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Answer given by Mr McGrath
on behalf of the European Commission
(22.1.2025)

The Commission Recommendation[1] on integrated child protection systems is a key deliverable of the EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child and calls on Member States to develop data management methodologies to improve the availability and comparability of data related to child protection through research with the involvement of professionals, public authorities, civil society, families, care givers and children themselves[2] with the necessary procedural safeguards and data protection measures in place.

The Recommendation invites Member States to engage in research on violence against children and integrated child protection systems. For the available data to be child-specific, research should also include, in a safe manner, children's views.

Measures and evidence generated on models for child protection should comply with the principle of subsidiarity and Member States are encouraged to develop and implement plans to improve the quality of their data and to actively share good practices, through the work of the EU Network for Children's Rights.

Eurostat operates as the EU's statistical authority in the harmonisation of statistics in close cooperation with national statistical authorities. Eurostat collects data on social protection expenditure[3] for family/children benefits, where benefits cover, among others, shelter and board provided to children and families in a permanent basis such as nursing homes and foster families.

[1] https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:L_202401238
[2] In accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (EU) 2016/679 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation) (OJ L 119, 4.5.2016).
[3] https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/social-protection