

Plenary 2: How to Create Community-Based Services

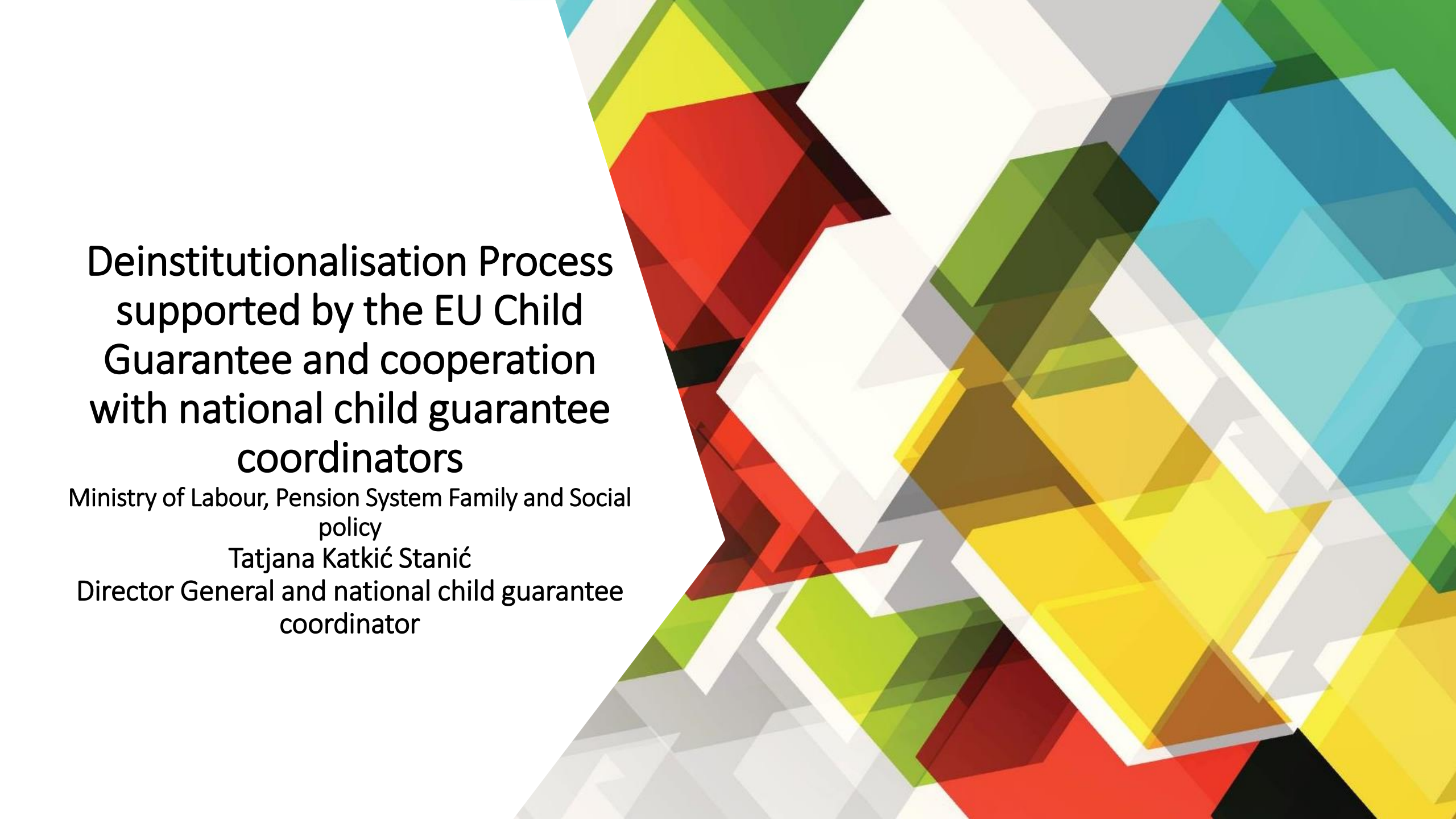
International Tools, Guidelines, and Experiences



Tatjana Katkić Stanić

National Coordinator of the EU Child Guarantee, Ministry of Labour, Pension System, Family and Social Policy, Croatia





Deinstitutionalisation Process
supported by the EU Child
Guarantee and cooperation
with national child guarantee
coordinators

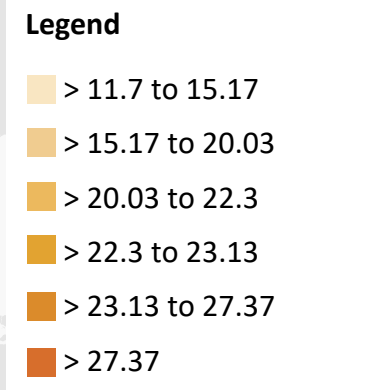
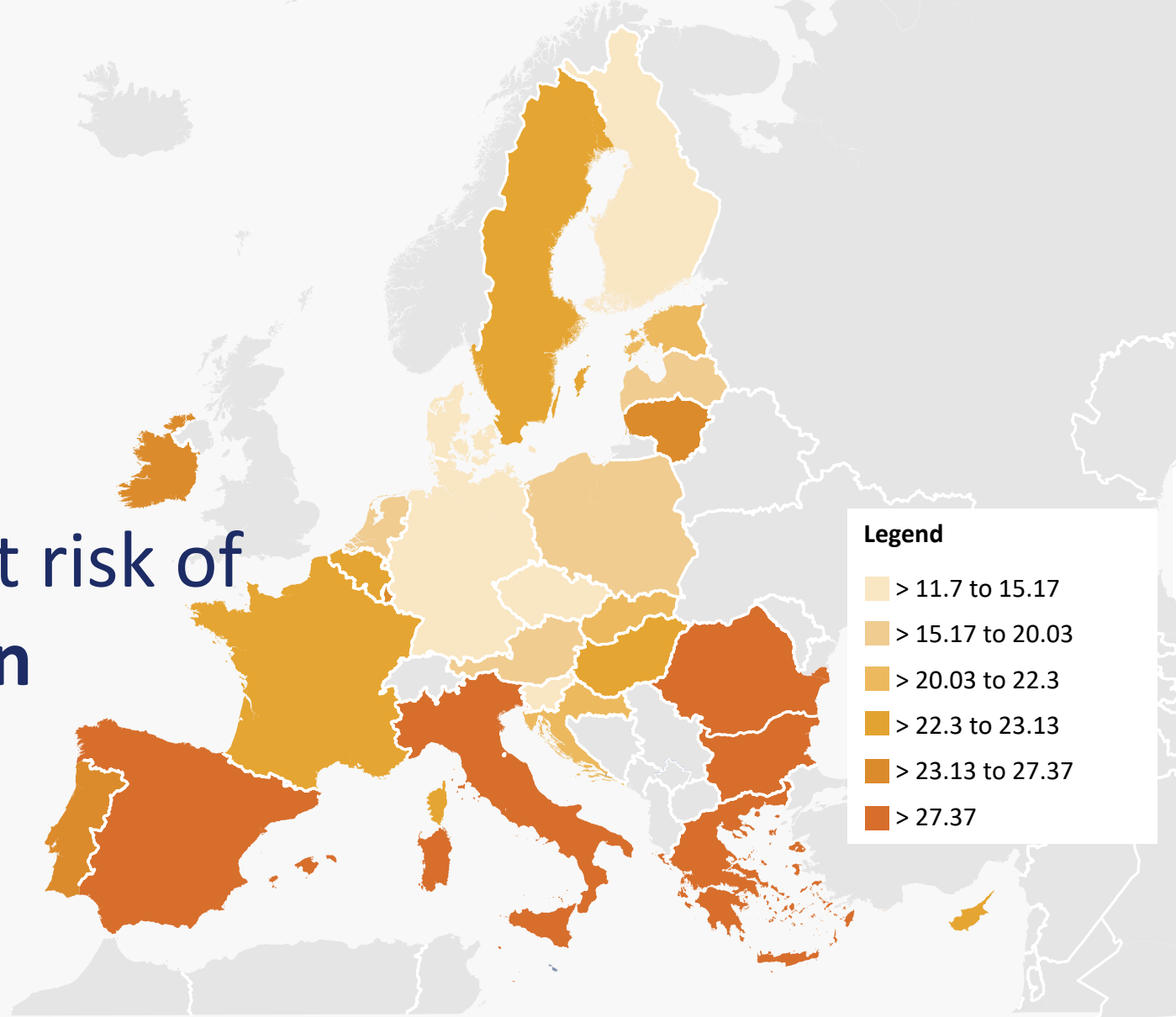
Ministry of Labour, Pension System Family and Social
policy

Tatjana Katkić Stanić

Director General and national child guarantee
coordinator

22,2%

of children in the EU are at risk of poverty or social exclusion



0 250 500 1,000 Km

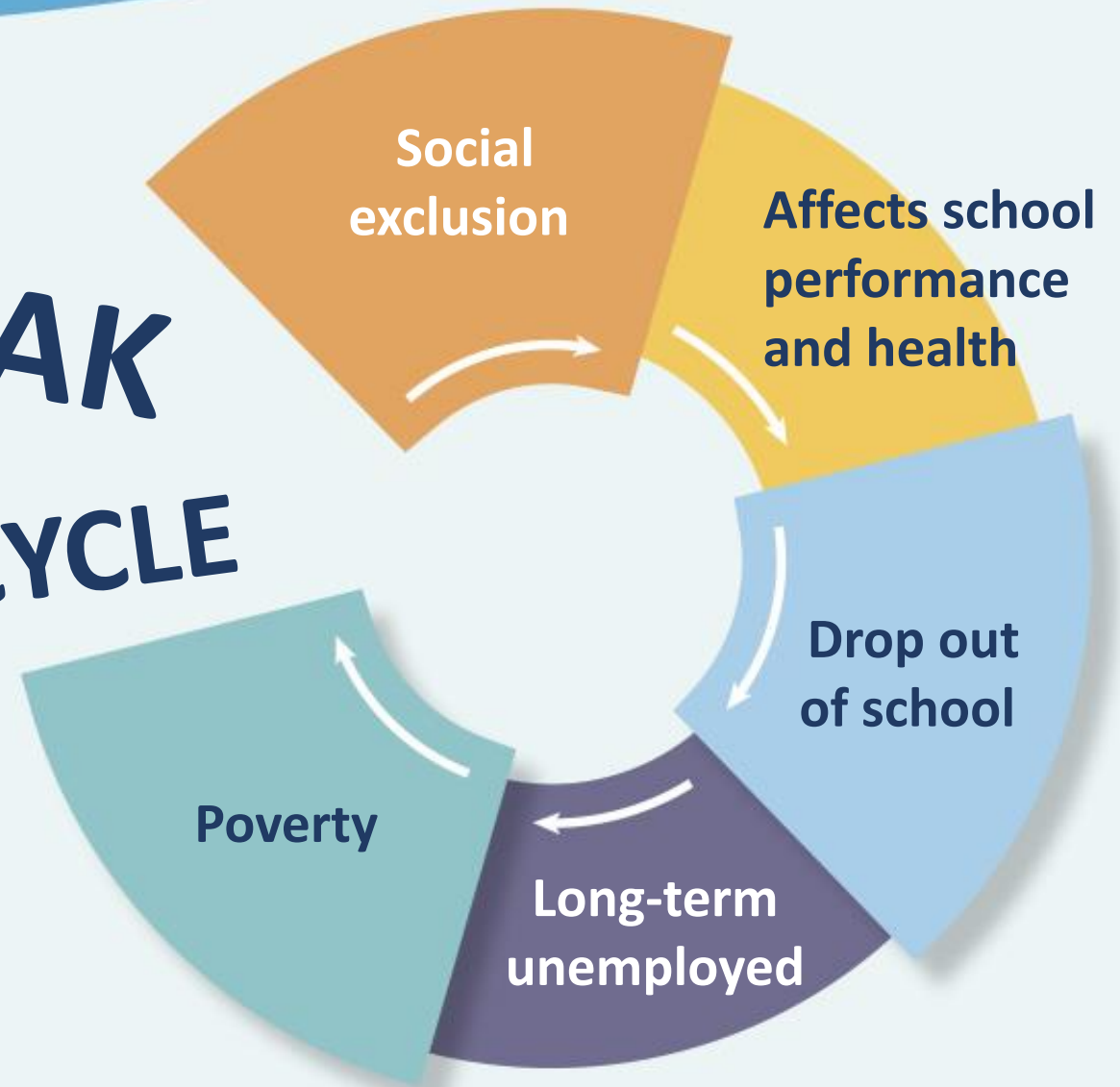
© European Union, 2021. Map produced by EC-JRC. The boundaries and the names shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the European Union. Not all overseas territories and countries are not shown on this map. Liechtenstein is too small to be shown on the map.

Source: Eurostat database, dataset *ilc_peps01*, data as of 30/03/2021

European Child Guarantee

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

BREAK THE CYCLE



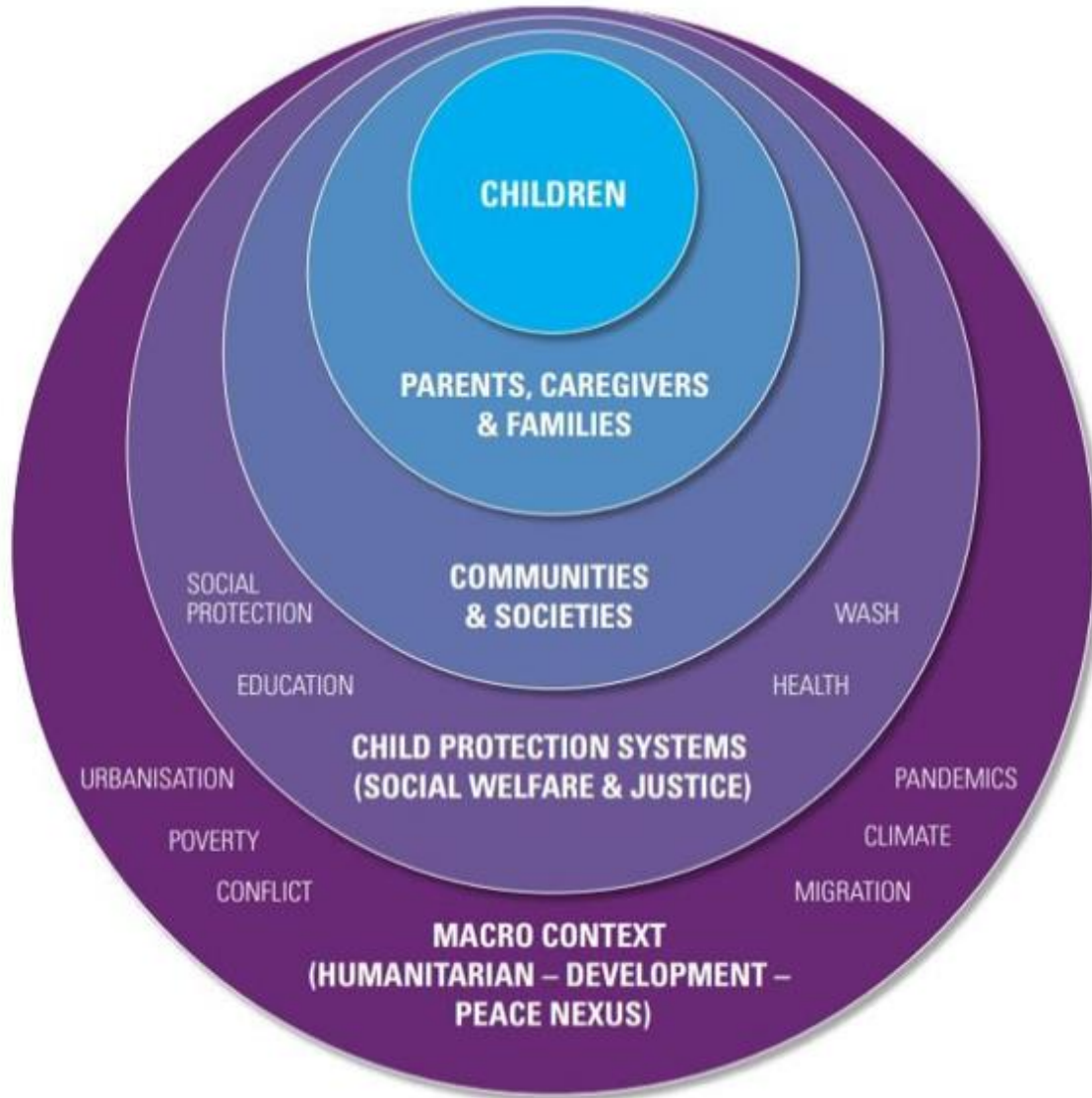
European
Commission



EU member
states should
guarantee
access to these
key services:

- Education and school activities
- Preschool education
- Health services
- Adequate nutrition/at least one healthy meal a day
- Adequate housing
- Social services in the community

The importance of providing integrated community services



**Child wellbeing
- in the center
of all actions
and our joint
responsibility**

The importance of early and timely assessment of children at risk



All children grow in a protective environment
- safe and nurturing family environment



Children living in situations at risk feel protected and receive timely and adequate interventions




Children experiencing violence have access and receive timely and integrated services



Timely parenting and family support – changing the behavior of parents and/or children, improving family relationships and family living conditions



Prevention of family separation



Deinstitutionalization and prevention of child family separation in Croatia

Focus of Ministry of Labour,
Pension System Family and
Social Policy and the whole
Croatian Government

In the last decade the process
was accelerated through
coordinated usage of different
EU funds (ESF, ERDF) including
the new Multannual
Framework (ESF+ Recovery and
Resilience Fund)



Improved legislative and policy framework

Social Welfare Law and Family Care Law as well as National Action plan for Development of Social Services additionally accelerated the process

- Strengthened child protection system including increased investments to reduce caseloads
 - Improvements of case management, family interventions and integrated service provision for children in risk
 - Increase of accessibility and quality of family and community-based services for both children and parents including further development of foster care
-



National action plan for the implementation of EU Child Guarantee in Croatia and Pilot Project



Social services in the community in RH priorities

- 1. Develop a comprehensive and integrated system of social services in the community in accordance with the needs of children in unfavorable living conditions and their families**
- 2. Development of a network of social services for children and youth in areas with insufficient services and a low development index.**
- 3. Development and availability of parenting support programs**
- 4. Improving the implementation of family legal protection measures**
- 5. Develop and expand foster care in the Republic of Croatia by ensuring availability in all areas of the Republic of Croatia while ensuring quality support for foster parents for children**
- 6. Improve existing and develop new social support services for children leaving care**

Child Guarantee



Integrated approach and services

The “responsibility” for the situation of children growing up in poverty goes beyond the social welfare system



Availability of the high-quality services (financially and spatially)

a package of basic services available to every child
Network of services and free access / remove "hidden" costs



Child-sensitive data collection and monitoring system - including planning, evaluation and revision of services / interventions

Cross-sectoral cooperation and monitoring

Croatia key challenges:
improve cross-sectoral cooperation,
develop a monitoring and evaluation system
remove institutional obstacles to implementation

Key of the succesful programme implementation & service delivery in Roma community:

1. Adjustments of the working methods, content and concept
2. Outreach & community engagement
3. Broad platform of implementation partners & community stakeholders

Implementation of the programme in the community, with community and for the community

Pilot program Child Guarantee in Međimurje County

38.7% of the total Roma population in the Republic of Croatia live in Međimurje County

Međimurje County is the only county that does not have a service provider for children without adequate parental care and children with behavioral problems

High concentrations of children and families at risk; more than 2,200 children at risk of abuse, neglect, poverty and social exclusion

As part of the pilot program, 3 work models were developed:

Integrated child protection and family support services

Quality preschool education

Integrated and coordinated early intervention services

**INTEGRATED APPROACH:
ONE CHILD ONE PLAN**

Specific objective 1.

Access to integrated child protection and family support services

- **Establishing community resource centres** - places for providing integrated community and family-based services in Roma settlement or near them
- **Strengthening the capacities of professionals** and intersectoral cooperation
- **Developing and piloting parenting support programme adapted for Roma families, parents and children**
- **Improving/adjusting working methods and case management** in the field of child protection, including Roma language lessons for child protection professionals
- **Adolescent and youth empowerment** for initiating positive changes in the local communities



Specific objective 2.

Access to preschool education

- **Supporting work of 1 existing + establishing 2 new play hubs** - places for informal play and structured learning activities to ensure play opportunities for the most vulnerable groups of children – more than 200 children involved so far; assistants from Roma community engaged
- **Strengthening** Faculty of Teacher Education to ensure better prepare future kindergarten teachers to work with children who are excluded from kindergarten
- **Development of costing methodology for municipalities** to better calculate the kindergarten price to improve kindergarten funding policies and enable more children access to kindergartens
- Position paper on **the results of the inclusion of Roma children in the regular pres-school education system from the age of 4** is developed



Specific objective 3.

Access to early childhood intervention services

Analysis of Early Childhood Intervention needs and services for children 0-7 in Međimurje County; drafted an **Action plan for Early Childhood Intervention in Međimurje county**

Community outreach

- **timely identification of children with developmental delays or risks** - - around 200 children with potential developmental delays or risks in the need for further assesment identified so far
- **preventive health programme provides information to families on their child's development and how to support it, how to engage fathers, offer information on ECD resources available in the community, as well as support in accessing specialized services when needed**

Team for piloting a model of Eeary childhood service; providing ECI Assessment and Support Point to children identified by community outreach team and their families & providing necessary interventions;

Strenghtening the capacities of health professionals for ECI - online learning platform developed

Phase III: Testing the Child Guarantee in Croatia – results



3 target groups

- Children with disabilities
- Children and families in precarious conditions
- Children with a minority ethnic background (particularly Roma)

Centres for children and families

Policy

- **Deep dive policy** analyses to inform future actions and priorities
- Supporting the development of the **National Action Plan** for the EU Child Guarantee with over 20 governmental institutions and key stakeholders

Child and youth participation

- 1 three-day entrepreneurial workshop UPSHIFT held in Medjmurje County
 - **43 adolescents** from disadvantaged communities in **10 teams**, with **10 mentors**
 - **6 teams** selected for mentorship and implementation of ideas
 - **4 projects completed**



Integrated child protection and family support services

- **485 children and 585 parents** benefitted from the support programmes
- **7 cross-sectoral and inter-disciplinary teams** established and are functional
- Education and training for:
 - **55 educational and social welfare professionals** for implementation of parenting support programmes
 - **58 experts from social welfare centres** on multicultural perspective in social work and case management
 - **34 family outreach workers** on effective family interventions
 - **138 experts** on interdisciplinary cooperation



Integrated early childhood intervention services

- **813 children and 781 parents** directly reached by ECI/ECD teams, of which **294** received intensive support
- **1,069 children and 612 parents** reached indirectly
- **2,892 services/counselling** provided by ECD/ECI outreach team
- **49 health care and other professionals** completed a total of **186 online self-paced training modules**
- **29 preschool teachers** sensitized on early childhood detection and intervention
- **1 online course** on fundamentals of ECI made available on online platform
- **Action Plan for Early Childhood Intervention** in Medjmurje County developed



Quality and Inclusive pre-primary education

- **98 parents** supported
- **Over 300 of the most educationally-at-risk children** and their families have been supported in their readiness for kindergarten, preschool or primary school
- **3 Roma facilitators and 3 professional educators** continued to work with children in the 3 Play Hubs

Key challenges:

Support sustainable investments in the areas where the most vulnerable children live and areas with no service providers

Ensuring sustainability of the models developed through the testing phase of the Child Guarantee

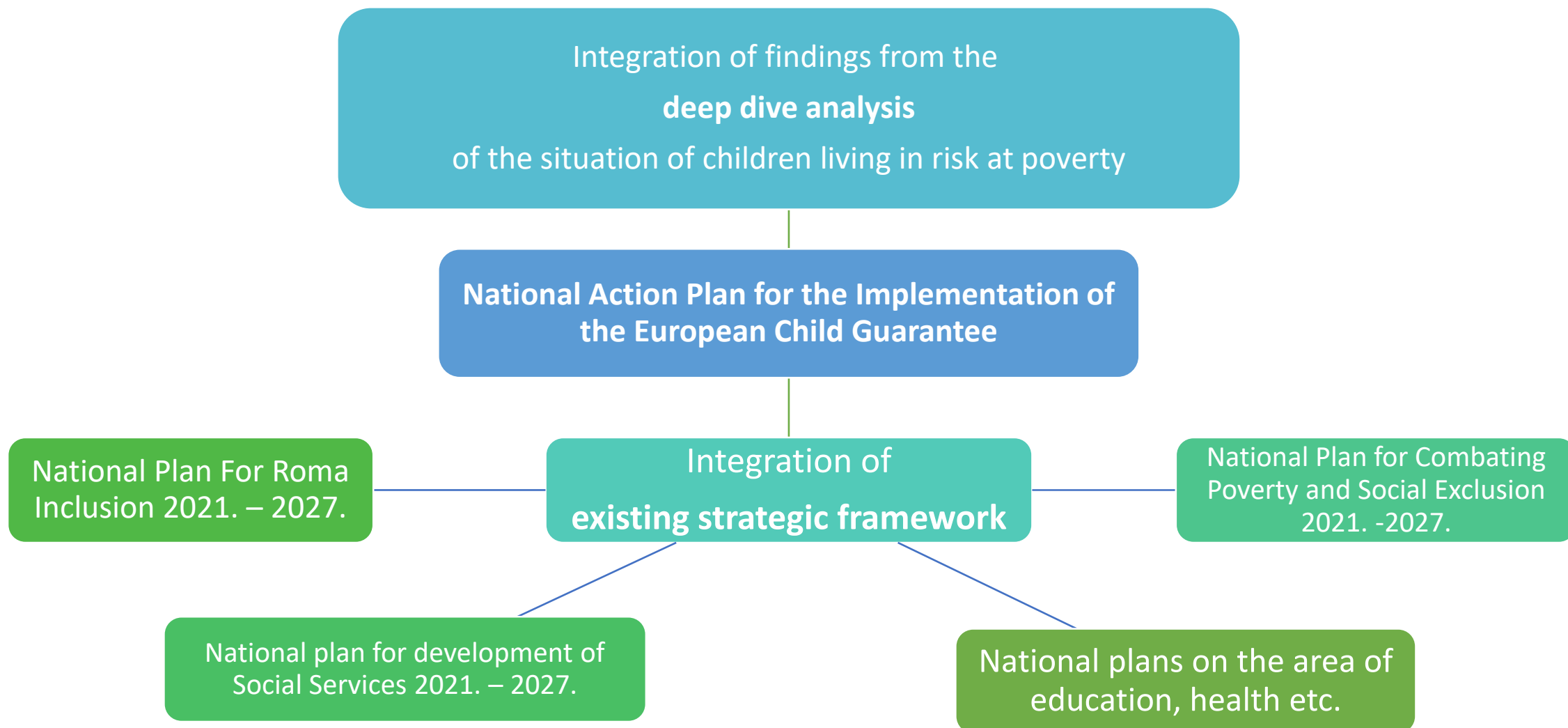
Improve and maintain effective and of high quality inter-sectoral cooperation in providing services to the most vulnerable children

Ensuring scalability of models and services in other counties with high number of children living poverty

Integrating findings from the deep dive analysis of the situation of children living in risk at poverty into the National Action Plan for the Implementation of the European Child Guarantee (NAPCG) in the Republic of Croatia

Ensure sufficient funding for the implementation of NAPCG and develop sound monitoring and evaluation system

INTEGRATED APPROACH ON A POLICY LEVEL



How can the Government and EU Child Guarantee supports DI reform?

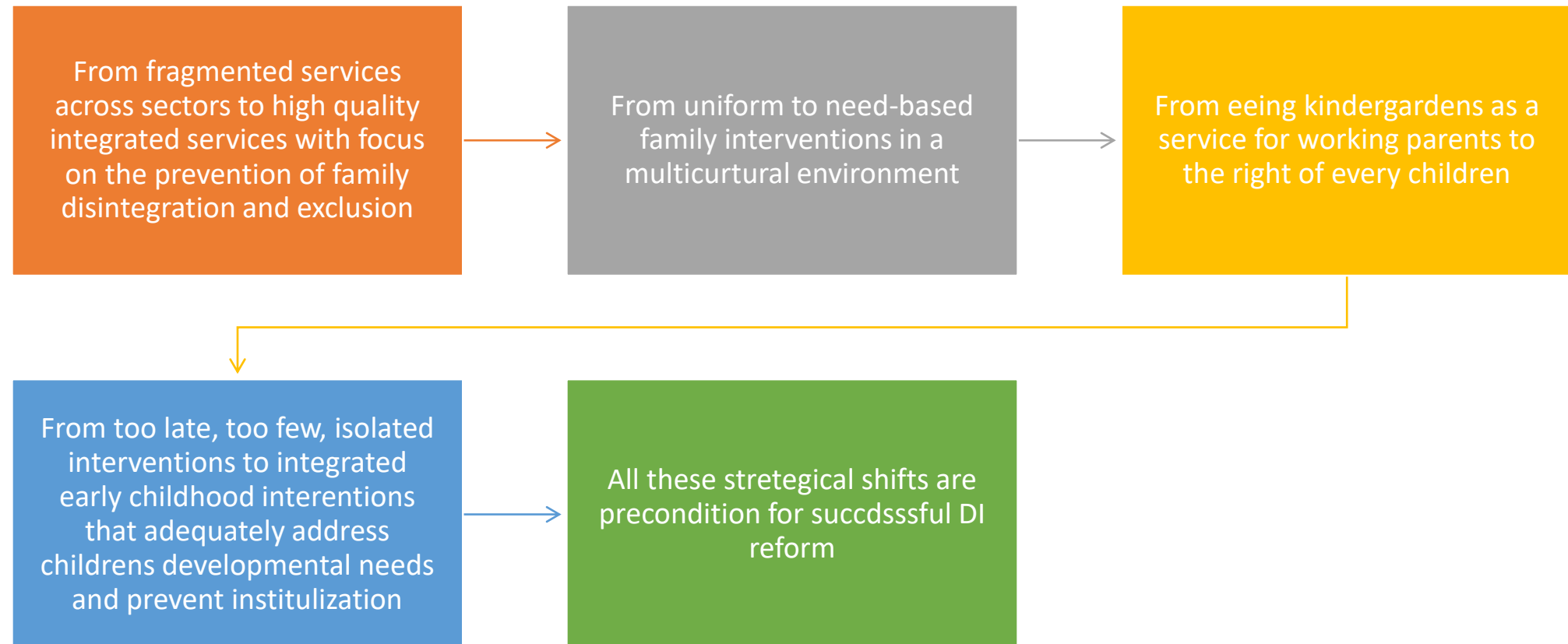
Support and insure access to timely, high quality and integrative services to the most deprived groups of children- the precondition for DI process

Access to community-based services

Development of comprehensive and integrated system: evidence based social planning and development of social services, effective case management, strengthening capacities of social service workforce, development of parenting programmes, framework for vertical and horizontal cooperation

Development of foster care and services for children leaving care

During the implementation of the program we accepted a strategic shift





More than 5300 children and 2000 parents were reached and capacities of more than 600 professionals from different sectors strengthened for delivering high-quality, needs-based and accessible family – and community – based services for children and families thus accelerating DI process

