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ANNEX

ANNEX

to the

**Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the
European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions**

**Putting Children's Interests First: a Communication accompanying the Commission
Recommendation on Integrated Child Protection Systems**

ANNEX

Key Union Acquis, key policy documents and funding relevant to child protection systems

This document provides an overview¹ of **legal acts of the Union, Union policy and financial instruments related to child protection systems.**

All legal and policy document are hyperlinked.

1. PRIMARY LAW

Treaty of the European Union (2016/C202/13) - particularly Article 3(3) and Article 3(5)

Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (2016/C202/47) - particularly Article 9 (on fight against social exclusion, a high level of education, training and protection of human health), Article 10 (non-discrimination), Article 79 (migration), Article 81 (judicial cooperation in civil matters), Articles 82 and 83 (judicial cooperation in criminal matters), and its part two ('Non-Discrimination and Citizenship of the Union')

Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU (2016/C202/389) - particularly Article 24 (the rights of the child), as well as Article 7 (right to family life), Article 8 (protection of personal data), Article 14 (right to education), Article 21 (non-discrimination), Article 32 (prohibition of child labour) and Article 33 (family and professional life)

2. HORIZONTAL POLICY DOCUMENTS ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

Commission Communication on the strategy on the rights of the child (COM/2021/142 final)

Commission Communication on an EU Agenda for the rights of the child (COM/2011/60 final)

Commission Communication Towards an EU strategy on the rights of the child (COM/2006/367 final)

Council Conclusions on the EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child (10024/22)

European Parliament Resolution on children's rights in view of the EU Strategy on the rights of the child (2021/2523(RSP))

3. PUTTING THE CHILD AT THE CENTRE

3.1. Inclusive child protection systems

3.1.1. Social inclusion

Commission Recommendation on the European Pillar of Social Rights (2017/761/EU)

Commission Recommendation on Investing in children: breaking the cycle of disadvantage (2013/112/EU)

Commission Communication on the European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan (COM/2021/102 final)

¹ This list is not exhaustive.

Commission Communication establishing a European Pillar of Social Rights (COM/2017/250 final)

Interinstitutional Proclamation on the European Pillar of Social Rights (2017/C428/09)

3.1.2. Racial or ethnic origin, including Roma

Council Framework Decision on combating certain forms and expressions of racism and xenophobia by means of criminal law (2008/913/JHA)

Council Recommendation on Roma equality, inclusion and participation (2021/C 93/01)

Commission Communication on the EU Strategy on Combating Antisemitism and Fostering Jewish Life (2021-2030) (COM/2021/615 final)

[Commission Communication A Union of Equality: EU anti-racism action plan 2020-2025](#) (COM/2020/565 final)

Commission Communication A Union of Equality: EU Roma strategic framework for equality, inclusion and participation (COM/2020/620 final)

3.1.3. Disabilities

Commission Communication on a Union of Equality: Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030 (COM/2021/101 final)

Council Decision concerning the conclusion, by the European Community, of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2010/48/EC)

3.1.4. LGBTIQ

Commission Communication on a Union of Equality: LGBTIQ Equality Strategy 2020-2025 (COM/2020/698 final)

3.1.5. Gender equality

Commission Communication on a Union of Equality: Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025 (COM/2020/152 final)

3.1.6. Youth

Council conclusions on the implementation of the EU Youth Strategy (2019-2021) (14427/21)

Council Resolution on a framework for European cooperation in the youth field: The European Union Youth Strategy 2019-2027 (2018/C456/01)

3.1.7. No place for hate

[Joint Communication to the European Parliament and the Council on No place for hate: a Europe united against hatred](#) (JOIN/2023/51 final)

3.2. Children's safety needs in physical environment and online

3.2.1. Safety in physical environment

Regulation on general product safety, amending Regulation (EU) No 1025/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Directive (EU) 2020/1828 of the European Parliament and the Council, and repealing Directive 2001/95/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council and Council Directive 87/357/EEC (2023/988/EU)

Regulation on cooperation between national authorities responsible for the enforcement of consumer protection laws and repealing Regulation (EC) No 2006/2004 (2017/2394/EU)

Regulation on determining measures on fixing certain aids and refunds related to the common organisation of the markets in agricultural products (2013/1370/EU)

Regulation establishing a common organisation of the markets in agricultural products (2013/1308/EU)

Directive on representative actions for the protection of the collective interests of consumers and repealing Directive 2009/22/EC (2020/1828/EU)

Directive amending Council Directive 93/13/EEC and Directives 98/6/EC, 2005/29/EC and 2011/83/EU as regards the better enforcement and modernisation of Union consumer protection rules (2019/2161/EU)

Directive on alternative dispute resolution for consumer disputes and amending Regulation (EC) No 2006/2004 and Directive 2009/22/EC (2013/11/EU)

Directive on consumer rights, amending Council Directive 93/13/EEC and Directive 1999/44/EC and repealing Council Directive 85/577/EEC and Directive 97/7/EC (2011/83/EU)

Directive concerning unfair business-to-consumer commercial practices in the internal market and amending Council Directive 84/450/EEC, Directives 97/7/EC, 98/27/EC and 2002/65/EC and Regulation (EC) No 2006/2004 (2005/29/EC)

Directive on general product safety (2001/95/EC)

Council Directive on unfair terms in consumer contracts (93/13/EEC)

Council Recommendation on smoke-free environments (2009/C296/02)

Commission Communication for a Farm to Fork Strategy for a fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly food system (COM/2020/381 final)

Commission Communication on a long-term Vision for the EU's Rural Areas - Towards stronger, connected, resilient and prosperous rural areas by 2040 (COM/2021/345 final)

Commission Communication on New Consumer Agenda Strengthening consumer resilience for sustainable recovery (COM/2020/696 final)

Commission Notice Guidance on the interpretation and application of Directive 2005/29/EC concerning unfair business-to-consumer commercial practices in the internal market (2021/C9320/01)

Commission notice Guidance on the interpretation and application of Directive 2011/83/EU on consumer rights (2021/C525/01)

Commission notice Guidance on the interpretation and application of Council Directive 93/13/EEC on unfair terms in consumer contracts (2019/C323/04)

Code of conduct on countering illegal hate speech (2016)

3.2.2. *Online safety*

Regulation on a Single Market for Digital Services (2022/2065/EU)

Regulation on a temporary derogation from certain provisions of Directive 2002/58/EC as regards the use of technologies by providers of number-independent interpersonal communications services for the processing of personal and other data for the purpose of combating online child sexual abuse (2021/1232/EU)

Regulation on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 and Decision No 1247/2002/EC (2018/1725)

Regulation on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data (2016/679/EU).

Directive establishing the European Electronic Communications Code (2018/1972/EU)

Directive on the coordination of certain provisions laid down by law, regulation or administrative action in Member States concerning the provision of audiovisual media services (2010/13/EU), as amended by Directive 2018/1808 in view of changing market realities (2018/1808/EU)

Commission Communication on a Digital Decade for children and youth: the new European strategy for a better internet for kids (BIK+) (COM/2022/212 final)

3.3. Children's integrity and mental health

Directive on combating the sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children and child pornography (2011/93/EU)

Directive on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims (2011/36/EU)

Council Decision on the conclusion, on behalf of the European Union, of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence with regard to matters related to judicial cooperation in criminal matters, asylum and non-refoulement (2023/1076/EU)

Council Decision on the conclusion, on behalf of the European Union, of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence with regard to institutions and public administration of the Union (2023/1075/EU)

Council Decision on the signing, on behalf of the European Union, of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence with regard to asylum and non-refoulement (2017/866/EU)

Council Decision on the signing, on behalf of the European Union, of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence with regard to matters related to judicial cooperation in criminal matters (2017/865/EU)

Council Recommendation on strengthened cooperation against vaccine-preventable diseases (2018/C466/01)

Commission Communication on a comprehensive approach to mental health (COM/2023/298 final)

Commission Communication on the European care strategy (COM/2022/440 final)

Commission Communication on an EU Strategy on Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings 2021-2025 (COM/2021/171 final)

Commission Communication on Europe's Beating Cancer Plan (COM/2021/44 final)

Commission Communication on an EU strategy for a more effective fight against child sexual abuse (COM/2020/607 final)

Commission Communication towards the elimination of female genital mutilation (COM/2013/833 final)

Commission Communication on an EU strategy to support Member States in reducing alcohol related harm (COM/2006/625 final)

A Common Anti-Trafficking Plan to address the risks of trafficking in human beings and support potential victims among those fleeing the war in Ukraine (2022)

4. INTEGRATED CHILD PROTECTION SYSTEMS

4.1. A continuity of comprehensive and coordinated services

Council Recommendation on Pathways to School Success and replacing the Council Recommendation of 28 June 2011 on policies to reduce early school leaving (2022/C 469/01)

Council Recommendation establishing a European Child Guarantee (2021/1004/EU)

Council Recommendation on High quality early childhood education and care systems (2019/C189/02)

[Council Recommendation on early childhood education and care: the Barcelona targets for 2030](#) (2022/C484/01)

Commission Decision on reserving the national numbering range beginning with 116 for harmonised numbers for harmonised services of social value (2007/116/EC), subsequently amended and Directive establishing the European Electronic Communications Code (2018/1972/EU)

Council Recommendation of 29 November 2021 on blended learning approaches for high-quality and inclusive primary and secondary education (2021/C504/03)

Commission Communication on Early childhood education and care: providing all our children with the best start for the world of tomorrow (COM/2011/66 final)

4.2. Child-friendly justice

Directive on procedural safeguards for children who are suspects or accused persons in criminal proceedings (2016/800/EU)

Directive on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by competent authorities for the purposes of the prevention, investigation, detection or prosecution of criminal offences or the execution of criminal penalties, and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Council Framework Decision 2008/977/JHA (2016/680/EU)

Directive establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime (2012/29/EU)

Directive on the right to information in criminal proceedings (2012/13/EU)

Regulation (EU) 2016/1191 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 6 July 2016 on promoting the free movement of citizens by simplifying the requirements for presenting

certain public documents in the European Union and amending Regulation (EU) No 1024/2012

Commission Communication on Ensuring justice in the EU - a European judicial training strategy for 2021-2024 (COM/2020/713 final)

Commission Communication on the EU Strategy on victims' rights (2020-2025) (COM/2020/258 final)

5. CHILDREN IN CROSS-BORDER SITUATIONS

5.1. Civil justice

Regulation on the digitalisation of judicial cooperation and access to justice in cross-border civil, commercial and criminal matters, and amending certain acts in the field of judicial cooperation (2023/2844)

Regulation on cooperation between the courts of the Member States in the taking of evidence in civil or commercial matters (2020/1783/EU)

Council Regulation on jurisdiction, the recognition and enforcement of decisions in matrimonial matters and the matters of parental responsibility, and on international child abduction (2019/1111/EU)

Regulation establishing the criteria and mechanisms for determining the Member State responsible for examining an application for international protection lodged in one of the Member States by a third-country national or a stateless person (recast) (2013/604/EU)

Council Regulation on jurisdiction, applicable law, recognition and enforcement of decisions and cooperation in matters relating to maintenance obligations (2009/4/EC)

Council Directive to improve access to justice in cross-border disputes by establishing minimum common rules relating to legal aid for such disputes (2002/8/EC)

5.2. Free movement

Directive on the right of citizens of the Union and their family members to move and reside freely within the territory of the Member States (2004/38/EC)

Commission Guidance on the right of free movement of EU citizens and their families (C/2023/8500 final)

5.3. Migration

Regulation on the European Border and Coast Guard (2019/1896/ EU)

Regulation on the use of the Schengen Information System for the return of illegally staying third-country nationals (2018/1860/EU)

Regulation on the establishment, operation and use of the Schengen Information System (SIS) in the field of border checks, and amending the Convention implementing the Schengen Agreement, and amending and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1987/2006 (2018/1861/EU)

Regulation on the establishment, operation and use of the Schengen Information System (SIS) in the field of police cooperation and judicial cooperation in criminal matters, amending and repealing Council Decision 2007/533/JHA, and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1986/2006 and Commission Decision 2010/261/EU (2018/1862/EU)

Directive on laying down standards for the reception of applicants for international protection (2013/33/EU)

Directive on common procedures for granting and withdrawing international protection (recast) (2013/32/EU)

Directive on common standards and procedures in the Member States for returning illegally staying third-country nationals (2008/115/EC)

Directive on the right to family reunification (2003/86/EC)

Commission Communication on an Action plan on Integration and Inclusion 2021-2027 (COM/2020/758 final)

Commission Communication on a New Pact on Migration and Asylum (COM/2020/609 final)

Commission Communication on the protection of children in migration (COM/2017/211 Final)

Commission Communication on EU return policy (COM/2014/199 final)

6. EU GLOBAL PRIORITY

6.1. Eradicating child labour

Commission Communication on decent work worldwide for a global just transition and a sustainable recovery (COM/2022/66 final)

6.2. External action

Joint Statement on the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid (2008/C25/01)

EU Guidelines for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of the Child (2017) – Leave no Child behind

EU Guidelines on children in armed conflict, updated in 2008

EU Guidelines on Violence against Women and Girls and combating all forms of discrimination against them (2008)

Commission Communication on the EU's humanitarian action: new challenges, same principles (COM/2021/110 final)

Commission Communication on Education in Emergencies and Protracted Crises (COM/2018/304 final)

[Commission Communication on The power of trade partnerships: together for green and just economic growth](#) (COM/2022/409 final)

Joint Communication on the EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy 2020-2024 (JOIN/2020/5 final)

Joint Communication on the Youth Action Plan (YAP) in EU external action 2022 – 2027 Promoting meaningful youth participation and empowerment in EU external action for sustainable development, equality and peace (JOIN/2022/53 final)

Commission Staff Working Document on education in emergencies in EU-funded Humanitarian Aid Operations (SWD/2019/150 final)

Commission Staff Working Document on Humanitarian Protection: Improving protection outcomes to reduce risks for people in humanitarian crises (SWD/2016/183 final)

Commission Staff Working Document on Gender in Humanitarian Aid: Different Needs, Adapted Assistance (SWD/2013/290 final)

Commission Staff Working Document on Addressing Undernutrition in Emergencies (SWD/2013/72 final)

2014 DG ECHO Gender-Age Marker

DG ECHO Technical Guidance on Protection Mainstreaming Key Outcome Indicator and Monitoring Tool (February 2021)

[2016 DG ECHO Thematic Policy Document on Improving Protection Outcomes to Reduce Risks for People in Humanitarian Crises](#)

[Commission Communication on Education in Emergencies and Protracted Crises](#) (COM/2018/304 final)

[DG ECHO Disaster Preparedness Guidance Note](#) (2021)

6.3. Climate change and environmental hazards

Commission Communication on the European Green Deal (COM/2019/640 final)

[Commission Communication on the European Climate Pact](#) (COM/2020/788 final)

Commission Communication on Forging a climate-resilient Europe - the new EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change (COM/2021/82 final)

Commission Notice Guidelines on Member States' adaptation strategies and plans (2023/C 264/01)

Regulation establishing the framework for achieving climate neutrality (2021/1119/EU)

7. EU SUPPORT

Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV) Programme²

- Equality, Rights and Gender Equality, including Rights of the Child Call
- Daphne Call

Justice Programme³, including the call to support transnational projects on judicial training covering civil law, criminal law or fundamental rights (JUST-JTRA)

Single Market programme (SMP)⁴

Consumer programme⁵

² [Regulation establishing the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme](#) (2021/692/EU)

³ [Regulation establishing the Justice Programme](#) (2021/693/EU)

⁴ [Regulation establishing a programme for the internal market, competitiveness of enterprises, including small and medium-sized enterprises, the area of plants, animals, food and feed, and European statistics \(Single Market Programme\)](#) (2021/690/EU)

⁵ [Regulation establishing a programme for the internal market, competitiveness of enterprises, including small and medium-sized enterprises, the area of plants, animals, food and feed, and European statistics \(Single Market Programme\)](#) (2021/690/EU)

Internal Security Fund, including the call on child sexual abuse⁶ (ISF-2021-TF1-AG-CYBER)

Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund⁷

Instrument for Financial Support for Border Management and Visa Policy⁸

European Social Fund Plus⁹

European Regional Development Fund¹⁰

Cohesion Fund¹¹

Just Transition Fund¹²

European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund¹³

EU monitoring framework for the European Child Guarantee¹⁴

Technical Support Instrument¹⁵, including:

- Flagship on Reinforce Democracy and the Rule of Law¹⁶
- Flagship initiative on the Implementation of the European Child Guarantee (YOUTH FIRST Flagship Initiative)
- Flagship on Enhancing reception and accommodation capacity for migrants

EU4Health programme¹⁷

Digital Europe Programme¹⁸: financial report to the Network of Safer Internet Centres and the Better internet for kids (BIK) platform

Erasmus+ programme¹⁹, including:

- Call for Policy Experimentation projects 2024

⁶ [Regulation establishing the Internal Security Fund](#) (2021/1149/EU)

⁷ [Regulation establishing the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund](#) (2021/1147/EU)

⁸ [Regulation establishing, as part of the Integrated Border Management Fund, the Instrument for Financial Support for Border Management and Visa Policy](#) (2021/1148/EU)

⁹ [Regulation establishing the European Social Fund Plus \(ESF+\)](#) (2021/1057/EU)

¹⁰ [Regulation on the European Regional Development Fund and on the Cohesion Fund](#) (2021/1058/EU)

¹¹ [Regulation on the European Regional Development Fund and on the Cohesion Fund](#) (2021/1058/EU)

¹² [Regulation establishing the Just Transition Fund](#) (2021/1056/EU)

¹³ [Regulation establishing the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund](#) (2021/1139/EU)

¹⁴ [Council Recommendation establishing a European Child Guarantee](#) (2021/1004/EU)

¹⁵ [Regulation establishing a Technical Support Instrument](#) (2021/240/EU)

¹⁶ See for instance the project on integrated child protection systems and establishment of Children's houses (Barnahus) as part of the Flagship on Reinforce Democracy and the Rule of Law.

¹⁷ [Regulation establishing a Programme for the Union's action in the field of health \('EU4Health Programme'\) for the period 2021-2027](#) (2021/522/EU). See for instance two projects to implement best practices to support vulnerable children started at the beginning of 2023; the project on psychological first aid to displaced people/children from Ukraine started in 2023; the tender on multi-disciplinary training and exchange programme for health professionals and other professionals working in the community with specific groups of the population, including teachers in schools, and the call for best and promising practices on mental health, including on children and young people "The Europe's Beating Cancer Plan, Helping Children with Cancer flagship

¹⁸ [Regulation establishing the Digital Europe Programme](#) (2021/694/EU)

¹⁹ [Regulation establishing Erasmus+: the Union Programme for education and training, youth and sport](#) (2021/817/EU)

- Partnerships for Cooperation under Key Action 2 (KA2)

The Research and Innovation Framework Programmes²⁰ - Horizon 2020 (2014 – 2020) and Horizon Europe (2021-2027), including:

- Horizon 2020: Societal Challenge 1 – Health, demographic change and well-being²¹
- Horizon 2020: Societal Challenge 6 - Inclusive, innovative and reflective societies²²
- Horizon Europe (2021-2027): Cluster 2 - Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society²³
- Horizon Europe (2021-2027): Cluster 3 - Civil security for society²⁴
- European Research Council (ERC)²⁵

InvestEU Programme²⁶

8. RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS IN THE FIELD OF THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

8.1. International Labour Organisation

Convention concerning Minimum Age for Admission to Employment, No 138 (1973)

Convention concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour, No 182 (1999)

8.2. Hague Conference on Private International Law

Convention of 25 October 1980 on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction

Convention of 19 October 1996 on Jurisdiction, Applicable Law, Recognition, Enforcement and Co-operation in Respect of Parental Responsibility and Measures for the Protection of Children

²⁰ [Regulation establishing Horizon Europe – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, laying down its rules for participation and dissemination](#) (2021/695/EU)

²¹ See for example the projects: [RefugeesWellSchool](#) - Preventive school-based interventions to promote the mental well-being of refugee and migrant adolescents; [Equal-Life](#) - Early Environmental quality and life-course mental health effects; and [ATHLETE](#) – Advancing Tools for Human Early Lifecourse Exposome Research and Translation

²² See for example the project [REFUGE-ED](#) - Effective practices in education, mental health and psychosocial support for the integration of refugee children.

²³ See for example the projects: [SCIREARLY](#) - Policies and practices based on scientific research for reducing underachievement and early school leaving in Europe; [LETSCARE](#) - Lets Care: Building safe and caring schools to foster educational inclusion and school achievement; [CLEAR](#) - Constructing learning outcomes in Europe: A multi-level analysis of (under)achievement in the life course.

²⁴ See for example the projects: 2PS – Prevent & Protect Through Support; ISEDA: Innovative Solutions to Eliminate Domestic Abuse; IMPROVE: Improving Access to Services for Victims of Domestic Violence by Accelerating Change in Frontline Responder Organisations.

²⁵ See for example the projects: [MAD2bully](#) – Motivations at the Automatic and Deliberate level to bully; [CHALLENGE](#) – Persistent bullying cases: towards tailored intervention approaches to maximize efficiency; [Outside-in](#) – How Bullying in Adolescence Gets Into the Mind and Under the Skin.

²⁶ [Regulation establishing the InvestEU Programme](#) (2021/523/EU): [InvestEU Fund - European Union \(europa.eu\)](#)

Convention of 23 November 2007 on the International Recovery of Child Support and Other Forms of Family Maintenance

Hague Conference on Private International Law, Protocol on the Law applicable to Maintenance Obligations, 2007.

8.3. Other

Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime

9. RELEVANT DOCUMENTS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION AGENCY FOR FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS (FRA)

Mapping Child Protection Systems in the EU – 2023 update

Guardianship for unaccompanied children - A manual for trainers of guardians

EUAA-FRA Practical Tool for Guardians - Introduction to international protection

EUAA-FRA Practical Tool for Guardians - The asylum procedure

Practical Tool for Guardians - Temporary protection for unaccompanied children fleeing Ukraine

Children in migration: fundamental rights at European borders

Handbook on European law relating to the rights of the child - 2022 edition

Practical guidance for protecting unaccompanied children in the relocation process

Children deprived of parental care found in an EU Member State other than their own

Mapping minimum age requirements concerning the rights of the child in the EU

Guardianship for children deprived of parental care

Handbook on European law relating to asylum, borders and immigration

Child Trafficking in the EU - Challenges, perspectives and good practices

Child-friendly justice - Checklist for professionals