

## Measuring progress in deinstitutionalisation and improving data availability, quality and comparability on children in alternative care

23 February 2023 - Online Roundtable

**Hosted by Eurochild and UNICEF Europe and Central Asia Regional Office**

**Modality:** Online – [Please register here](#).

**Duration:** 1.5 hours, 10:00-11:30 CET

Deinstitutionalisation refers to the return of children to the community from institutional settings and the prevention of entry to institutions. There is a firm commitment by the European Union and its Member States to deinstitutionalisation of children in alternative care and support for their transition to quality family and community-based care ([European Commission, 2013](#)). The European Child Guarantee (2021-2030) has identified children in alternative, especially institutional care, as a group of children in need for Member States to incorporate into their national integrated measures as part of this EU-wide initiative. Official quality data are key for measuring progress in deinstitutionalisation, to continuously improve the quality of care and outcomes for children in care and care leavers, and to increase the understanding of the efficacy of social welfare and protection systems and services in keeping families together and providing equal opportunities for all children.

The [DataCare initiative](#) and the results of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) survey informing the [Guidance on statistics on children](#) developed by an expert task force under the [Conference of European Statisticians](#) found that most of the participating countries collected some data on children in alternative care, including EU Member States. However, not all countries have national monitoring frameworks including indicators on children in alternative care or use the data they collect to produce and publish official statistics on this population group and monitor progress made in implementing their child protection system reforms. Definitions and classifications of the two main types of alternative care (residential and family-based care) also vary across countries.

One of the few regional efforts to capture data on children in alternative care systematically is the [TransMonEE](#) (Transformative Monitoring for Enhanced Equity) database, which includes indicators from administrative data for 29 countries including 11 EU Member States. TransMonEE has been addressing data issues including quality and comparability as well as gaps since it was developed. The lack of international standards and protocols on statistics on children in alternative care, the differences in definitions and classifications of residential and family-based care, and the exclusion of this population group from the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, all impact on the availability, comparability and quality of data on this group of the child population.

Further work is urgently required to develop ethical methodological standards and guidance around the collection of data and production of statistics on children in alternative care building on existing [guidance](#), using available [tools](#) and learning from good practices from countries inside and outside the EU who have already strong data systems and have integrated children in alternative care into their national policy monitoring frameworks, such as their National Child Guarantee Action Plans.

**The objective of the roundtable discussion** is to showcase good practices across the EU in integrating children in alternative care into national monitoring indicator frameworks and data improvement action plans and identify key drivers that can facilitate the necessary data reforms and result in stronger data systems and increased data use in the policy cycle.

## Programme

10:00 – 11:30 CET, hosted by Eurochild and UNICEF Europe and Central Asia Regional Office (ECARO)

Time	Topic
10:00 – 10:05	<b>Opening remarks:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eurochild/UNICEF ECARO</li> </ul>
10:05 – 10:10	<b>Setting the scene:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To be confirmed</li> </ul>
10:15 – 11:25	<p><b>Roundtable Discussion:</b> <i>Measuring progress in deinstitutionalisation and improving data availability, quality and comparability on children in alternative care.</i></p> <p>Moderated by Professor Emeritus Robbie Gilligan, Trinity College Dublin</p> <p>Country level perspectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Denmark (invited)</li> <li>• Greece: Ms. Dimitra Nikou, Head of the Department of Child and Family Protection at the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs &amp; Member of the SPC</li> <li>• Ireland: Ger Brophy, Chief Social Worker, Tusla the Child and Family Agency</li> <li>• Romania: Elena Tudor, President, National Authority for the Protection of the Rights of the Child and Adoption</li> <li>• Spain (invited)</li> <li>• Sweden: Expert from Socialstyrelsen</li> </ul> <p>Followed by a short Q&amp;A, moderated by Professor Gilligan</p>
11:25 – 11:30	<b>Closing remarks:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eurochild/UNICEF ECARO</li> </ul>