Investing in Children's Services, Improving Outcomes

**Recommendations:**
- Reducing inequality at a young age by investing in early childhood education and care
- Improving education system’s impact on equal opportunities
- Improving the responsiveness of health systems to address the needs of disadvantaged children
- Providing children with a safe, adequate housing and living environment
- Enhancing family support and the quality of alternative care settings

ESN has been working with a number of agencies to map the implementation of children’s services in 16 European countries.

**Principles and findings:**

**Principle 1: Early childhood Education and Care**
The legal and policy framework, funding and financial incentives, provision’s variability, and inter-services and parental cooperation

**Principle 4: Access to housing**
Measures guaranteeing the access of families with children to housing and which forms of support for families with children at risk of eviction

**Principle 2: Education systems and equal opportunities**
The inclusiveness of education system, with a focus on children with disabilities, migrant and ethnic minorities and children from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds

**Principle 3: Responsiveness of health system**
Specific provisions for children with disabilities, children with mental health problems, unaccompanied children, pregnant teenagers and children from families with a history of substance abuse

**Principle 5: Risk assessment protocols**
Protocols to assess the risk to a child and which forms of support are implemented when risk has been detected.
Provisions guaranteeing that children are not placed in institutions and that children without parental care have access to services.
Specific mechanisms to listen to and record the voice of the child within the child protection system

Please visit our Policy area on 'Investing in Children’s Services, Improving Outcomes' for more information.

**Themes:**

- School attainment and socio-economic factors
- Inclusive education
- The development of alternative family care
- Expanding the role of children in child protection system
- The accessibility of early childhood education and care
- Decentralisation

Read the full report here