**Follow up to the European Parliament non-legislative** **resolution on reducing inequalities and promoting social inclusion in times of crisis for children and their families**

1. **Rapporteur:** Sandra PEREIRA (The Left / PT)
2. **Reference number:** 2023/2066 (INI) / A9-0360/2023 / P9\_TA(2023)0408
3. **Date of adoption of the resolution:** 21 November 2023
4. **Competent Parliamentary Committee:** Employment and Social Affairs
5. **Brief analysis and assessment of the resolution and requests made in it:**

This resolution addresses multiple aspects of inequalities and social exclusion, with specific emphasis on the situation of children and families. It stresses the higher incidence of poverty among children than adults, points to global social and economic volatility and risks generated by climate change as factors increasing the possibility of new crises, and states that child support and family policies do not always reflect and are not sufficiently adapted to family diversity and family living arrangements. The resolution points to poverty as an important risk marker for entry into alternative care and deplores the high number of children in residential alternative care institutions. The resolution also raises concerns as regards public health and preventive medicine, access to sexual and reproductive health and low vaccination rates. Referring to the EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child (COM/2021/142 final), the resolution points to instances of child or sexual violence, violence and bullying. Most of the requests made in the resolution are directed at the Member States. Several requests are directed at the Commission, most out of which also concern the Member States. There is one request directed at the Council, and one request directed at the EU budgetary authorities.

1. **Response to the requests in the resolution and overview of the action taken, or intended to be taken, by the Commission:**

Regarding **paragraph 1** of the resolution, which calls for a **significant increase of public investment in policies that have a direct and indirect impact on children**, the Commission shares the European Parliament’s concerns about high levels of child poverty in the EU. The Commission recalls that there is a strong commitment and legal basis in place for the Member States to tackle child poverty via the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+), notably via the thematic concentration requirement on addressing child poverty. This specific instrument is set at 5% of the national envelopes for those Member States with an above EU average child at risk of poverty or social exclusion (AROPE) rate for the years 2017-2019, and an appropriate amount for all other Member States. The Commission stresses that encouraging synergies is part of ESF+ implementation (Article 7.1 of the [ESF+ Regulation](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32021R1057) provides that: “Member States and, where appropriate, the Commission shall foster synergies and ensure coordination, complementarity and coherence between the ESF+ and other Union funds, programmes and instruments.”). This funding is in the process of being implemented by the Member States. In addition, other Union funds available to Member States within and beyond EU cohesion policy funding can further contribute to addressing child poverty and exclusion.

Regarding **paragraph 2**, which calls for bolstering **mechanisms for ensuring the meaningful, safe and inclusive participation of children, families, carers and civil society organisations,** the Commission has set up an [EU Children’s Participation Platform](https://eu-for-children.europa.eu/). In the EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child, the Commission also called on EU Member States to develop national strategies on the rights of the child and invited the Member States to support all actions recommended in this strategy through appropriate financial resources, including EU funding. The new EU Network for Children’s Rights reinforces the dialogue and mutual learning between the EU, Member States, international and civil society organisations on children’s rights, and supports the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of this Strategy. The ‘Defence of Democracy’ package includes a recommendation on promoting the engagement and effective participation of citizens and civil society organisations in public policy-making processes, which among others promote children’s and young people’s meaningful, inclusive and safe participation without discrimination of any kind. In line with the recommendation, Member States should undertake specific efforts to strengthen the participation of children and young people in political and democratic life at local, regional and national level including in rural and remote areas.

Regarding **paragraph 4**, which calls for **creation of quality jobs** and **improving attractiveness of professions in the care and social sector**, the 2022 European Care Strategy (COM/2022/440 final) and the Council Recommendation on access to high-quality long-term care (LTC) (2022/C 476/01) focus on improving working conditions and wages for care workers. In the latter document, the Member States are recommended to support quality employment and fair working conditions in long-term care. They are also invited to improve professionalisation and address skills and worker shortages, in collaboration with social partners. The European Care Strategy sets EU level actions for care workforce, which include (i) Creation of new EU Sectoral Social Dialogue Committee on social services, which will cover also LTC (the first meeting took place on 12 December 2023); (ii) [a Skills partnership for the long term-care sector under the Pact for Skills](https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&furtherNews=yes&newsId=10558), launched in April 2023. It aims to contribute to and enable the training of at least 60% of LTC professionals every year, paid for or provided by their employer, including on areas related to digitalisation and person-centred care by 2030; (iii) a Policy brief on skills intelligence on current and future skills needs and trends in the EU, produced by the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (CEDEFOP) in September 2023; and (iv) increasing evidence on LTC workforce through: a thematic study on the review of the application of EU standards on working conditions, an analysis of occupational safety and health issues in the health and LTC sector carried out by the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA), a study that looks at attracting LTC workers from third-countries.

Regarding **paragraph 7**, which calls for increase in the **funding for European Child Guarantee,** **with a dedicated budget of at least EUR 20 billion for the period 2021-****2027**, the Commission considers that the Member States now need to focus on implementing existing EU funding resources (ESF+, European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), Technical Support Instrument, Recovery and Resilience Facility and others) and also mobilise national resources to address child poverty and exclusion. It needs to be noted that EU funding cannot replace the national public funding, while it may serve as an important trigger for reforms. Regarding **the call in the same paragraph** for **involvement of civil society and relevant stakeholders in planning, implementation and evaluation of the use of EU Funds**, partnership is intrinsic to the ESF + and other funds operating under shared management. The Common Provision Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 has set up a partnership principle stating that Member States must implement “comprehensive partnerships” to ensure the implementation of the funds. Civil societies organisations are key potential partners for ESF+. Since 2020 the Commission has been carrying out a range of pilot projects to inspire authorities in Member States and citizens and civil society organisations to cooperate more intensely throughout the implementation cycle. The Council Recommendation (EU) 2021/1004 of 14 June 2021 establishing a European Child Guarantee calls upon the Member States (paragraph 11(e)) to ensure the participation of relevant stakeholders representing civil society, non-governmental organisations, educational establishments and bodies responsible for promoting social inclusion and integration, children’s rights, inclusive education and non-discrimination, including national equality bodies throughout the preparation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the action plan – which includes evaluation of how the funds earmarked for implementation of the European Child Guarantee have been used.

Regarding **paragraph 9**, which describes **EU Funds as complex to manage**, the Commission recalls that the Member States have a range of possibilities to use technical assistance under the Common Provisions Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2021/1060) which governs EU Funds including ERDF, ESF+, Just Transition Fund and Cohesion Fund. The Commission is implementing central technical assistance within the budget granted by the EU legislators. In order to address the complexity of EU funding and to facilitate incentives for the implementation of operations that help reduce the number of people at risk of poverty or social inclusion, the Commission has introduced a Delegated Act (EU)2023/1676 on simplified cost options and financing-not-linked-to-cost for operations offering in-home and community-based care services as well as for operations providing residential and non-residential services for victims of domestic violence and people experiencing short-term or long-term homelessness. Although they do not specifically target children, they support reducing child poverty by addressing factors of social exclusion and poverty affecting children.

Regarding **paragraph 14**, which calls for **promotion of family-centred childhood policies and intervention**, the [upcoming Commission recommendation on integrated child protection systems](https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/13884-Child-protection-integrating-systems_en) aims to address preventing family separation and highlight a rule that poverty should never be the only reason for placing children in care. Each child has the right to an adequate standard of living, and to equal opportunities, from the earliest stage of life. Focused on children’s needs, the upcoming Recommendation would encourage all relevant authorities and services to better work together in a holistic way, from prevention of abuse and violence to protection from any form of violence. It would present how to better use existing EU tools (legislation, policies and funding) to make child protection systems more integrated and robust, by avoiding silos. Furthermore, in line with the EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child, the Commission supports Member States to better protect the rights of children in contact with the civil justice system and ensure their better access to justice, through EU laws, funding, including to support the implementation of the Council of Europe’s standards, or technical assistance.

Regarding **paragraph 15**, which calls for **drawing up an integrated EU anti-poverty strategy**, the [European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan](https://op.europa.eu/webpub/empl/european-pillar-of-social-rights/en/) includes among its targets for 2030 the target to reduce the number of persons at risk of poverty or social exclusion by at least 15 million compared to the 2019 levels, at least 5 million of whom should be children. All Member States have set their national poverty reduction targets, the sum of which exceeds the EU-level target. In addition, 21 Member States have set complementary national targets on child poverty reduction. The Commission is supporting the Member States in their efforts to deliver on those targets. To this end the Council Recommendation on adequate minimum income ensuring active inclusion (2023/C 41/01), adopted in January 2023, is particularly instrumental.

Regarding **paragraph 16**, which calls for recommending, as part of European Semester, **reforms to promote social inclusion and reduction of inequalities**, the Commission identified in the [Annual Sustainable Growth Survey 2024](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52023DC0901) a persisting need for adequate and sustainable social protection and inclusion policies. The 2024 European Semester country reports will include an evaluation of progress made towards the European Pillar of Social Rights including the 2030 targets on employment, skills, education and poverty reduction, while the 2024 country-specific recommendations will focus on a limited selection of challenges. As mandated by the European Child Guarantee recommendation, Commission monitors progress in implementing child guarantee, including its outcomes and the impact on children in need, also as part of the Social Scoreboard in the context of the European Semester. Paragraph 12(a) of the European Child Guarantee recommendation welcomes Commission’s intention to propose to Member States appropriate country-specific recommendations on combatting poverty and social exclusion among children.

Regarding **paragraph 23**, which calls for **combatting school segregation and advancing inclusive education**, the Commission recalls that the first priority of the European Education Area (EEA) strategic framework for cooperation in education and training is to improve quality, equity, inclusion and success for all in education and training. The [2022 EEA progress report](https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/eb9b7e17-66f5-11ed-b14f-01aa75ed71a1/language-en) identified equity as one of the long-lasting common challenges of education and training policies across the Member States, linked to the limited ability of most European educational systems to dissociate socio-economic background from educational performance. The [2022 Education and Training Monitor](https://op.europa.eu/webpub/eac/education-and-training-monitor-2022/en/) introduced a new indicator on equity and inclusion and highlighted that inclusive education presupposes an assessment of the disadvantage, prejudice or discrimination experienced by specific population groups. The Council recommendation on Pathways to School Success (2022/C 469/01) specifically aims to support Member States in developing or enhancing comprehensive evidence-based strategies for school success, which “promote active anti-segregation policies, in particular by adopting admission rules that allow for a heterogeneous school composition and policies focused on the quality of learning, and raise awareness of the benefits of diversity in the classroom for enhancing educational outcomes for all learners”. At systemic level, the recommendation calls for supporting the inclusion of learners with disabilities and/or special educational needs in mainstream schools, with effective support provided by trained educators and other educational staff/counsellors, or health professionals. This should be accompanied by the removal of physical obstacles in the school environment, the provision of appropriate learning materials, and the use of diversified and individualised teaching and learning approaches. The EEA strategic cooperation Working Group on Equality and Values, the Working Group Schools and the European Agency for Special Needs and Inclusive Education concentrate their work on the need for more flexible systems of funding and support to learners, to better address a variety of needs, including for learners with disabilities. The recent [EEA midterm review process report](https://education.ec.europa.eu/document/european-education-area-midterm-review-process-report) published in November 2023 summarises the key policy messages from EU Member States, the EU institutions and the wider education and training community on the actions and steps that need to be taken in the coming years. Boosting equity and inclusion is a major challenge and a high priority for action.

Regarding **paragraph 25**, which calls for **production and stockpiling of important paediatric primary care medicines**, the Commission will continue its efforts on addressing critical shortages of medicines, as described in the [Communication on Addressing Medicine Shortages](https://commission.europa.eu/system/files/2023-10/Communication_medicines_shortages_EN_0.pdf). This work includes specific paediatric formulations in case they are identified by the European Medicines Agency (EMA) as being at risk of critical shortages. To help Member States with ensuring production of such products in the long run, the Commission intends to set up a “Critical Medicines Alliance” by early 2024. This would allow national authorities, industry, civil society representatives, the Commission and EU agencies to come together to develop coordinated action at the EU level against the shortages of medicines, in compliance with the competition rules and EU’s international commitments. To support Member States with stockpiling and facilitating the implementation of the Communication on addressing medicine shortages in the EU, the Commission will develop with Member States a common strategic approach on stockpiling. In addition, the Commission intends to launch a joint action in 2024 under the [EU4Health programme](https://health.ec.europa.eu/funding/eu4health-programme-2021-2027-vision-healthier-european-union_en) (through direct grants to Member States) with the aim of enabling Member States to continue developing sustainable, forward-looking national and EU stockpiling strategies.

Regarding **paragraph 29**, which questions **the extent to which the Commission’s mental health strategy and national action plans take into account psychological struggles emerging from poverty and social exclusion**, the Commission adopted the Communication on a comprehensive approach to mental health on 7 June 2023, after extensive consultation with Member States, stakeholders and citizens. It identifies 20 flagship initiatives and EUR 1.23 billion of opportunities for financial support from several EU funding instruments. As with all EU health policymaking, the Communication focuses on reaching out and involving vulnerable groups, such as children and young people and those who are socially excluded. In the preparation of the Communication, specific contributions on the mental health of children and young people were collected. In the Communication, four flagship initiatives have been identified in chapter on ‘Boosting mental health of children and young people’: (i) setting up a child and youth mental health network; (ii) developing a prevention toolkit, addressing key health determinants; (iii) developing tools, e.g. on healthy lifestyle and mental health resilience; and (iv) better protection for children in the digital sphere, online and on social media. Over the next years, the Commission will closely work with the Member States to implement these actions to better protect children and young people. A Member-State led drafting group to develop ‘EU guidance on stigma and discrimination’ has met for the first time on 29 November 2023.

Regarding **paragraph 30**, which calls for **protection of children’s mental health from overexposure to and overconsumption of online content**, the Commission has launched several major initiatives to foster technologies for the benefit of mental health, on one hand, and to preventing risks of harmful effects in the digital world, on the other hand. This is well reflected in the Communication on comprehensive approach to mental health (COM/2023/298 final) adopted last June. In addition, the Digital Services Act (Regulation (EU) 2022/2065) is a powerful tool to tackle mental health risks online. It obliges designated very large online platforms (i.e. those with more than 45 million users in the EU), to assess the systemic risks their services pose on mental wellbeing. They also have to put in place measures to mitigate against such risks, for example by adapting their recommender systems. In addition, under the European strategy for a better internet for kids (BIK+) (COM/2022/212 final), the co-funded network of Safer Internet Centres and the BIK portal provide resources and support to children, their carers and educators for a balanced use of digital technologies. Furthermore, the Fitness Check of consumer law on digital fairness, that will conclude in 2024, is examining, among other issues, the effectiveness of current EU consumer protection legislation in tackling the issue of addictive use of digital services.

Regarding **paragraph 32**, which calls for **speeding up Commission’s proposal for a framework for social services of excellence for persons with disabilities**, the Commission is committed to presenting it in 2024. The framework will cover specialised services for persons with disabilities as well as mainstream social services, in a view to discourage any segregated approach in service provision and to promote access to quality services which must be available in the local community, to support independent living and social inclusion.

Regarding **paragraph 33**, the Commission takes note of the Parliament’s call for **mainstreaming family-centred early childhood intervention in all relevant policy areas.** Regarding the call in the **same paragraph** for **consulting persons with disabilities and their representative organisations**, the Commission supports a meaningful consultation of persons with disabilities and of organisations representing their rights in policy-making. It sets the example by actively involving the Disability Platform and civil society more broadly in the preparation of its initiatives in areas relevant to disability, and encourages Member States to do the same, including through their national disability strategies.

Regarding **paragraph 35**, which calls for making the widest possible use of the **European Child Guarantee as a tool to facilitate social integration and inclusion of children** and **strengthening child protection systems** and to **scale up investment and strengthen child protection systems and social welfare services**, the Commission is working closely with the national Child Guarantee Coordinators to ensure full and comprehensive implementation of the European Child Guarantee recommendation. Moreover, as announced in the EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child, and in the [2024 Commission Work Programme](https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-documents/commission-work-programme/commission-work-programme-2024_en), in the first quarter of 2024 the Commission will issue a recommendation on developing and strengthening more integrated child protection systems. Besides making the child protection systems more focused on children’s needs, it will encourage inter-sectorial coordinated approach to child support. Each child has the right to an adequate standard of living, and to equal opportunities, from the earliest stage of life. This is recalled in the EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child, in line with Articles 24 and 33 of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights. As stipulated by the EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child, the Commission supports upholding children's rights as an EU priority across policies. The Commission is encouraging the Member States to develop national strategies on the rights of children and to support all actions recommended in the Strategy through appropriate financial resources, including EU funding. The EU Network for Children’s Rights reinforces the dialogue and mutual learning between the EU, Member States, international and civil society organisations on children’s rights, and supports the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Strategy.

Regarding **paragraph 37**, which calls for **proposing framework directive on minimum income**, the Commission considers that a Council Recommendation is an adequate legal instrument in this case, in accordance with the applicable legal base. It enables Member States to set ambitious goals with regard to defining and organising their social protection systems while at the same time respecting the principle of subsidiarity and national competences. The Council Recommendation of 30 January 2023 on adequate minimum income ensuring active inclusion (2023/C 41/01) offers guidance to Member States on how to ensure that their minimum income schemes are effective in fighting poverty and promoting active inclusion in society and labour markets. Member States are recommended to: (i) Improve the adequacy of income support by 2030; (ii) improve the coverage and take-up of minimum income; (iii) improve access to inclusive labour markets; (iv) improve access to enabling and essential services, and (v) promote individualised support.

Regarding **paragraph 38**, which calls for EU actions to **meet the housing needs of all EU citizens**, the ERDF can support investments in infrastructure, equipment, and access to mainstream, non-segregated and accessible services in education, employment, housing, health- and social-care. In the 2021-2027 programmes, several Member State have programmed direct investments in social housing in the scope of social inclusion, amounting to approximately EUR 1 billion. In addition, several other investments – related to transport, energy efficiency, climate or environment – are also expected to have a positive impact on housing. For example, the support to energy efficiency in housing amounts to approximately EUR 6,2 billion. It is important that investments focus on measures which help reduce and/or eliminate the physical isolation.

Regarding **paragraph 41**, which calls for **raising public awareness in order to put an end to the stigmatisation, stereotyping and social exclusion of children and families in vulnerable situations**, paragraph 6 (f) of the European Child Guarantee Recommendation guides Member States to avoid and tackle discrimination and stigmatisation of children in need, while its paragraph 11 (d) stresses the importance of raising awareness and encouraging and facilitating the take-up of the services covered by the Guarantee. With Commission support, the national Child Guarantee Coordinators and are sharing good practices on how to best deliver on the above recommendations.

Regarding **paragraph 42**, which calls for **unique challenges faced by Roma children**, the EU Roma Strategic Framework for equality, inclusion and participation (COM(2020) 620 final) sets as target for 2030 to cut by at least half the poverty gap between Roma and the general population, both across all age groups and among children. It also invites Member States to implement measures to ensure the socio-economic inclusion of marginalised Roma, in particular in the areas of education, employment, health and housing. In January 2023, the Commission published a stock-taking of national Roma strategic frameworks, assessed the commitments made by the Member States and provided guidance for improvements needed (COM/2023/7 final). In its Communication, the Commission concluded that more effort was needed to tackle segregation in education and called on the Member States to step up their efforts to prevent and eradicate school and spatial segregation of Roma children, and to address the issue of misdiagnosis leading to the incorrect placement of Roma children in special needs education. The Commission also encouraged Member States to proactively identify and remove the obstacles that prevent Roma children from attending early childhood education and care and from receiving good quality education at all levels in non-segregated settings. It also made a strong call on Member States to fully use EU funding (ESF+, ERDF, InvestEU and the Recovery and Resilience Facility) to help improve the living conditions and development prospects of marginalised Roma communities and of Roma living in low-income households at risk of poverty and social exclusion. On 19 April 2023, the Commission decided to refer Slovakia to the Court of Justice of the European Union for failing to effectively tackle the issue of segregation of Roma children in education.

Regarding **paragraph 46**, which calls for **active combatting of child trafficking and any form of exploitation**, the Commission annually collects data from the Member States, which indicate that almost one in four victims of trafficking in human beings registered within the EU is a child, and that most registered child victims are trafficked for sexual exploitation, but also for forced begging, criminality, labour and other forms of exploitation. Children are at particular risk of falling victim to traffickers online. The Commission and the Member States are taking actions to combat trafficking of children for all forms of exploitation. Directive 2011/36/EU on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims takes a child-specific approach and includes specific provisions addressing child victims. Under the directive, children are always considered vulnerable, what results with higher penalties for the traffickers. Moreover, in case of children, not all constitutive elements of a trafficking offence must be fulfilled to qualify it trafficking. The directive contains detailed provisions on the assistance and support to child victims, as well as their protection in criminal proceedings, including specific provisions on unaccompanied children. The 2021 Commission Communication on the EU Strategy on Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings 2021-2025 (COM/2021/171 final) takes a comprehensive approach, from prevention to conviction of criminals while emphasising the protection of victims at all stages, taking into account in particular child victims. As one of the key actions of the EU Strategy, the Commission carried out an evaluation of the Anti-trafficking Directive, and proposed targeted amendments. The Commission’s proposal includes the addition of forced marriage and illegal adoption among the forms of exploitation criminalised under the directive, with the aim to enhance the criminal justice response to those phenomena, which are growing concerns.

Operational actions addressing child trafficking are conducted by the Member States with the support of the EU Agencies within the framework of the European Multidisciplinary Platform Against Criminal Threats (EMPACT), which aim at detecting criminal networks and identify potential victims. For instance, a global operation against trafficking in human beings was conducted in May 2023 with the support of the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol) and the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex), aiming at detecting and disrupting organised crime groups involved in child trafficking, among others. The vulnerability of children to trafficking in human beings is addressed from the funding angle, with specific actions to combat child trafficking under the Internal Security Fund and for the assistance, support and early integration of non-EU child victims of trafficking under the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund. The EU is also addressing the special protection needs of children, including children in migration, who are victims of trafficking in its thematic and geographical funding and partnerships with non-EU countries of origin and transit of victims of trafficking in human beings. A Common Anti-Trafficking Plan to address the risks of trafficking in human beings and support potential victims among those fleeing the war in Ukraine was developed and has been implemented under the lead of the EU Anti-Trafficking Coordinator, in cooperation with the Member States, the EU agencies, civil society organisations and Ukraine and Moldova. The plan takes a child-rights based approach to address the particular vulnerability of children, including unaccompanied and separated children.

Regarding **paragraph 50**, which calls for **developing guidelines to support the participation of children in the policy-making process,** the Commission has set up an [EU Children’s Participation Platform](https://eu-for-children.europa.eu/). The Platform is working towards a more systemic, coherent, meaningful, inclusive and safe approach to child participation, and involves children in the EU decision-making process. This hub brings together existing child participation mechanisms from 20 countries, after a year of implementation in partnership with the European Parliament, civil society and children themselves.

Regarding **paragraph 51**, which emphasises **the right to play and recreational activity as a structural element of children’s overall development**, the Commission points that the Council recommendation on Pathways to School Success considers pupils’ well-being as a prerequisite to and an inherent element of academic success. The prevention and intervention measures of the policy framework for school success call on the inclusion of social and emotional education, bullying prevention and mental and physical health in curricula, from early childhood education and care to upper-secondary education and training. To further advance on this issue, the Commission launched in March 2023 an expert group to develop proposals on strategies for creating supportive learning environments for groups at risk of underachievement and for supporting well-being at school. The expert group pays specific attention to the issues of well-being and enhancing mental health, and to preventing bullying and violence at school. It will develop policy recommendations as well as proposals for effective up-take of successful practices in schools and recommendations for awareness raising activities at EU and national level. Its work is planned until June 2024, with the aim of assisting the Commission in developing evidence-based policies on well-being at schools.