



**Eurochild**

Putting children at  
the heart of Europe

# Why Every Child must have 'Equal Chances'

## The negative impact of the pandemic on the education of children in need

Dr Ally Dunhill

Head of Advocacy, Eurochild

# Education during the Pandemic– What Our Members Said...

Many children could not fully access online education due to:

- Lack of access to the internet or weak internet connections
- Inadequate or no access to educational equipment
- Poor quality support or learning and teaching activities not meeting children's educational needs
- Adults supporting home-schooling not having the skills to support either in the subject matter or from a technological perspective
- Concerns or experiences of mental health issues

# Education – What Children Said...

- “We worry about education.” Children are, “stressed and anxious.” Almost 1 in 10 children from the EU identifies as living with mental health problems or symptoms such as depression or anxiety
- Children stated that governments should “ensure that online education is accessible to all, especially for children from disadvantaged backgrounds.”
- And that “National Authorities should also ensure that children continue to receive the support that they used to receive when schools were open. For example, some children have gone hungry as a result of school closures.”
- Children will suffer a ‘learning loss’
- Further research - COVID-19 has not affected children equally, it will influence negatively both cognitive and non-cognitive skills acquisition, in the short and long-term



# All Children have a Right to Education

## European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) Protocol (1950)

- Article 2 “No person shall be denied the right to education”.

## UNCRC (1989)

- Article 28 “State Parties **recognise the right of children to education**” 28(2) **Governments are obliged to ensure access to education**
- Article 29 “the education of the child shall be directed to “The development of the child’s personality, talents and mental and physical abilities **to their fullest potential**”
- General Comment on Article 29 (2001) insists upon the need for **education to be child-centred, child-friendly and empowering**
- General Comment 25 (2021) **extends these rights to education to the digital environment, including the need for equitable investment in technological infrastructure**

## EU Charter of Fundamental Rights (2009)

- Article 14 - Right to education “Everyone has the right to education...”



Reinforced by - **EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child (2021)**, and the proposal for a **European Child Guarantee (2021)**



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