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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Mînzatu
on behalf of the European Commission
(14.8.2025)

The Commission accords all importance to the rights and protection of vulnerable children. While the EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child promotes and protects the rights of all children, the European Child Guarantee aims to break the cycle of poverty by guaranteeing access to a set of key services for children in need, including homeless children, recommending that they should receive adequate accommodation. The Commission supports the implementation of the European Child Guarantee, including through EU funding.

Differences in statistical definitions of homelessness and the data collection approaches across Member States affect the quality and coverage of data. Currently available data do not systematically include children or hidden forms of homelessness.

However, one of the strands of the European Platform on Combatting Homelessness is to improve data and evidence on homelessness, supporting the design of integrated, long-term strategies. In this context, the Commission has supported multiple projects aiming to strengthen the availability and quality of data on homelessness¹, including among children. Developing a common operational definition and testing a uniform counting method is the aim of the European Homelessness Count project funded by the Commission². The Commission has also organised and supported mutual learning and capacity-building activities³ on data collection, design, and implementation of monitoring frameworks.

¹ https://employment-social-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies-and-activities/social-protection-social-inclusion/addressing-poverty-and-supporting-social-inclusion/homelessness/strengthen-evidence-homelessness_en.

² https://www.kuleuven.be/lucas/en/eu_homelessness_counts.

³ https://employment-social-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies-and-activities/social-protection-social-inclusion/addressing-poverty-and-supporting-social-inclusion/homelessness/mutual-learning-activities-platform_en.