

International Congress on the Fight against Child Poverty

taking place on 29 April 2021 in Nuremberg and online



The Fight against Child Poverty – The Congress of the Family Benefits Directorate of the Federal Employment Agency with the participation of the European Social Insurance Platform will take place on 29 April 2021 in Nuremberg and online.

Apart from the establishment of a single market, the objectives of the European Union include combating social exclusion and discrimination and promoting social justice and protection (Article 3 Paragraph 3 of the TEU). In 2017, the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union and the European Commission therefore proclaimed the European Pillar of Social Rights at the Gothenburg Summit.

Nevertheless, combating child poverty in Europe remains a major challenge. For example, in 2019, 22.5% of all children under 18 years of age in the EU-27 were at risk of poverty and social exclusion¹. Consequently, Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission, stated in her political guidelines: It is our collective shame that almost 25 million children under the age of 18 are at risk of poverty or social exclusion. Children living in poverty are more likely to become adults living in poverty. We need to break this dangerous cycle. We must do better.

At a European level, in addition to the discussions on a European minimum income, the European Pillar of Social Rights and the planned Child Guarantee are pioneering instruments. The Commission plans to present an ambitious action plan in 2021 to fully implement the European Pillar of Social Rights and ensure that no one is left behind when Europe's economy recovers. The Commission also intends to propose a new European Child Guarantee to ensure access to basic services such as health care and education for all children.

The COVID-19 pandemic poses new challenges for the whole world and hits the weakest members of society especially hard. The Member States of the European Union have responded by taking various national measures to mitigate the consequences of the pandemic. Against this background in particular, it has become even more important to take decisive joint action against child poverty.

The Congress is intended to shed light on the current state of research and prevention on child poverty throughout Europe and provide inspiration for future approaches to combating child poverty – also through an exchange with exciting good-practice projects.

Further information and registration on www.familienkasse-eu-congress.de

¹cf. Eurostat, Children at risk of Poverty or Social Exclusion:

https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Children_at_risk_of_poverty_or_social_exclusion

The following speakers will contribute to the congress:

Michael Klundt	University of Applied Sciences Magdeburg-Stendal Faculty of Applied Human Sciences, Germany	(Child-)Poverty and Corona- Crisis : Causes and Consequences
Nicolas Rennuy	University of York (York Law School), UK	Free movement and child poverty
Wim van Lancker	Centre for Sociological Research, University of Leuven, Belgium	The changing nature of family policy in the EU: What role for child benefits?
Kerstin Bruckmeier	Institute for Employment Research The Research Institute of the Federal Employment Agency, Germany	The role of social benefits in reducing child poverty
Valeria Setti	Commission coordinator for the rights of the child, EC	Children´s Rights
Jiří Švarc	Head of Unit Social investment Strategy at DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, EC	Fighting poverty and social exclusion and Child Guarantee
Alexia Karapatsia	Network for Children´s Rights, Greece	Centre for the child
Heinz Hilgers	German Child Protection Association, Germany	Child poverty cannot be fought with pedagogy alone: a basic child security
Olivier Corbobesse	Representation of the French Social Institutions to the EU in Brussels (REIF), France	The fight against the non-take up of benefits
Simone Feldmann	City of Monheim am Rhein, Germany	Mo.Ki - Monheim für Kinder, a regional prevention approach