



# Call for competitive tenders

## Provision of external expert services to gather evidence on integrated child support

**Budget:** €6,000

**Deadline for submissions:** Thursday 4 March 2024, 11:59 AM CET

**Selection criteria:** Best price-quality ratio

Contact:

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**Policy Assistant**

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## 1. About the European Social Network

The European Social Network (ESN) represents the voice of public social services as employers, managers, funders, planners, providers, and inspectors of social services in Europe. ESN inspires Social Services Leaders to Improve the Lives of People in the Community through the development and exchange of knowledge to improve policy and practice in public social services, including all support and community-based services fighting poverty, promoting social inclusion and autonomy, child protection, protection of people with disabilities, care and support for older people, homeless people, and people and families in disadvantaged socio-economic situations.

## 2. ESN's Seminar Protecting Children: Working in Partnership across Children's Services

With our seminar, we will look at needs and good practices in a multisectoral approach where public authorities, general and specialist child protection services and families work together to ensure safety and inclusion of vulnerable children in the community. For the purpose of the seminar, ESN will target as its primary objective the coordination across universal and specialist services and bridging national and European Initiatives, namely the European Child Guarantee and its National Action Plans, with the upcoming European Commission Recommendation on Integrated Child Protection Systems.

ESN has been actively involved in supporting knowledge exchange on children's well-being since 2008-2009 through working groups and seminars. We have outlined the importance of continuous needs assessment, family and community-based care, and joint work with education, health, police and justice as key factors for promoting better outcomes for vulnerable children and families.

- In 2009 ESN organized a [working group on children and families](#) to look at how family policies support vulnerable children.
- In 2014, ESN contributed to a peer review focused on evidence-based practice in the field of child protection and presented innovative practices from its members.
- In 2016, we assessed how key principles of the European Commission's Recommendation 'Investing in children: breaking the cycle of disadvantage' were implemented in practice, and we published a report on [Investing in Children's Services](#).
- In [our response to the European Commission's consultation on the Child Guarantee](#), we reiterated the key role of public social services in delivering most policy areas covered by the Child Guarantee.
- In the framework of the 2021 meeting of our Working Group on [the Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#), we presented data regarding the role of social services in SDG 16 on ending violence against children in a [policy briefing](#).
- In the same year, as part of our working group on 'integrated care and support', which ran from 2018 to 2021, we published a report on [Integrated Care and Support - Promoting Partnerships across Services, Improving Lives](#), where we analysed the integrated provision of support and social services for four population groups, amongst them children and families, with a focus on child protection.

In summary, the seminar will explore:



- How coordination between general and child protection services is being implemented across Europe, as well as integrated working within child protection services and between child protection professionals, is put in place by public agencies and social services.
- EU support for integrated child protection including through EU funds and the child guarantee, as well as policy guidance such as the upcoming EC Recommendation on Integrated Child Protection.
- Child protection requirements, integrated working of general services with child protection services, prevention policies and early identification systems in general services, workforce development in child protection services, and child participation.
- The outcomes of the meeting will be documented in a 10-12-page briefing that will reflect the findings of the questionnaire and discussions at the seminar, complemented by relevant research identified by the expert. It may include recommendations to service managers, such as checklists.

The seminar will serve as an opportunity to discuss the latest ESN findings on the abovementioned issues. It is planned to take place in Romania on **19 & 20 September 2024** (tbc). In the aftermath, ESN will publish a policy brief summarizing the findings.

### 3. Subject and tasks

ESN is seeking an expert to support our work in the framework of the seminar on Protecting Children: Working in Partnership across Children's Services.

The result of the activity will be the tenure of a seminar and the publication of a report, representing a review of new trends and the latest evidence of integrated child support and protection, presenting best practice examples from different European countries.

Tasks of the expert will consist of:

- Developing a **questionnaire** with the ESN Secretariat for ESN members based on expert knowledge of integrated services supporting children and integrated child protection.
- Writing an analysis of the **questionnaire responses identifying** key issues, knowledge gaps and practices on integrated child support and protection.
- Contributing to seminar programme.
- Contributing to the briefing by writing specific parts: analysis of answers to the questionnaire. ESN will provide feedback and guidance through a dedicated policy officer.

### 4. Deliverables

Deliverable	Due	Responsibility
Questionnaire	Mid-March	ESN, with support of Expert
Analysis of answers to the questionnaire and links with policy review	May	Expert
Support preparation of Seminar Programme + Attending event as expert	September	Expert
Support for final briefing	End October	Expert

All deliverables should be submitted in **English**. This is a proposal for deliverables, but the final list may be adjusted based on a conversation between the selected expert and ESN.

### 5. Duration

The deliverables should be carried out and completed between March and October 2024. We expect that the total amount of days devoted to the above tasks will be approximately **10** days. The expert will be providing support to ESN's Policy Department and working with a Policy Officer in the implementation of this project.

### 6. Required expertise

The external expert must be able to demonstrate the following in their application:

- Conducted research on EU child guarantee, child protection, child support, alternative care, integrated child support, and integrated child protection services programmes (Examples of research to be provided).
- Knowledge about social services in Europe, e.g. the work social services carry out with vulnerable groups of children, children in child protection.
- Ability to analyse questionnaires, data and practices from public authorities across Europe.

### 7. Remuneration

Experts should provide a quote for the work described above. The maximum proposed remuneration would be €6,000. Payment will be authorised after the delivery and approval of the relevant deliverables.

### 8. Applying

Applicants should provide the following information:

- 1) **CV**
- 2) **Cover letter describing how you meet the required expertise**
- 3) **Relevant samples of work**
- 4) **Quote**

This should be sent by **Monday, 4 March 2024, 11:59 AM** to ESN Policy Assistant Tea Ismailai, [policy@esn-eu.org](mailto:policy@esn-eu.org)

