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E-003998/2025

Answer given by Executive Vice-President Mînzatu
on behalf of the European Commission
(8.1.2026)

The European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) supports Member States with the implementation of the European Child Guarantee (ECG)¹. The Commission is sending directly to the Honourable Member an annexed table containing indicative amounts for measures programmed under Secondary Theme 06 related to investments addressing child poverty².

The ESF+ is implemented under shared management, and Member States are responsible for the selection of individual operations³. It is also the responsibility of national and regional authorities to publish lists of operations supported⁴.

As regards monitoring data on requests and payments for the ECG, the Common Monitoring Framework introduced in 2024, as set out in paragraph 12 of the ECG Recommendation, is a crucial tool for tracking progress and ensuring accountability in implementing the Child Guarantee. The data feeds into biennial national and Commission reports. The Framework was last updated in June 2025 by the Social Protection Committee to include new indicators on the gaps identified in the areas of access to education, healthcare and healthy nutrition⁵.

¹ Council Recommendation (EU) 2021/1004 of 14 June 2021 establishing a European Child Guarantee, OJ L 223, 22.6.2021, p. 14, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reco/2021/1004/oj>.

² These amounts are indicative as secondary themes reflect estimates planned by the Managing Authorities rather than actual budgeted amounts.

³ Article 73(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021 laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund Plus, the Cohesion Fund, the Just Transition Fund and the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund and financial rules for those and for the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, the Internal Security Fund and the Instrument for Financial Support for Border Management and Visa Policy, OJ L 231, 30.6.2021, pp. 159–706, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/1060/oj>.

⁴ <https://european-social-fund-plus.ec.europa.eu/en/in-your-country>.

⁵ https://employment-social-affairs.ec.europa.eu/news/eu-framework-monitoring-implementation-european-child-guarantee-has-been-updated-2025-06-02_en.