



**Eurochild**

Putting children at  
the heart of Europe

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# Lessons learnt from COVID19 – a European perspective

What it means for children & families across Europe? What it means for the children's sector? What it means for the EU? What can be done in the future?

**Jana Hainsworth, Secretary General, Eurochild**

# What it means for children & families?

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The pandemic and containment measures are having far-reaching consequences for children all over Europe.

- Poverty
- Digital divides
- Education inequalities
- Mental health
- Domestic abuse & violence

A deep – & possibly prolonged – economic recession will put enormous pressure on social welfare systems & public sector investment in health, education, family support..

Countries are not equally equipped to cope with these pressures

# What does it mean for the children's sector?

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“Necessity as the mother of all invention”

Examples everywhere of resilience, responsiveness & creativity

- new partnerships to meet technology gaps
- blossoming of community initiatives
- inspiring stories of child participation
- growth of online support services
- strengthened alliances to ensure gov't responses take account of children

# What does it mean for the EU?

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A coherent EU response has been hampered by competing & conflicting Member State interests

The EC's 'Recovery Package' is expected to be launched today

A reinforced EU budget

A focus on mitigating the social-economic impact of the pandemic & preventing unemployment

A Child Guarantee initiative is still on the agenda – likely to be launched early 2021, likely in the frame of the EU anti-poverty strategy & the EU strategy on the rights of the child

# What are opportunities for the future?

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## **COVID19 : “A learning moment”**

Interconnectedness – between sectors, between countries, between levels of government

Higher value placed on public sector professions

Accelerated change towards a low-carbon economy, more teleworking & online collaboration, possibly an opportunity for a better balance between work & family life

“Doing more with less” - scarcity requires greater resourcefulness & being more purposeful

COVID19 as the ‘great leveler’ : will Europe emerge from this crisis more equal?