	National resources

No	Policy measure (description and geographical scope)	Target group (definition and size)	Bodies involved	Timetable for implementation	Available financial resources and source of funding
		been identified, assessed and approved by the District Committees for the provision of technological equipment. The Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth has budgetary provision to cover any additional needs arising in the future.			
22.	Allowance for educational materials In optional all-day schools an allowance is provided for educational materials and books (EUR 30 for each child).	All children attending optional all-day schools	Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth	Ongoing	National resources
23.	High-speed connectivity High-speed connectivity is provided to all primary schools and digital services exist through the provision of free Microsoft 365 accounts to all pupils and teachers.	Primary school pupils	Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth	Ongoing	National resources
24.	Provision of tablets Provision of tablets to families of pupils who cannot afford to buy a digital device for distance learning purposes. The tablets were lent to pupils who then returned them to their schools. The criteria for identifying the participants/beneficiaries were as follows: (1) Number of computers or tablets in a household compared to the number of children attending state schools. If the number of children attending a state school was higher than the number of devices the family owned, this information was linked to the second criterion; and (2) Total family income (EUR 800 per month or less), which shows that a family could not afford to buy a tablet or computer for their children. Several cases were found where families did not	Disadvantaged families of primary school pupils (approximately 3 500 devices)	Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth	Ongoing	National resources

No	Policy measure (description and geographical scope)	Target group (definition and size)	Bodies involved	Timetable for implementation	Available financial resources and source of funding
	consider it necessary to buy a tablet for a child aged 8 or 9. Thus, it was decided to provide tablets only to families who could not afford to buy one for their children.				
25.	Subsidy of EUR 400 to purchase a computer Every year, pupils aged 14-15 (second grade junior high school) from low-income families receive a subsidy of EUR 400 to buy their own laptop.	Pupils in second grade junior high school	Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth	Ongoing	National resources The action is annual
26.	Tablets All secondary schools are equipped with a sufficient number of tablets. Pupils can borrow and use these tablets, upon request, during the school year to complete their work.	109 secondary schools with around 40 000 pupils (around 23 000 junior high school pupils and around 17 000 senior high schools and technical schools)	Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth	Ongoing	National resources
27.	Provision of equipment to vulnerable pupils The COVID-19 pandemic has had a negative impact on pupils' economic, social and cultural rights. The Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth has addressed this problem by providing substantial teacher training and pupil support. It provided vulnerable pupils (e.g. those from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds) with the necessary equipment (e.g. laptops, computers or tablets) and ensured their access to the internet. In addition, it developed educational materials and gave access to educational technologies to all teachers, pupils and their parents. School counsellors were in constant contact with all pupils, especially when attending online lessons.	Around 8 000 secondary school teachers	Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth	Ongoing	National resources
28.	Providing a comprehensive toolkit To improve the digital skills of children and teachers, the Pedagogical Institute provides all schools with a comprehensive toolkit and support to help them formulate concrete actions to strengthen their digital competence. It also offers many educational programmes and workshops for both teachers and	All schools in Cyprus, all teachers and pupils	Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth	Ongoing	National and EU funding (Erasmus+ KA3)

No	Policy measure (description and geographical scope)	Target group (definition and size)	Bodies involved	Timetable for implementation	Available financial resources and source of funding
	pupils in different formats, either during school time or in their free time.				
29.	<p>Special education and free transport to and from school Where special education is provided, either in a mainstream class or in a special unit, the District Committee determines the state school in which the child will be enrolled. If there are specific reasons why a child cannot attend a school in the area where they live, and the family cannot transport the child themselves and receive an allowance, then the Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth will arrange and cover the costs of transporting the child to and from school.</p>	<p>Primary education: - Some 600 pupils receive transport to state schools - Some 200 families receive a school transport allowance</p> <p>Secondary education: - 107 pupils are taken to school by taxi - 59 pupils are transferred from schools to their workplaces - The parents/guardians of 5 pupils receive a school transport allowance</p>	Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth	Ongoing	National resources
30.	<p>Pupils with special needs are part of their mainstream class and participate in all school-based activities Pupils with special needs are an integral part of the class and therefore participate in all school-based activities and celebrations without any exclusion, using the necessary support provided (e.g. school assistants).</p>	Children of school age with special needs (6 893 children attending mainstream classes and special units of state preschools and special schools)	Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth	Ongoing	National resources
31	<p>Referral to the District Special Education Committee If a pupil needs additional support and/or guidance, they are referred to the District Special Education Committee. The pupil is assessed by an educational psychologist and/or other specialists, if necessary.</p>	Concerns children in junior high schools and technical schools	Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth	Ongoing	National resources

12.4. Healthy nutrition

No	Policy measure (description and geographical scope)	Target group (definition and size)	Bodies involved	Timetable for implementation	Available financial resources and source of funding
1.	<p>'Meals for pupils in need' project</p> <p>The 'Meals for pupils in need' project aims to offer a free breakfast to children in need attending state schools (at all levels of education) and also offers free meals to preschool and primary school pupils attending compulsory and optional all-day schools. The aim of this project is to address material deprivation by providing free meals and to ensure adequate nutritional standards for pupils in need. The beneficiary pupils are offered a free breakfast from the school canteen every day. The breakfast items offered are selected from the approved list of breakfast items for school canteens in accordance with the relevant legislation.</p> <p>Measures 12.4.1, 12.4.2 and 12.4.6 are aimed at children of low socio-economic status or their families entitled to the Guaranteed Minimum Income.</p>	<p>The number of pupils receiving breakfast, by target group, is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - About 1 107 from 164 preschools - About 6 230 from 307 primary schools - About 3 600 from 67 junior high schools (<i>gymnasia</i>) - About 1 780 from 37 senior high schools (<i>lykeia</i>) - About 1 094 from 11 technical schools 	Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth	2021-2027	European Social Fund, national resources, local sponsors
2.	<p>Optional all-day schools</p> <p>At optional all-day schools, a lunch allowance is provided to children of low socio-economic status or to their families who are entitled to the Guaranteed Minimum Income. The weekly meal plan is drawn up by nutritionists and the Parents' Associations are responsible for providing the lunch.</p> <p>Measures 12.4.1, 12.4.2 and 12.4.6 are aimed at children of low socio-economic status or their families entitled to the Guaranteed Minimum Income.</p>	Those receiving the Guaranteed Minimum Income and children of low socio-economic status.	Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth	Ongoing	National resources

No	Policy measure (description and geographical scope)	Target group (definition and size)	Bodies involved	Timetable for implementation	Available financial resources and source of funding
3.	<p>Central Committee for the Control of School Canteens</p> <p>There is a Central Committee for the Control of School Canteens, which includes representatives of various bodies, including a representative of the Ministry of Health, a representative of the General State Laboratory and a representative of the Association of Dieticians. One of the Committee's main tasks is to ensure that nutrition standards in early childhood education and care and educational establishments address specific nutritional needs, taking into account the recommendations of the World Health Organisation on proper nutrition for school-age children.</p> <p>Measures 12.4.3, 12.4.5, 12.4.7 and 12.4.8 aim to create an environment where a healthy diet is the easiest, most accessible and attractive solution for all pupils. Children are not segregated in these programmes to avoid stigmatisation. Supplies are small (e.g. one piece of fruit for each child) and any segregation would be difficult in the school environment. In addition, the promotion of healthy eating concerns the entire school population.</p>	School-age children	Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth	Ongoing	Co-financing and national resources
4.	<p>Scheme to provide free fruit, vegetables and milk to pupils in state/private primary schools and state/community preschools</p> <p>EU Member States are given the possibility to implement an EU-funded 'school scheme' to supply fruit, vegetables, bananas and milk to children attending recognised educational establishments.</p> <p>The main objectives of the scheme are the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To achieve a steady increase in the proportion of fruit and vegetables and milk in children's diets at the stage when their eating habits are being formed. - A proper, balanced diet, with a view to steadily improving peoples' health. - To increase children's knowledge in matters relating to agricultural production and good eating habits. - To achieve the objectives of the Common Agricultural Policy, including increasing incomes in the agricultural sector, stabilising agricultural markets and making available both existing and future supplies of agricultural products. 	Preschool and primary school pupils	<p>Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment</p> <p>Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth</p> <p>CAPO</p> <p>Ministry of Health</p>	Ongoing	The annual budget of the scheme is EUR 870 000 , of which EUR 790.221 is fully funded by the EU. The remaining EUR 79 779 is the estimated cost of the accompanying educational measures and the information and publicity measures and activities and VAT, which are funded by the Republic of Cyprus.

No	Policy measure (description and geographical scope)	Target group (definition and size)	Bodies involved	Timetable for implementation	Available financial resources and source of funding
	<p>The Department of Agriculture at the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and the Environment is the competent national authority for preparing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating the scheme. That Department is also responsible for notifying the European Commission about the scheme.</p> <p>The competent authority for implementing the programme is the Cyprus Agricultural Payments Organisation (CAPO). CAPO is also responsible for granting aid to beneficiaries and for checking and imposing penalties/sanctions where applicable.</p> <p>Each year, the Department of Agriculture allocates the available financial resources on the basis of the number of pupils in state/private primary schools and state/community preschools that express an interest in participating in the school scheme.</p> <p>The Ministry of Health School Health Service and the Ministry of Health Nutrition Department offer supporting educational programmes relating to the consumption of fruit, vegetables and milk.</p>				
5.	<p>Support for access to healthy meals also outside of school days</p> <p>Support for access to healthy meals also outside of school days, including through in-kind or financial support, in particular in exceptional cases such as school closures.</p> <p>During holidays (e.g. Christmas, Easter), each school provides financially disadvantaged pupils with vouchers to buy basic goods and money to meet their needs. When schools were closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and school canteens were not working, pupils were given an amount to cover the cost of their breakfast.</p> <p>Measures 12.4.3, 12.4.5, 12.4.7 and 12.4.8 aim to create an environment where a healthy diet is the easiest, most accessible and attractive solution for all pupils. Children are not segregated in these programmes to avoid stigmatisation. Supplies are small (e.g. one piece of fruit for each child) and any segregation would be difficult in the school environment. In addition, the promotion of healthy eating concerns the entire school population.</p>	School-age children	Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth	Ongoing	National resources

No	Policy measure (description and geographical scope)	Target group (definition and size)	Bodies involved	Timetable for implementation	Available financial resources and source of funding
6.	<p>Restriction of advertising</p> <p>There are limits on advertising and restrictions on the availability of foods high in fat, salt and sugar in early childhood education and care and educational establishments.</p> <p>Any advertising in state schools is prohibited. There is a list of products available in school canteens approved by the Central Committee for the Control of School Canteens. Foods high in fat, salt and sugar are not included in the price lists of items. However, there are no restrictions on what children can bring from home to eat during breaks.</p> <p>The Nutrition Department considers that restricting the advertising of foods high in fat, sugar and salt content is particularly important. In cooperation with the EU's Best-ReMaP Programme, various actions are being implemented to limit advertising to children.</p> <p>Measures 12.4.1, 12.4.2 and 12.4.6 are aimed at children of low socio-economic status or their families entitled to the Guaranteed Minimum Income.</p>	School-age children	<p>Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth</p> <p>Ministry of Health</p>	Ongoing	National resources
7.	<p>National control programmes on: food intended for infants and young children</p> <p>The General State Laboratory, in cooperation with the competent authorities, is developing and implementing preventive and targeted official national control programmes on: food intended for infants and young children, and food supplied to school canteens, as regards, for example, fat, salt and sugar content.</p> <p>Measures 12.4.3, 12.4.5, 12.4.7 and 12.4.8 aim to create an environment where a healthy diet is the easiest, most accessible and attractive solution for all pupils. Children are not segregated in these programmes to avoid stigmatisation. Supplies are small (e.g. one piece of fruit for each child) and any segregation would be difficult in the school environment. In addition, the promotion of healthy eating concerns the entire school population.</p>	All children	<p>Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth</p> <p>Ministry of Health</p>	Ongoing	<p>National resources (central-government budget)</p> <p>This action is part of the General State Laboratory's wider programming, which, in cooperation with the competent authorities, targets all children in general (i.e. it is not targeted at categories of children in need). The costs cannot be calculated at this stage.</p>
8.	<p>Programmes to promote healthy eating</p> <p>The Ministry of Health's Nutrition Department, in cooperation with other bodies (school doctors and health visitors), carries out health education</p>	Primary and secondary school pupils	Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth	Ongoing	National resources

No	Policy measure (description and geographical scope)	Target group (definition and size)	Bodies involved	Timetable for implementation	Available financial resources and source of funding
	<p>programmes in schools, which can play an important role in promoting healthy eating. The 'Nutrition and Health' programme is carried out in third grade primary.</p> <p>The main purpose of the programme is to encourage the adoption of healthy eating habits and to highlight the value of daily physical activity (exercise) in childhood, with the ultimate aim of reducing pathological conditions in adult life and eliminating or reducing childhood obesity.</p> <p>Specific objectives/learning objectives to accomplish the purpose; after successfully following a nutrition and health programme, pupils are expected to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Understand key concepts: healthy diet, balanced diet, physical activity. 2. Learn the food groups and the colours that represent them, as well as the importance of the daily intake of amounts of food from each group (nutritional needs). 3. Recognise potential health problems and consequences of not adopting healthy eating habits. 4. Improve their sense of self-efficacy and adopt healthy eating habits. 5. Be able to create a balanced diet plan for themselves, their family and friends. 6. Participate in physical activities (games, sport, etc.). <p>Development of skills:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ability to think and categorise. 2. Ability to think and analyse information on a poster. 3. Understanding symbols. 		Ministry of Health		The programme is one of the actions of the School Health Service.

No	Policy measure (description and geographical scope)	Target group (definition and size)	Bodies involved	Timetable for implementation	Available financial resources and source of funding
	<p>4. Understanding complex things as a whole and being able to simplify 'bit by bit'.</p> <p>In cooperation with school management and parents' associations, the provision of a healthy breakfast in primary schools is organised after the children have received health education.</p> <p>In addition, the staff of the School Health Service offer individual counselling to pupils on healthy eating, targeted at children with weight problems or conditions such as diabetes.</p> <p>Following the launch of the General Health System (GHS), where necessary, pupils are referred to their general practitioner for further investigation and referral to specialists.</p> <p>Health education programmes, including the one carried out by the School Health Service, are examined and approved by a special committee of the Ministry of Health, with the participation of the Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth.</p> <p>The Ministry of Health School Health Service and the Ministry of Health Nutrition Department, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth, run a large number of educational and interactive programmes for primary school pupils. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Provision of a healthy breakfast — Talks and information on healthy eating — Talks and events on the Mediterranean diet with games — Provision of a Mediterranean lunch — Nutrition week dedicated to a different topic each time — Online and face-to-face programme 'Become a Health Ambassador' — Education programmes on fruit and vegetables and other topical subjects <p>Measures 12.4.3, 12.4.5, 12.4.7 and 12.4.8 aim to create an environment where a healthy diet is the easiest, most accessible and attractive solution for all pupils. Children are not segregated in these programmes to avoid stigmatisation. Supplies are small (e.g. one piece of fruit for each child) and</p>				

No	Policy measure (description and geographical scope)	Target group (definition and size)	Bodies involved	Timetable for implementation	Available financial resources and source of funding
	any segregation would be difficult in the school environment. In addition, the promotion of healthy eating concerns the entire school population.				
9.	<p>Detailed curricula/courses providing pupils with extensive knowledge and skills to do with healthy eating and related topics</p> <p>The curricula comprise specific courses (such as home economics, health education, etc.) that provide pupils with extensive knowledge and skills to do with healthy eating and related topics. The central objective is to enable pupils and schools to act as ‘agents of health’, to tackle the social trend towards unhealthy lifestyles. Several health-related topics are covered, such as nutrition, physical activity, human rights, consumer education, substance abuse, self-esteem, sexual education, and social skills. The health education curriculum serves as a guide for measures to be undertaken in schools, through a methodology framework which encourages teachers, parents and pupils to work together and to promote social measures that facilitate healthy choices. Teachers are invited to teach health education as a separate subject in primary education (grades one to to six). Nutrition education matters are specifically included in the ‘Food and Health’ section. Various food issues are also linked to other topics such as consumer education, diversity, social skills, safety, emotional health, etc.</p> <p>The health education programme run by the School Health Service is based on an interdisciplinary approach in cooperation with teachers, enhancing the subject-matter of the curriculum.</p> <p>Health education for nutrition is carried out in hands-on workshops, and the course is not graded.</p> <p>The School Health Service is in the process of preparing revised health education programmes for sexual education throughout children’s schooling, with an interdisciplinary approach and with topics introduced according to the age and maturity of the children, and of course in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth.</p>	Preschools Primary schools Junior and senior high schools and technical schools	Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth	Ongoing	National resources

No	Policy measure (description and geographical scope)	Target group (definition and size)	Bodies involved	Timetable for implementation	Available financial resources and source of funding
	<p>The role of the School Health Service is supportive of and complementary to the Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth and the topics included in the curriculum of that Ministry. The health education programmes of the School Health Service aim to empower children and strengthen their self-esteem and communication abilities, so they can develop negotiation skills, say NO, and be able to protect themselves.</p>				
10.	<p>Preparation of communication material also aimed at parents/children/young people The General State Laboratory prepares communication material for parents/children/young people (e.g. Fats and oils in our diet, Omega fatty acids on our plates, The salt in our food, Sugars on our plate). The food sector has prepared a large number of information leaflets for parents and children. In particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — National Nutrition Guidelines for 6-11 year-olds — National Nutrition Guidelines for adolescents — National Nutrition Guidelines for parents <p>The integrated health education programme (measure 12.4.10) is not limited to the sharing of knowledge about healthy eating, but also promotes the development of a critique of the socio-economic factors that determine people's dietary choices. Free vouchers for nutritionist services will be offered to 1 000 pupils during the school year 2022-2023.</p>	Families with children	Ministry of Health	Ongoing	<p>National resources (central-government budget)</p> <p>This action is part of the General State Laboratory's wider communication programming, which, in cooperation with the Press and Information Office, aims to inform parents/children/young people in general (i.e. it is not targeted at categories of children in need). The costs cannot be calculated at this stage.</p>
11.	<p>Protection, Promotion and Support of Breastfeeding Promoting and supporting breastfeeding in Cyprus through legislative and other actions. Establishment of a National Committee for the Protection, Promotion and Support of Breastfeeding, which is also responsible for promoting the 'Baby-friendly Hospitals' initiative. Under an amendment to the Criminal Code (2018), any action to prevent/prohibit breastfeeding in any public place is considered a criminal offence. An amendment to the Maternity Protection Act (2018) gives working mothers the right to breastfeed or to express breast milk during their working hours and requires employers to provide the necessary facilities for mothers.</p>	Mothers and children	Ministry of Health	Ongoing	National resources (central-government budget)

No	Policy measure (description and geographical scope)	Target group (definition and size)	Bodies involved	Timetable for implementation	Available financial resources and source of funding
12.	<p>Public and Environmental Health Services of the Ministry of Health As part of the work of the Scientific Council of the Central Committee for the Control of School Canteens, the Public and Environmental Health Services of the Ministry of Health help to limit the availability of foods high in fat, salt and sugar by checking the suitability of food offered for sale in school canteens. Suitability is determined by checking the labelling of foodstuffs and the food producer's level of compliance with food law, and by taking official samples for laboratory analysis by the General State Laboratory for verification purposes.</p>	School-age children	Ministry of Health	Ongoing	<p>National resources (central-government budget)</p> <p>The total annual cost relating to the actions of the Health Service (food/water sampling, inspection of school canteens and participation in the Scientific Council of the Central Committee for the Control of School Canteens) is EUR 33 142.97).</p>
13.	<p>Monitoring the body weight of children in first and fourth grade primary Implementation of the World Health Organisation's COSI Programme (Childhood Obesity Surveillance Initiative).</p>	Primary school pupils	Ministry of Health	Ongoing	National resources (central-government budget)

12.5. Healthcare

No	Policy measure (description and geographical scope)	Target group (definition and size)	Bodies involved	Timetable for implementation	Available financial resources and source of funding
1.	<p>General Health System (GHS) The General Health System (GHS) is an integrated health system offering equal access to health services for all citizens, with the possibility of choosing the healthcare provider, from both the private and the public sector. The GHS covers all the healthcare needs of beneficiaries, including chronic, rare and serious conditions. It provides life-long financial protection to all beneficiaries even for unexpected and costly healthcare needs. The right to health</p>	Whole population	Health Insurance Organisation (HIO)	Implemented/ Ongoing	National resources

No	Policy measure (description and geographical scope)	Target group (definition and size)	Bodies involved	Timetable for implementation	Available financial resources and source of funding
	<p>within the GHS does not depend on payment of contributions. Beneficiaries with no income (unemployed, children, students, soldiers and others) have equal access to healthcare services.</p> <p>Children who are beneficiaries of the GHS have equal access to all services.</p> <p>All children who are beneficiaries and registered with the GHS are placed on the individual register of a general practitioner for children (paediatrician) chosen by their parents/guardians; these include, for example, children in alternative (especially institutional) care, children with a migrant background, including unaccompanied minors, children in precarious family situations, children with disabilities, children with a minority racial or ethnic origin (especially Roma), children facing housing problems and children with mental health issues.</p> <p>The general practitioner for children is responsible for providing healthcare to the child and referring them to other healthcare services where necessary. Healthcare services provided to children under the GHS include specialists of all kinds, medicines, imaging and clinical laboratory tests, other health professionals (physiotherapists, occupational therapists, speech/language therapists, clinical dieticians, clinical psychologists), nurses, midwives, palliative care, A&E services and inpatient care.</p> <p>In addition, children receive preventive dental care services as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — 0 to 4 years: a check of the oral cavity is performed once a year and the beneficiary/parent/guardian is given advice about correct oral hygiene and correct eating habits to avoid caries, oral habits (thumb-sucking, pacifiers, etc.) and their treatment, etc. 				<p>Preventive Dental Care through the GHS:</p> <p>From HIO figures for 2021, EUR 25 835 was spent on children aged 0-12. No data can be provided for children aged 12-18 as those over the age of 12 are reimbursed as adults.</p>

No	Policy measure (description and geographical scope)	Target group (definition and size)	Bodies involved	Timetable for implementation	Available financial resources and source of funding
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — 5 to 6 years: a check of the oral cavity and de-scaling is performed once a year and the beneficiary/parent/guardian is given advice about correct oral hygiene and correct eating habits to avoid caries, oral habits (thumb-sucking, pacifiers, etc.) and their treatment, etc. — 7 to 12 years: one visit per year for de-scaling, topical application of fluoride and a check of the oral cavity. — 12+: one visit per year for de-scaling and a check of the oral cavity. <p>Please note that beneficiaries of healthcare from the Public Dental Service, including children, continue to retain the right to care by Dental Services dentists, paying only EUR 3 per visit. The disability dimension is integrated into the GHS.</p> <p>Children who are not beneficiaries of the General Health System and belong to vulnerable and disadvantaged groups of the population are covered by public hospitals in accordance with the relevant Ministry of Health circular (2/12/2011).</p>				<p>Dental care through Dental Services The cost is estimated at around EUR 460 933.75. To calculate this amount, account was taken of the number of visits by 0-18 year-olds to Dental Services dentists as a percentage of the total number of visits, which came to 8.4%. The corresponding percentage of the Dental Services budget was calculated for care of children aged 0-18.</p>
2.	<p>Mental health services for children and adolescents The Directorate for Mental Health Services is implementing a project to establish a Centre for children with neuro-developmental disorders. The Centre is for children and adolescents with neuro-developmental disorders and its main objectives are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Timely and authoritative diagnostic assessment by a multidisciplinary team of specialists of potential neuro-developmental disorders among children and adolescents in Cyprus - Multi-level handling of each case - Counselling and psychological support for parents - Referral and linking with other services involved 	Children and young people aged 5 to 17	Ministry of Health State Health Services Organization	Ongoing	National resources EUR 680 000 from EEA/Norway 2014-2021 funds

No	Policy measure (description and geographical scope)	Target group (definition and size)	Bodies involved	Timetable for implementation	Available financial resources and source of funding
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Collection of epidemiological data on neuro-developmental disorders <p>The Centre will be unique of its kind in the public sector, and its creation will contribute to the adoption of good practice in Europe, because of the direct cooperation between all the specialists within the scope of the Centre. The Centre is based on the concept of a 'one-stop' clinic providing continuity of treatment and supervision by specialised staff working together in the same space.</p>				
3.	<p>Implementation of the Strategy for the Rights of Children in Health: 2017-2025</p> <p>This Strategy will promote the creation of a framework for action to improve the current situation through cross-sectoral cooperation to provide holistic child healthcare, with the active involvement of children themselves. The action pillars cover child health services, non-communicable diseases (NCDs), nutrition and breastfeeding, infectious diseases/vaccines, prevention of violence and accidents, alcohol, substance abuse, tobacco, environment, and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR).</p> <p>The Ministry of Health is coordinating monitoring of the implementation of the Strategy by setting up a Monitoring Committee comprising representatives from the relevant government departments, the social partners, representatives of children and parents, non-governmental organisations involved and professional associations/unions.</p>	All children aged 0-18	Ministry of Health	Ongoing	This is a policy document; there is no budget and actions are implemented by those involved using their own resources.
4.	<p>Strategy for the Sexual and Reproductive Health of Young People</p> <p>This Strategy is targeted at young people aged 15 to 29 and aims to create a framework for action to improve the current situation through cross-sectoral cooperation to provide holistic healthcare to young people as regards their sexual and reproductive health, with the active involvement of young people themselves. Its pillars of action focus on parental health, family planning, infertility, contraception, unwanted pregnancy, abortion, sexually transmitted diseases (STDs),</p>	Children and young people aged 15 to 19	Ministry of Health	Ongoing	This is a policy document; there is no budget and actions are implemented by those involved using their own resources.

No	Policy measure (description and geographical scope)	Target group (definition and size)	Bodies involved	Timetable for implementati on	Available financial resources and source of funding
	<p>HIV/AIDS, reproductive system infections, prevention of cancer in the reproductive system and prevention and management of cases of sexual violence. Action is being taken at legislative and political level, at the level of health and other services, and at the level of information and education.</p> <p>For the purposes of monitoring the implementation of the Strategy, a Monitoring Committee has been set up, comprising representatives of all those involved.</p>				
5.	<p>Health Monitoring Unit The Health Monitoring Unit keeps the following national registers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Causes of death, - Cancer, - Medical data on births. <p>In general, these registers provide information on specific health issues concerning all citizens of Cyprus, including children. This information can help develop evidence-based national policies in Cyprus.</p> <p>The data collected is available for research, subject to conditions. Annual reports are also published for each subject area.</p> <p>(https://www.moh.gov.cy/moh/moh.nsf/page70_en/page70_gr?OpenDocument).</p>	All children aged 0-18	Ministry of Health	Ongoing	National resources (central-government budget)
6.	<p>Health education Health education is carried out by the School Health Service through contacts with pupils and through health education programmes aimed at providing knowledge and/or promoting healthy behaviour or changing unhealthy behaviour. 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.</p>	School-age children	Ministry of Health	Ongoing	National resources The total expenditure is recorded under Measure No (8). No separate costing is done for this action.

No	Policy measure (description and geographical scope)	Target group (definition and size)	Bodies involved	Timetable for implementation	Available financial resources and source of funding
7.	<p>Maternity and Child Protection Centres</p> <p>The Maternity and Child Protection Centres offer preventive services to mothers and infants/children and in general to the whole family in order to maintain and promote health and prevent disease.</p> <p>The services are provided free of charge to all residents through a network of centres located in the primary healthcare centres of hospitals and rural and urban health centres.</p> <p>The main objectives of the Maternity and Child Protection Centres are the early detection and treatment of infant and child health problems, the development of healthy attitudes and behaviours of future parents and the prevention of infectious diseases.</p> <p>Specifically, the services provided in the Maternity and Child Protection Centres include general monitoring of infants and preschool children through preventive examinations such as checking physiological development, vision screening for babies, preventive eye testing at 3-5 years old, and preventive testing of hearing at 7-9 months and 4-5 years old. All routine vaccinations prescribed by the vaccination programme of the Cyprus Ministry of Health are administered at the Maternity and Child Protection Centres, including to children not covered by the GHS (e.g. applicants for international protection, political refugees).</p>	Infants and preschool children	Ministry of Health	Ongoing	<p>National resources</p> <p>The total expenditure is recorded under Measure No (8). No separate costing is done for this action.</p>
8.	<p>School Health Service</p> <p>The main objective of the School Health Service is to prevent disease and promote the health and well-being of pupils. Children are examined by officials of the School Health Service.</p> <p>The examination includes taking a detailed history and making a holistic assessment of the child, taking physical, psychological and social considerations into account. The assessment includes measuring blood pressure, monitoring children's physical growth indicators, checking lung function, arrhythmias, respiratory whistling, examination of the</p>	Primary school pupils	Ministry of Health	Ongoing	<p>National resources</p> <p>The School Health Service is staffed by school doctors and health visitors. For example, in 2021 the total expenditure of the Health Visitors' Service amounted to EUR 5 446 188 (EUR 5 246 188 wage costs and EUR 200 000 total expenditure on other expenses – travel, consumables, stationery, equipment, etc.).</p>

No	Policy measure (description and geographical scope)	Target group (definition and size)	Bodies involved	Timetable for implementation	Available financial resources and source of funding
	<p>abdomen, exterior genital organs and skin, screening for deformations of the spinal column such as scoliosis and kyphosis, examination of the oral cavity, eyes, etc. Other preventive or diagnostic tests are also carried out, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Measuring and recording body weight and height and calculating the body mass index of pupils in first and fourth grade primary and in first grade secondary school. - Eye test for pupils in first and fourth grade primary and in first grade secondary school. - Hearing test for pupils in first and fourth grade primary and in first grade secondary school. - Colour blindness test for pupils in sixth grade primary and in first grade technical school. - Check of the spinal column for scoliosis or measurement of scoliosis for pupils in fifth and sixth grade primary and in first, second and third grade secondary/technical school. <p>Implementation of Health Education Programmes The objective of the Health Education and Promotion Programmes is for children and their families to acquire knowledge and skills to develop healthy attitudes and behaviours. The Health Education Team of the Health Visitors' Service has revised programmes and created new ones. Programmes are revised and created after identifying new needs in the pupil population. These programmes concern the following topics: Breastfeeding, Sexual Education, Climate Change and Health.</p> <p>Staff of the School Health Service work with children, their parents or legal guardians, school principals/counsellors, social welfare services, as required, and always with the children's well-being in mind.</p>				<p>The total expenditure on school doctors in 2021 amounted to EUR 900 000 (720 000 wage costs and 180 000 travel costs).</p>

No	Policy measure (description and geographical scope)	Target group (definition and size)	Bodies involved	Timetable for implementati on	Available financial resources and source of funding
	<p>The School Health Service will promote actions so that pupils can turn to the staff of the School Health Service or to school psychologists for targeted counselling without the need for parental consent.</p> <p>This will be done if it is ensured by law that children can access such services without parental consent.</p> <p>Notification of the schedule of the staff of the School Health Service, on fixed days of the week, so that pupils know when they can contact them (this is already being done in schools, and the School Health Service informs the school of the schedule of visits of its staff. Efforts will be made to ensure that the visit takes place on a fixed, specific day/week in each school, depending on the capacity of the service).</p> <p>The School Health Service implements protocols to investigate and handle abused and neglected children in the school.</p>				
9.	<p>School Dental Service</p> <p>Particular attention is paid to the promotion of oral health, which is seen as inextricably linked to general health and quality of life. To this end, preventive programmes are being put in place to promote proper eating habits, oral hygiene and dental visits, from childhood, and to ensure early detection and treatment of oral problems. To this end, the School Dental Service is implementing the following actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An oral health education programme for pre-primary, primary and secondary school children and free provision of toothbrushes and toothpaste. Age-appropriate printed and audio-visual material has been created for this purpose. In the forthcoming Dental Services objectives, this material will also be translated into other languages. At the same time, recognising the role of teachers in children's health education, appropriate educational materials have been created 	Pre-primary, primary and secondary school pupils	Ministry of Health	Ongoing	<p>National resources</p> <p>A figure of EUR 454 722.5 is estimated. This covers salaries, handling costs, consumables and toothbrushes, toothpaste, disposable probes and mirrors, and stationery.</p>

No	Policy measure (description and geographical scope)	Target group (definition and size)	Bodies involved	Timetable for implementation	Available financial resources and source of funding
	<p>for preschool teachers, with actions they can do as part of their oral hygiene lessons.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A free oral examination programme in schools for children aged 5, 6, and 15 years to detect and treat any oral problems in good time. For children aged 6 (i.e. first grade primary; the programme concerns both public and private schools). The examination is done with the written consent of the child's parents or guardians. After the examination, the child receives a form indicating any problems detected and they are encouraged to seek treatment. Children found to have oral problems are reviewed within 6 months, and if it is observed that they have not yet received the necessary dental treatment, their parents/guardians are again informed in writing. - Programme for the provision of free dental care to all fifth-grade children in public and private schools by a private dentist of their choice, with the costs covered by Dental Services. Children are examined at school, with the consent of their parents/guardians, and receive a referral for free dental care by a private dentist of their choice, with costs covered by Dental Services. - A programme to provide free dental care for children aged 6-12 at mobile dental units in schools located in remote areas or areas of low socio-economic level where an increased rate of tooth decay is recorded. Mobile dental units are fully equipped with the necessary apparatus and are able to provide the full range of preventive and conservative dental care. While respecting the rights of children, dental care is provided only with the written consent of the children's parents or guardians after they have been informed of their children's dental care needs. <p>At regular intervals (usually every 5 years), Dental Services conduct epidemiological surveys to determine the level of</p>				

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	oral health of the child population in Cyprus. The latest such survey was done in 2019. These surveys also serve as a basis for planning preventive programmes and actions.				
10.	<p>Neonatal Screening Programs</p> <p>The main focus of the Neonatal Screening Programmes is the immediate detection, diagnosis and treatment of serious diseases with a view to minimising morbidity and mortality rates in newborns and children.</p> <p>The Centre for Preventive Paediatrics, in cooperation with the Cyprus Institute of Neurology and Genetics, offers the possibility of detecting two metabolic diseases (phenylketonuria – PKU/HPA and congenital hypothyroidism – CH) free of charge through the programme of antenatal testing and screening of newborns. There is also a hearing aid programme. The Ministry of Health is currently making efforts to extend the newborn screening programmes to include an additional 8 diseases. The state will provide the programme free of charge to all infants.</p>	Newborns	Ministry of Health	Ongoing (additional 8 diseases to be added)	National resources For the extension of the programme it is estimated that the costs for the first year will be EUR 503 982 and EUR 421 717 for subsequent years.
11.	<p>Multidisciplinary team for dealing with children aged 0-3 with hearing problems</p> <p>The Multidisciplinary Team for dealing with children aged 0-3 with hearing loss was set up by the Ministry of Health in cooperation with departments of the Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth and of the Ministry of Labour, Welfare and Social Insurance, following approval by the Council of Ministers on 20 February 2018.</p> <p>The aim of the Multidisciplinary Team is to treat hearing loss early and swiftly so that children with impaired hearing reach levels similar to or even equal to their hearing classmates. Research shows that countries providing early intervention programmes have reduced costs for specialised education, social well-being and the social integration of people with hearing loss.</p> <p>The Multidisciplinary Team is coordinated by the Director of the Otolaryngology (ENT) Clinic of Nicosia General Hospital</p>	Children aged 0 to 3 years with diagnosed hearing problems	Ministry of Health Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth	Ongoing	National Resources (part of central government budget).

No	Policy measure (description and geographical scope)	Target group (definition and size)	Bodies involved	Timetable for implementation	Available financial resources and source of funding
	<p>and comprises ENT doctors from the Nicosia General Hospital ENT Clinic, audiologists, a teacher of the deaf specialising in early intervention, a clinical psychologist from the Mental Health Services, speech therapists and a social worker from the Social Welfare Services. In order to organise the programme smoothly and constructively, each Ministry has assumed responsibility for specific functions. When children reach the age of 3, they are referred by the members of the Multidisciplinary Team to the District Special Education Committee of the Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth.</p> <p>All the healthcare professionals involved have been informed about the Team through their various associations, so all children living in Cyprus aged between 0 and 3 years who are suspected of having a hearing impairment can be referred for assessment. This includes children with unilateral or bilateral hearing loss, neurosensory hearing loss, hearing loss of 30 dBHL or worse, aural atresia, etc. Referral to the Multidisciplinary Team can be made by any ENT specialist, audiologist or paediatrician (public or private sector).</p> <p>Every child suspected of hearing loss is assessed on a multidisciplinary basis and receives direct support. The Multidisciplinary Team is responsible for confirming the diagnosis, preparing the child's individual family programme and also overseeing and monitoring the child's progress every 6-9 months, with the active involvement of the family.</p> <p>All the healthcare professionals having direct dealings with the children being assessed are invited to and participate in the meetings. This includes ENT specialists, audiologists, speech therapists, occupational therapists, physiotherapists, paediatric neurologists, geneticists, etc.</p>				
12.	<p>Upgrading of the Archbishop Makarios III Hospital The Archbishop Makarios III Hospital is the only hospital in Cyprus specifically dedicated to providing healthcare to children.</p>	Child population of the country	Ministry of Health	2026	Recovery and Resilience Plan EUR 23 4 million for a total upgrade to turn the Archbishop Makarios III Hospital into a modern hospital for mothers and children.

No	Policy measure (description and geographical scope)	Target group (definition and size)	Bodies involved	Timetable for implementation	Available financial resources and source of funding
	The main objective of the project is to upgrade the Children's Hospital for the full treatment of cases involving children, including accident and emergency, neurological cases, neonatal intensive care and rare childhood diseases (National Health Strategy).		State Health Service Organisation		
13.	<p>Creation of a national system for recording self-destructive behaviour</p> <p>A Multidisciplinary Committee has been set up with the mandate to draw up a national strategy for the prevention of suicide.</p> <p>The aims of the strategy are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion of mental health and social resilience • Early detection and support of high-risk individuals or groups • Clinical management of cases of attempted or completed suicide • Establishing reliable measurements and research infrastructure for empirical evidence-based interventions • Decentralisation of responsibilities for effective prevention and response at local community level 	Adolescents and adults	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ministry of Health - Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth - Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance - Cyprus Police Headquarters - University of Cyprus, Faculty of Medicine - Psychiatry Society - Child Psychiatry Society - Pancyprian Association of Psychologists - Cyprus Psychologist 	2020-2022	<p>National resources</p> <p>The Committee has started to draft the National Strategy and is currently working on it and incorporating all available data into it, so that it can be completed and formally submitted. Therefore, no corresponding costing is available at this stage.</p>

No	Policy measure (description and geographical scope)	Target group (definition and size)	Bodies involved	Timetable for implementati on	Available financial resources and source of funding
			s' Association - Cyprus Federation of Patients' Associations - Health Insurance Organisation (HIO)		
14.	<p>Upgrading of child and adolescent mental health services in the Greek Cypriot-controlled area of Famagusta</p> <p>Until recently, mental health services for children and adolescents in the district of Famagusta were provided by the Larnaca services. Efforts are now being made to develop mental health services for children and adolescents in the district of Famagusta, where outpatient diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation services will be provided to children, adolescents up to 17 years old and their families.</p> <p>The Mental Health Services for children and adolescents in the district of Famagusta, in conjunction with the paediatric occupational therapy unit already being run by the Mental Health Services Directorate at Famagusta General Hospital, are expected to upgrade their operations and develop the provision of mental health services to children and adolescents in the district of Famagusta.</p>	0-17 years	Ministry of Health - State Health Services Organisation	2022 - 2023	National resources As part of the effort to run mental healthcare services for children and adolescents in the district of Famagusta, staff increases are expected in order for the system to operate.
15.	<p>Upgrading of the Centre for Prevention and Psychosocial Intervention for Children and Adolescents in Nicosia</p> <p>The Centre for Prevention and Psychosocial Intervention for Children and Adolescents in Nicosia, which provides diagnostic, treatment and rehabilitation services to children, adolescents up to 17 years of age and their families, is expected to be moved to a new site by June 2022, which will</p>	0-17 years	- State Health Services Organisation	2022	National resources The cost of moving the Centre to a new rented space which will help to further develop the treatments offered through the Centre, in new and refurbished treatment areas, will amount to EUR 2 500 per month.

No	Policy measure (description and geographical scope)	Target group (definition and size)	Bodies involved	Timetable for implementation	Available financial resources and source of funding
	help to further develop the treatments offered through the Centre in new and refurbished treatment areas.				
16.	<p>Construction of a Mental Health Centre – Phase II – Upgrading of services offered</p> <p>The following have been included in the planning of Phase II of the Mental Health Centre, with a view to upgrading the services provided and developing new specialised services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outpatient care for children and adolescents • Establishment of a day centre for children and adolescents • Child and adolescent occupational therapy department • Specialised psychological assessment centre for adults and minors • Child and adolescent eating disorders centre 	0-17 years	<p>Ministry of Health</p> <p>State Health Services Organisation</p>	2024 - 2029	<p>National resources</p> <p>The building programme is currently being updated at a cost of EUR 5 000.</p> <p>The initial budget for the entire Phase II project, based on estimates from the Public Works Department, was EUR 40 000 000, but this figure is expected to change.</p>

12.6. Adequate housing

No	Policy measure (description and geographical scope)	Target group (definition and size)	Bodies involved	Timetable for implementation	Available financial resources and source of funding
1.	<p>Guaranteed Minimum Income – Housing provision</p> <p>Any person who does not have sufficient means of subsistence is provided with the Guaranteed Minimum Income to combat child poverty and social exclusion.</p> <p>The Guaranteed Minimum Income aims to ensure a minimum socially acceptable standard of living for people and their families legally residing in the Republic of Cyprus, provided that they meet the necessary statutory requirements.</p>	Families with minors	Welfare Benefits Administration Service	Ongoing	National resources

No	Policy measure (description and geographical scope)	Target group (definition and size)	Bodies involved	Timetable for implementation	Available financial resources and source of funding
	The allowance varies according to the income of the applicant and depending on the family members and their special needs. A housing allowance and a childcare supplement are provided under the GMI. The housing allowance may be increased by 20% for a person with disabilities and by 50% for a person with a disability requiring a wheelchair and/or a person with disabilities having increased needs for care, accessibility and other adjustments.				
2.	<p>Integration projects by local authorities/non-governmental organisations targeted at third-country nationals</p> <p>The new 2021-2027 AMIF Programming Period includes plans for implementing integration projects by local authorities/non-governmental organisations targeting third-country nationals. These projects will probably include afternoon or summer childcare services for third-country nationals and other services for families of third-country nationals, and the organisation of sports, leisure, cultural and educational activities involving third-country nationals and probably children.</p>	Third-country nationals	Ministry of the Interior	2021-2027	<p>Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF)</p> <p>The planned amount is EUR 3 million. Please note that this amount does not relate exclusively to actions involving children. At this stage it is not possible to calculate what part of the budgeted amount will relate to actions involving children from third countries.</p>