



European Federation for Street Children

Analysis of the 2008-2010 National Strategic Reports on Social Protection and Social Inclusion and National Action Plans on Social Inclusion (NAPs/incl) with a focus on its impact on the social inclusion of street children

Austria

General Overview:

Households, of which no member is economically active, are the key target group in the combat against social exclusion. Due to economic inactivity, these households have a low income.

Groups of children that face the highest risks of poverty:

- Children in households with a **migration background** (39%);
- Children living in **one-parent households** (27%);
- Children living in households with **three or more children** (17%).

There is no specific mention of street children, while it would be likely that in particular in the group of migrant children, children are living on the streets.

The Austrian social services system is strongly supported by NGOs, providing social services. **NGOs provide social services**, among others, in the area of **homeless work**, youth welfare, support to families and refugees, on behalf of the public sector. However, NGOs also introduce services to cover gaps in government services. The Austrian system responds to cover these gaps by **improving social security and opportunities of disadvantaged groups** within the population.

Here is an opportunity for NGOs working with/for street children to ensure the Austrian government includes street children as one of the vulnerable groups that need to be targeted.

Objectives of the Austrian strategy conform the overarching objectives of the Open Method of Cooperation (OMC) for social protection and social inclusion:

- a) Offer **all** children and young people equal opportunities for development, including **measures to improve the opportunities of disadvantaged children**;

Specific reference to street children would help to improve the specific situation of this disadvantaged group.

- b) With regard to **health care services**, Austria will further improve the accessibility and affordability of health care services;

An opportunity to ensure health care services is also accessible and free of charge for street children

- c) "The **social system must be regarded as a productive factor**. The combat against child poverty (...) and health care services should be given as examples of this approach."

Chapter 2.1 The National Action Plan for Social Inclusion

This chapter focuses on development opportunities for children and young people. The key is to **offer all children equal development opportunities**. To achieve this, the following measures are necessary:

- **Monetary transfers**, covering additional financial expenses of households with children (family allowances, financial supplements or bonuses for households with three or more children);
- **Better opportunities for disadvantaged children in school and pre-school education**, including more opportunities for children with a migrant background (language support) and a **guaranteed right to education up to the age of 18;**

Opportunity for street children to be integrated in the school system.

- **Support to families in crisis situations**, including parenting support **in cooperation with**, among others, women's and **children's shelters;**

This measure can ensure that children are not left on the street.

- Rehabilitation programmes for delinquent young people.

This measure can ensure children do not end up on the street

Integrative measures in other policy areas affecting street children:

- **Affordable housing and assistance to homeless people** with focus on the Länder (regions). In some regions of Länder, the quota of social housing is reserved for the homeless and socially disadvantaged persons (lone parents, persons exposed to domestic violence, etc). In some Länder regions, **children, young families, families with many children, lone parents, as well as children with disabilities are given preference for housing subsidies**. Some regions of Länder have developed quality checks and a catalogue of benefits/services. A variety of services has been made available by these regions, including: **street work, easy-access day centres, emergency hostels;**

Although it seems these services are targeted at adults, these could easily be made available for children as well.

- **Improving anti-violence measures:** need to improve the support of the victims of crimes. Persistent violence will be recognised as a new criminal offence to cover (e.g. violent relationships in children's homes or violence against victims of kidnapping). In 2007, a pilot project assisting with temporary accommodation for the victims of trafficking was funded. This was followed by the **establishment of shelters providing psychosocial, legal and health counselling to the victims of trafficking in human beings** in 2008.

Adequate action to ensure that child victims of trafficking would not end up on the streets.

However there is **still need for more safe shelters for women and their children in some areas of Länder.**

- **Measures for integrating migrants:** while including specific measures for migrant women, nothing in it on the position of children;
- **Supporting refugees and asylum seekers.**

Belgium

Rate of risk-of-poverty for children: 10% (2008)

Evaluation of NAP inclusion actions 2006-2008:

The Belgian NAP evaluates its actions carried out from 2006-2008.

- In Brussels, the increase in budgetary resources for **work in the street** has not yet been implemented;
- In relation to combating child poverty, only one action at the federal level has been (temporarily) abandoned, which is the project for which intercultural mediators would be hired to stimulate school attendance of **child beggars**.

Concluding: actions affecting street children have been postponed.

NAP 2008-2010

Target set to combat child poverty

The Belgian government sets several targets to reduce poverty and social exclusion. Two targets include children:

- The first target aims to reduce the percentage of children under 16 at risk of poverty from 15 % in 2008 to 12 % in 2010;
- The second target aims to reduce the proportion of children (0-17) living in households with no paid employment from 10% in 2008 to 7% in 2010.

Groups that face the highest risk of poverty (and also face the lack of quality housing and other basic services such as health care):

- Single parents;
- Households with several children;
- Persons of non-EU nationality (migrants).

Poverty, particularly long-term poverty, has a harmful impact on the child's welfare. It affects their health, cognitive development, school results, ambitions, self image and relations with others; it leads to risky behaviours. An **integrated strategy is needed** that goes beyond various policy fields, and **leaves room for the child's experience and circumstances in life**.

The Belgian NAP refers to the target to eradicate **homelessness** by 2015 (EP Written Declaration). Brussels, where homelessness is most visible, is continuing to develop a **targeted policy and a proactive approach: supporting shelters, work in the street**, inter-sector approach, accompanied housing and training of preventive agents.

Although no specific mention of children in this section, children should be covered by the measures to combat homelessness

The Belgian government combats child poverty by:

- Welfare of children and support to parenthood, including **surveys carried out on children, with the concerned** of enabling them to make their voices heard;

Ensure that street children, who might not be easily contacted for such surveys are included as well.

- **Placement and alternatives:** by creating the legal status of a foster family.

- Education: education will become mandatory from five years of age. The Flanders region will particularly focus on disadvantaged school children and children of foreign origin, eliminating financial obstacles in education and ensuring free primary education by introducing a ceiling on charges for school activities. The Walloon Region will take action to fight against school dropouts.

These measures could help street children to go to school, but would be good to specifically include this target group as a particular disadvantaged group.

Governance of NAP activities:

The SILC survey will be implemented at the Belgian level, and is **devoted to the most vulnerable groups**, setting up a permanent poverty barometer. **Impact assessments** of government decisions, in terms of sustainable development, will be measured. In Brussels, among other cities, an **observation on childhood** will be set up to institutionalize consultation.

Health care

Health relays have been set up to promote **access to health care for vulnerable persons** (Walloon region).

Fighting inequalities in health and ensuring simplified **access to health** for all, including **homeless, illegal immigrants**.

Bulgaria

Groups that face the highest risk of poverty:

- single parents;
- families with three or more children;
- representatives of certain ethnic groups and the Roma.

Progress made in relation to NAPs/incl 2006-2008 targets set until 2007:

- The number of pupils taken out of school in the Roma neighbourhoods has increased to 23,7% in 2006/2007 school year.
- Number of children accommodated **in specialised institutions** for the period 2005-2007 decreased to 18%;

Where did these children end up? In Foster families or on the street? Not clear from NAP/incl.

- Children were one of several groups most threatened by poverty and social exclusion. Several measures were undertaken and a "**National Strategy for the Child 2008-2018**" was adopted;
- No improvement in reduction of the poverty rate (remained the same) and for some vulnerable groups, including **children, the at-risk-of-poverty rates increased!**

NAP/incl 2008-2010 puts special focus on:

1. **Limiting the intergenerational transmission of poverty** and social exclusion with a focus on child poverty and social exclusion;
2. **Equal opportunities for the most vulnerable groups** in society.

Challenges with (some) relevance for street children are:

- **Improvement of housing conditions** of the more vulnerable groups, particularly Roma;
- **Equal access to education for all children:** including educational integration of the vulnerable ethnic groups and decreasing the number of pupils of Roma origin studying in segregated schools. The educational desegregation requires more and better targeted measures. For this reason the initiative "**Decade of Roma inclusion 2005-2015**¹" started, but so far main group of school leavers are Roma children;
- **Deinstitutionalisation;**
- **Access to quality health care:** in this respect the Roma group remains the most vulnerable group. Here is an important role for the involvement of NGOs;
- **Anti-discrimination:** in particular of ethnic groups, Roma and the women and girls from certain communities will get more attention in the NAP/incl 2008-2010;
- **Protection of children from all forms of abuse, violence and exploitation:** development and implementation of special measures for protection of certain risk groups of children (e.g.

¹ The Initiative "Decade of Roma inclusion 2005-2015" puts particular focus on: anti-discrimination legislation; integrated services in vulnerable ethnic communities; educational integration of the Roma children; development of special package of measures for women and girls from certain ethnic communities; improvement of housing conditions.

children victims of crimes, children perpetrators of anti-social acts, children victims of domestic violence, unattended children, children who are refugees and immigrants, children involved in the hardest forms of child labour, etc.);

An area of particular relevance for street children.

- **Improvement** of the capacity of **the child protection system.**

Common quantified targets for 2010, relevant for street children:

- Decreasing the at-risk-of-poverty rate among children to no higher than 15%;
- Decreasing the at-risk-of-poverty rate among households with three and more children by at least 10 percentage points;
- Decreasing pupils in mandatory school age leaving the general education system to 2%;
- Decreasing the level of early school leavers to 15%;
- Increasing the net rate of enrolment in elementary education to 100%;
- Increasing the net rate of enrolment in pre-school education to 100%;
- Increasing the number of pupils, from Roma origin, taken out of segregated schools to 30%;
- Double the **number of children at risk who are accommodated in foster families.**

Ensure that street children are also considered as children at risk and therefore need to have a quantified target to reduce their numbers on the street.

The NAP/incl 2008-2010 requires more coordinated efforts between ministerial departments and cooperation with civil society.

Cyprus

Children (0-17 years) risk of poverty rate is 11% (EU-25: 19%)

Groups that face the highest risk of poverty:

- Single parent households;
- Other vulnerable groups.

National Strategy for Social Inclusion 2008-2010 priorities:

1. Reducing the risk of poverty and social exclusion;
2. Promoting the **active integration of the vulnerable groups** of the population into the labour market;
- 3. Preventing the social exclusion of children;**
4. Modernising institutions for strengthening procedures and policies for social cohesion.

Ad 1. **Provide benefits/allowances for vulnerable population groups**, including child benefits, mother's allowances, and special financial assistance, for families with four or more children, in buying a car.

Although allowances to families with children could help prevent children from living in the streets, it does not directly target those children already living on the streets.

Ad 2: The Cypriot government **promotes the active integration of vulnerable groups into Cypriot society**, including the protection of **unaccompanied (foreign) minors**, programmes for learning Greek for minor applicants for asylum, or children of applicants for asylum.

The Cypriot government aims to secure an adequate standard of living for vulnerable population groups involving allowances and integration in the labour market.

Street children are not able to receive allowances; the Cypriot government needs to consider how to target/reach this particular vulnerable group.

The Cypriot government **protects and supports victims of trafficking and sexual exploitation**, including providing shelter in the governmental Shelter for Victims of Sexual Exploitation.

Children ending up on the streets who are victims of trafficking or sexual exploitation would benefit from these measures.

Ad 3: **Measures to prevent social exclusion of children include:**

- Actions regarding the **reduction of regional educational inequalities**, support teaching, dealing with special problems such as early school leaving, integration of children who do not speak Greek into the educational system, and in society in general;

The integration of children in the educational system can be used for ensuring that street children will go to school.

- Measures to prevent the social exclusion of children;
- Access to education and health care services;
- Prevention and treatment of drug dependency;

Not clear how these measures will be undertaken and whether this includes street children.

- Modernising legislation concerning the child and its harmonisation with the UN CRC;
- The establishment of the Commissioner for the Protection of the Rights of the Child (2007).

These measures can be used to ensure protection of the street children.

Target setting on fighting poverty and social exclusion affecting children:

- Reduction of the risk of poverty among children (0-17 years) from 11% to 10%;
- Reduction of the proportion of children (0-17 years) who live in jobless households from 3,7% to 2,7 %.

Czech Republic

National Strategy to combat social exclusion 2008-2010:

Key areas of concern that emerge in the Czech Republic are:

- The **high number of children (9.064) living institutions;**
- A **poorly functioning housing market**, with particularly difficult access to housing for the most vulnerable groups of society, including a high degree of discrimination (on the basis of ethnicity and/or social status);
- A **high number of socially segregated Roma localities** (310 individuals in 167 municipalities): majority of them are unemployed, low education, risky conditions, insufficient social competences and detrimental health conditions;
- **Children that live in impoverished households is 18%**, particularly in single parent families and families with three or more children.

Groups that are at most risk of social exclusion:

Children, youth and young adults, ethnic minorities, immigrants and asylum seekers, **homeless people**, victims of violence and commercially abused persons.

Progress made to implement the National Action Plan for Social Inclusion (NAPSI) (2006-2008) with indirect relevance for street children:

- **Support for families with children was transferred primarily to the realm of family policy;**
- The government set up an **Agency for the removal of social exclusion in Roma localities**, running projects from 2007-2013;
- The government set up a **school counselling office**, partly **to increase the accessibility of education for children** and to support their integration;
- The Education Act was amended, in light of the UNCRC, resulting in **access to basic education for children of asylum seekers** and participants in proceedings for granting asylum;
- **Primary school preparatory classes** to prepare children from a socio-culturally disadvantaged environment, for entrance into a primary school;
- **Informational Centre for Youth (2008-2009)** was set up to increase awareness on the rights of children and youth;
- **Raising awareness concerning the forms and conditions of adoption and foster care with** an interdepartmental working group to protect children in institutional care and evaluate their possibility to return to the family, or placing the child in adoption or foster care.

The structure of **priority measures** from the National Action Plan (NAPSI 2006-2008) has been maintained in the **NAPSI 2008-2010**.

1. **Priority objective: Increase integration of socially excluded individuals** and those at risk of social exclusion by:
 - Decreasing the handicaps in the way children approach **education**, especially with children coming from a different socio-cultural environment and children of foreigners;

- **Increase social competencies of children**, which leads to rejecting all forms of self-destruction, expressions of aggression and violations of the law;
- Support preventive measures which lead to **purposeful involvement of children in free-time activities**;

Target groups: children, foreigners, victims of crimes and victims of domestic violence, **homeless individuals** (individuals who do not have a home or those at risk of homelessness, i.e. people with uncertain or temporary housing and people with unsuitable housing).

The target group does not mention homeless children/street children, but this is a group with specific needs to be included in this priority area.

2. **Priority objective: To develop methods and applications of social work and related professions, in such a way as to support families with specific needs.**

Measures include: information campaigns aimed at increasing public awareness of the adoption and foster care system.

Target groups: multiple-member families at risk of poverty, incomplete families, families coming from vulnerable socio-cultural environments, families of foreigners.

3. **Priority object: Effective coordination** within the public administration, particularly in social services, **social protection, and support for housing accessibility**

- Emphasis on **integration of minorities**, human and minority rights, the problems of a multi-cultural society, new policy officer training in relation to minorities;
- **Support for protected housing**, primarily in support of alternative, mobile and field social services (relief services, personal assistance, etc).

Ensure that children living on the street can make use of these services.

Denmark

Implementation of strategies in the area of social inclusion 2006-2008:

With possibly **indirect relevance for street children:**

- **Foster care reform;**
- **Parental responsibility:** improve parents' responsibility for their children;
- **Violence and abuse in families** and assistance and treatment to children and adolescents who have sexually abused other children and adolescents;
- **Housing;**
- **Socially disadvantaged housing estates:** Denmark invests to restrict the influx of socially disadvantaged groups into these estates, to achieve a more diverse and sustainable resident composition;
- **Strategy against "ghettoisation";**
- **Urban development:** Denmark invests in renovating rundown and outdated housing and ensures healthy and up-to-date dwellings.

With direct relevance for street children:

- **Alternative residential facilities:** for the period of 2005-2008 more homes for the homeless and particularly disadvantaged groups, combined with housing assistance during the moving-in-phase has been, since 2009, a permanent scheme.

Strategies for social inclusion 2008-2010:

Priority 1: Support for disadvantaged children and young people

The Danish government uses a holistic approach to ensure that children with complex problems obtain targeted assistance in dealing with all aspects of their problems.

- **Education:** key action area, including strengthening of young people's social networks to alleviate problems of loneliness and isolation;
- **Schooling of socially disadvantaged children:** including children who are guilty of truancy and consequently do not attend school for an extended period of time;

Relevant for street children, who do not attend school for a longer period.

- **Supporting parents to take responsibility for their children,** in particular, young (single) mothers are a vulnerable target group and immigrant parents are a target group.
- **Special social problems:** the Danish government has established a **24-hour counselling service** on a trial basis **to support young people** as quickly as possible in addressing their social problems when they are motivated to do so. Accessibility is a key element of this service.

This counselling service could be used by street children/youngsters as well, as long as they are made aware of these services.

Priority 2: Support for socially disadvantaged groups:

- **Combating homelessness:** number of homeless people in the street must be reduced and **young homeless people must be offered an alternative to a place in a reception centre.** The stay in a reception centre must be limited to three or four months for citizens ready to move into a dwelling, with the necessary support. According to a survey carried

out in February 2007 a further 1000 dwellings and residential housing units were needed for the local authorities to be able to solve the homelessness problem. **During 2008-2011 a strategy will be implemented with the target of reducing, and ultimately eradicating, homelessness in Denmark;**

Eradicating homelessness can help street children, but not clear whether only adults or also children are meant.

- **Improve the health of disadvantaged people;**
- **Helping victims of human trafficking:** the Danish government established the Centre against Human Trafficking (a knowledge and coordination centre);
- **Set up special training programmes aimed at outreach to social workers and caseworkers in the administration.**

Ensure these training programmes include the aspect of working with street children.

Priority 3: Integration

- **Immigrants and refugees need to fully integrate in Danish society, including children and young people,** e.g. in the education system;
- Government has set up **an inter-ministerial working group** to characterise **marginalised children,** what may explain the marginalisation, and describe **efforts to counter marginalisation** among these children.

Street children should be seen as a group of marginalised children.

Estonia

During 2003-2005: amount of children living in absolute and relative poverty has decreased continuously.

Objective and measures for 2008-2010: Prevention and alleviation of poverty and social exclusion in families with children.

Period of 2006-2008:

- * Several types of **family benefits were increased** or added:
 - Rise in child benefit for families with three or more children;
 - Rise in financial support for children in foster care or guardian families;
 - Payment of Start in Independent Life allowance was extended to children without parental care, who in childhood had been in foster care, or who had been raised in a social welfare institution.
- * **Substitute Home Service** was provided under the name of children's home.
- * Make **Child Protection and welfare services more effective**: increase number of child protection officials. One of the objectives is to ensure a family environment for a child needing substitute care. Parent education is advanced through "**Development plan of the quality of life of families for 2010-2015**" to ensure the decrease in abuse and neglect of a child.

This could help to avoid children ending up on the streets when they can no longer stay within their own families because of child protection reasons.

Strategy of Guaranteeing Children's Rights 2004-2008: to ensure basic and special needs of all children living in Estonia.

Strategy Aims: - Decrease number of children living in poverty
- Provide necessary assistance and support to children without parental care.

Children without parental care could also be children living on the streets, they need to receive support and assistance.

Estonia has set **targets for 2010:**

- Share of children 0-15-years-old living below absolute poverty line: 9.4% (2007) to 6.2% (2010);
- Share of children 0-15-years-old living below relative poverty line: 17.4% (2006) to 16.8% (2010);
- Number of children without parental care and in need of assistance, who have been registered for the first time, per 10,000 0-17-year-old children a year: 60 (2007) to 54 (2010).

Estonian Housing Development Plan 2008-2013

One of its main aims:

- Broaden financial opportunities **to acquire housing for social groups such as children without parental care, the homeless, etc.**

Although street children are not mentioned as specific group, they could be covered by this aim.

Education:

Create **equal opportunities for obtaining education** to everyone in accordance with interests and abilities in a school near home.

- All children from from age one to nine can go to **school for free**, including teaching aids, catering at school, boarding school facilities;
- State programme "A kindergarten place for every child" 2008-2013 (preschool care);
- **Dropping out of school** is a problem and has not changed over the past years.

<i>Important to target street children in attending school, in particular since these are free.</i>

Objectives and measures of Health Care:

- Guaranteeing access to adequate health care for all people and ensuring health protection for children.

Finland

The child poverty rate is lowest among the EU Member States: **10%**!

Child poverty rate is quite stable since 2000, but has doubled during the period of 1990 until 2000 (5% to 10%).

Key issues for children emerging from the Strategy Report on Social Inclusion 2008-2011:

One of the key objectives:

- **Prevention of social problems and social risks**, with particular attention to early intervention in the areas of children and families with children.

Challenges concerning the prevention of social problems:

Risk of social exclusion seems to have **increased** recently, especially among **substance abusers (in particular alcohol) and some groups of children** and young people. Number of children subject to child protection measures has risen alarmingly, partly due to increased risk of accidents and violent crimes related to drunkenness.

Increased demand on child welfare services, children's psychiatric treatment.

Challenges concerning safeguarding the continuity of measures preventing social exclusion:

Poverty and low incomes result in inadequate housing and increased homelessness. The number of **homeless** is decreasing.

Objective: halve long-term homeless by 2011.

This could be an objective that would help street children, although not clear if the Finnish plan defines homeless as only adults or includes children as well.

Groups requiring Special Measures and Risk Groups

- **Children and Young People:** the objective is to promote a healthy, substance-free lifestyle in order to prevent social exclusion. Will be implemented in conjunction with the Policy Programme for the well-being of children, youth and families;
- **Homeless: 300 homeless families** in November 2007;
- **Substance abusers:** target of the alcohol policy is to reduce the adverse effects of alcohol use on the welfare of children and families;
- **Immigrants under the threat of social exclusion**
During 2007 the authorities paid more attention to the so-called beggar issue. Rather **large groups of beggars**, most of them were Roma from Romania, appeared in the larger cities. The **groups included a number of small children**, which may require measures be taken by the social authorities. In addition, many of those practising begging have been in poor health.

The **government set up a working group** assessing the need to deal with beggars in 2008. The proposals of the working group concentrate in particular on guidance, dialogue and the exchange of information. Child

welfare is also available for these children, since all children residing in Finland are entitled to it. **Powers of Finnish authorities are limited to provide immediate assistance.** Assistance should be sought from the authorities from the person's home country, or in practice from a diplomatic or consular mission of that country.

Focal area of action: the proposal made by the working group to assess the national need to harmonize the actions of authorities in dealing with beggars, will be assessed and implemented.

Finland acknowledges the problem of beggars, which are often street children; however, there does not seem to be an easy solution according to the NAP. This would need more attention, not only from Finland, but also from other countries, which have similar problems, although not mentioned in their NAPs.

Strategic Targets include:

Equality between citizens, including:

- **Improved housing conditions** of population groups in a weaker position;
- **Decreased educational drop-out rates**, which increases the risk of social exclusion and is most frequent at early stages of secondary school education.

Important to target street children to go to school.

Health:

Effects of **alcohol use**, especially on the welfare of children and families, remain serious. Government will continue the **National Alcohol Programme 2008-2011.**

Government Objective: Reduce total consumption of alcoholic beverages to the level in 2003.

Children living in households where a lot of alcohol is used have more, risk of being left to themselves and going onto the streets.

France

Groups at highest risk of poverty:

- **Children: 16%;**
- Single parents;
- Poverty is concentrated in urban areas.

Key challenges and priorities include:

- High level of unemployment and number of poor workers;
- Social integration difficulties of young people, in particular those living in depressed areas and those belonging to minorities;
- Social housing deficit.

No priority to tackle child poverty or any mention of street children.

Measures that could affect street children include Housing measures:

The Act of 2007 establishes a policy declaring a right to housing and the draft Act on action for housing and the fight against exclusion.

Provision is made for developing adapted **accommodation for highly vulnerable population groups, including travellers, women and immigrants.**

Special social residences have been set up for the most vulnerable groups, which are in situations of grave exclusion; these include homes for urgent cases and more stable homes.

Street children could make use of these social residences, although no specific mention is made of them. Children would need specific accommodation next to the accommodation for adults.

The National Action Plan also plans to provide for all children coming out of child protection structures appropriate housing/lodging. This prevents children from going to the streets.

Measure that prevents children from going to the streets.

Education:

- 1) **Measures to combat illiteracy** with regional plans to take action on this: "Actions for family education" from 2008-2010 to ensure children start learning at early age and are supported by their families. In this respect France cooperates with other EU countries, including the UK, Germany and the Netherlands;
- 2) **Equal opportunities for boys and girls in education.**

Integration of immigrant families

Immigrants are asked to sign a commitment:

- to take part in an information day on "the rights and duties of parents";
- To respect the obligation for children to attend school between 6-16 years old.

Germany

Children (0-15 years) risk of poverty rate is 12% (increased by 1%)

Groups at most risk of poverty:

- Single parent families
- Families without employment

The German National Action Plan on Social Inclusion is very much **focussed on employment**, which is seen as a main solution to combat poverty and therefore also to combat child poverty.

The German National Action Plan describes the **combating of child poverty within the perspective of the family**.

The **objective of the Strategy** is to ensure that parents have **employment**. In addition, the German state support parents with children, with **financial benefits**, such as the **child benefit** ('Kinderzuschlag') to support parents who have an income to cover their own expenses, but is not sufficient to support their children. Other benefits include "parents benefit" ('Elterngeld') for parents in the first year after a child has been born and education benefits ('Erziehungsgeld'), in particular relevant for migrants, and "housing benefits".

Action Programme to combat abuse and neglect of children (2007-2012).

The German state aims to combat the abuse and neglect of children, which is a result of social exclusion. Actions include children's hotlines, education for parents, cooperation with health services, and police and family justice/courts to ensure the protection of children.

Example of good practice: Round Table "Help for Children in Difficulties" in Nordrhein-Westfalen. First results will be published in early 2009.

This Programme should include the group of street children as neglected children.

Political priority: social integration of migrants to ensure they can take part in the cultural and economic society.

Focus on: language learning, **education**, family and social integration, **employment** and ensure improved living and **housing conditions**.

Strategy to advance children's health (May 2008)

This strategy pays particular attention to migrant children.

Education is important to **ensure a better access to employment** and in this way will have a clear effect on the poverty risk factor.

Education will help ensure that children will not "inherit" the poverty of their parents and will break through the cycle of inherited poverty across several generations.

School drop outs or young people that leave schools without qualifications have decreased from 2003 to 2006, but is still at a high 7,9%. The German government, in cooperation with the regions, aims to further decrease this number.

The policy to reduce school drop out could help street children to go to school.

Greece

The rate of children at risk of poverty: 22,6% in 2006 (has increased!). This high rate and increase is not reflected in the way the Greek government combats child poverty and social exclusion in its National Action Plan for 2008-2010.

Greek National Action Plan on Social Inclusion 2008-2010:

The goal is a significant reduction of the poverty rate within next 5 years.

Greece set up the '**Cycle of Children's Rights' in the Ombudsman institution**, which defends the rights of children. Greece ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on Children's Rights concerning trafficking of children, child prostitution and child pornography and put it into force in its legislation (2007).

Political Priorities 2008-2010 affecting children/street children include:

- **Employment policies** for specific groups, including **Gypsies** and Pomacks, **single-parent families, and parents with many children**. The view of the Greek government is that parents' employment is the best protection for children against poverty;

This is contradicting the fact that 90% of poor children live in "working families" in Greece.

- **Access to education**, with emphasis on the first levels of education and combating drop-outs of schools and particular attention for vulnerable groups.

Access to education is a measure that could be supportive of street children.

For example: Cross-cultural education such as "Training of Muslim Children" and "Inclusion of Gypsy children in school";

- **Income support** and other allowances, including **housing assistance**;
- Programs provided to **specialised services to study domestic violence against children** and the prevention of their victimization;
- Special emphasis is paid to the social inclusion of **immigrants**, among others, to **ensure decent living conditions** for immigrants and refugees. Primary target group is newcomers from third countries, with special care for children, refugees and victims of trafficking. **Social inclusion of gypsies** shall be promoted in relation to housing, education, etc.

Immigrants and gypsies are a vulnerable group which more easily end up living on the streets and it is therefore good to be specifically targeted.

Hungary

Rate of children (0-17 years) living below the poverty line: 25%!

This rate is due to social transfers (family support systems, etc), which if did not exist, would result in 44% of children living below the poverty line.

The rate of children in jobless households continues to be one of the highest in the EU.

Social and childcare services providing personal care still fail to reach the desired level. Demand for institutional care is high (includes also elderly care).

The Hungarian government set a **Target** to reduce child poverty:

- Poverty rate of children 0-15 years: **12% in 2013** (as it was 19% in 2006).

Action to decrease and combat child poverty

The Hungarian Parliament adopted a **National Strategy: "Let it be better for children!" (2007-2032)**. Implementation is being coordinated by the **Children's Chances Programme Office**. This strategy determines strategic directions **for 25 years** in order to improve life conditions for children in disadvantaged backgrounds.

No mention of street children, which should have been included as one of the groups in this Strategy with disadvantaged backgrounds.

The **Strategy aims** to:

- improve **financial situation of families with children** (e.g. child protection allowances such as free meals at day nurseries, schools and social allowances);
- make interventions to **improve early development**;
- **educational quality** and measures to avoid segregation of disadvantaged, specifically Roma pupils;
- **child welfare and child protection services**, including the development of special child protection services for children living in institutional care and supporting systems of children that became victims of domestic violence;
- **child health care and living conditions**, including fighting drug addictions.

The measures to improve child welfare and protection services and children's health and living conditions could be useful for street children.

A government action plan adopted in 2007 defines exact measures until 2010.

Educational needs:

The number of **Roma children** (with special educational needs) educated in special integrated classes is increasing continuously. These educational institutions will be supported by EU funds as well as specific programmes for Roma children between 2007 and 2013.

Among Roma children are more street children than among other groups, important to target these.

Roma

The **Roma population who suffer multiple disadvantages**. The **government action plan “Programme of the Roma Decade”** (2007-2017) aims to mainstream their aspects in all affected policies, and special measures will be taken to decrease the **housing and educational segregation** and **discrimination** towards them.

In disadvantaged regions, small villages with bad infrastructure, but also in big cities (ghettoized areas), the Roma population is over-represented.

Homelessness

With regard to **homelessness** a mid-term strategy on the development of homeless-care was drafted in 2007 with special emphasis on assisting re-integration into society. This includes the development/modernisation of care institutions for homeless people and **help to homeless families with acquiring an apartment or a house in the countryside**.

These homeless include children within families, what about homeless children living on their own/street children?

Government Roundtables have been set up including starting social dialogue in one of their activities around **education and chances for children**.

Ireland

Rate of children at risk of poverty is 20,2% in 2006.

Categories most vulnerable to poverty: children and single parent families.

National Action Plan for Social Inclusion 2006-2016, which includes ten high level goals. The plan adopted a **life cycle approach**, the **first lifecycle** is identified as **children**. Each lifecycle has a number of high level **goals** and a range of **targets** necessary to achieve these goals.

National Development Plan 2007-2013

'Towards 2016': Government Plan includes **improvement of health and educational outcomes for all children**.

The challenge is in reduction of the number of at risk of poverty and social exclusion by 2010, with special focus on the need to **reduce child poverty** and policies to strengthen the **integration of migrants and their families**.

Overall goal (target):

- **Reduce** those experiencing consistent **poverty to 2-4% by 2012;**
- **Eliminate consistent poverty by 2016!**

Combating child poverty is top priority.

Measurable goals are set for each group, including children.

Priority Policy Objective 2008-2010 (relevant for street children):

- **Child poverty:** measures include income supports for children, education initiatives, health, and participation programmes to ensure children reach their true potential. The **target is** to reduce child poverty to 2-4% by 2012 and eliminate by 2016;

This means that street children should no longer exist in Ireland by 2016.

- **Integration of immigrants:** education, national action plan against racism (2005-2008);
- **Access to quality services, with a focus on the homeless:** special focus on health, housing and **particular attention to the homeless** in urban and rural areas of disadvantage, including **travellers**. Still 200 households need to be moved from emergency homeless accommodation to more permanent accommodation in 2008.

The services for homeless will have to include children without a home and street children: they have a right to access to quality services and adequate housing and good health care.

Reducing Child poverty involves a two fold approach:

1. further development of coordinated, integrated and targeted policies and services designed to lift households with children out of poverty;
2. a range of services and supports targeted at vulnerable children, to bridge gaps in their development compared to children in general.

Main policy measures to achieve the goal of reducing child poverty:

- **improving education outcomes for children**, at both primary and secondary schools; access to school meals and funding for school book grants; access to school/home/community liaison services;

These services could help street children, once they would have a home or shelter and be able to go to school.

- **Improve health outcomes for children;**
- **Income support targeted at children;**

How would this be done if children live on the streets, income support usually goes via adults/parents/carers.

- Implement the **Youth Homelessness Strategy** with the aim to reduce, and if possible eliminate, youth homelessness through preventative strategies;
- An **Office of the Minister for Children** has been set up to harmonise policy issues that affect children and develops policy and legislation on child welfare and child protection.

Latvia

Groups at most risk of poverty:

Children (0-17): 26%! (increased by 4% between 2005 and 2006)

Large families

Single parent families.

National Action Plan on Social Inclusion 2008-2010:

Quantified objectives have been set for 2008-2010 and **more targeted active inclusion measures** have been identified for population groups with low to middle income.

Priority objectives relevant for children/street children:

- 1) **improve the access of children** subjected to the risk of poverty and social exclusion, **to education** and labour market services;
- 2) **Improve the accessibility of resources and services to families, particularly large and single-parent families.** (in particular financial benefits).

Specific population groups subjected to risk of poverty and social exclusion:

- **Homeless persons;**
- **The Roma;**
- **Victims of people trafficking;**
- **Persons addicted to psychoactive substances;**
- **Needy persons.**

- | |
|---------------------------------|
| • <i>What are needy persons</i> |
|---------------------------------|

<i>All of these categories could include street children</i>
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Main problems of families with children are related to:

- Low income;
- Difficulties in paying for education of children;
- Difficulties in settling housing costs.

One of the priority objectives: improve the income support systems:

- Increase **guaranteed minimum income** to needy families and persons;

<i>Street children should be included as needy persons and this measure can avoid that children and their families go and live on the street.</i>

- Improve support system to persons to **cover expenses for housing;**

<i>To avoid that families and children go and live on the street.</i>

- Distribute certain type of **food products to the most needy persons;**

<i>Will be helpful for street children.</i>

- Foster gradual **increase in life quality of children who have lost their providers**, partly by giving financial support to guardians, foster families and adopters, and for disabled children.

Programme on preventing domestic violence 2008-2011 was developed in cooperation with line ministries, since domestic violence is a considerably relevant problem in Latvia.

Domestic violence might lead children to leave their homes and live on the streets.

Education

Number of **dropouts from educational institutions**, both basic education and secondary education, is high. A particular problem is the involvement of Roma children in the education process.

- **Quantified target for 2010:** increase the percentage of those who finish primary school and **receive a diploma for primary education, up to 89%;**
- Ensure education opportunities for children, at the age of mandatory education, to the persons who have been granted the status of refugees and asylum seekers and guest workers;
- Improve pedagogical qualification for work with different target groups (including persons with special needs, refugees, immigrants, etc);
- Ensure education opportunities for Roma. Target: **increase number of Roma children in the education process by 5%.**

Street children can benefit from these measures to attend school, if they would be specifically targeted by it.

Services for families with children and young people

- Continue to ensure milk supply to students in general education;
- Improve services provided by out-of-family child care institutions: set up group houses in out-of-family care institutions;
- Improve accessibility and quality of alternative out-of-family child care forms.
- Develop support measures for families with children.

All these measures could prevent children from living on the streets, but there is no targeted action to provide services for street children.

Housing

Improve accessibility of housing for certain groups of the population, including families with children, by state co-financing.

Lithuania

Groups at highest risk of poverty:

- **Children under 18: 25%** (2006);
- Incomplete families;
- Those raising many children.

National Report 2008-2010

A lot of attention paid to eradication of child poverty and to **guaranteeing their rights**.

Long-term challenges:

- High level of poverty risk for certain groups, including children;
- Increasing need for social and health care services;
- Slowing down of economy;
- High inflation;
- New trends of migration.

Horizontal principles of particular relevance for street children:

- **Reducing discrimination**

Lithuania aims to ensure the observance of children's rights and their protection from poverty.

Measures that will be taken include:

- Further development of **effective benefits** and services for families;
- Ensure with specific aid to socially disadvantaged children, that they will be **integrated into the education system** (aid to buy school material, meals free of charge, etc);
- **Children's rights protection organisational system** will be further strengthened on national and municipal levels.

The protection of the rights of children needs to be incorporated in these measures and specific measures need to be targeted at them.

Most important challenges for 2008-2010:

- The **number of children deprived of parental care** is declining but still high. These include children growing up in child guardianship institutions, foster families, and in recent years, children have been left by their parents for some time without parental care while they are in emigration abroad. Such **children are left alone or placed under guardianship of relatives**. This creates unfavourable conditions for children's development and social integration;

The latter can easily lead to children who (have to) leave their homes and start to live on the streets.

- **Immigration** is a rather new phenomenon, but will demand increasingly more attention for social integration of immigrants;
- The **level of violence against children** has not been declining;
- The issue of **integrating Roma children** has not been solved. To avoid discrimination of this group the 2009-2011 National Anti-Discrimination Programme will be developed.

Priority objectives of the 2008-2010 NAP/incl includes:

- **Eradicating child poverty** and strengthening family assistance. Measures to be taken by the Lithuanian government will combine **support for families raising children and support provided directly for children**. When providing this support two principles must be applied:
 1. ensure the **child's material wealth**;
 2. guarantee children's rights in the family and society as well as **protection from violence**. It is essential to create for all children, including **those deprived of parental care, to grow in a family environment** or close to family environment.

A measure which should be supportive for street children as well.

Measures which could be supportive for street children include:

- **To ensure children who do not attend schools will return to schools:** Programme for Returning Children who do not Attend School back to Schools;
- **To help children whose parents emigrated;**
- **Implement the Strategy on the Child Welfare Policy** and the 2005-2012 Action Plan for the Implementation of the Strategy to ensure access to comprehensive services to all children;
- Implement the **2005-2008 State Programme for the Support and Public Integration of Orphans and Children Deprived of Parental Care** with a major focus on the child in guardianship institutions;
- Implement the **Strategy on the Reorganisation of the Child Guardianship (Ward) System** and its 2007-2012 Action Plan;
- Carry out measures for eliminating violence against children by implementing the **2008-2010 National Programme for the Prevention of Violence against Children and Providing Aid to Children**.

Luxembourg

Groups at highest risk of poverty:

- **Children aged 0-17: (20%);**
- Lone-parent families;
- Large families.

Risk of child poverty is, according to the National Action Plan, largely related to the low employment rate.

National Action Plan on Social Inclusion 2008-2010, key policy objectives relevant for (street) children:

- Ensuring **children's wellbeing**, which is a **top priority**;
- Facilitating access to housing.

The **Luxembourg government** combines a preventive and curative action aiming at, on the one hand improving the circumstances of households with children, and on the other hand at **targeting its efforts more effectively at children in situations of distress or social exclusion or exposed to the risk of poverty**. In particular the focus is on ensuring the **well-being of immigrant children**.

Although the last point is very general it should include street children, as group experiencing situations of distress and social exclusion.

Facilitate access to Housing

- Social estate agency (AIS) structure will be introduced, which is a service-providing body **for particularly vulnerable individuals** or households and people living in exclusion as a result of multiple physical, psychological or social problems.

The AIS also focuses on and has the capacity to promote the wellbeing of children, but in particular on large households with three or more children. The group of children living on the streets are not mentioned in relation to this service.

Access to health care services:

Children are automatically covered by health insurances, including asylum seeking or illegal and undocumented immigrants can receive healthcare, of which the cost is met by the state.

Positive for all groups of children, including street children.

Malta

At risk of poverty rate for children (0-17): 19% (2007)

Challenges for Malta:

The Maltese report expresses concerns about the risks for Malta on the ill-effects of global challenges and **economic recession**. Other specific challenges include the scarcity of land, population density and the **sustained influx of irregular migrants**.

Malta's Vision 2015: the Government's strategy aimed at making Malta a centre of excellence is aimed mainly at the economy, higher education and health.

The **National Action Plan on Social Inclusion 2006-2008** placed **children** and young people at **the centre of policy formulation** and implementation efforts.

Some groups of children are at a greater risk of poverty:

- **children living in institutions** or care;
- those living in **jobless or single parent households**;
- those who are witness or **victims to domestic violence** or abusive behaviour;
- **unaccompanied minors**.

Effects of irregular migration:

There is an uninterrupted influx of irregular migrants coming to Malta from North Africa, which is severely straining the country's limited resources and infrastructure. The Maltese government is **committed to** ensuring the **social integration of immigrants** recognized as refugees or beneficiaries of subsidiary protection who are not reallocated to other States.

The 2008-2010 NAP Inclusion aims to:

- Set adequate and realistic **targets** for two years;
- **Focus upon identified vulnerable groups** whilst taking into account emerging needs and areas of concern.

Key challenges:

- Tackling school absenteeism;
- Promoting greater availability of adequate and affordable housing;
- Address the social aspects of migration.

Priority objectives:

- Improving the **social inclusion prospects of children** and young persons;
- **Active inclusion for all vulnerable groups**.

Vulnerable groups should include street children as a specific target group.

Targets set include:

- Reducing the risk of **child poverty below 19%** (as was in 2006)
- Reducing the rate of **early school leavers to 22%** by 2013.

The **priority objectives** relevant for (street) children endorse measures which aim to contribute towards:

- a) the reduction of the risk of child poverty;
- b) improving access to education;
- c) promoting access to basic services;
- d) addressing the need of vulnerable groups.

The policy objective to **enhance social inclusion prospects of children** will be addressed through a three-fold approach:

- a) **Enhancing personal development: education** is important in this respect, challenges in this regard are school absenteeism, learning difficulties and promoting inclusive education;
- b) **Improving well-being prospects**, including availability of **adequate and affordable housing**;
Effective social welfare services contribute to children's well-being, extending services to 'looked after children', fostering, adoption, and child protection services. Subsidise water and electricity for households most in need and **support families that experience parental difficulties**;

Parental difficulties may lead to parents no longer being able to care for their children, which could result in children ending up on the streets. This measure is therefore a preventive measure for children going on the streets.

- c) **Safeguarding children's rights**, which included raising awareness on children's rights (information campaigns led by the Office of the Commissioner for Children).

The Maltese government also **promotes equality of opportunity** by **combating discrimination** and **promoting the integration of third country nationals**. However, the Action Plan makes no specific mention of children in this respect.

The Netherlands

NAP 2006:

The NAP 2006 included as one of the four **priorities: tackling poverty and promoting participation among children and young people.**

The Dutch government **defines poverty not only as a one-dimensional financial concept**, but it is **also related to social and cultural participation, health and future prospects**. A large group of children live in this group of a 'not-much-but-enough' poverty line, which means they have no money available for minor expenses for leisure, membership of a sport or hobby association, etc. In 2005 30% above the age of 5 were unable to take part in activities in leisure time costing money.

Debt problems have **increased** during recent years. This can lead to social exclusion, poverty, evictions, no insurance cover, etc.

Forty underprivileged neighbourhoods "Krachtwijken" have been selected which will be given more attention and resources to develop positively in the coming years. Types of measures which can be developed regard the areas of living, working, learning and growing up, safety and integration. It will involve **physical modifications** (new developments, demolition, etc) as well as **social modifications** (boosting employment, encouraging social cohesion in the neighbourhood, etc).

This could be something for street children to profit from, as they are more likely to live in these underprivileged neighbourhoods.

Education:

In particular, non-Western migrants lack education and competencies required to participate in the labour market. The percentage of **drop-outs** is much higher **among non-native pupils** than amongst native Dutch pupils.

Integration of minorities:

Includes specific groups (two-thirds of): Turks, Moroccans, Surinamese, Antilleans/Arubans, and also migration flows from Eastern-European countries, especially from Poland.

Integration measures could prevent immigrant children from living on the streets.

NAP 2008-2010:

In 2008 the Dutch government attached a lot of value to income development with **special attention to vulnerable groups.**

One of the four **priority objectives for 2008** are:

Combating poverty and promoting participation among children and young people. A specific Programme Minister was appointed, who was responsible for cohesion in the policy for the Youth and Family Programme.

Five development conditions are taken **as a starting point, children must:**

- Grow up healthily;
- Grow up safely;
- Be able to contribute their bit to the society;

- Be able to develop their talents and have fun;
- Be well-prepared for the future.

The parents are primarily responsible for this, but the government offers the preconditions and helps when necessary, such as in case of serious problems, in financial support.

Measures proposed and relevant for (street) children are:

- **Reduction of illiteracy:** Illiteracy Action Plan with 6 quantitative and qualitative targets, including: cutting back the percentage of pupils in secondary education who are at or below PISA reading level 1 to 10% (11% in 2006);
- **Addressing the homeless**, with a particular focus on preventing people from becoming homeless and giving support to municipalities to offer social support, housing, care and daily activities to the homeless and clients in shelters;

No particular focus on street children here, although definitely a group that needs specific attention within this measure addressing homelessness.

- Too many children are still prevented from growing up healthily and safely. For example, child abuse is a serious obstacle. **A low education level and the unemployment of parents are risk factors for poverty, but also for child abuse.** The Dutch government has **specific projects and programmes to combat child abuse** and will establish a nationwide network of Centres for Youth and Families to provide, improve and co-ordinate parenting and family support in order to prevent or solve problems at an early stage. **By 2011 a regional child abuse approach** will be introduced based on the Child Abuse Reflection and Action Group method;
- **Free healthcare insurances for children** up to the age of 18;

Street children could benefit from free healthcare insurances.

- **Covenant with municipalities** has been made "**Children take part!**" to combat child poverty at local level;

Possibility to include street children as specific target group in covenant with municipalities.

- Support children in taking part in sports and cultural activities (social participation);

This might be a way of integrating street children and get them out of social exclusion, although basic needs as housing, good health, food and education should first be met.

- Reduce early school-leavers, **halve drop-outs (age group of 12-22) by 2012** and aim for prevention of drop-outs.

Ensure that street children are specifically targeted in getting them to attend school.

Poland

Poverty rate of children (aged 0-17): **26%** (2005) (was 29% in 2004). Children form the **highest risk group** among the Polish population of ending up in poverty. In particular, **single parent households** and **large families** are at risk.

Essential assumption is that work is the source of prosperity, including in families with children.

National Action plan for Social Inclusion 2006-2008:

- **First Priority** is **supporting families with children** by money benefits and services, and eliminating educational deficiencies; for example, by providing extra food to school children;
- Activities for **homeless persons** and persons in danger of becoming homeless were continued with the programme "Return the homeless to the society";
- A National Programme for **Preventing Family Violence** (2006) was drafted addressing victims (children), offenders, and witnesses of family violence. Measures preventing family violence also included measures to raise children in sobriety and preventing alcoholism.
- "Programme for **Preventing Social Exclusion and Crime among Children** and Youth";
- '**School equipment**' Programme was set up (2006) for equalling conditions for children starting their school education, including financing of schoolbooks and possibility to buy school uniforms.

National Action Plan for Social Inclusion 2008-2010

Priorities:

1) Prevent poverty and social exclusion of children; the most important factor is low income of parents, but also the unequal access to education, in particular, children from rural areas attend poorly equipped schools and have limited access to additional education.

Measures to decrease the scale of child poverty include:

- the development of the **welfare benefits system**;
- **No children should be in institutions below 10 years**, preventive measures and intensive work with the biological family of children endangered or already provided with respite care will be carried out. Foster parents will be supported by local governments;

This last measure can prevent children from going into institutions, but also from going to live on the streets.

- Lower the mandatory **school** age to 6 years (instead of 7) in 2009/2010; co-finance school books, 'State aid for extra meals', 'A glass of milk' programme in educational centres.

2) Integration through activation, in particular, immigrants are at risk of social exclusion. This includes support for **migrants** who are in a difficult socioeconomic situation (losing jobs in the country they emigrated to or homelessness);

3) Development of high-quality social services: including improvement of **quality education services**, development of **social housing**,

implementation of programmes for **preventing alcoholism** and reducing its effects.

Homelessness

Housing is a problem experienced by a great majority of Polish families due to lack of funds to cover housing costs, lack of sufficient housing, and the poor condition of a large part of the housing resources.

A problem is homelessness. Homeless persons will be supported through the implementation of comprehensive programmes preparing these persons for independent living in the society: **'the Return of the Homeless to the Community' Programme (2008)**

No specific reference here to homeless children and/or street children, which would need specifically targeted measures under this section.

Alcoholism

The problems experienced by children growing up in families with alcoholics are very serious (about 1.5 million). About 10-15% of the 15-18 year olds drink alcohol. The health problems of family members with drinking problems include psychosomatic illnesses and emotional disorders, caused by chronic stress and violence, moral decay, poverty and decrease of life opportunities.

Measures to combat this include:

- Psychological assistance for children growing up in alcoholic families will become more easily available, and youths drinking alcohol and their parents will receive assistance: 'Upbringing in Sobriety and Counteracting Alcoholism' and 'the National Programme for Prevention of Alcohol Problems' will be implemented.

Alcoholism may lead to children to leave their homes and live on the streets, to flee abuse and violence and chronic stress in their homes. The measure above could prevent this from happening.

Drug abuse

Drug abuse is still an important problem in various social and age groups. 'National Programme Counteracting Drug Addiction 2006-2010' will be implemented.

Could be useful for street children, who are often addicted to drugs

Counteracting family violence

'National Programme for Counteracting Family Violence' (2006-2016), includes the creation of new specialist support centres for victims of violence and more retributive actions towards the perpetrators of violence.

Measures combating family violence could prevent children affected by domestic violence from going on the streets.

2010 the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion:

National measures will focus on:

- preventing poverty among children;
- access to basic services, to education and training;
- supporting vulnerable groups.

Portugal

Children (0-17) living at the risk of poverty rate: 21% (2006)

The **Convention on the Rights of the Child** provides clear guidelines for combating child poverty and better framing of national policies in order to reinforce the rights of children.

This general reference to the UNCRC provides opportunities for the protection of street children.

National Action Plan for Inclusion 2008-2010:

Three political **priorities**:

- 1) **combat and reversing situations of persistent child poverty;**
- 2) correct **disadvantages in education;**
- 3) overcome discrimination by reinforcing the **integration of specific groups, including immigrants.**

In addition, as a cross-cutting measure: reduce poverty amongst children.

Combating child poverty is implemented by the **following measures**:

- Guaranteeing **basic incomes** through family and tax benefits (financial);
- Interventions in the area of **housing**, to ensure rehabilitation, requalification, re-housing;
- Focus on the marginalised and more vulnerable areas, **favouring social integration for specific population groups;**

This measure could include the specific group of street children in need of social integration and taken out of their situation.

- Remove children from institutions (DOM Plan and Plans for Immediate Intervention) to ensure children can live with their families;
- **Born a Citizen Programme**: promoting children's rights from birth, registering all children at birth at the health and social security services and **identifying and intervening in cases associated with risk factors and vulnerability;**

This programme is useful for the protection of street children.

- Invest in the **education system.**

Education

Portugal has a very high rate of school dropouts: 36,3% (2007) (14,8% EU27)

Measures to reduce school dropouts:

- Investing in **high quality education**, accessible to various target audiences;
- Expansion of **school social action**: guaranteeing books and free meals and discount passes for school transport.

Measures to combat human trafficking and **to protect victims** have been reinforced, namely via the strategy embodied in the first **National Plan to Combat Human Trafficking.**

This measure can prevent that child victims of trafficking will end up on the streets.

Immigrants, ethnic minorities and the homeless are amongst the most vulnerable categories in terms of social exclusion in Portugal. In particular, measures are developed and aimed at the **Roma communities**, which include Integration Social Income, **housing programmes**, measures for **social protection** and **school social action** and measures to Integrate Immigrants. In 2007 an **Office to Support Roma Communities** had been set up.

The Portuguese NAP/incl sets out several risks.

A Risk is Child Poverty:

Children are more vulnerable than adults to poverty. However, **other risks** also jeopardise the full development of children and their safety, such as situations of **abandonment, neglect, abuse**, etc.

These risks can result in children ending up on the streets and therefore need to be treated very seriously to protect children against these situations.

A Risk is inequality and discrimination faced by specific groups in the access to rights, including **the Roma population**.

About 38% of the Roma population in Portugal are under the age of 15 (**15,200 children**) and about **6,400 live without minimum conditions** in terms of housing, health and hygiene, in mobile or fixed homes, and face a variety of problems. Problems including absence of basic infrastructure, such as potable water, electricity, basic sanitation, leaving near waste dumps or on the fringes of cities.

A Risk is inequality faced by the Homelessness

The numbers of homeless individuals are not known, but it is known that most of them are males (30-49 years).

A very detailed description of the different types of homeless people is given in the NAP/incl, but no mention in it of homeless children i.e. street children.

Portugal has set the **target to cover 80% of "homeless" people** with Individual Reintegration Plans, by the end of 2010.

Would this target include 80% of homeless children?

Romania

Groups at most risk of poverty:

- **Children (aged 0-15) poverty rate: 24,7% (2007);**
- Single Parent families;
- Families with 3 or more children.

Progress made during 2006-2008 in the social inclusion area:

- **Enabling access of disadvantaged citizens to resources, rights and services.**
 - Various allowances aiming to support families with children were set up.
 - **9 Programmes aimed at specific disadvantaged groups** were approved, including the **homeless, domestic violence victims, Roma population**, youth who leave the child protection system.
 - In 2005 a new legislative package was implemented regarding **the protection and promotion of children's rights** and developing services to **replace their placement in institutions.**
 - For **the social reintegration of homeless children** the Government approved **the "Homeless children initiative" project**, resulting in the setting up of 20 centres for 300 children and in providing approximately 150 social workers with training programmes.

A direct initiative to protect homeless children (children living on the streets)!

- In 2007 the community social services network for child and family, and supporting families in crisis with a view to **preventing the separation of the child from his/her family.**

- **Improving the living conditions of the Roma population**
 - **Educational programmes for Roma** continued and were extended, and the number of Roma children participating increased considerably between 2003/2004 and 2006/2007.

Education

The Romanian education system reform focuses on **decreasing the dropping out of school** phenomenon.

The Romanian National Action Plan for Inclusion 2008-2010:

Aims at improving the standard of living for various vulnerable groups, including **youth moving out of foster care centres, children with difficulties**, etc.

Street children are children with difficulties and should be included as a vulnerable group that needs to receive specific attention.

Main challenges for 2008-2010 include:

- Prevention of social exclusion, improve the access of citizens to their social rights;
- Organising continuous sensitivity and awareness campaigns for citizens regarding their rights.

Priority objective: Promoting integrated family policies

Actions to be taken include:

- Quality and accessible pre-school education;
- Ensuring the access to a decent home, including social homes.

Priority objective: improve the quality of life for Roma citizens

Measures to lead to the social inclusion of this category:

- Enable access to primary health services;
- Continue training programmes and preparing sanitary mediators and school mediators;
- Improving educational participation of Roma, reduction of illiteracy and dropping out of school;
- Promoting anti-discrimination policies.

Slovak Republic

Groups at greatest risk of poverty:

- **Children (aged 0-17): 17/%;**
- Incomplete families with children;
- Families with three or more children.

Homeless persons are another vulnerable group, they have a lack of material security, suffer a lack of supporting social relationships, limited access to health care, culture, etc. There are **no official estimates available** of the total number of homeless persons in Slovakia.

Social protection and aid to **persons seeking asylum** is provided in Slovakia by the authorities in cooperation with civil society organisations. The strategy for this group is to promote their full inclusion in Slovakian society.

EU Structural Funds are used to support deinstitutionalisation and strengthening community services.

These EU Funds should be used to support and protect street children as well.

Eliminating child poverty is a key priority for the Slovakian government. **Measures** in the fight against child poverty work from the principle that **employment and education are the key tools** in preventing and eliminating poverty and social exclusion.

Progress made during 2006-2008 in combating social exclusion

Priority objectives were:

- 1) **reduce child poverty** by preventive measures and support to families with children
 - **Education policy** is one of the key tools in reducing child poverty. The **Education and Upbringing Act (2008)** ensured equality of access to education and the prohibition of all forms of discrimination (particularly segregation). **Financial support programmes** will realise inclusive education (scholarships and grants);
 - Specific attention is paid to **Romani pupils**, who are supported by community social workers to provide assistance in solving the problems of **failure at school and the absenteeism** of Romani pupils. Roma families are often in material need and they **give priority to any gainful activity**, even **by using children of compulsory school age**. Parents excuse the absence from school whilst the school has no resources to prevent them in doing so.
- 2) **Raise inclusion and fight discrimination of vulnerable population** groups by supporting the availability of public services:
 - **Support tools for housing development**, raising the affordability of housing for groups of the population at risk of social exclusion particularly marginalized Romani communities. Their settlements are located on the edge of a town, or village, without access to water mains and where the share of illegal housing is above 20%;

- Continue to support **access to health care** (in particular for the Romani communities).

National Action Plan for Children 2008-2012 (NAP for Children)

Takes the **principle of the best interests of the child** as a base.

The **objective** of the NAP for Children is to contribute to **building and developing an integrated and effective system of protecting the rights** and legally protected interests of children.

Tasks resulting from it focus on the area of **coordinating policies, independent mechanisms for the protection of children's rights**, for children's education, upbringing, care, health, etc. A component of the NAP is the establishment of a **Ministerial Committee for Children**.

The NAP for Children provides an opportunity to get the rights of street children on the agenda of the SR Government.

National Action Plan for Social Inclusion 2008-2010

It has the same priorities as the NAP/SI of 2006-2008.

- 1) **Reduce child poverty** by preventive measures and support families with children:

- Realising measures in the **field of education** as one of the key instruments used to fight child poverty: equal chances and quality education;
- **Financial allowances** for families with children.

Quantifiable objectives have been set:

- **Reduce the risk of child poverty by 2011 by 4%** compared to 2004;
- **Improve access to education** for children and pupils from low-income families;
- **Raise the integration of Romani children** into standard primary and secondary schools;
- **Reduce by 2011 the proportion of children in institutional care** in the total number of children in substitute care by **8%** compared to 2004.

The reduction of child poverty in general could positively affect street children, although it would be better to have a targeted approach at this specific vulnerable group.

- 2) Raise inclusion and **fight discrimination of vulnerable population groups**

- Further measures will be adopted for supporting **the affordability of housing**, intended for low-income and **excluded groups**.

Quantifiable objectives:

- **Map the current social network of all types of facilities for children.**

This mapping should include facilities for street children.

- **Raise the availability of housing** and the construction of apartments intended **for vulnerable groups** of the population.

Slovenia

At-risk-of-poverty rate for children is relatively low: **11,7%** (2005)

Vulnerable and at-risks groups of the population include:

- **Children** (whose physical, mental/emotional and social development is threatened by poverty and social exclusion);
- **Homeless persons, Roma, victims of violence.**

Progress made during 2006-2008 in combating social exclusion:

- The share of funds for **subsidised meals in primary schools** has increased;
- **National Programme of Measures for Roma**, including integrating Roma in the education system and provide better housing conditions;
- There has been an increase in the provision of quantity and quality **housing for vulnerable groups:**
 - The network of maternity homes and **shelters for women (safe houses)** was enlarged;
 - The network of **shelters for the homeless** was enlarged;
 - A **crisis centre for children** was opened in Grosuplje in September 2007: a pilot project for **short-term accommodation for the whole country** (e.g. for children from foster parents in case of cancellation or in case of disease and absence of foster parents, preventive programmes in the field of violence).

These shelters and children's crisis centres could be used for street children as well, although no specific mention of them is made here. For street children a more structural solution would be necessary, but the crisis centre could provide a temporary support for street children.

Key challenges, priority objectives for 2008-2010:

- Provide adequate **income support to vulnerable groups** in order to prevent social exclusion;
- Provide **access to social services** to prevent social exclusion.

Quantitative objectives to prevent poverty and social exclusion **by 2010:**

- Reduce the **at-risk-of-poverty rate** from 11,7% **at least to 11%.**
- **Increase the capacities** of admission centres and **shelters for the homeless** to a total of 250 places.
- **Increase the capacity of therapeutic programme network** providing **psychosocial assistance to children**, adults and families –to achieve full coverage.

This psychosocial assistance to children service could be of relevance to street children.

Measures to be taken to combat social exclusion relevant for children:

- Income support to parents through **social benefits;**
- **Subsidised school meals:** one hot meal per day for secondary school students (Act adopted in April 2008);
- **Scholarship Act:** provides scholarships for secondary school students;

- **Network of Maternity homes and shelters for women and children, victims of violence** (within the National Social Assistance Programme 2006-2010): to provide accommodation and professional assistance and to help them to integrate into society again.

Sweden

The Swedish **economy slowed** in 2007, partly due to a weaker international trend. In Sweden the **birth rate has risen every year** since 1999.

Most vulnerable groups to be at-risk-of-poverty:

- **Children with parents who were born outside Sweden** (immigrants);
- **Children with lone parents.**

Sweden has a **well-developed social welfare system**, including general health care, social insurance and for families with young children, resulting in **lower levels of poverty among children** and adults.

The NAP/SI 2008-2010 follow-up of the National Action Plan 2006-2008, which had four priority objectives:

1. **Promoting education** and training for everyone: the number of students in upper secondary education has increased since 2000;
2. **Increasing integration:** high level of immigration occurred in 2007, majority of them are refugees and close family immigrants. The government will present a **cohesive strategy for integration policy up to 2010** with its **2009 Budget Bill**. High priority is given to **tackling all forms of discrimination**;
3. **Tackling homelessness:** a survey carried out in 2005 indicated that the number of **homeless people increased** since 1999 and the people born outside Sweden were over-represented in this group. It is found **crucial to monitor the trend in the number of evictions** and how many children are affected. There were **383 children in evicted households** in the first half of **2008**. The government has introduced municipal rent guarantees and is tackling discrimination in the housing market;
4. **Strengthening groups** in particularly **vulnerable situations**:
 - **targeted measures at children** and young people, for women subjected to **violence** and their children and for boys and girls who are subjected to **honour-violence**;
 - **Social care services for children** have been strengthened, including school social measures, one-to-one counselling, and non-institutional care measures;
 - The administrative and documentation system (**Focus on the Needs of the Child** – BBIC) has been increasingly used;
 - Statutory changes have taken place to **increase protection and support for children** since April 2008: **the government has set up an inquiry to further clarify the protection and support provided to children in socially vulnerable situations**. The inquiry is due to present its final report in June 2009.

This inquiry should go into the situation of street children, as a specific group in a socially vulnerable situation.

National Action Plan for social inclusion 2008-2010:

Priority objectives relevant for (street) children:

- Prevent the risk of exclusion among young people;
- Continue to **strengthen groups in particularly vulnerable situations.**

Measures to be taken:

- The government intends to implement a radical upper secondary **school reform in 2011**, including the making education fulfil the individual's interests and needs better. Aim is to reduce exclusion from upper secondary school. A **special strategy for the education of newly arrived children** has been devised. The government invests funds aimed at the prevention of bullying at schools;

Street children can benefit indirectly from these measures when they would go to school. However, no mention of street children is made in this National Action Plan.

- There is a **clear link between severe physical abuse and social exclusion, such as homelessness**. Physical abuse not only affects the victim, but also the family; children are particularly vulnerable. Homelessness is therefore a priority area in this action plan. The factors underlying both physical abuse and homelessness are complex and can be sought at the levels of both the individual and society;

Physical abuse and violence can lead children to live on the streets. Measures to prevent this or to support children who experience violence can prevent them from going on the streets.

- **Strengthen support for** women subjected to violence and **children who have witnessed violence**. An **action plan to combat violence** by men against women and honour-related violence has been presented by the government in November 2007.

Indicators and follow-up

- **Number of evictions broken down by** type of household and **number of children** in the household (Swedish Enforcement Authority from 2009);
- **Number of people** who are in a situation of **homelessness**, broken down into women and men (National Board of Health and Welfare);

A majority of areas of policy are sector-transcending, for example **the rights of the child under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child**. This is a mainstreaming area to be included in all policy areas affecting them in Sweden.

This general perspective focussing on the UNCRC gives hope to focus Swedish policies specifically on street children.

Spain

Since 2007 the Spanish economy has been affected by the international financial crisis.

The at-risk-of-poverty rate for children (0-17): 28,2% (2006) (has increased since 2004).

Progress made in the National Action Plan on Social Inclusion 2006-2008:

- **Social Security Law (2007)** including supporting measures for the protection of children who have lost one or both parents;
- **Organic Law on Education (2006)** to achieve an equitable education system;
- **Strategic Plan for Citizenship and Integration 2007-2010** for the social integration of immigrants and with high priority for education.

Key challenges, priority objectives 2008-2010:

Two broad strategic goals:

- 1) to **promote active social inclusion;**
- 2) to **tackle the impact of growth in immigration** on social exclusion.

Active social inclusion will be promoted by:

- achieving an equitable and quality **education system;**
- supporting the social **integration of immigrants.**

Targets have been set to achieve the priority areas:

- **Increase the rate of students with a graduating certificate** in Compulsory secondary education to 80% by 2010. In this way reduce early school-leaving;
- Continue with the PROA Plan to **reduce school failure in primary and secondary schools** in socially deprived areas, with the aim of assisting 2500 centres with the same number of counsellors by 2010;
- Allocate at least 40% of resources from the **Support Fund for the reception and integration of immigrants** to integration programmes developed at a local level;
- Set up **special programmes for the education of immigrant students.**
- Concluding agreements with the cities of Ceuta and Melilla for programmes for the **reception of minor immigrants**, with particular emphasis on **actions in the centres dealing with foreign unaccompanied minors.**

National indicators which are used affecting (street) children include:

- Numbers of **protection measures for minors:** new protection measures (guardianship, residential and family fostering) have increased between 2004 and 2006;
- Number of **people on Gypsy Development Programmes** (increased between 2004 and 2005);
- **Spending on Programmes for the Spanish Gypsy Population.**

The measures described under the indicators are not reflected in the National Action Plan on Social Inclusion. Moreover, there is a need to break down indicators in relation to street children.

UK

The UK has been greatly affected by the “biggest financial shock since the Great Depression”.

The risk-of-poverty rate of children: 22% (2006/2007) (decreased since 1999 with 4%)

Children with the highest risk-at-poverty are found in:

- **Workless households;**
- **Couple families where one adult or more works part-time;**
- **Ethnic minority families;**
- **Families with 3 or more children;**
- **Families with a disabled adult or disabled child;**
- **Children who live in Inner London.**

UK government priorities include:

- **Eradicating child poverty by 2020! (KEY AIM of UK Government) target to halve child poverty by 2010;**
- **Narrow the gap in educational achievement** between children from low income and disadvantaged backgrounds and their peers (this gap has been narrowed since 1997).

Key challenges and strategy for moving forward **Objective 2 – Tackling Child Poverty**

- **Measures to increase financial support for children** and working parents;
- **Child Development Grant** for parents to attend and take up services in new children’s centres;
- Ensuring that **communities are safe, sustainable places** where families can thrive;
- **Improving poor children’s life chances**

Every Child Matters model: develops stronger collaboration between adults’ and children’s services and is improving opportunities and outcomes for children from low-income families.

Improvements in early education and school standards will close the gaps between poor children and their peers.

“Ending child poverty: everybody’s business.” The Budget 2008 sets out steps the government will take to deliver the ending of child poverty, by:

- Increasing employment;
- Improving financial and material support for families;
- Continue to work with local and regional partners, but also ask families to commit themselves to improve their situations;
- Improving poor children’s life chances.

Child poverty in London has fallen less than elsewhere in the UK, and therefore delivery agencies in London have been asked to identify better ways of working together to tackle child poverty in London.

Objective 3 – Improving Access to Quality Services

The UK government aims to invest in public services – schools, hospitals and children’s centres, particularly in deprived areas.

Education: The Children’s Plan and social mobility

The Children’s Plan commits to equalise educational outcomes and investment in all stages of children’s education will be made.

Bringing street children into education can considerably improve their lives

Housing and Homelessness

National Rough Sleeping Estimate (2007) shows there are 498 people sleeping rough. The government is committed to **reduce rough sleeping to as near to zero as possible**. Further investment is made available from 2008-2011 to improve hostels and day centres to **ensure** that those that move from homelessness **will not return to the streets**.

A discussion paper “Rough sleeping 10 years on: from the streets to independent living and opportunity” published in April 2008 sets out thinking on a future rough sleeping strategy, which is aimed to be published in the autumn.

Although street children are not specifically mentioned, these measures to reduce rough sleeping to zero could be positive for them. However, specific measures targeted at street children would be necessary, as they need different types of support as adults.

Gypsies, Roma and Travellers

A new housing and planning framework has been established to increase site provisions for Gypsies and Travellers.

Conclusions and Recommendations

According to evidence collected by the European Federation for Street Children and international organisations, such as the Council of Europe and UNICEF, every city in Europe has street children.² Street children are either children living “on the street”, which are children who live and sleep on the streets in urban areas and are totally on their own, or those “of the street”, who earn their living or beg for money on the street and return home at night.

Street children are an **extremely vulnerable group of children**, living in severe poverty. They face a gross violation of their human rights, such as violence, sexual exploitation and abuse, chemical addictions and numerous other human rights violations.

Street children, as defined above, are hardly mentioned in any of the National Action Plans analysed in this report; with a few exceptions like the Romanian one, with its **“Homeless children initiative” project** and the Finnish Action Plan combating **beggars on the street**. However, though the notion of street children does not exist, close notions of it are appearing in the National Action Plans. Many action plans include sections and **measures on combating homelessness, education, health, violence and abuse, and the exclusion of Roma children**. All of these measures will be beneficial for street children both directly and indirectly.

- The combating of **homelessness**, though not always clearly targeted at children but at adults, can be a benefit for children without homes as well. Many NAPs provide for developing more shelters and centres for the homelessness and some countries have even set targets to reduce the rate of homelessness to as near to zero as possible (the UK and Belgium).
- The importance of **education** is emphasised by most NAPs; the need to have equal access for all to education is recognized by many Member States as well as the need to **tackle school drop-outs**. Several NAPs mention specific material measures to get children (back) into school, such as the payment of school meals and school books (e.g. Slovenia). Getting all children into education would help street children as well.
- **Access to health** is an issue that is covered by separate action plans for health and long term care, but is also briefly mentioned in many of the

² **Definition of a street child** is, ‘any boy or girl for whom the street in the widest sense of the word has become his or her habitual abode and/or source of livelihood, and who is inadequately protected, supervised, or directed by responsible adults’ (**UNICEF definition**); ‘Street children are children under 18 who, for shorter or longer periods, live in a street milieu. They are children who live wandering from place to place and who have their peer groups and contacts in the street. Officially these children may have as their address their parents’ homes or institution of social welfare. Most significantly they have very few or no contacts with those adults, parents, school, child welfare institutions, social services, with a duty towards them’. (**Council of Europe definition, 1994**);

national action plans on social inclusion. Most NAPs mention the right for everyone to **affordable** and **quality health care** (e.g. Austria, Romania)

- Measures to **combat violence, abuse and the exploitation of children**, including trafficking, are included in a number of NAPs, (Austria, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Sweden). Domestic violence, abuse of children and trafficking of children can all lead to children living on the streets. **Trafficked children** can easily end up in child prostitution and child begging to ensure their own living.
- In almost all EU Member States there are bigger or smaller groups of **Roma**, which are particularly experiencing exclusion. Most NAPs are targeting this group specifically, including the need to provide homes, employment and ensure Roma children can attend schools. All of these measures can prevent Roma children from going on the streets. In particular, education can lead them out of the circle of social exclusion and poverty. Apart from the Roma group, many NAPs note that **migrant groups** and **refugees** are more likely to experience social exclusion than national citizens (e.g. Sweden, Ireland, Luxembourg). Specific measures are targeted at these groups, focussing at education and anti-discrimination.

General measures aiming to combat poverty of children can also benefit street children. Many of these measures can be used as **preventive measures**, as these are dealing with the **social and family situation of children**. For example, **employment measures**, such as the reconciliation of work and family life could prevent children from ending up on the streets to beg or steal money for their living. Many NAPs note the importance of having work that pays sufficiently, in avoiding the situation of working poor.

Recommendations for the next round of NAPs 2010-2012

The points raised above are starting points for the next rounds of NAPs 2010-2012, in which street children need to be included as a **specific target group**, as they are an extremely vulnerable group. This call is supported by the **Council of Europe recommendation 253** (27-29 May, 2008) on "*The social reintegration of children living and/or working on the streets*".

In order to achieve this, **more data on street children** needs to be collected, and **specific indicators** need to be developed. This is something the Commission, possibly in cooperation with the Fundamental Rights Agency, needs to follow-up with urgently.

Apart from the general target to reduce the number of street children in the EU Member States, **specific measures** need to be included in the next round of NAPs concerning **homelessness, education, health care, combating violence, abuse and trafficking, and Roma children and unaccompanied asylum seeking children**. All of these aspects have been included in several of the current NAPs, but hardly any of them include specific targets and measures for street children.

The **year 2010** should be used as an opportunity to address the specific situation of street children within all EU Member States.

The recent **economic/financial crisis** has not been taken into account in most of the NAPs. However, this is an issue to be seriously considered, it could lead to an increasing number of street children. Employment measures are preventive measures that can ensure that citizens are not getting socially excluded and their children ending up on the streets.

ANNEX

Overview of NAPs measured by their direct or indirect impact on street children

Group A: NAPs specifically referring to actions targeted at street children

- Finland: Helping beggars, including children, on the street and homeless families.
- Romania: Homeless Children Initiative and other programmes aimed at disadvantaged groups including domestic violence victims, Roma; prevention of separation of children from his/her family.
- Austria: Providing shelters for children (for children living in families in crisis); homelessness;; improving anti-violence measures, supporting refugees, education measures.
- Cyprus: Providing shelters for victims of trafficking and sexual exploitation and promote the active integration of unaccompanied (foreign) minors
- Estonia: Housing for children without parental care, the homeless; free Education
- Slovenia: Shelters for the homeless increased; crisis centre for children; subsidised school meals, scholarships
- Sweden: Education; homelessness with high number of children included in evicted households; violence against children; support children in socially vulnerable situations.
- UK: Reduce 'rough sleeping' and homelessness; Education, target to eradicate child poverty in 2020.

Group B: NAPs with several aspects relevant for street children

- Belgium: Will carry out a survey devoted to the most vulnerable groups and will consult with children themselves
- Bulgaria: Will carry out protective measures for children victims of violence, abuse and exploitation (e.g. unattended children) and improve the capacity of the child protection system
- Czech Rep: Provide protected housing and special services for families with specific needs; homeless individuals, education policies
- Denmark: Reduce homelessness and help victims of trafficking and integration of immigrants and refugees, including children.
- France: Housing for travellers and immigrants; integration of immigrants; education measures.
- Germany: Focus on the Family with financial benefits (preventive measures); education measures and action programme to combat abuse and neglect of children
- Hungary: Specific programmes for children, longer-term strategies (25 years); Improvement of child protection services and child health care; increase the number of Roma children in education; combat homelessness.
- Ireland: Combating child poverty is top priority; integration immigrants; focus on (youth) homelessness and Travellers; target vulnerable children; education

- Latvia: Programme to prevent domestic violence (preventive measures); homeless persons, Roma, victims of trafficking, needy persons; focus on education/drop-outs.
- Lithuania: Protect children from violence; ensure children deprived of parental care grow up in family environment (preventive measures); education.
- Luxembourg: Target of children in situation of distress of social exclusion; immigrant children; facilitate housing for particularly vulnerable groups.
- Malta: Education; social welfare services, including housing, support families with parental difficulties; immigrants.
- Netherlands: Education/drop-outs; targeting forty underprivileged neighbourhoods (in urban areas); homelessness; combat child abuse.
- Poland: 2010 year to combat poverty: focus on child poverty and supporting most vulnerable groups; homelessness; alcoholism and drug abuse (preventive measures); combat family violence.
- Portugal: Combat persistent poverty; education measures; protect victims of trafficking; social integration for specific groups; homelessness; Roma population; abandonment, neglect and abuse.
- Slovak Rep: Child poverty is key priority; education measures; inclusion of vulnerable groups (Roma)

Group C: NAPs with least measures affecting street children

- Greece: Employment policies, but not acknowledging the fact that 90% of children live in "working families" in Greece; studies of domestic violence towards children (no measures to combat it); inclusion of Roma.
- Spain: Focus on education system and integration of immigrants. Compared to the high rate of child poverty (28,2%) the measures are not sufficient to reduce child poverty over the next years.



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