

# Child Guarantee Greece

*The experience of piloting Child Guarantee in Greece and the way forward*  
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*CPsubWG, 08/06/2023*



# Child Guarantee

Breaking the cycle of child poverty and social exclusion



# Situation Overview

- Children (younger than 18 years old) at risk of poverty or social exclusion in Greece: 491,000 (28.1%) (ELSTAT, 2022)
- Families with dependent children at risk of poverty or social exclusion: 28.4% (ELSTAT, 2022)
- Single headed families with dependent children at risk of poverty or social exclusion: 48.2% (ELSTAT, 2022)
- Families with two adults with 3 or more dependent children at risk of poverty or social exclusion: 35.1% (ELSTAT, 2022)
- 1,377 children living in institutions



# The Main Results of Phase III of the European Child Guarantee

- **Support governments** in developing European Child Guarantee National Action Plans to address child poverty and social exclusion based on a comprehensive policy and programme deep dive analysis.
- **Pilot and assess innovative and evidenced-based models** of services and interventions focused on some of the most disadvantaged children
- **Develop concrete strategies** to reach the most vulnerable children.
- **Inform the implementation of the EU-wide Child Guarantee** through recommendations and lessons learnt from all the different activities in the pilot of Phase III.



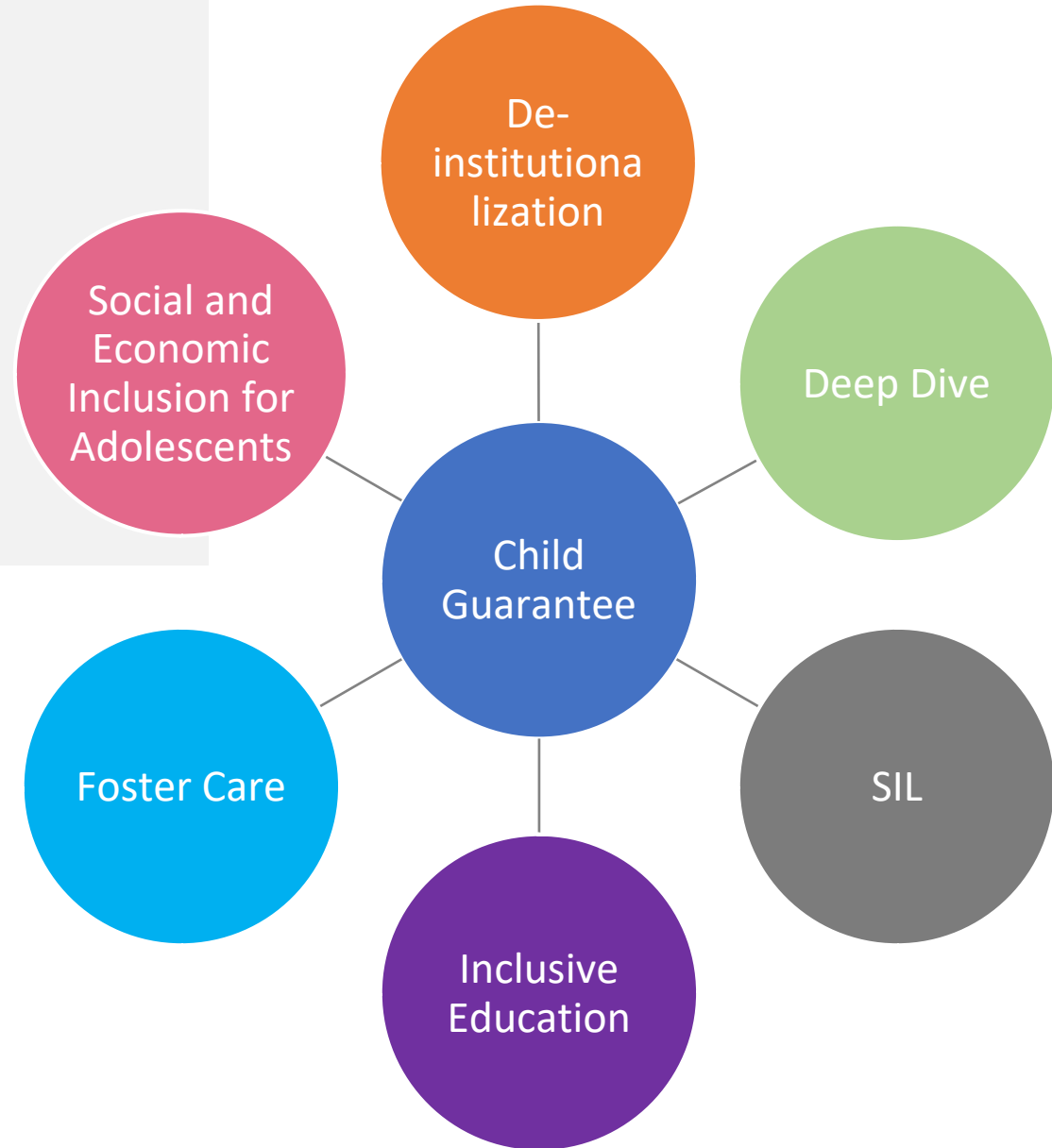
Supporting the achievement of the goal set in the National Action Plan of the European Child Guarantee

**"zero children living in institutional care by 2030"**

The activities of Pilot Child Guarantee program in **Greece** are in line with the state priorities and are focused on deinstitutionalization through:

- **strengthening social services** for the **prevention** of child abuse and institutionalization and
- the promotion and **implementation of alternative models of care** (foster care, professional foster care and semi-independent living)

Result areas





# Deinstitutionalisation



Support national authorities to:

- develop a clear national DI strategy
- support the local authorities in the region of Attica to facilitate DI and
- identify alternative care options for vulnerable children.

Strengthening a gatekeeping system and the capacity of the social workforce are key elements of this approach.



# Foster care

Support national authorities to:

- strengthen the national Foster Care System by supporting registered foster families in all stages of foster care
- establish professional foster care
- establish a foster care allowance

Foster care support programs piloted in the Region of Attica with a view to scale them up nationally.

Launch of the first ever national [campaign](#) on foster care in May 2021.







# Supported Independent Living

Supported Independent Living (SIL) is integrated as a standard alternative care modality of the national child protection system. This includes:

- an evaluation of the SIL model as it was developed and implemented for Unaccompanied Children,
- supporting the development of the legal framework allowing integration in the national regulatory framework
- piloting SIL in the selected region.





# Integrated Skills Development



- Access to skills development and opportunities for social and economic inclusion of young people - to support adolescents and young people in challenging living conditions, to benefit from:
  - better employment
  - entrepreneurship opportunities and become engaged members of civil society.



# Inclusive Education

Schools become more inclusive, ensuring quality education for all children, including those with disabilities in families or in institutional care, migrant and Roma children. By:

- a teacher capacity building programme
- piloting the intervention in 30 schools in Attica region
- National sensitization campaign on the power and benefits of inclusive education.



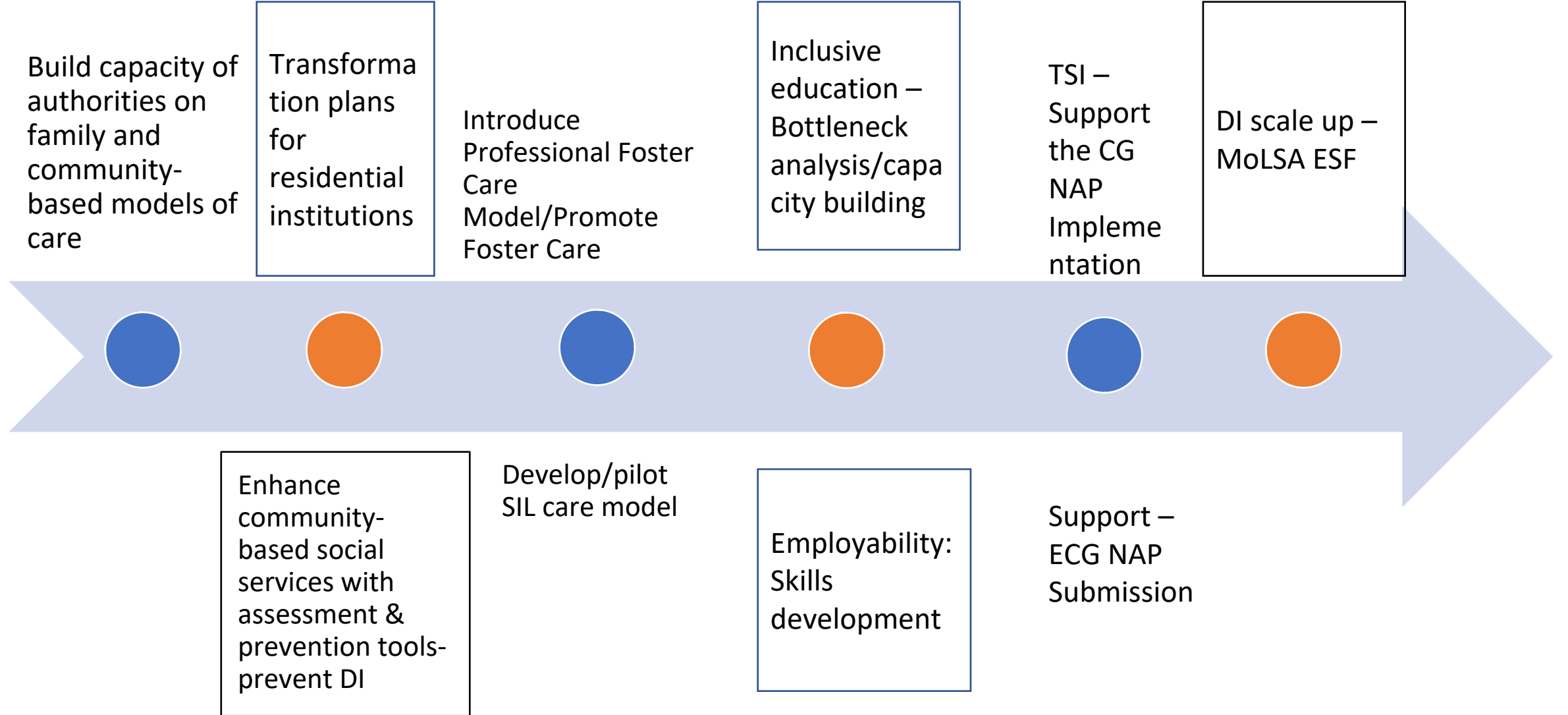


# Deep Dives Analysis

1. Deep dive analysis focusing on children's access to healthcare, education, affordable early childhood education and care, decent housing and adequate nutrition.
2. Deep dives Analysis improved our understanding of the enabling environment relevant to the reduction of child poverty and social exclusion as well as determine the success of specific interventions, reforms and policies at the national and subnational level.



# Milestones

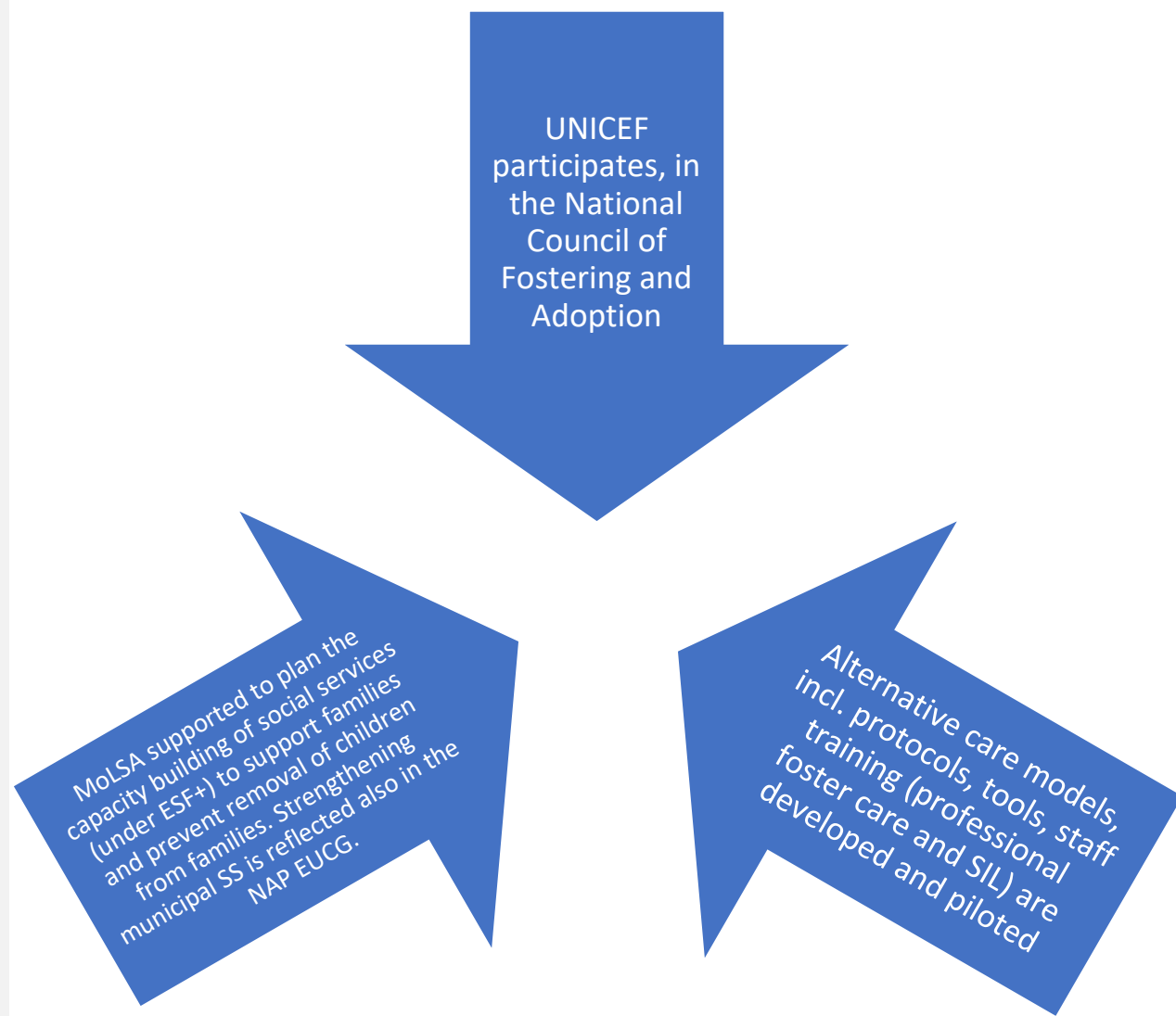




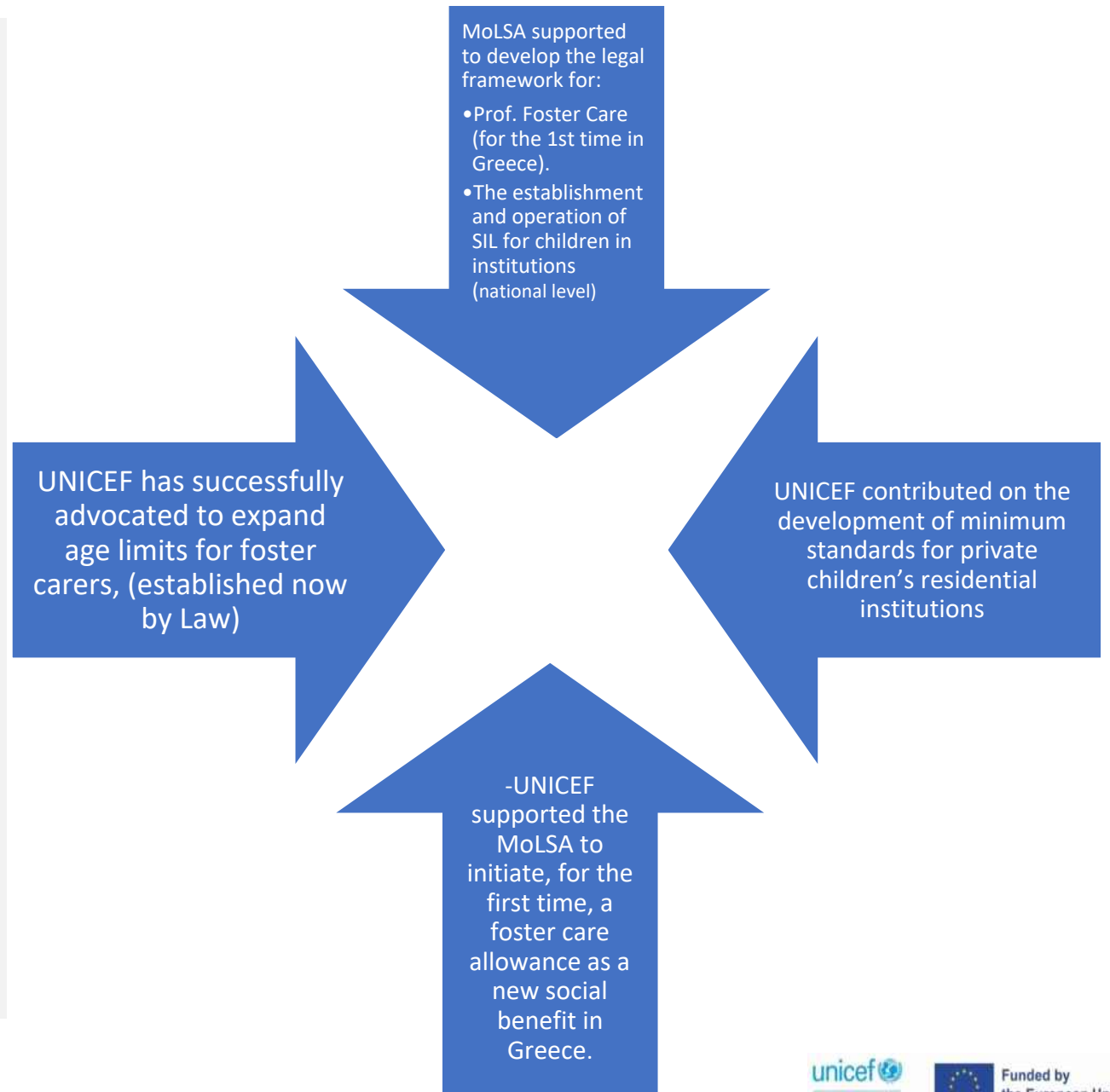
# UNICEF supports authorities to...

Identify	needs and have some models for the reformation of the CP system including DI
Establish	alternative to institutions care modalities (professional foster care, SIL)
Invest on	making the necessary reforms to build a coherent child protection system (prevention, response and recovery)
Strengthen	community based child protection services (municipal level)
Understand	the need for collection of disaggregated qualitative and quantitative data on children in care
Connect and explore	funding tools

# Main achievements

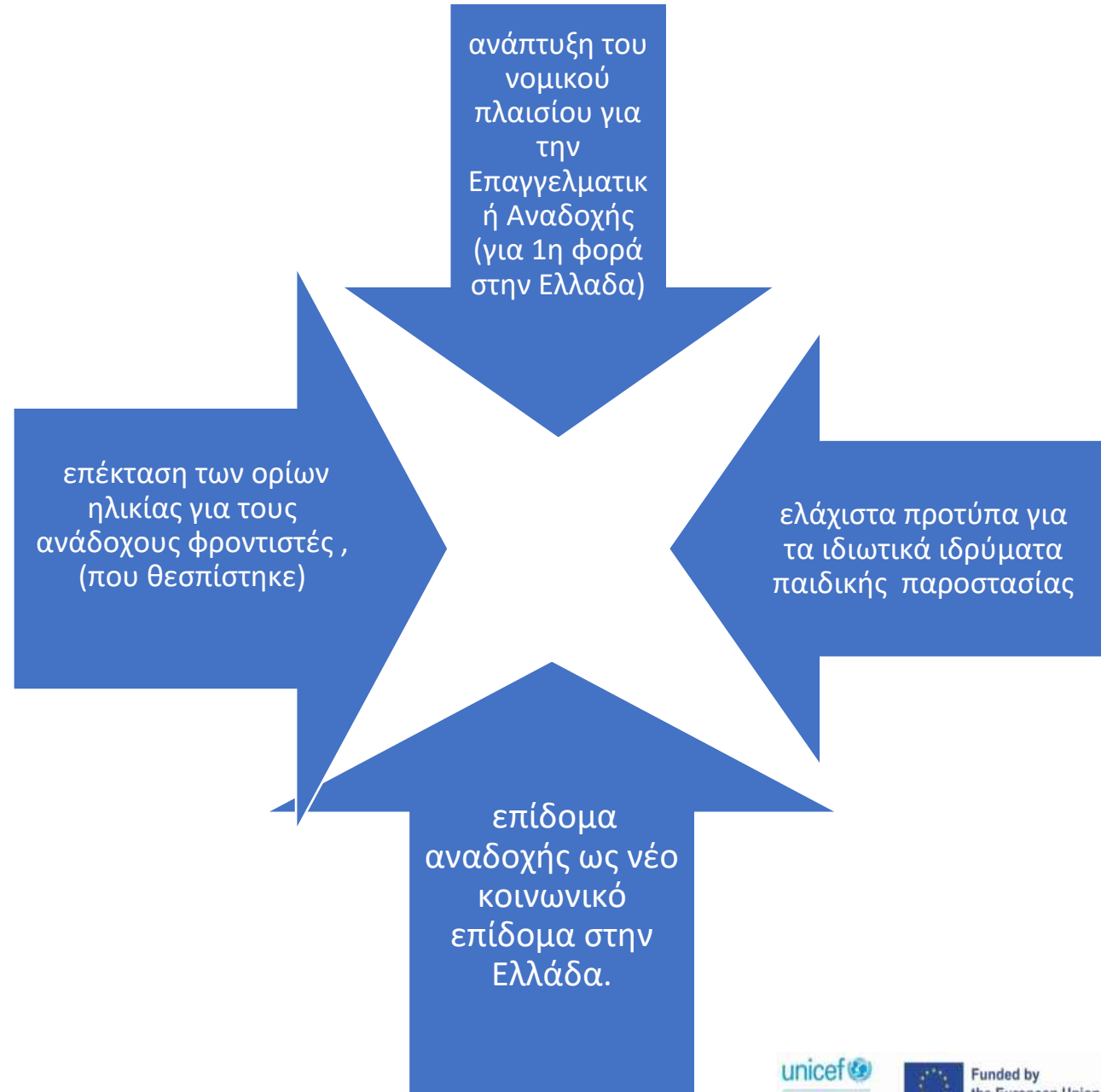


# Main achievements





# Κύρια επιτεύγματα



# Sustainability

## Technical Support Instrument



- Implementation of the European Child Guarantee NAP -support the monitoring & evaluation mechanism, support the development of a governance mechanism.

## Recovery and Resilience Facility

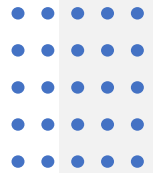


- Professional Foster care
- SIL apartments for persons living in residential institutions

## ESF+



- Capacity building of SS (protocols tools for prevention etc)
- Strengthen community centres services CP staff
- Awareness activities for foster care
- DI scale up- Transformation Plans nationally
- Employability



# Things we struggled with...

There is no common understanding between the relevant ministries on the structure of a holistic child protection system and DI.

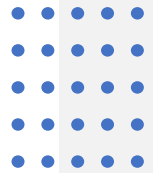
Any attempt to develop legislative framework as well as design services for child protection is fragmented and deprived of long-term planning, needs assessment and available resources.

Lack of coordination between ministries

Lack of institutional cooperation mechanism on planning, monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the DI national strategy.

Fragmented and unclear accountabilities among the different authorities.

Institutional care is still considered as the dominant child protection measure



# Things to be improved/ reformed

Invest in

child protection making the necessary reforms to build a coherent/holistic child protection system (prevention, response and recovery)

Design  
and  
establish

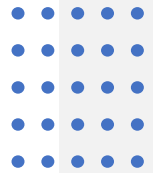
social services specialised on child and family support & protection with defined mandatory duties & responsibilities

Invest in

adequate and trained staff in social services (municipal & regional level)

Invest on

supporting children and families (prevention) rather than removing them from family when the risk becomes too high



# Things to be improved/reformed

Establish

a decision-making mechanism and relevant procedures (gatekeeping) to avoid wide range of responses based on the decision of the Public Prosecutor

Develop

a national child protection Registry for children at risk and children victims of abuse

Develop

a common methodology and harmonization of existing data collection systems re: child protection - in a way that can be analyzed and support planning & decision making.

Establish

mandatory professional supervision



Thank you

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