

European Child Guarantee EU Monitoring Framework

Expert meeting on statistics on children
UNICEF's TransMonEE network
Geneva, 6 March 2024



Kristoffer Lundberg, chair – Indicators Sub-Group of the Social Protection Committee
Mathis Porchez, policy officer – European Commission



Who are we? Who does what? **EPSCO**, **SPC** and **ISG**



EPSCO Council

In this council constellation, all the ministers of the EU countries with responsibility for employment, social affairs, health care and consumer policy come together. The EU commissioners who are affected also participate in the meetings.



Social Protection Committee

The SPC is an advisory committee to the Ministers of EPSCO on social issues related to social protection, health care and LTC.



Indicators Sub-Group



The missions of the Indicators sub-group



Develop and define EU social indicators to monitor member states' progress towards the commonly agreed objectives underpinning the Open Method of Coordination for social protection and inclusion



Carry out analytical work based on agreed indicators and develop analytical frameworks to support policy reviews conducted by the SPC



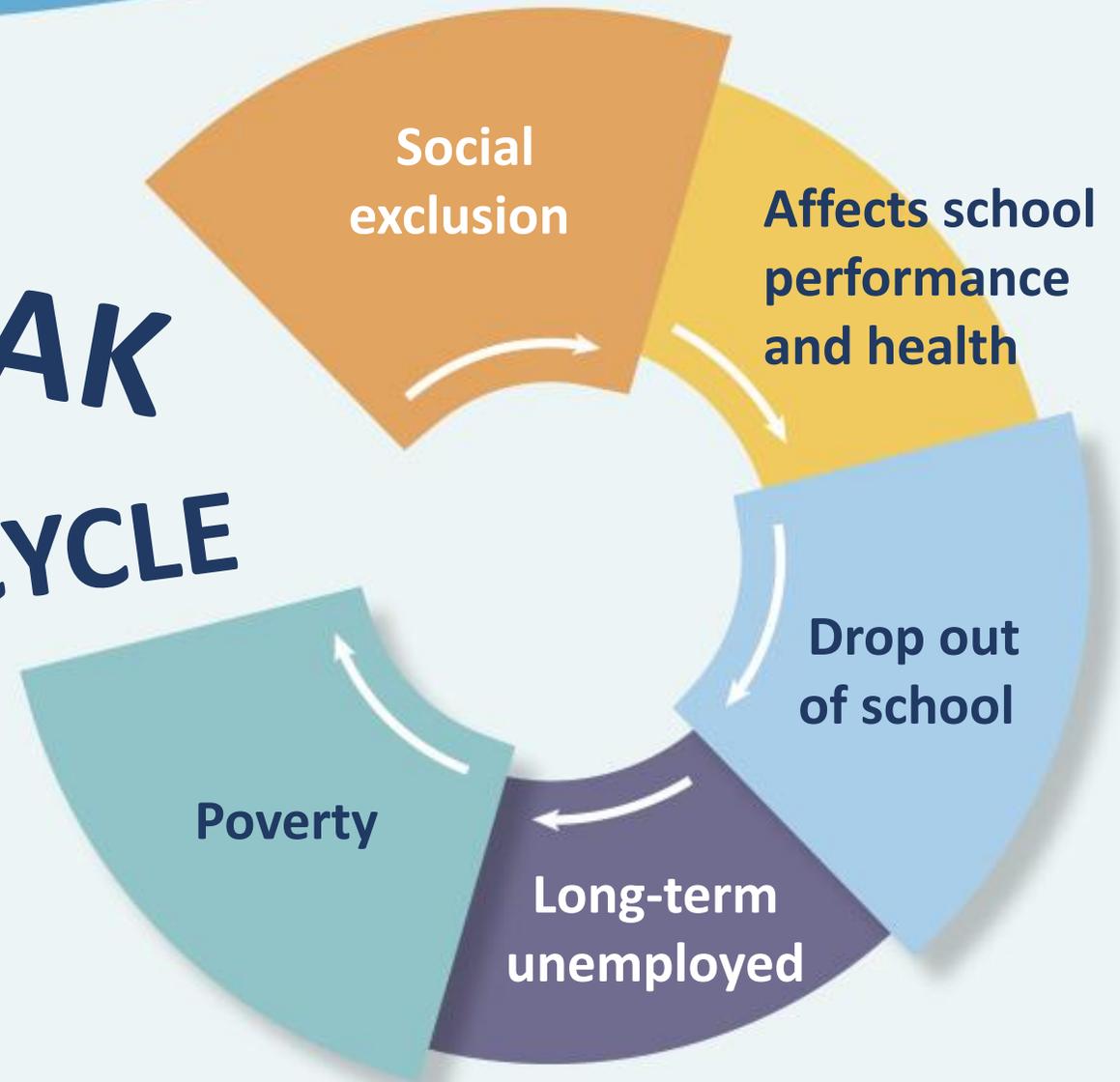
Contribute to the improvement of social statistics at EU level, particularly through development of the EU Survey on Income and Living Conditions (**EU-SILC**)



European Child Guarantee

Aims to **prevent and combat social exclusion** by guaranteeing access of children in need to a set of key services, thereby also contributing to upholding the rights of the child by combatting child poverty and fostering equal opportunities.

BREAK THE CYCLE



Council Recommendation and governance



Adopted unanimously by the Council (Member States) following a proposal of the Commission

Governance is key as the Guarantee is not legally binding. Main progress achieved so far:



Nomination of national Child Guarantee Coordinators



Drafting of national action plans



Implementation of first measures

In progress

First wave of implementation reports due in March 2024 building among others on the **EU level monitoring framework established by the Social Protection Committee**



In line with the Recommendation, the **Social Protection Committee (SPC)** endorsed the **EU monitoring framework**, developed by its Indicators Sub-Group (ISG), in **November 2023**



This tool can be used to:

- Assess the implementation at the EU level (it should complement monitoring of measures at the national level)
- Feed in the European Semester
- Feed in the national implementation reports due in March 2024
- Identify good practices and foster mutual learning



A framework composed of EU and national indicators and context information* building on data from Eurostat (and other sources) and divided into 7 sections

1 section

monitoring the number and situation of children in need**, the target group



6 sections monitoring their access to the key services identified in the Recommendation:



early childhood education and care (ECEC)



education and school-based activities



at least one healthy meal each school day



healthcare



healthy nutrition



adequate housing

*EU/national indicators/context information: a distinction agreed and used by the ISG, especially in the [Portfolio of EU Social Indicators](#). EU indicators are indicators with a high level of reliability and comparability allowing to conduct *comparative* assessment of Member States' social performance; national indicators benefit from a lower level of reliability and comparability, and are based on commonly agreed definitions and assumptions; context information is of use to understand the broader national contexts

**children in need: persons under the age of 18 years who are at risk of poverty or social exclusion (AROPE)



Monitoring of the number and the situation of children in need

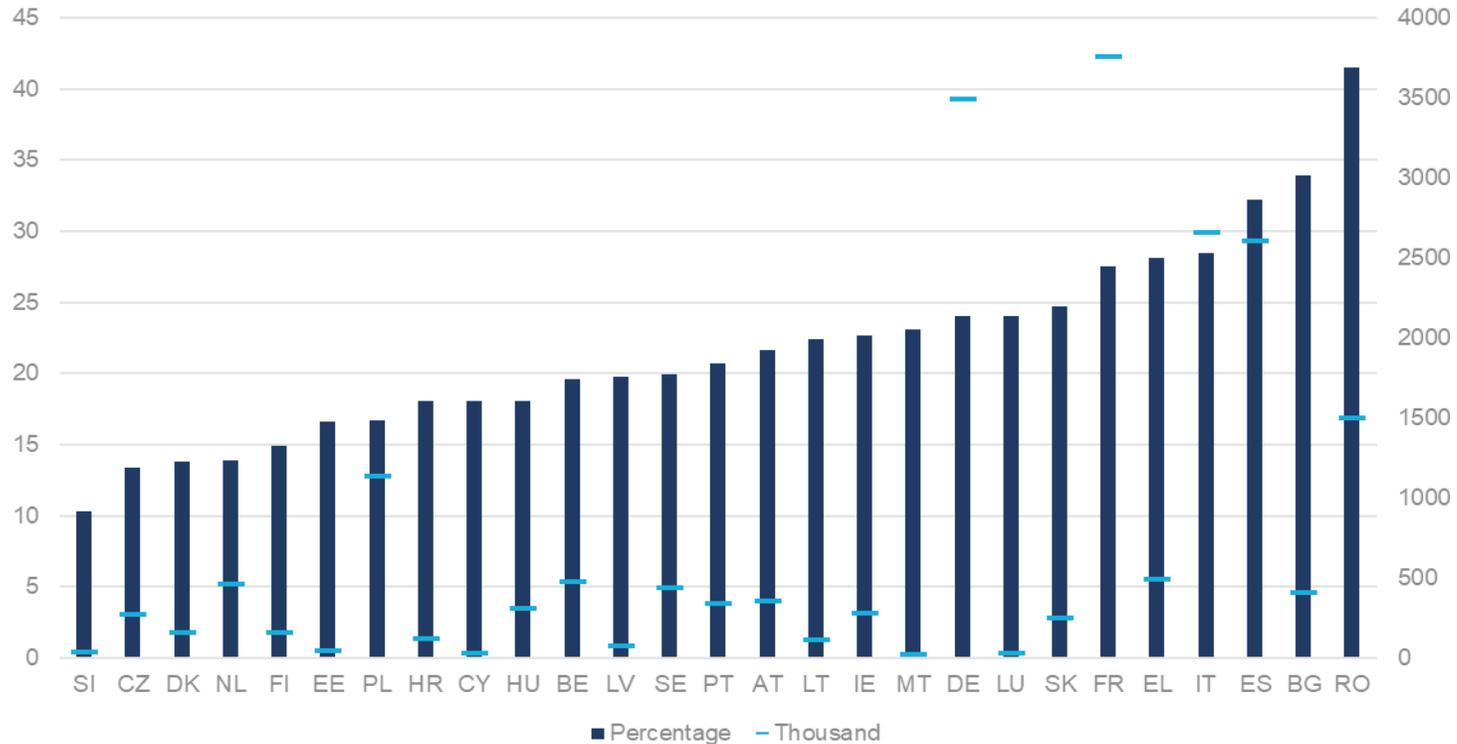
Indicator	Type	Source*	Reliability**
Children AROPE: share and number	EU	Eurobase	✓
Share of children AROPE, by components	EU	Eurobase	✓
Relative median at-risk-of-poverty gap for children	EU	Eurobase	✓
Share of children (<16) with limitations due to health problems	EU	Eurobase	✓
Social backgrounds of children AROPE	EU	Eurostat	✓
Number of children in alternative care, broken down by care type; and share of children in residential care out of the number of children in alternative care	National	DataCare/figures checked and updated by the ISG	✓

* Eurobase: figures publicly available on the Eurostat website / Eurostat: figures computed by Eurostat but not published on its website

** ✓ : reliable figures available for all Member States / ✓ : reliable figures available for most Member States



Children AROPE: share in % and number in thousand (2022)



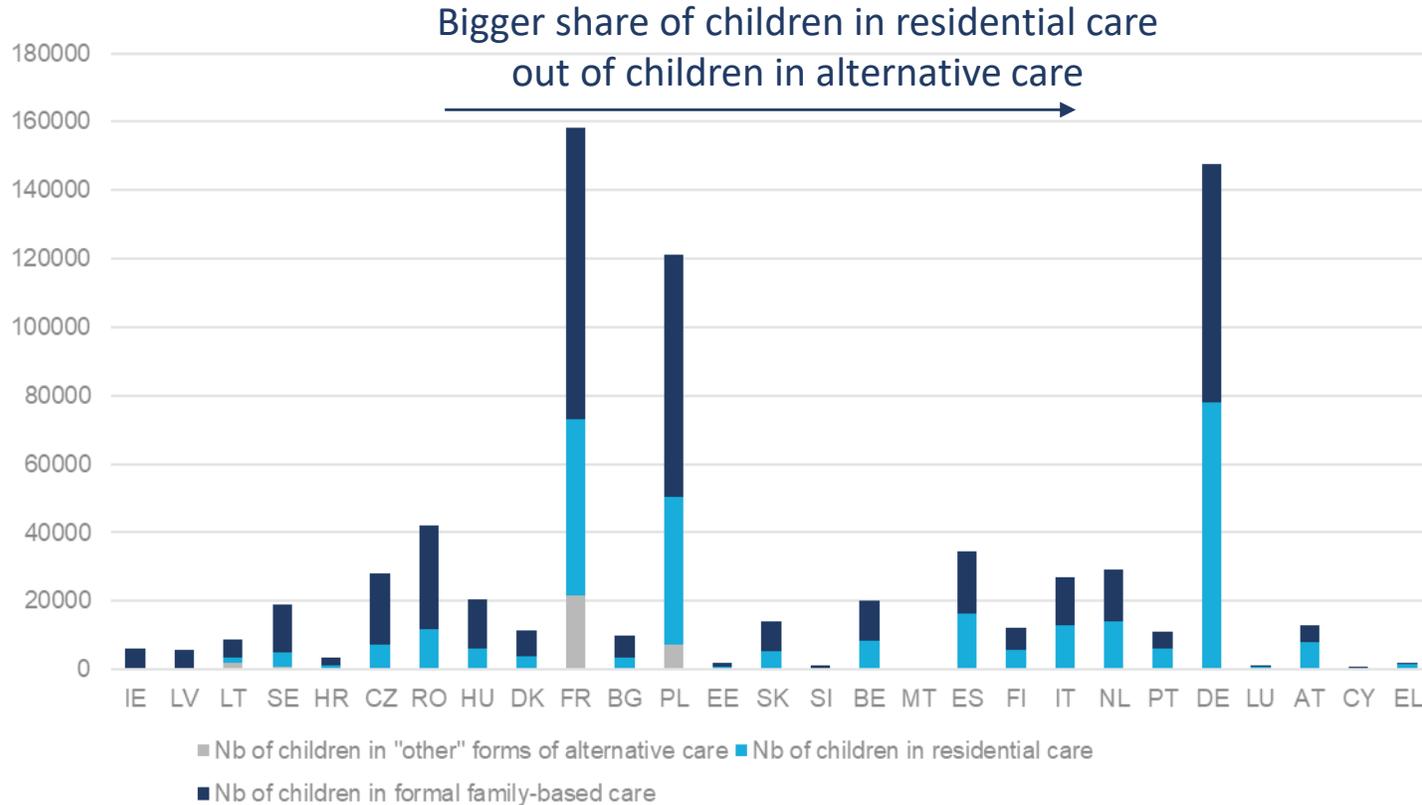
In the EU, 1 child out of 4 is at risk of poverty or social exclusion
 (EU share of children AROPE in 2022: 24.7% — EU number of children: 20 million)

Source: Eurostat

At risk of poverty or social exclusion (AROPE): children are AROPE when they are either at risk of poverty, or severely materially and socially deprived, or living in a household with a very low work intensity. Children are included only once even if they are in more than one of the situations mentioned above. For more information about the definition, please see the next slide and [here](#).



Number of children in alternative care per care type



39%

of children in alternative care are estimated to still be in residential care, on average in the EU

Source: DataCare project with figures checked/updated/corrected by the ISG delegates in 2023. For more information about the data collection and the reference years, please see table 1 of the First version of the joint monitoring framework for the European Child Guarantee available on the ISG [webpage](#)





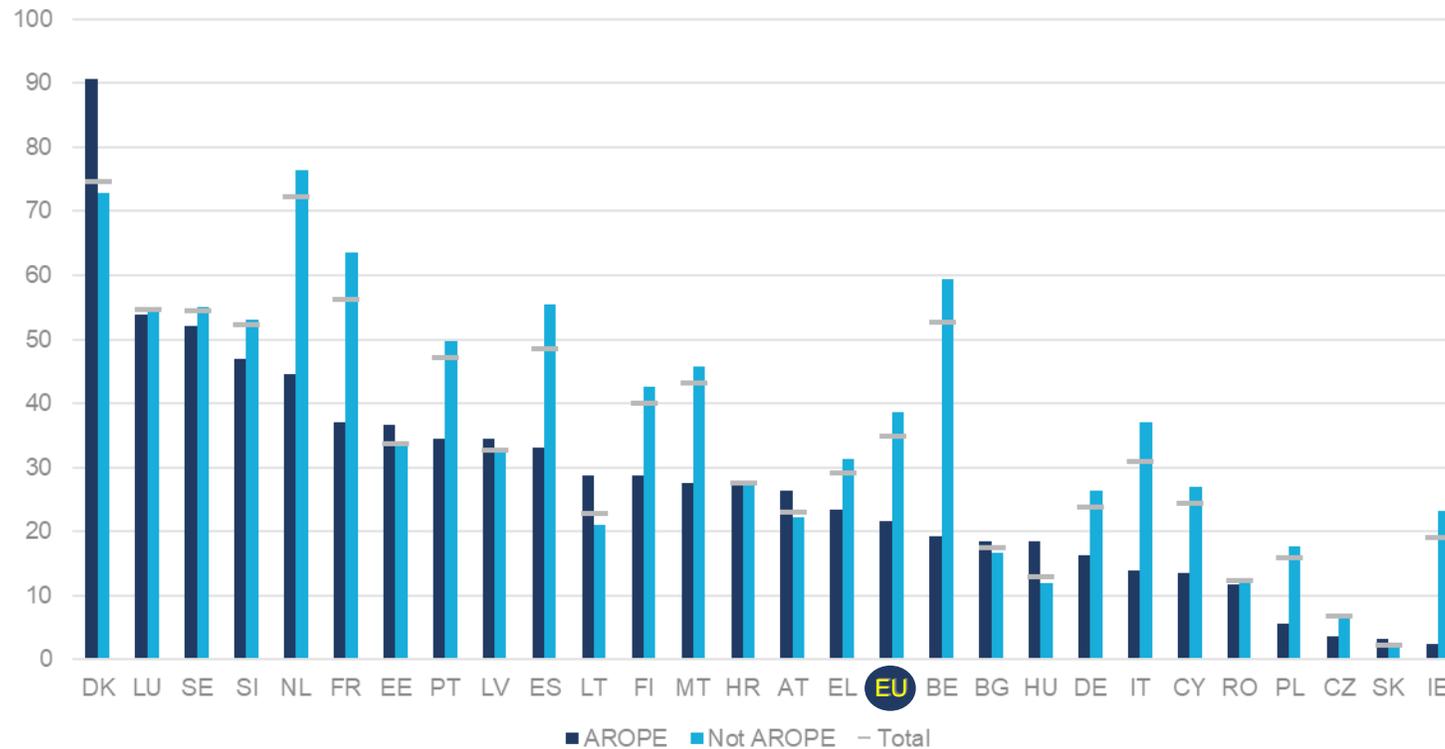
Monitoring of the effective and free access to ECEC

Indicator	Type	Source	Reliability
Share of children AROPE attending formal ECEC, broken down by child's age (<3; 3-CSA), and intensity of care	EU	Eurostat	✓
Age at which there is a legal entitlement to ECEC	National	Eurydice	✓
Net out-of-pocket cost of childcare for a low-income household as % of average wage	Context	Tax-Ben (OECD)	✓
Public expenditure on ECEC per child in ECEC in GDP per capita	Context	Eurobase	✓





Share of children (<3 years) attending formal childcare for at least 1 hour per week (2022)



17

is the average **percentage points gap** between the **participation** of children AROPE and not AROPE in **formal childcare** in the EU

Source: Eurostat



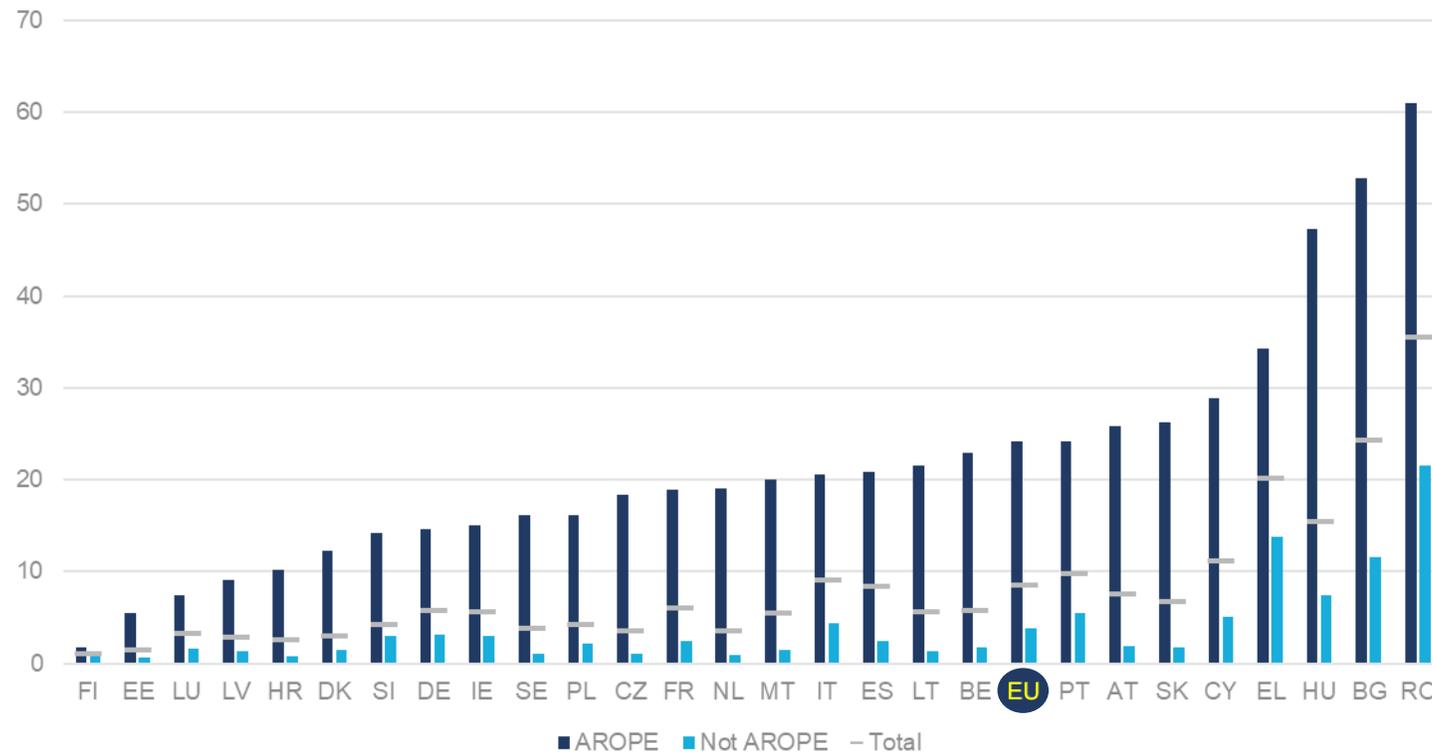


Monitoring of the effective and free access to education and school-based activities

Indicator	Type	Source	Reliability
Share of low-achieving (aged 15) in reading, maths and science, by socioeconomic category	EU	PISA (OECD)	✓
Share of children AROPE living in a household reporting great difficulties to pay for formal education	EU	Eurostat	✓
Share of children (<16) AROPE who suffer from the enforced lack of access to school trips and school events that cost money/to regular leisure activities	EU	Eurostat	✓
EU average share of early school leavers, by sex, and by parental education attainment	Context	Eurobase	✓
Number of students (aged 15) per teacher in schools, by schools' socioeconomic profile	Context	PISA (OECD)	✓
Public expenditure on education per student in GDP per capita, by education level	Context	Eurobase	✓



Share of children (<16 years) who suffer from the enforced lack of access to regular leisure activities (2021)



20

is the EU average percentage points gap between the shares of children **AROPE** and not **AROPE** who cannot afford to regularly take part in leisure activities

Source: Eurostat





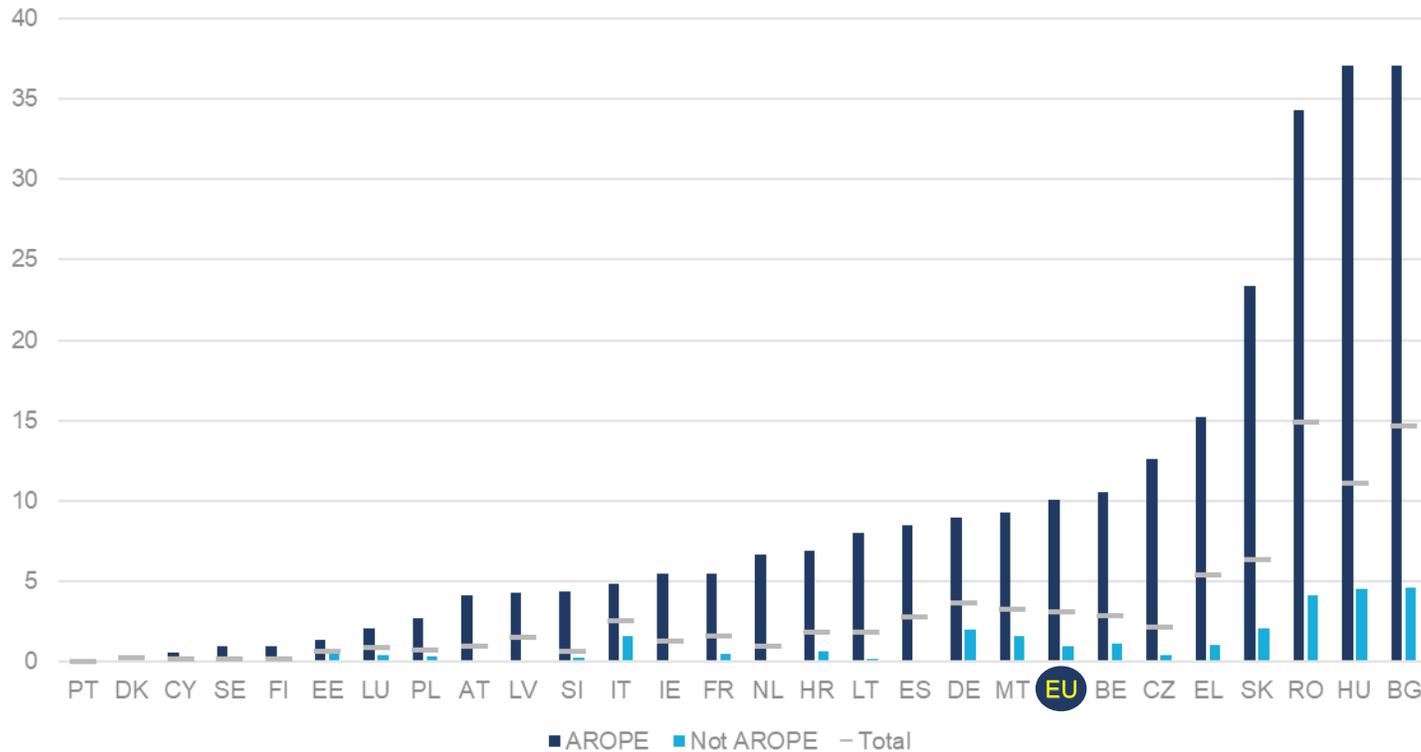
Monitoring of the effective and free access to at least one healthy meal per school day

Indicator	Type	Source	Reliability
Share of children (<16) AROPE who suffer from the enforced lack of access to fresh fruits and vegetables/to a meal with meat, chicken or fish (or vegetarian equivalent) at least once a day	EU	Eurostat	





Share of children (<16 years) who suffer from the lack of access to a meal with meat, chicken or fish (or vegetarian equivalent) at least once a day (2021)



10%

is the EU average share of children AROPE suffering from the enforced lack of access to a meal with meat, chicken or fish, or vegetarian equivalent (vs 1% of children not AROPE)

=

2 million children AROPE

Source: Eurostat



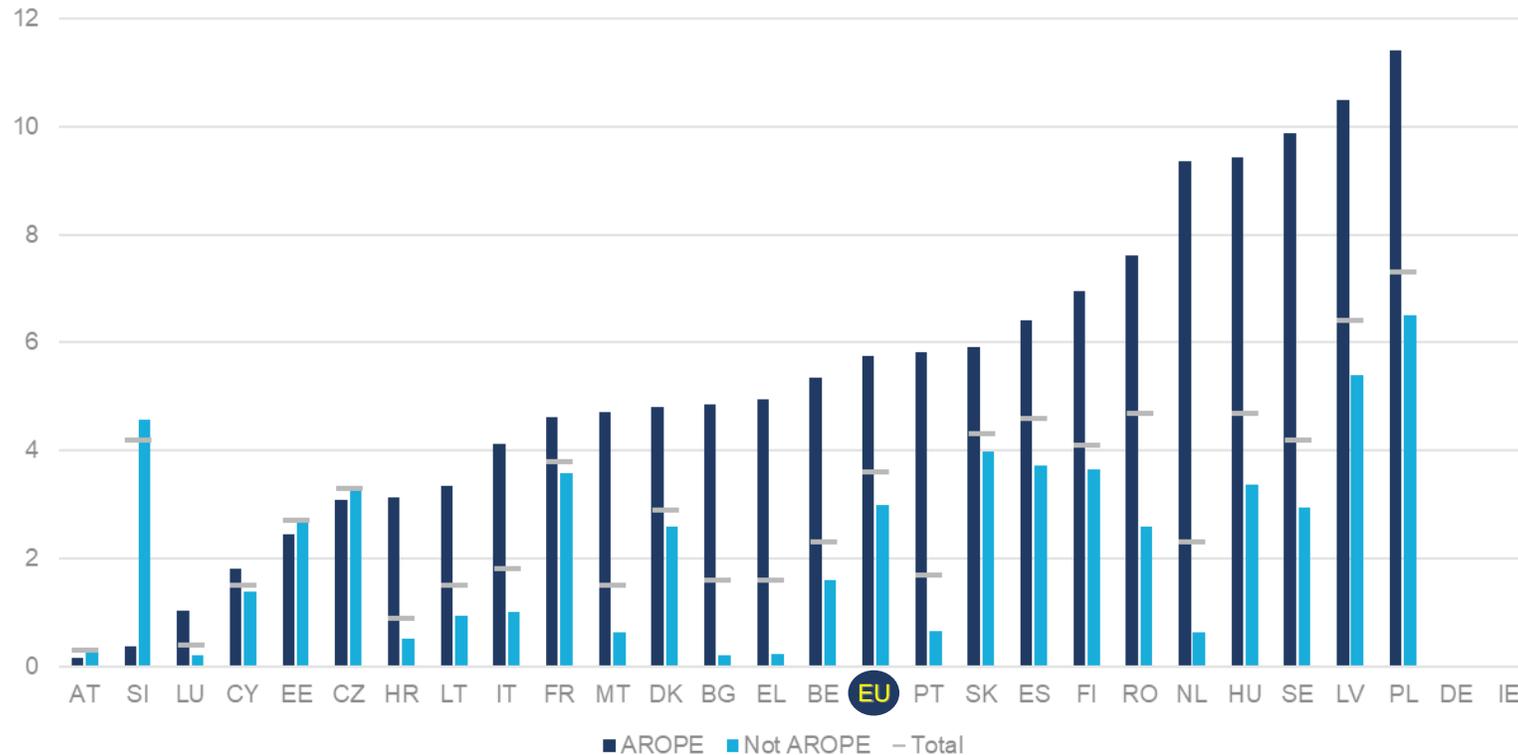


Monitoring of the effective and free access to healthcare

Indicator	Type	Source	Reliability*
Share of children (<16) AROPE with “very good” health	EU	Eurostat	✓
Share of children (<16) AROPE with unmet needs for medical examination or treatment	EU	Eurostat	✓
Free/fully subsidised access to healthcare services for all children/low-income children	National	ESPAN/figures checked and updated by the ISG	✓
Free/fully subsidised access to regular health monitoring for all children/low-income children, by age	National	ESPAN/figures checked and updated by the ISG	✓
Infant mortality rate	Context	Eurobase/WHO	✓
Share of children (aged 13) who reported feeling low more than once a week by gender and family affluence	Context	HBSC (WHO)	✓



Share of children (<16 years) with unmet medical needs (2021)



5.5%

is the EU average share of children AROPE with unmet needs for medical examination or treatment (vs 3% of children not AROPE)

=
1.2 million children AROPE

Source: Eurostat. Data not reliable for DE and IE





Monitoring of the effective access to healthy nutrition

Indicator	Type	Source	Reliability*
Share of children (<16) AROPE who suffer from the enforced lack of access to fresh fruits and vegetables/to a meal with meat, chicken or fish at least once a day	EU	Eurostat	✓
Share of children (aged 13) who eat breakfast every school day - by gender and family affluence	Context	HBSC (WHO)	✓
Share of children (aged 13) who are overweight or obese - by gender and family affluence	Context	HBSC (WHO)	✓





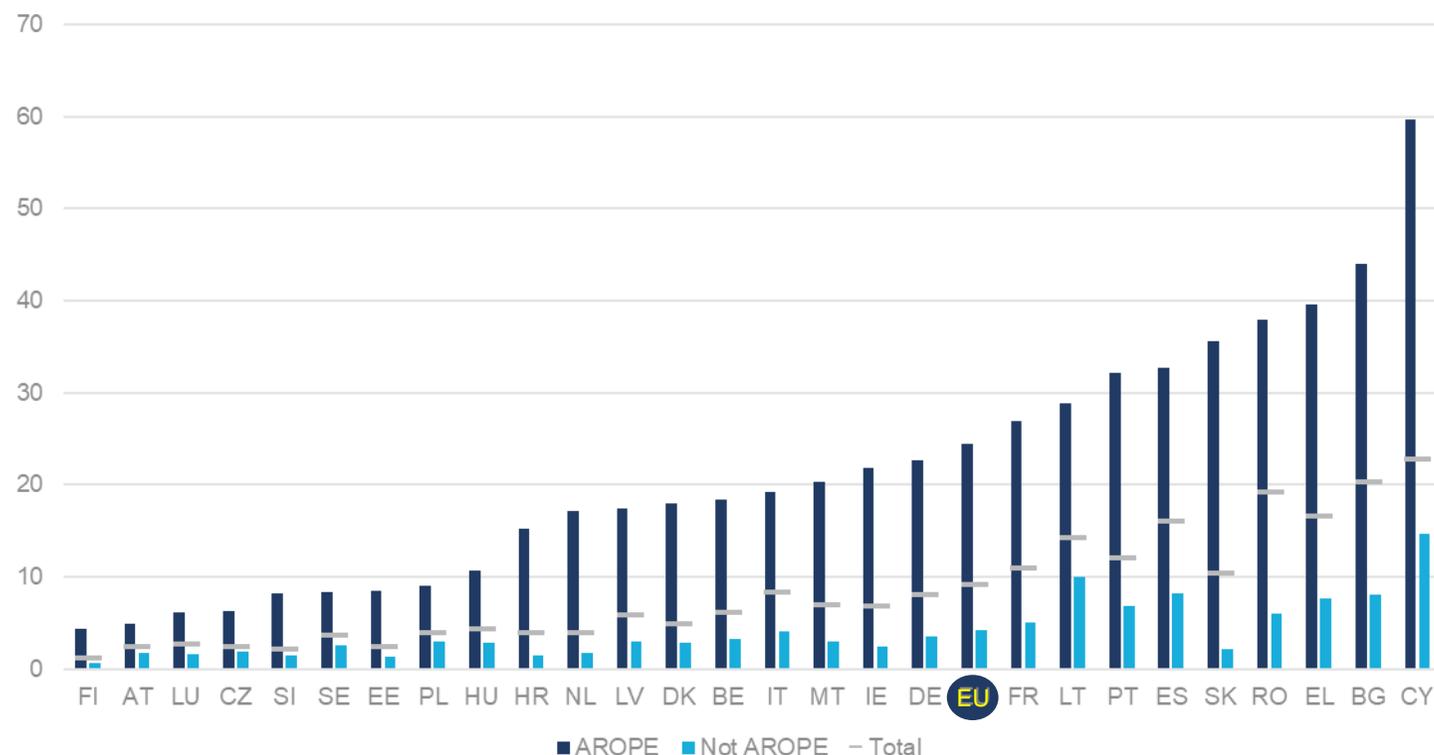
Monitoring of the effective access to adequate housing

Indicator	Type	Source	Reliability
Share of children AROPE living in a household facing housing cost overburden	EU	Eurostat	✓
Share of children AROPE living in a household facing severe housing deprivation	EU	Eurostat	✓
Share of children AROPE living in an overcrowded household	EU	Eurostat	✓
Share of children AROPE living in a household unable to keep home adequately warm	EU	Eurostat	✓





Share of children living in a household unable to keep home adequately warm (2022)



1 child out of 4 children AROPE lives in a household unable to keep home adequately warm, on average in the EU (vs 1 child out of 20 children not AROPE)

=

4.8 million children AROPE

Source: Eurostat



Link to the EU monitoring framework for the European Child Guarantee

<https://ec.europa.eu/social/BlobServlet?docId=27275&langId=en>



Thank you



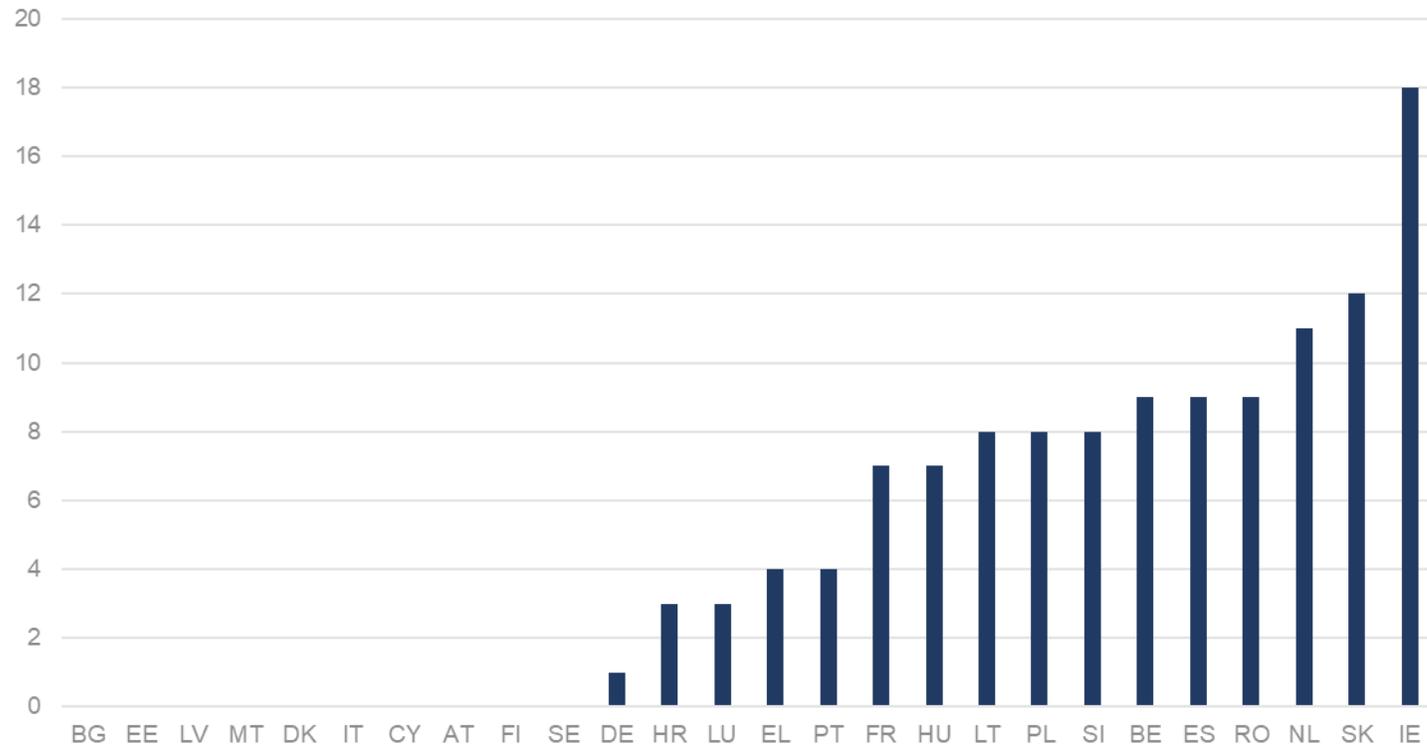
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[CONTEXT] Net out-of-pocket cost of childcare for a low-income household as % of average wage (2022)



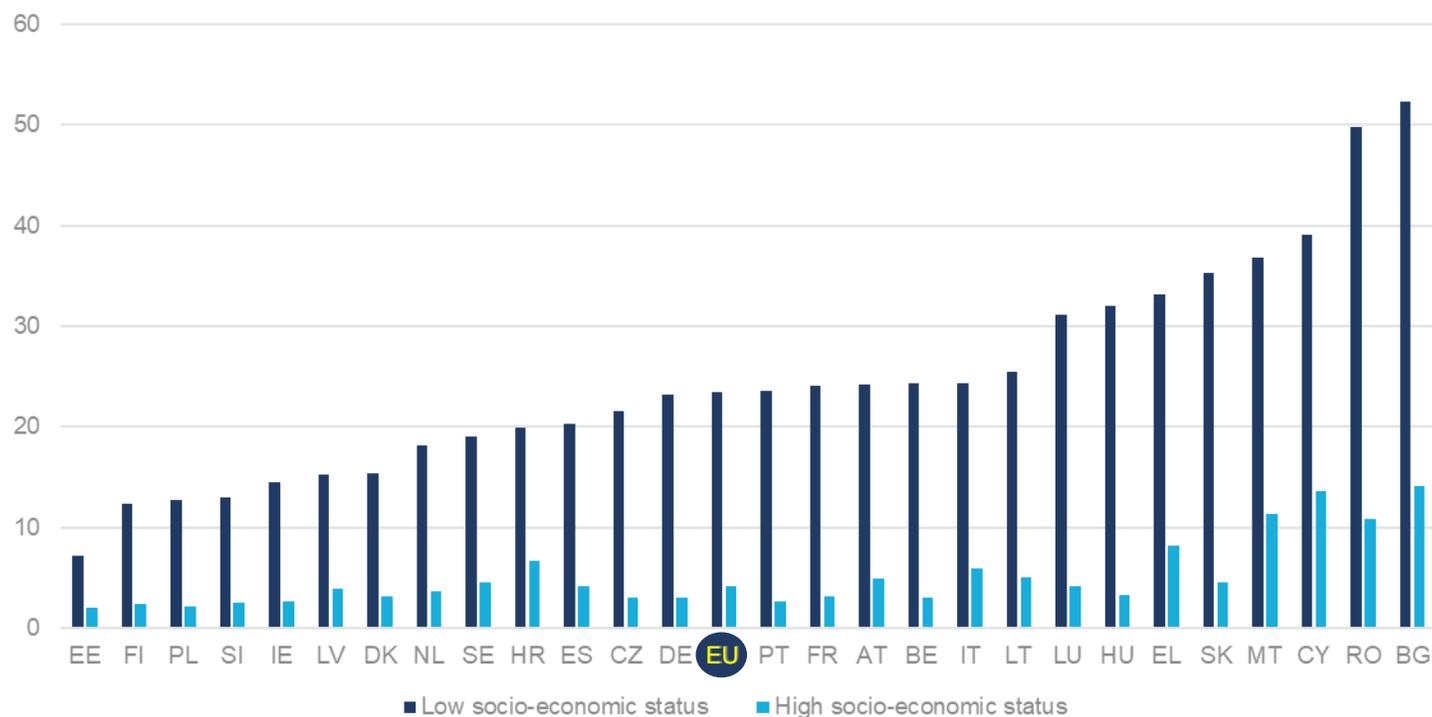
There is still a number of Member States (at least 16) where low-income households need to cover some cost so their children (3 and below) can access ECEC

Source: Tax-Ben (OECD). Data not available for DK, IT, CY, AT, FI and SE. For more information about this indicator, please see graph 4 of the First version of the joint monitoring framework for the European Child Guarantee available on the ISG [webpage](#)





Share of children (aged 15) with low achievements in reading, maths and science by socioeconomic status (2018)



The EU average share of low-achievers with low socioeconomic status in reading, maths and science is 6 times higher than the share of low achievers with high socioeconomic status in 2018

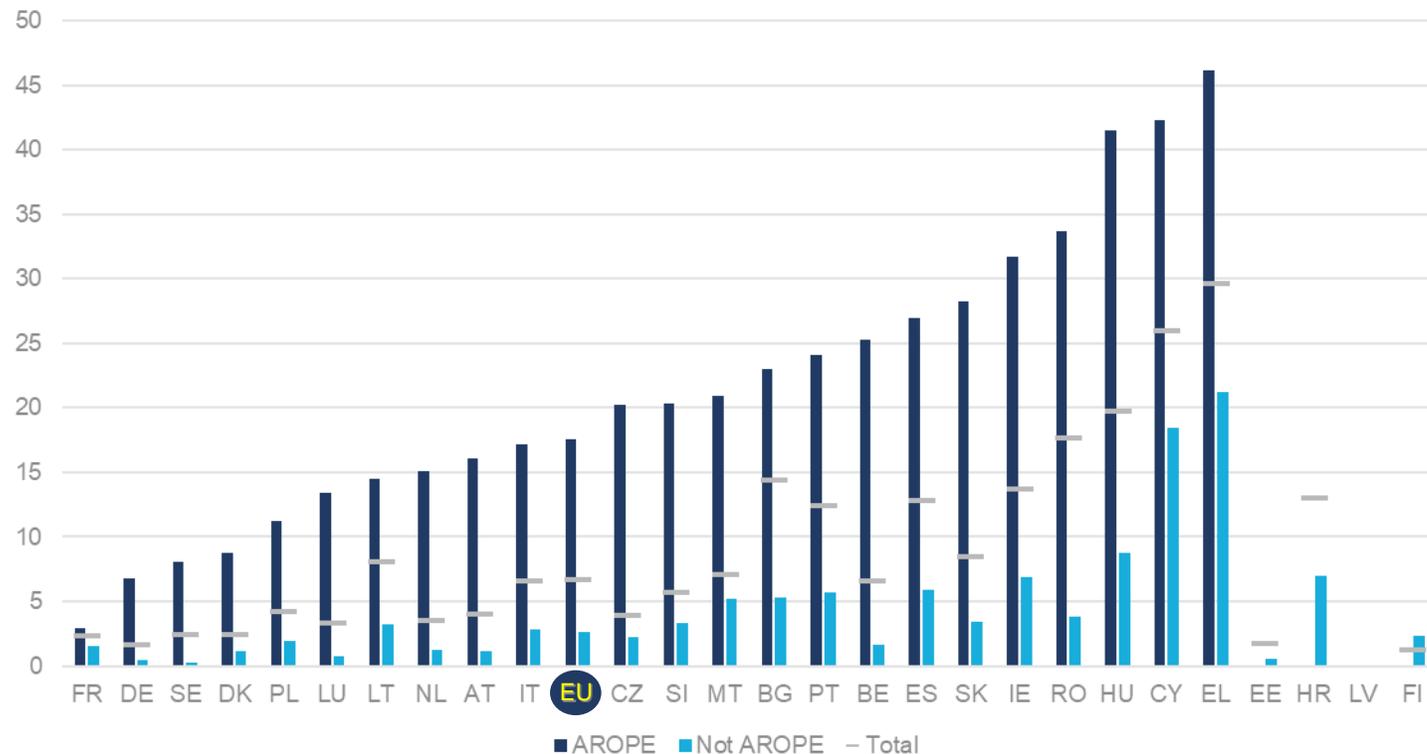
Source: PISA (OECD)

Low/high socioeconomic status: the lowest/highest quarters of the OECD index for economic, social, and cultural status, taking into account the parents' highest level of education, their occupational status and home possessions, including books at the home. For more information, please see [here](#).





Share of children living in a household reporting great difficulties to pay for formal education (2016)



17%

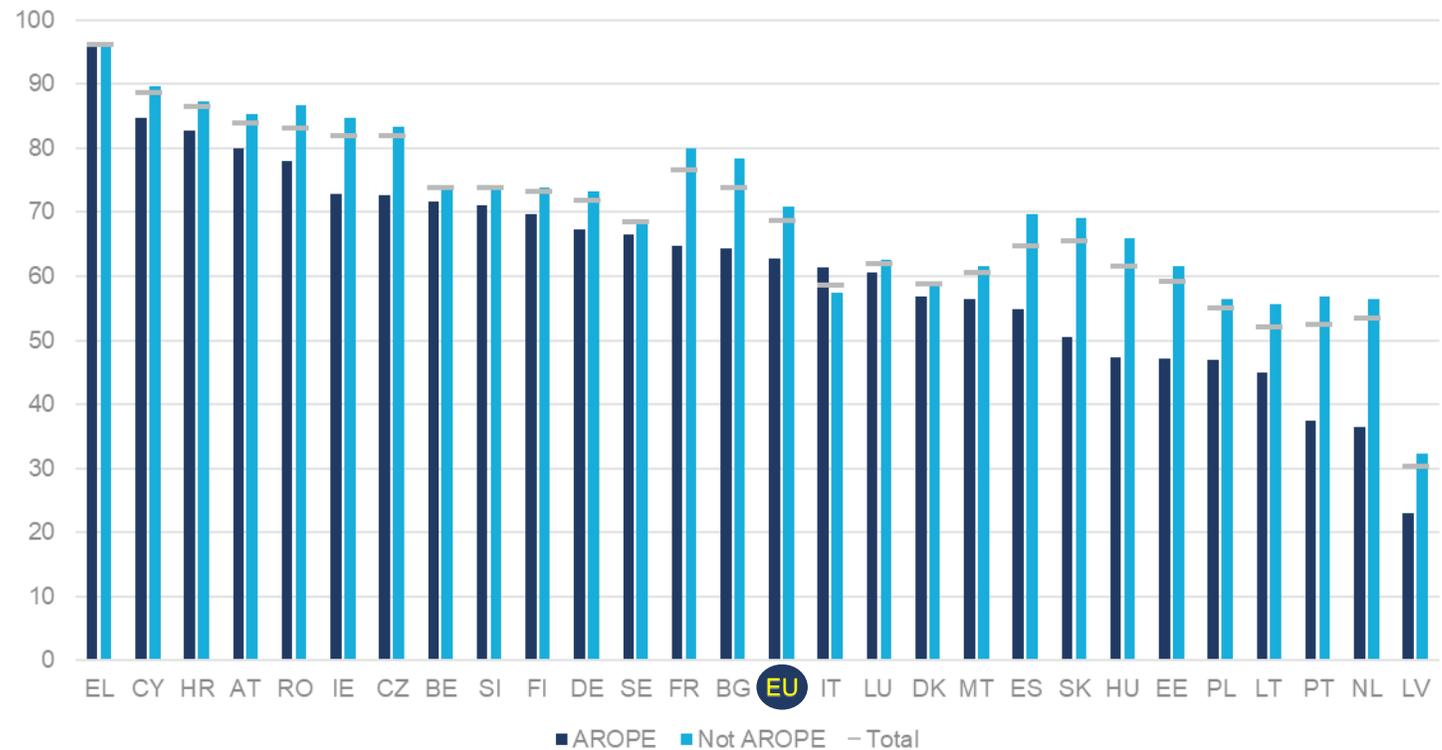
is the EU average share of children AROPE living in a household reporting great difficulties to pay for formal education (vs 2.5% of children not AROPE)

Source: Eurostat. AROPE breakdown not reliable for EE, HR, FI; figures not reliable for LV





Share of children (<16 years) AROPE with “very good” health (2021)



62%

is the EU average share of children AROPE with very good health (vs 70% of children not AROPE)

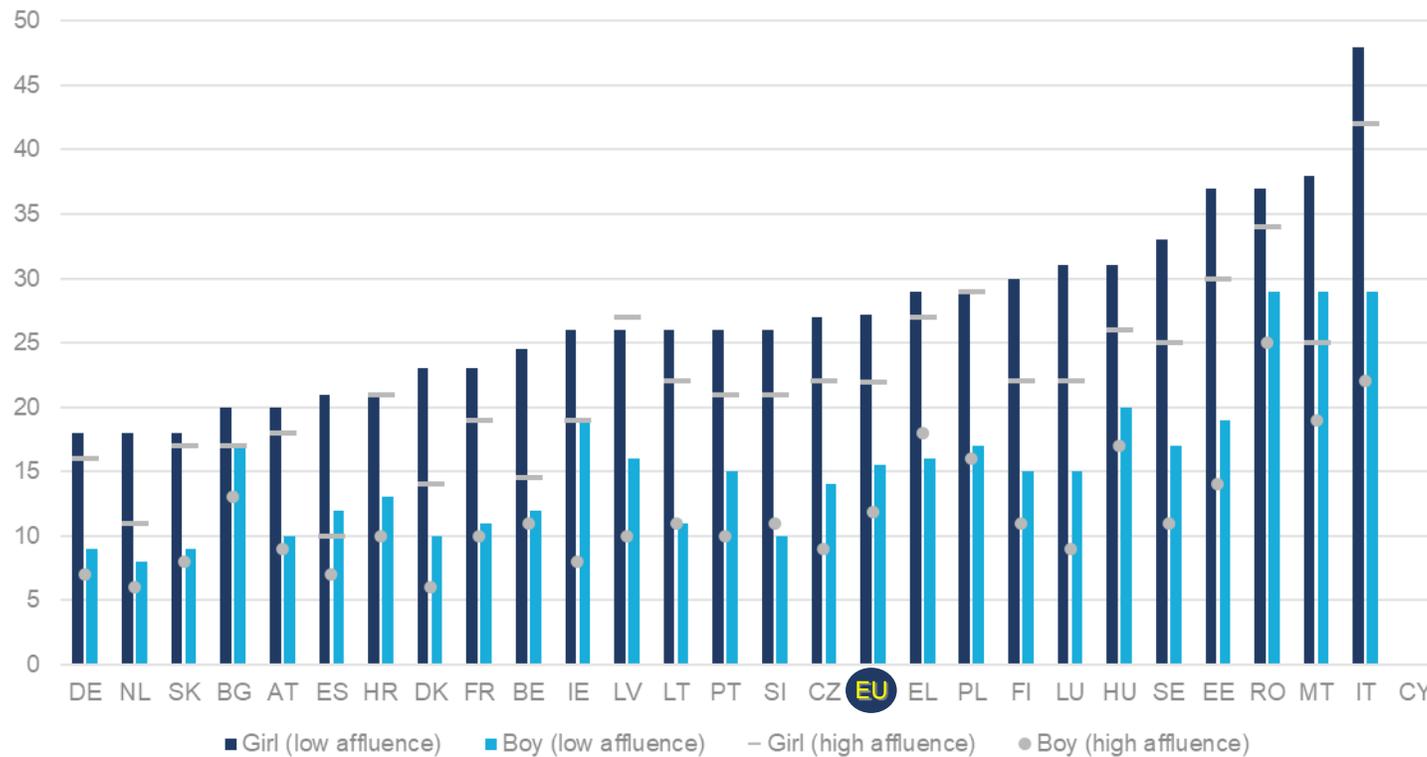
Source: Eurostat.

The scale included: “very good”, “good”, “fair”, “bad”, “very bad”





[CONTEXT] Share of children (aged 13) who reported feeling low more than once a week by gender and family affluence (2017/2018)



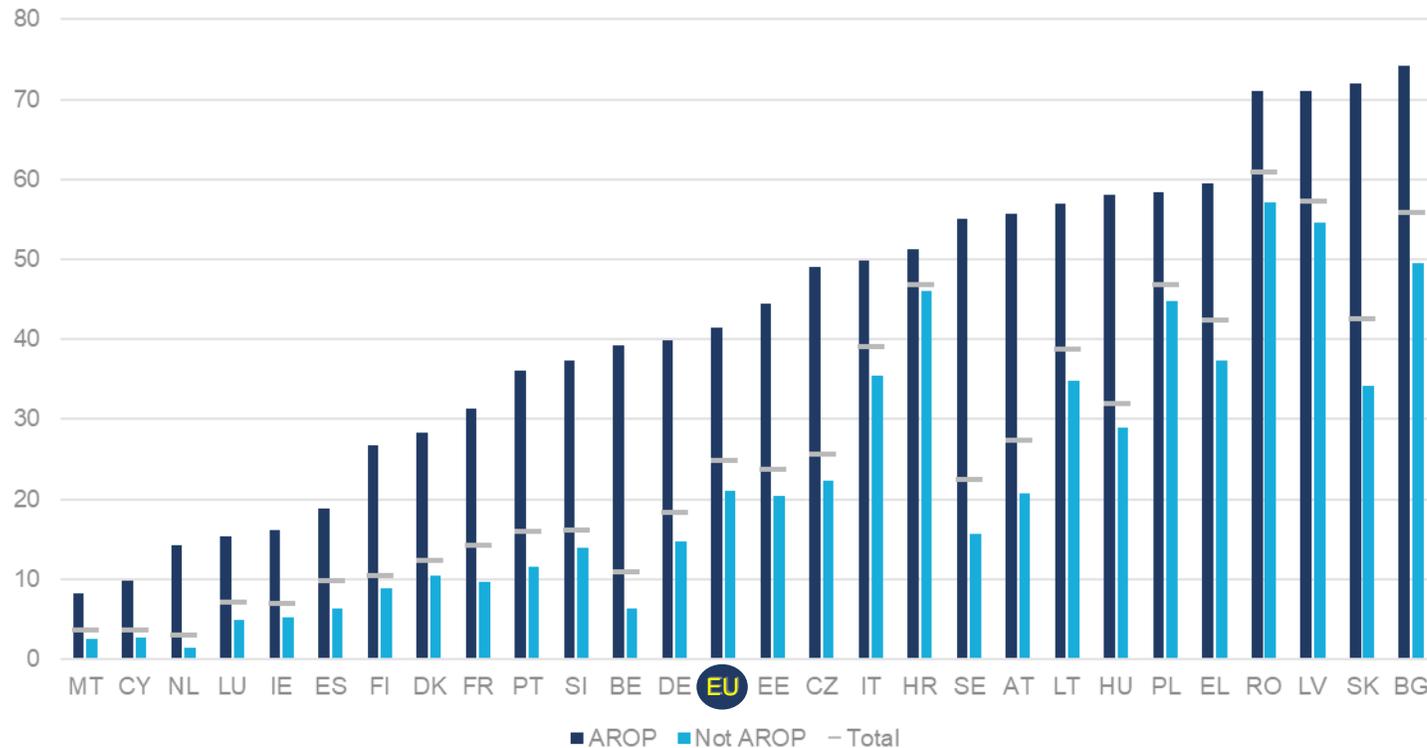
The share of girls from families with low affluence who reported feeling low more than once a week is the highest in all the EU Member States, besides in Latvia

Source: HBSC (WHO). Data not available for CY





Share of children living in an overcrowded household (2022)



41%

is the EU average share of children AROP living in a household considered as overcrowded (vs 21% of children not AROP)

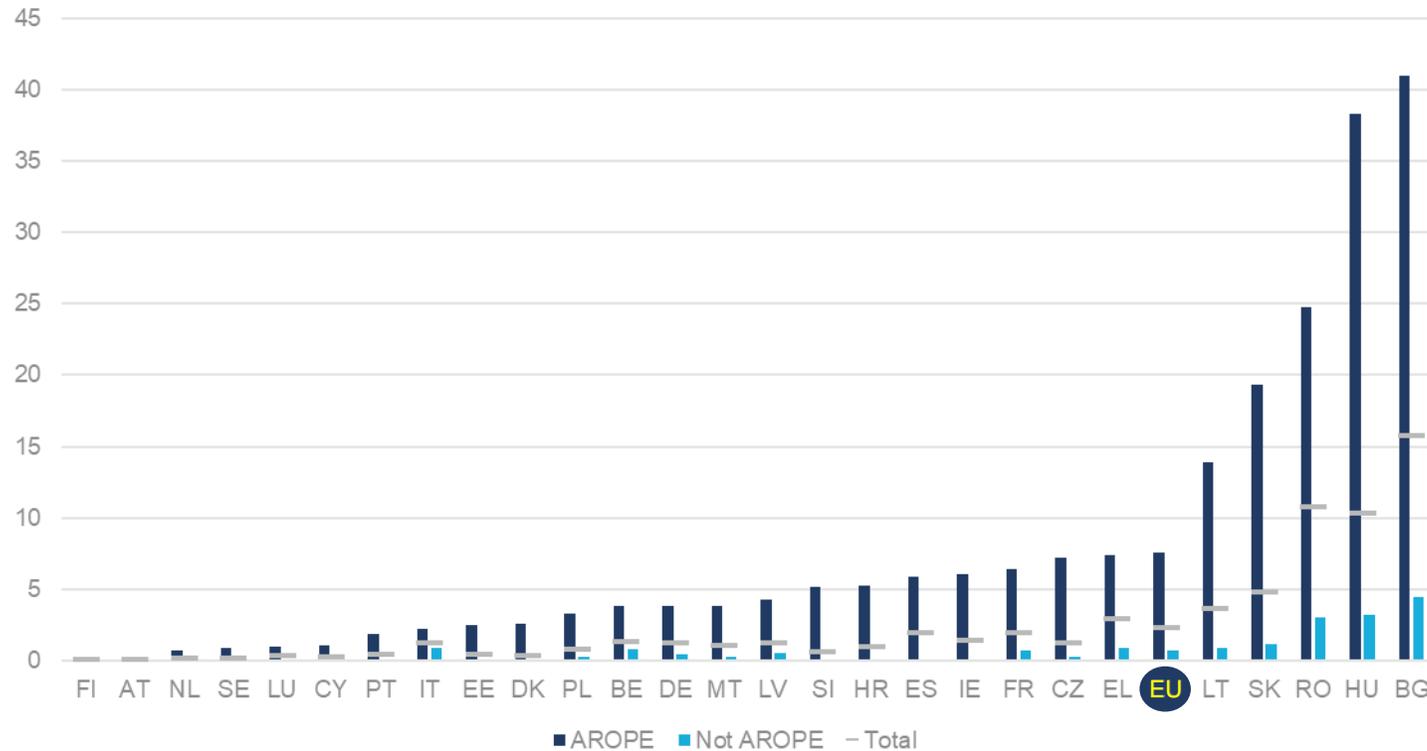
Source: Eurostat

Overcrowded household: children living in households which do not have a minimum number of rooms equal to the sum of: 1 room for the household; 1 room per couple in the household; 1 room per single person aged 18 and more; 1 room per pair of children of the same gender between 12 and 17 years of age; 1 room per single child between 12 and 17 years of age and not included in the previous category; 1 room per pair of children under 12 years of age





Share of children (<16 years) who suffer from the enforced lack of access to fresh fruits and vegetables at least once a day (2021)



7,5%

is the EU average share of children AROPE who cannot access fresh fruits and vegetables on a daily basis (vs 0,5% for children not AROPE)

=
1.3 million children AROPE

Source: Eurostat

