



Eurochild

Putting children at
the heart of Europe

Annual Report 2018

Eurochild advocates for children's rights and well-being to be at the heart of policymaking.

We are a network of organisations working with and for children throughout Europe, striving for a society that respects the rights of children. We influence policies, build internal capacities, facilitate mutual learning and exchange practice and research. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child is the foundation of all our work.



Eurochild
Putting children at
the heart of Europe

© Eurochild 2019
Editor: Perna Humpal
Design: inextremis.be / mp5995
Printed March 2019



This publication is supported by the European Programme for Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI) 2014-2020. The views expressed by Eurochild do not necessarily reflect the position or opinion of the European Commission. The European Programme for Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI) 2014-2020 is a European-level financing instrument managed directly by the European Commission to contribute to the implementation of the Europe 2020 strategy.

For more information see: <http://ec.europa.eu/social/easi>

Contents

Introduction 4

2018: A year in review 5



1
**Putting children at the heart
of policymaking** 6



2
**Giving a voice to children
and young people** 13



3
**Eurochild Conference
Building a better Europe with
children: All Aboard!** 18



4
Strengthening the network 22

Accounts & Funding 28

Meet the members 29

Introduction



Hanna Heinonen,
Interim President of
Eurochild and Executive
Director of Central Union
for Child Welfare, Finland

2019 is 'change-over' year. Not only do we have European Parliament elections and appointment of a new European Commission, but we should also see progress towards a new 7-year EU budget to run from 2021-2027.

In 2018 we contributed to increasing the visibility of children's rights on the EU agenda. Hopefully this lays strong foundations for the next EU cycle.



Jana Hainsworth,
Secretary General

Former VP of the US Joe Biden famously said: ***"Don't tell me what you value, show me your budget, and I'll tell you what you value."***

For the European Parliament, tackling child poverty, has clearly emerged as a priority. Their response to the European Commission's proposal on the future European

Social Fund, calls for a 'Child Guarantee' adding an extra €5.9 billion to the budget to help EU countries deliver free healthcare, child care, education, adequate housing and nutrition. Eurochild is part of the coalition carrying out a feasibility study which should guide how such an instrument can improve the lives of Europe's most vulnerable children.

All over the world we're witnessing growing activism among children, whether it's the campaign against guns in the US or the school strikes in Europe against climate change. Eurochild is a frontrunner in bringing children around the table in meaningful discussions on public policy. Our biannual conference, co-hosted by Society 'Our Children' Opatija, Croatia, focused on how children participate in public decision making. We were able to

showcase lots of good examples across Europe, whilst also practising what we preach. One third of the participants were under 18, and children played a central role in the planning and delivery of the three-day event. Another success story is the *Europe Kids Want* survey which reached over 14,000 children. Their opinions will help shape our calls to the next European Parliament.

As a network, Eurochild continued to expand its membership in 2018. Now we count 171 members from 34 countries, including 22 'national partner networks' which together represent over 2,000 organisations. But our strength is not only in numbers; it's also the quality of our members' engagement. We are proud that several members now use the European Semester process to dialogue with their national governments to ensure that economic and employment policies help all children to thrive.

There are many challenges on the horizon, not least Brexit and the rise of nationalistic and identity politics. But as the leading civil society network fighting for children's rights, Eurochild's voice is increasingly recognised and valued. We look forward to working with members, partners and allies to give children in Europe the future they deserve!

Yours sincerely,

Hanna Heinonen,
Interim President
of Eurochild and
Executive Director
of Central Union
for Child Welfare,
Finland

Jana Hainsworth,
Secretary General of
Eurochild

2018: A year in review

Membership

171

members



34

countries
represented



>2,000

child rights organisations
represented



Advocacy and Communications

98

meetings with high
level decision-makers



21%

increase in Twitter
followers



12%

increase in FB
followers



300

new Instagram
followers



Children's participation

15,700

Total children engaged
(online and offline)



100

children engaged in
designing our events



14,000

children's views
heard



1

Putting children
at the heart of
policymaking



Making social rights work for children

In 2018, Eurochild launched its assessment of the first European Semester since the Proclamation of the European Pillar of Social Rights (November 2017). With the 'social dimension' being more visible in this cycle, the European Commission flags child poverty in more than 75% of the Country Reports of EU Member States. Only one country (Spain) received a specific recommendation to address family income, just one dimension of child poverty.

The European Semester is the EU's economic, social and employment policy framework that runs on a yearly cycle. Eurochild seeks greater and better investment in children to tackle poverty. Currently, **25 million children in the EU face poverty and social exclusion** (Eurostat, 2017).

The 2018 Eurochild report on the European Semester offered its own **alternatives to the country specific recommendations in light of assessments by Eurochild members**. The report is based on assessments provided by 23 Eurochild members in 18 countries.

Eurochild members find the European Semester process helps improve national policies for children. The Slovenian NGO network ZIPOM noted that **EU guidance has been instrumental in pushing for reform**. The new Slovenian Resolution on Family Policy, for example, mentions a better health system to address the needs of disadvantaged children and reducing inequality by investing in early childhood education and care.

Several Eurochild members, specifically the National Partner Networks, met face-to-face with EU officials to discuss the European Semester and provide input to the country reports.



Jeroen Jutte (pictured above) and other European Commission officials joined the meeting of National Partner Networks in Brussels to discuss the European Semester

The European Commission acknowledged Eurochild's efforts and invited Eurochild to share findings with social policy networks in July 2018.



Discover the situation of children's rights in 18 countries – Read the report 'Making Social

Rights work for children: 2018 Eurochild Report on the European Semester'

<http://bit.ly/2018semesterforEurochild>

Influencing the future EU budget for greater investment in children

As the EU negotiates its future budget for the 2021-2027 period, Eurochild successfully advocated for better and increased spending on children.

For the first time the social inclusion of children and the reduction of child poverty feature among the specific objectives of the European Social Fund+.

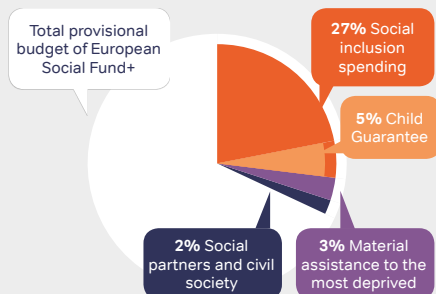
The European Social Fund+ will be the main EU financial instrument for improving workers' mobility and employment opportunities, strengthening social cohesion, improving social fairness and increasing competitiveness across Europe. The European Commission and European Parliament proposals recognise **children as key beneficiaries of this fund.**

In coalition with the EU Alliance on Investing in Children and the European Expert Group on the Transition from Institutional to Community-based Care, Eurochild successfully demanded **an increase in percentage spending on social inclusion initiatives**, this includes spending on children in regions of high poverty rates.

Under the proposals EU countries will have to allocate at least 5% of ESF+ resources to the European **Child Guarantee scheme to contribute to children's equal access to free healthcare, free education, free childcare, decent housing and adequate nutrition** – with the aim of tackling child poverty and social exclusion. These measures will need to be in line with the European Commission 2013 *Recommendation on Investing in Children.*

The ESF+ will also support the transition from institutional care to family and community-based care.

The European Parliament's position on ESF+ spending in 2021-2027



Eurochild now looks to the European Council to support these developments in its negotiations on the future EU Budget.



As part of the EU Alliance for Investing in Children, Eurochild supported discussions on the EU added value of investing in children and youth in vulnerable situations at the Annual Convention for Inclusive Growth held in Brussels in April 2018. The side-event was organised with Don Bosco International, Eurochild, EuroHealthNet and Save the Children Europe.

Child Guarantee: An EU that helps fight child poverty

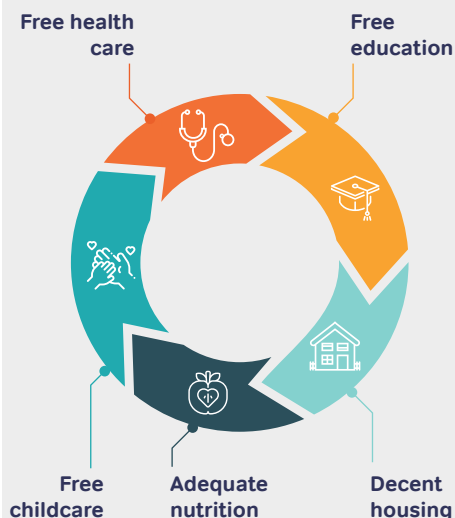
Thanks in part to Eurochild's advocacy, the European Parliament recognised child poverty as a key problem to address in the next seven-year EU budget starting in 2021. The European Parliament proposes to set aside Euros 5.9 billion to establish a 'Child Guarantee'.

Partly inspired by the existing Youth Guarantee, this initiative should help Member States implement the European Commission 2013 Recommendation on *Investing in Children: Breaking the cycle of disadvantage*, by guiding investment into key service areas.

It will particularly **focus on children in vulnerable situations and those experiencing poverty, including migrant and refugee children**. To access the money, Member States need to have national strategic policy frameworks in place for poverty reduction and social inclusion with a specific attention to preventing and tackling child poverty.

Eurochild is part of a team carrying out a feasibility study to assess the conditions for implementing such a Child Guarantee. The study will be finalised in March 2020.

The ambition of the Child Guarantee is that **every child in Europe has access to:**



Source: European Parliament

*“Europe needs answers to phenomena which we thought no longer existed in our societies, and yet are growing as a result of increasing inequalities, such as child poverty. **The Europe of opportunities must start with a proper focus on childhood. This is why I explicitly support the launching of a Child Guarantee to tackle social exclusion at an early age.**”*



President of the Government of Spain, **Pedro Sánchez Castejon** in his address to the European Parliament on 16 January 2019.



Learn more about the Child Guarantee online:

http://bit.ly/Brief_ChildGuarantee

Opening Doors for Europe's Children



OPENING DOORS FOR EUROPE'S CHILDREN

In 2018, the Eurochild-led campaign on ending institutional care and strengthening families, Opening Doors for Europe's Children, focused on influencing the EU institutions to ensure that the next 2021-2027 EU budget continues to support the transition from institutional to family- and community-based care, also known as deinstitutionalisation.

Current negotiations on the future EU budget are a unique opportunity for the EU to end the era of institutional care for children – an unnecessary, outdated and harmful type of care that segregates children from society. It is also a chance to ensure that EU funds promote social inclusion, contribute to policy coherence and better protect the rights of children deprived of caring families and communities.

Eurochild has prioritised the end of institutional care as one of its three strategic goals for the period 2019-2021. We want to ensure that the EU's pivotal role towards transformation of child protection systems in Europe is reinforced and further expanded in 2021-2027. At the same time, we continue helping members harness EU policy and funding when advocating for child welfare and protection reforms nationally.

Key highlights from 2018

In 2018, the campaign continued influencing decision-makers in Brussels and at national level by providing recommendations and evidence from the ground and through direct meetings to discuss how the EU can ensure better outcomes for children and their families.

Our efforts paid off:

- Regulations in the post-2020 EU budget will enable to proceed with alternative care reforms across Europe.
- The European Social Fund+ was successfully passed in the European Parliament prioritising social inclusion and integration of children in communities in 2021-2027 EU budget.
- Common Provisions Regulation, which sets out rules governing seven EU funds, require now that all EU countries prioritise deinstitutionalisation reforms as part of their national policies on poverty reduction and social inclusion.
- National and EU budgets will invest more and better in children and their families.



"Maintain, Strengthen, Expand – How the EU can support the transition from institutional to family and community-based care in the next EU Budget", Brussels; 20 March 2018
<https://sway.office.com/M4EWJiZJ7wqjSsoU>

Eurochild members coordinating the Opening Doors campaign at national level continued influencing governments and public authorities to proceed with implementation of deinstitutionalisation reform.

Moldova



As a result of our advocacy efforts, in August 2018, the Government approved a minimum package of social services that will be funded from the central budget and provided at local level.

“We must continue these efforts to ensure that the basic social services package includes foster care provision in the central budget and that foster care services are diversified to meet the needs of all children, and especially children under the age of three and children with disabilities.”



Liliana Rotaru, Opening Doors for Europe's Children coordinator in Moldova and Chairwoman of CCF / HHC Moldova

Greece



In Greece, Opening Doors contributed to the development of new legislation on family-based care. In April 2018, we participated in the consultation with representatives of children's rights organisations regarding the draft law on adoption and foster care. Following the hearing of the Permanent Parliamentary Committee on Social Affairs, the Hellenic Parliament passed the draft of the new legislation on 2 May 2018.

“This is a progressive law which will enable the development of family-based forms of care for children in Greece which, in turn, should catalyse deinstitutionalisation reforms at national level.”



Mary Theodoropoulou, Opening Doors for Europe's Children coordinator in Greece and Director of the Roots Research Center

Serbia



In Serbia, opportunities for strengthening families were brought under the spotlight by the Network of Organizations for Children of Serbia – MODS, Eurochild member and the Opening Doors coordinator in Serbia. A public debate involving national authorities and international organisations has focused on prevention of separation of children from their families and adequate support to families with children during a conference “Strengthening Families – Windows of Opportunity” in September 2018 in Belgrade.

“From 2009 until now, only 23% of children in Serbia returned to their biological families out of the total number of children who left institutional care. We need to ensure their return to the biological families or prevent their removal as a priority. Strengthening families and supporting the stay of children in their families should be the task of the social protection system in Serbia.”



Saša Stefanović, Director of the Network of Organizations for Children of Serbia – MODS, Opening Doors campaign coordinator in Serbia

Investing in early childhood development



For a number of years, Eurochild has supported development of better policies in the area of early childhood development (ECD). Together with our members, we supported the European Commission's work on development of the European Quality Framework in 2014 and the proposal for a Council Recommendation on Quality in Early Childhood Education and Care from May 2018.

We influenced, principally through our member organisation in Bulgaria the 'National Network for Children', the adoption of Council Conclusions of June 2018 on 'Integrated early childhood development policies as a tool for reducing poverty and promoting social inclusion', under the Bulgarian presidency.

The Council has encouraged EU Member States to "ensure equal and equitable access to universal early childhood education and care services of good quality for all children...."

Eurochild joins European Commission working group on early childhood

The Education and Training 2020 Working Group on Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) gathers representatives from all EU Member States that are involved in ECEC policy development. As a member Eurochild can bring the experience from our membership, exchange expertise and promote a holistic and child rights-based approach to ECEC.

To capitalise on this show of political support, Eurochild is setting its policy agenda to make the case for increased EU political and financial support for early childhood development. A policy briefing, to be released in 2019, sets out recommendations for the next EU institutional mandate (2019-2024) in terms of policy, EU governance and funding. It also includes case studies to bring examples of good practice. The policy briefing is a result of a partnership with the European Public Health Alliance, the International Step by Step Association, the Roma Education Fund and the Open Society Foundation ECD Program.

Civil society has a role in influencing the allocation of EU funds. **With a new European Parliament and a new Commission in 2019, there is an opportunity to inform and inspire a new EU leadership to the potential of investing in early childhood development.**

A photograph of two young women with long brown hair. The woman on the left is wearing a red sweater and is smiling broadly, showing her teeth. She is holding a small, colorful object in her hands. The woman on the right is wearing a dark blue sweater and is smiling gently. They are standing in what appears to be a library or a study area, with bookshelves and other people visible in the background. The background is slightly blurred.

2

Giving a voice
to children and
young people

Eurochild Children's Council in action

The Eurochild Children's Council (ECC) involves 11 children aged 13 to 18 years selected through Eurochild's membership. They actively contributed to Eurochild's General Assembly in April, as well as at Eurochild's conference in Opatija, Croatia.



Xabier, 17, Spain.

Several ECC members got involved in campaigning for children's rights to be heard nationally and internationally. Xabier, 17, from the child-friendly city Bilbao in Spain, participated in the First European Symposium of local and regional

Children's and Young Person's Councils in Spain. There, he presented his experience of the Eurochild Children's Council, connecting his work at European level with the national councils.



Angelina, 15, Ukraine.

In June, Angelina, 15, Ukraine, opened the international "Forum on Child and Youth Friendly Municipalities together with the Ukrainian Prime Minister Volodymyr Groyzman. She spoke on behalf of all children in Ukraine: "Don't let

yourself underestimate children! We may be difficult, but we can dream, see and believe in the best."

Konstantinos, 16, Greece, represented the Eurochild Children's Council at the UN Day of General Discussion focusing on children as human rights defenders as part of the Child Advisory Team with support from *Child Rights Connect*.



"Involving children into the decision making process is the answer to our problems. If we raise our voice, if children and adults work together in every aspect of society then we can achieve what we're aiming for: Change, progress and evolution."

Konstantinos, ECC member from Greece speaking at 70th Anniversary Celebrations of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights at the UN Palais in Geneva.



© UN Photo/Vidaine Martin

"I asked 16 years-old Konstantinos what his dream was, and he told me, we need to "teach children from a young age that you are equal to everyone. If we change education, we (will) change humanity." (...) "Young people are a source of ideas, innovations and solutions. Empowering them, respecting their dignity and upholding their rights generates benefits for everyone".

Michelle Bachelet, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

The first ECC will end its mandate in April 2019, handing over the baton to a new group of children who take responsibility for embedding children's participation in the work of Eurochild.

Supporting members to enable child participation

Since adoption of its child participation strategy, Eurochild has supported members in three countries to pilot National Eurochild Forums (NEFs) which involve local children in discussions related to Eurochild's advocacy priorities. Other members have worked with children to evaluate the Council of Europe's strategy on the rights of the child, and get children's perspectives on Brexit.

Malta

The President's Foundation for the Well-being of Society developed a campaign focused on the right of the child to participate. Every school in Malta and Gozo were offered resources to help children create t-shirts with messages on what makes them feel heard or not heard. Some of the t-shirts were showcased at the European Parliament in Brussels, thanks to the support of MEP Caterina Chinnici and the Intergrup on Children's Rights.



MEP Miriam Dalli takes a selfie with Maltese children exhibiting their t-shirt creations in the European Parliament, Brussels.

Bulgaria

Children in the Bulgarian NEF met twice in 2018. First, they asked 92 children from different social backgrounds on the linkages between education and poverty and social exclusion. Children were asked:

How can those in power help parents living in poverty support their children to go to school? Responses from children included: A bigger budget for social grants/scholarships, financial support for food, textbooks, clothing and transportation, financial support through vouchers, state provided housing and salary increases for parents. For the second meeting, the children focused on the Europe Kids Want survey and met national politicians at the National Assembly.

Estonia

The Estonian NEF held a 2-day meeting about Eurochild's Strategic Plan spanning 2019-2021 to discuss the three advocacy goals. At the meeting children concluded that children's rights should be a compulsory topic at school and every child should be able to take part in at least one extra-curricular activity.

Wales

Through its 'Young Wales' work, Children in Wales helped the Welsh government gather children and young people's views on Brexit. Between April and October 2018, they consulted with children and youth across Wales through a mix of workshops, social media, surveys and a Question Time event held at the National Assembly. A short film was co-produced with children and young people, highlighting their questions and concerns about Brexit. A [report](#) provides a summary of the findings.

“Many people I know in my local area don't know what Brexit will mean for us. With schools not being able to fully talk about politics in order to avoid bias or influencing young people, the Welsh Government needs to ... inform and prepare us, who had no say in the referendum and no representation either, for something that will shape all of our futures, regardless of how positive or negative that may be.”

Extract from Young Wales report to Welsh Government, November 2018.



Children learn to use the 'hot air balloon' to build their advocacy strategy at a preparatory meeting in November in Brussels.

Children review the Council of Europe's Strategy on Children's Rights

Eurochild members Deutscher Kinderhilfswerk (Germany), the President's Foundation for the Well-being of Society (Malta) and Edukids (Ukraine) organised child focus-group consultations for the Council of Europe mid-term review of its Strategy for Children's Rights. The consultations focussed on thematic areas of the Strategy, including children's participation and child-friendly justice. One outcome of the German consultations on child-friendly justice, was that judges are often not trained on communicating with children. Further consultations are foreseen for 2019.

Our commitment to keeping children safe



Eurochild's commitment towards increasing

children's participation in its work is matched with its commitment to safeguarding children. In November 2018, Eurochild became a full member of Keeping Children Safe. With their support, Eurochild aims to create an enabling environment for children to engage meaningfully and safely in our mission of putting children at the heart of Europe.

The Europe Kids Want

>14,000

.....
children respond to the survey on their hopes and fears

As European leaders debate the future of Europe, UNICEF and Eurochild launched an online survey, inviting children and young people to share their views on the Europe they want. The Europe Kids Want survey gathered children's and young people's experiences of family-life, school, society and their thoughts on Europe.

On the occasion of **World Children's Day** on 20 November 2018, children and high level decision makers from European, national and intergovernmental institutions engaged in a **quiz style debate** in the European Parliament based on the Europe Kids Want survey.

Children also participated in a Youth parliament event where they discussed 'access to education and health to all children'. This event follows the commitment made by European Parliament President Tajani in 2017 to host a discussion with and on children every year in the premises of the Parliament.

Violence and climate change were at the top of children's fears, along with not being able to find a job.

Positively, two thirds of children feel positive towards people from other countries, contrary to the fears stoked by populist leaders. But 4 out of 6 children are unhappy with the way cities or towns engage with them, highlighting the need for more and better ways to involve children in public decision-making, both at local and national level.



European Parliament President Antonio Tajani receives children on Universal Children's Day in Brussels on 20 November.



The survey remains open until end-June 2019 and is available in 29 languages. Respond to the survey:
[Bitly.com/EuropeKidsWant](https://bit.ly/EuropeKidsWant)

Eurochild will share children's views with candidates standing for European Parliament elections in May 2019.



Sharing views of children to mark World Children's Day



3

Eurochild Conference

Building a better Europe with
children: All Aboard!

Eurochild Conference: Building a better Europe with children: All Aboard!

Eurochild's 13th Conference took place on the 29-31 October 2018 in Opatija, Croatia on the theme of children's participation in public decision-making. The event was held under the patronage of the President of the Republic of Croatia and hosted by a member of Eurochild, Society 'Our Children' Opatija.

Among the 300 participants were practitioners, researchers, civil society actors, policy and decision makers, and 100 children and young people under the age of 18.

budgeting, early childhood development, access to justice, children in alternative care, children with disability, children affected by migration or digitalization.



The 'Care Group' presented the Youth Advisory Group and house rules to the audience.

“The rights of children are central to our policies and the rules by which we live in Opatija. We build partnerships between children and adults, recognizing children as valuable and important.”



Petra, Children's Mayor of Opatija, a child-friendly city.

The conference showcased positive examples of local, national and European decision-making which involves children.

Eleven study visits in and around Opatija offered participants the opportunity to learn about children's participation in elementary schools, children's homes, in child-friendly cities or in children's councils or in various non-governmental organisations.

The workshop contributors, selected through Eurochild's Europe-wide membership, covered diverse topics including child

Children's Participation in Action

An advisory group of 10 children and young people helped develop, prepare and deliver the programme. Children contributed to communications, taking care of participants, as speakers and co-moderators. All participants were assigned 'home groups' allowing children and adults together to discuss together what they had learnt over the day. Participants could also share their views via a social media wall, a vision art corner, opinion and inspiration walls, and a voting table to decide the conference closing messages.



The Opening Session was moderated by Dylan, Dr Cath Larkins and Zakya.

Participants from **Romania** shared their experience of the **national strategy for children which encourages 'children's participation in public decision making'** by 'developing a mechanism that ensures the participation of children'. Child participation has been chosen by the government as a particular priority of its Presidency of the European Union January to June 2019.

The **Government of Romania will lead a Europe-wide consultation process with children and adolescents**, ending with an Action Plan to be presented at a Children's Summit just prior to the EU Summit on the Future EU Agenda in early May 2019.



Participants reacted to the survey on children's participation in public decision-making.



Jana Hainsworth, Eurochild Secretary General, engaged with Croatian media ahead of the opening session.



Over 300 delegates attended the conference from 38 countries.



Dylan, 17, Ireland, presented the key messages of the conference background report.



One-third of all participants were under the age of 18. Here, a young participant shares her views.



The Croatian children's council presented recommendations at the closing session.

Perspectives



“Without children our society has no future. Their ideas will create a new world”.

Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović, President of Croatia, Patron of Eurochild Conference 2018



“Any action children take to claim their rights helps to change the world.”

Tymon, a youth advocate from Poland and nominee for 2017 Kids Peace Prize.



“Listening to children is not an option, it is essential!”

Marie-Louise Coleiro-Preca, Her Excellency the President of Malta



“In the new normal we should all be equal partners... No more mini-me's. Every child has a chance if only we allow them to shine and flourish in a different environment.”

Princess Laurentien of the Netherlands



“Empowering children is not charity, and child participation is not something that should be done to ‘be nice to children’ – it is a legally binding general principle firmly established in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.”

Adina Mihaela Codres, National Authority for the Protection of Child's Rights and Adoption, Ministry of Labour and Social Justice, Romania



“Children should be encouraged and supported to make their voice heard and even the shyest children should be heard in one way or the other”.

Fahima, youth advocate from the Netherlands and nominee for 2017 Kids Peace Prize for her work in a youth taskforce on keeping children safe.

Voice of the conference Recommendations from children, policy makers and civil society

- Every government in Europe should make teaching about children's right to participate a mandatory part of the curriculum in every school.
- Every government in Europe should implement an inclusive participation strategy, for all children that obliges local, regional and national decision makers to take children's views into account.
- Every government in Europe should be obliged to provide evidence of the impact of children in setting the agenda, influencing decisions and following these through.



**Read the background report
“Children's participation in
public decision-making: a
review of practice in Europe”**

http://bit.ly/BackgroundReport_Conf2018

4

Strengthening the network



Equipping children's rights organisations to deliver positive impact

Eurochild **Members' Day**, organised around the General Assembly, provides members and children from the Eurochild Children's Council an opportunity to exchange knowledge and practice. In 2018 members adopted a new Strategic Plan and discussed its implementation. International and European partners joined the meeting to explore how we can collaborate to realise our shared goals.

“The workshops were run in a participatory and friendly atmosphere that allowed all participants to voice their views/suggestions and I felt comfortable and respected.”

Ninetta Kazantzis, PCCPWC

“Eurochild inspires me with its vision at EU level, but it really comes into its own when it helps turn that vision into a reality on the ground.”

Antoine Farrugia, Don Bosco International

Strengthening child rights networks across 18 countries

National partner networks (NPNs) are networks of children's rights organisations who are crucial to strengthening Eurochild's voice in Brussels and the Member States capitals. NPNs play an important role in linking EU and national/regional policies relevant for children and young people.

In 2018, NPNs met in Brussels in spring and in autumn, enabling mutual exchange and learning, as well as capacity building around EU policy and advocacy.

NPNs provide very valuable input to Eurochild secretariat's work, from the European Semester to Childonomics, whilst also receiving support for their national advocacy efforts.



Tuomas Kurttila, then Chair of European Network of Ombudspersons for Children, centre speaks in presence of allies from the Council of Europe, the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights and the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child at the Members' Day in April.



The National Partner Networks representatives meet twice per year to discuss national and European advocacy objectives. This meeting of NPNs took place in Brussels in March.

Bridging gaps with lessons from across Europe

Member-led events bring a European perspective and international expertise to help address national challenges in the implementation of children's rights. In 2018, Eurochild supported three events addressing child poverty in Latvia, child budgeting and children's rights implementation in Slovenia and institutionalising child participation in Cyprus.

Tackling inequality through early intervention

Riga, Latvia 23 November
Latvian Child Welfare Network



Professor Richard Wilkinson, Maria Herczog, Former Eurochild President and Julius Op de Beke from European Commission spoke at the Parliament of Latvia.

Latvia has almost 24% children at risk of poverty or social exclusion. Recognising the value of early prevention to reduce inequalities later in life,

good practices were presented from other European countries to build a stronger case for investing in early childhood policies.

Hosted by Parliament of Latvia, the conference had high level interventions including the acclaimed writer and Professor Richard Wilkinson, EU experts and state and local government institutions.

Putting Children at the Centre

Ljubljana, Slovenia 13 November
Legal-Informational Centre for NGOs

"The event provided a valuable opportunity for exchange on current challenges in child rights implementation in Slovenia, and a

learning opportunity based on Eurochild's experience in child budgeting and child participation. The event comes very timely due to national-level developments, including drafting new strategic document on child rights, reporting on CRC implementation and related alternative reporting," concludes **Adriana Aralica**, Legal-Informational Centre for NGOs.

Laying the ground for greater children's participation in Cyprus

Cyprus, 12 July 2018
Pancyprian Coordinating Committee for the Protection and Welfare of Children



Cypriot children and children's rights professionals were brought together by PCCPWC.

In Cyprus, even though participation has been widely accepted as a "theme", professionals and especially people dealing with children in their everyday work have little know-how. A training seminar was organised to create a pool of people that can train others or, at least, encourage them to support child participation. This was followed by a mini-conference with representatives from the School education department, Ministries of Education and Culture, Labour, Social Insurance and Providence, as well as the Cypriot Parliamentarians participated in the discussions. The Commissioner for the Protection of Children's Rights Ms Leda Koursoumba and Cyprus Youth Organisation were also present for these key discussions.

Public recognition and building a social community

Eurochild is becoming a much more recognised and influential brand thanks to our social media outreach and media attention around our events.

The Eurochild conference brought attention from Croatian media while the results of the Europe Kids Want Survey announced on Universal Children's Day brought Europe-wide media coverage in national dailies!

Eurochild is social!



Tweets of the year:

21% increase in Twitter followers
compared to 2017



Together with @UNICEF we have launched a survey for children seeking out their perspectives on migration, family-life, school, the #EU and their hopes and fears for the future! The #EuropeKidsWant survey is open until 21 September!

Only two days to go until the 'Children's Participation in Public Decision Making' #webinar. Don't miss your chance to learn how #governments and professionals can listen to children's views on policies and in practice. Register today!

Children's voices were heard at the @UN Day of General Discussion. Read about how Konstantinos represented the Eurochild Children's Council at the UN on our website.



Facebook posts of the year:

12% increase in Facebook likes
compared to 2017



Former Eurochild President Mária Herczog elected to Child Rights Connect Executive Committee! Congrats!

We would like to thank all the guests, members, colleagues and friends who attended the #EurochildGA this week! Here are some of the photos we took! Stay tuned for more updates, presentations and other material and info!

It's been a great week in #Opatija #Croatia for children and adults working together to prepare the #EurochildConf taking place 29-31 October 2018! Come to Croatia to learn and share your ideas on children's participation in public decision-making! 'Building a better Europe with Children: All Aboard!'

We're now on Instagram!

Follow us on @Eurochild_org to check out engaging videos, graphics that help us reach out to younger audiences!

And, Youtube too!

- [Eurochild Conference 2018: What does children's participation look like in practice?](#)
- [Eurochild: A Strategy to put children at the heart of Europe](#)
- [The #EuropeKidsWant? Better education, jobs, equality and environment](#)
- [What is the #EuropeKidsWant?](#)

Total views of Eurochild videos: over 5,000!

The Good Lobby Awards: Eurochild nominated as NGO of the year



Eurochild was nominated for its work on 'Building the European Parliament with children, for children'. We thank The Good Lobby for this recognition.

Governance

Eurochild Management Board

The Management Board is the democratically elected governing body responsible for leadership and strategic direction, chaired by the President. Its members reflect the geographical spread of the membership, as well as the diversity of the types of organisations in membership. Since 2016 the Management Board is divided into sub-committees to better guide the secretariat in HR/staffing, finances, fundraising, membership, and children's participation.

In April 2018, the General Assembly elected two new members of the Management Board - Mariana Pisarska, National Network for Children Bulgaria and Miia Pitkänen, Central Union for Child Welfare, Finland.

Hanna Heinonen, CEO of the Central Union for Child Welfare took over as Interim President in April 2018, due to the resignation of Norah Gibbons on personal grounds. The network is extremely grateful to Norah Gibbons for her inspiring leadership and in particular the governance expertise she brought to the Management Board.

The 2018 Management Board



Norah Gibbons,
Honorary Member,
Ireland – President
(until April 2018)



Hanna Heinonen,
Central Union for Child
Welfare, Finland (MB
member 2012 - April
2018; Interim President
since April 2018)



Ljiljana Vasic,
Pomoc Deci, Serbia,
Treasurer



Otto Sestak,
Hope and Homes for
Children, Romania



Sean O'Neill,
Children in Wales, UK



Geert Jorgensen,
Associate Member,
Denmark



Mariana Pisarska,
National Network for
Children, Bulgaria
(since April 2018)



Miia Pitkänen,
Central Union for Child
Welfare, Finland (since
April 2018)

Eurochild General Assembly

The 2018 General Assembly had the highest turnout ever, with 138 participants representing 89 members, including 12 children and young people under 18 years. We welcomed 18 new members, including a new Honorary Member, UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Children Marta Santos Pais. The Spanish network Plataforma de Infancia was endorsed as a National Partner Network, bringing the number of Eurochild National Partner Networks (coalitions of children's rights organisations) to 22.

A new Strategic Plan for 2019-2021

A new Strategic Plan for 2019-2021 was adopted by the membership after many rounds of consultation with members, external actors in area of children's rights and children themselves. This new Strategic Plan commits Eurochild network to 3 goals for the upcoming 3 years.

- **Goal 1** We want to see an end to child poverty & social exclusion in Europe
- **Goal 2** We want to see an end to institutional care for all children in Europe
- **Goal 3** We want to see more recognition & understanding of children's rights in political discourse

How will Eurochild contribute to making that change happen?

- Influencing people with power & supporting our members to influence
- Gathering evidence & harnessing members' practice & knowledge
- Engaging children and young people in our activities
- Working in partnership & alliances with other organisations & networks

Team

We thank our hardworking staff at the secretariat in Brussels for their efforts in 2018!

The 2018 Secretariat is composed of:

Management, Membership and Finance

- **Jana Hainsworth**, Secretary General
- **Andrea Witt**, Head of Operations
- **Axelle Stainier**, Head of Finance
- **Andreia Dos Santos**, Membership and Events Officer (until December 2018)

Policy, Advocacy and Child Participation

- **Réka Tunyogi**, Head of Advocacy
- **Agata D'Addato**, Senior Policy Coordinator – Policy, Research and Practice
- **Mieke Schuurman**, Senior Policy Coordinator – Children's Rights and Child Participation
- **Tinna Ros Steinsdottir**, Child Participation Officer (until December 2018)

Communications and Fundraising

- **Perna Humpal**, Head of Communications
- **Davide Rambaldi**, Communications Officer
- **Aracy Pires**, Partnerships and Grants Officer (until December 2018)

Opening Doors for Europe's Children campaign

- **Katerina Nanou**, Policy and Advocacy Officer and Campaign Coordinator
- **Tetiana Sykes**, Communications Coordinator
- **Zuzana Konradova**, Policy Advisor & Campaign Assistant (voluntary)

The Secretariat offers internship programmes to young people at the beginning of their career:

- **Salomé Guibreteau**, Policy and Advocacy Intern (September 2017 - March 2018)
- **Karolien Celie**, Policy and Advocacy Intern (March 2018 – September 2018)
- **Jessica Fiorelli**, Policy and Advocacy Intern (September 2018 - December 2018)
- **Musu Kargbo-Reffell**, Communications Intern (July 2018 – October 2018)
- **Marianne Virta**, Conference and Events Intern (August 2018 – December 2018)



The secretariat takes a break at Mini-Europe in the summer

Accounts & Funding

Income Statement

Income	2016	2017	2018
Membership fees	62.285	61.685	60.660
European Commission EaSI grant	874.711	843.716	897.850
External co-funding for joint activities and project grants	481.469	420.033	368.639
Miscellaneous	5.174	5.837	5.069
Interests	0	0	0
Income total	1.423.639	1.331.271	1.332.218

Expenditure	2016	2017	2018
Operating expenses	645.373	548.148	520.024
Payroll	722.353	712.173	745.240
Financial charges	1.372	1.506	1.773
Expenditure total	1.369.098	1.261.827	1.267.037
Operating result	54.541	69.444	65.181

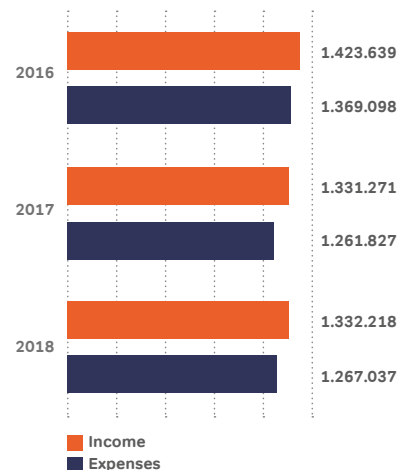
External Co-funding & project grants	2017	2018
Individual and Joint Actions contributing to work plan	15.315	43.206
Oak Foundation - Childnomics	187.562	30.201
Oak Foundation - Core Grant	137.130	208.276
Council of Europe	8.823	2.490
Hope & Homes for Children	50.012	50.021
Project Grants	21.191	34.445
	420.033	368.639

Balance Sheet

Assets	2016	2017	2018
Fixed assets	2.574	3.220	15.126
Trade accounts receivable	7.655	19.534	29.670
Other receivables	20.252	185.928	22.579
Receivable grants	202.504	168.059	329.783
Advances to partners for projects	0	0	0
Prepaid expenses	32.803	14.290	18.141
Accrued incomes	2.090	1.096	0
Cash & Bank	215.337	188.558	96.439
Assets total	483.215	580.685	511.738

Liabilities	2016	2017	2018
Equity (own funds)	24.099	93.543	158.724
Grants	110.885	112.768	173.135
Fixed liabilities	0	0	0
Trade Account payables	192.224	58.600	65.667
Trade accruals	41.205	240.496	40.227
Other payables	42.548	7.688	5.250
Deferred Profit	2.458	2.395	250
Social liabilities	69.796	65.195	68.485
Liabilities total	483.215	580.685	511.738

Yearly comparison



Year end result:
€ 65.181

Meet the members

Eurochild has 171 members spanning 34 countries. 22 of these members are National Partner Networks, representing over 2,000 children's rights organisations in total.

Austria	
CONCORDIA Social Projects	www.concordia.or.at
National Coalition for the Implementation of the UN CRC - Austria	www.kinderhabenrechte.at
SOS Children's Villages International	www.sos-childrensvillages.org
Vorarlberger Kinderdorf GmbH	www.kinderdorf.cc
Individual members: Maud Stienet**, Sharon Schneider	
Belgium	
Active Citizen Europe**	www.activecitizeneurope.org
Alliance for Childhood European Network Group	www.allianceforchildhood.eu
Children's Rights Knowledge Centre - KeKi**	www.keki.be
Child Rights Coalition Flanders	www.kinderrechtencoalitie.be
Diversity in Early Childhood Education and Training	www.decet.org
Don Bosco International	donboscointernational.eu/
Dyslexia International - Sharing expertise	www.dyslexia-international.org
European Alliance of Initiatives for Applied Antroposophy - ELIANT	www.eliant.eu
European Council for Steiner Waldorf Education	www.ecswe.org
Kind en Gezin	www.kindengezin.be
Learning for Well-being Foundation (former Universal Education Foundation)	www.learningforwellbeing.org
Office of Birth and Childhood - ONE	www.one.be
PPS Social Integration, Anti-Poverty Policy, Social Economy and Federal Urban Policy	www.mi-is.be
The Open Door (La Porte Ouverte)	www.laporteuverte.eu/index.html
VBJK, Ressource and Research Centre for Early Childhood Care and Education	www.vbjk.be
Individual members: Alessandro Negro*, Francesca Stuer, Fred Deven, Janine Renier, Julien Van Geertsom**, Margareta Kovacova	
Bulgaria	
Cedar Foundation	www.cedarfoundation.org
For our Children Foundation	www.detebg.org
Know-how Centre for Alternative Care for Children, New Bulgarian University	knowhowcentre.nbu.bg
National Network for Children - Bulgaria	nmd.bg/en/
Social Activities and Practices Institute	www.sapibg.org
Croatia	
Coordination of Associations for Children	
Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Sciences, University of Zagreb	www.erf.unizg.hr/en
Ombudsman for Children - Croatia	www.dijete.hr
Society "Our Children" Opatija	www.dnd-opatija.hr
Union of Societies "Our Children" Croatia	www.savez-dnd.hr
Individual member: Ivana Jedud Boric	
Cyprus	
Pancyprian Coordinating Committee for the Protection and Welfare of Children	pccpwc.org/
Czech Republic	
Defenders of Children's Rights - DCI	www.dci.cz
Czechia (former Defence for Children International)	
In the Interest of the Child, the Civic Association	www.vzd.cz
Velky vuz Sever	www.velkyvuz-sever.cz
Vterina poté (Second After)	www.vterinapote.cz
Denmark	
Fairstart Foundation	www.fairstartfoundation.com
Joint Council for Child Issues (Bornesagens Faellesrad)	www.boernesagen.dk
Individual member: Geert Jorgensen	
Estonia	
Estonian Union for Child Welfare	www.lastekaitseliit.ee/en/
Finland	
Central Union for Child Welfare Finland	www.lskl.fi
Federation of Mother and Child Homes and Shelters**	www.etkl.fi
Mannerheim League for Child Welfare	www.mll.fi
Pesäpuu Ry - Centre of Expertise in Child Welfare	www.pesapuu.fi
France	
Citization Samuel Vincent	samuelvincent.fr/
Children of Prisoners Europe**	childrenofprisoners.eu
Comité National de Solidarité Laïque	www.solidarite-laïque.org
Fondation des Apprentis d'Auteuil	www.fondation-auteuil.org
Group SOS Youth	www.groupe-sos.org/jeunesse
Initiatives of Change France	fr.ifo.org/home
National Federation of Association for Child Protection - France	www.cnape.fr
Nexem	www.nexem.fr
Secours Populaire Français	www.secourspopulaire.fr
Individual members: Anne Williams, Mariama Diallo, Philippe Roux	
Germany	
Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Kinder- und Jugendhilfe	www.agj.de
Bavarian Youth Council	www.bjr.de
German Association for Youth Protection	www.deutscher-jugendschutz-verband.de
German Children's Fund	www.dkhw.de
National Coalition Germany - Network for the Implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child	www.netzwerk-kinderrechte.de
Greece	
ERGO-LEARNING4LIFE	ergo.academy/
EYSEKT - ESF Actions Coordination and Monitoring Authority	www.esfhellas.gr/en/Pages/Default.aspx
Freedom Gate Greece*	www.freedomgate.gr/index.php/en
Iliachtida - Hospitality Centre for Sick Children and Family	www.ilichtida.gr
Network for Children's Rights - Greece	www.ddp.org.gr
Prolepsis Institute	www.prolepsis.gr
Roots Research Center NGO	www.roots-research-center.gr
Society for the Development and Creative Occupation of Children	www.eadap.gr
The Smile of the Child	www.hamogelo.gr
Union of Women of Heraklion	www.kakopolisi.gr/
Hungary	
Family, Child, Youth Association	www.csagy.hu/en/
Hintalovon Child Rights Foundation**	www.hintalovon.hu
Office of the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights - Hungary	www.ajbh.hu/
Terre des Hommes Fondation Lausanne in Hungary	www.tdh-europe.org
Ireland	
Centre for Effective Services*	www.effectiveservices.org
Children's Rights Alliance Ireland	www.childrensrights.ie
EPIC Empowering People In Care	www.epiconline.ie
Individual members: Helen Lynch, Hugh Frazer, Maria Corbett, Norah Gibbons (Honorary)	
Italy	
Associazione Amici dei Bambini*	www.aibi.it
Cesvi	www.cesvi.org
CIFA	www.cifaong.it
Department of Human Sciences for Education - University of Milano-Bicocca**	www.formazione.unimib.it/en/research/laboratories-and-research-centres
Fondazione L'Albero della Vita ONLUS	www.alberodellavita.org
Intermedia Social Innovation	www.intermediasocialinnovation.org
Istituto Degli Innocenti	www.istitutodegliinnocenti.it

Mission Bambini Foundation	www.missionbambini.org
Patrizio Paoletti Foundation for the development and communication	www.fondazionepatriziopaoletti.com
Kosovo	
Coalition of NGOs for Child Protection-KOMF	www.komfkosova.org/?lang=en
Latvia	
Latvian Child Welfare Network	www.bernulabklajiba.lv
Latvian Protect the Children	www.glabietbernus.lv
Lithuania	
Lithuanian Informal Coalition of Non-governmental Organisations for Child Rights	
Individual member: Dainius Puras	
Luxembourg	
Ombuds - Committee for the Rights of the Child	ork.lu/index.php/fr/
Macedonia, the former Yugoslav Republic of	
First Children's Embassy in the World - Megjashi	www.childrensembassy.org.mk
Malta	
Foundation for Social Welfare Services	fsws.gov.mt
Office of the Commissioner for Children - Malta	www.tfal.org.mt
The President's Foundation for the Wellbeing of Society	www.pfws.org.mt
Individual member: Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca** (Honorary)	
Netherlands	
Children International Press Centre Foundation	www.childpresscentre.org
Dutch Children's Rights Coalition, represented by Defence for Children International - The Netherlands	www.defenceforchildren.nl
EACH European Association for Children in Hospital	www.each-for-sick-children.org
International Child Development Initiatives	www.icdi.nl
Netherlands Youth Institute	www.nji.nl/
Stichting Families Foundation**	www.familiesfoundation.net
Utrecht University - Dynamics of Youth Strategic Programme**	www.uu.nl/en/research/dynamics-of-youth
Individual members: Robert Van Pagée, Veronica Smits	
Poland	
Child and Family Foundation	fdir.pl
Department of Applied Sociology and Social Work - University of Lodz	www.eksoc.uni.lodz.pl
Empowering Children Foundation (formerly Nobody's Children Foundation)*	www.fdds.pl
Happy Kids Foundation	www.happykids.org.pl
One World Association	www.jedenswiat.org
Polish Foster Care Coalition	www.koalicja.org
Portugal	
Nossa Senhora do Bom Sucesso Foundation**	fnbsb.pt
SOS Criança Department (Instituto de Apoio à Criança)	www.iacianca.pt/index.php/en/
Individual members: Marta Santos Pais (Honorary), Sérgio Araújo	
Romania	
Ador Copiii Association - The Community of Adoptive Families	www.adorcopiii.ro
FARA Foundation**	www.faracharity.org
Federation of NGOs for Children - Romania	www.fonpc.ro
Heart of a Child Foundation	www.inimadecopil.ro
Hope and Homes for Children Romania	www.hhc.ro
The Including Children Affected by Migration Network - ICAM**	www.icamproject.eu
Serbia	
Children and Youth Support Organisation - Pomoc Deci	www.pomocdeci.org
Child Rights Centre	www.cpd.org.rs
European Non-Governmental Sports Organisation Youth	www.youth-sport.net
Network of Organisations for Children of Serbia - MODS	www.zadecu.org
Slovakia	
Coalition for Children - Slovakia	www.koaliciapredeti.sk

Slovenia	
Legal-Informational Centre for NGOs - Slovenia	pic.si/about/
Slovenian Association of Friends of Youth	www.zpms.si
Slovenian NGO Network ZIPOM (candidate NPN)	www.sredisce-zipom.si
Spain	
Federació d'Entitats d'Atenció i d'Educació a la Infància i l'Adolescència (FEDAIA)	www.fedaia.org
FICE Spain	fice-es.org
Fundación Montessori sin Fronteras	
iCmedia	www.icmedianet.org
Plataforma de Organizaciones de Infancia	www.plataformadeinfancia.org
Research Team : Intervention - Faculty of Psychology and Education - Universidad de Deusto	www.deusto.es
Sweden	
Active - Sobriety, Friendship, Peace	www.activeeurope.org
IOGT-NTOs Juniorförbund (JUNIS)*	www.junis.org
Örebro Regional Development Council	www.regionorebro.se
Social Services of Halmstad	www.halmstad.se
The Association for Promotion of Family Centers	www.familjecentraler.se
World Organisation for Early Childhood Education	www.worldomep.org
Individual member: Thomas Hammarberg (Honorary)	
Switzerland	
Ariel Foundation International	arielfoundation.org
Children's Rights European Academic Network (previously ENMCR)	crean-network.org
International Association for Steiner/Waldorf Early Childhood Education	www.iaswece.org
Turkey	
Hayat Sende Youth Academy Association	hayatsende.org/
Ukraine	
Hope and Homes for Children Ukraine	www.hopeandhomes.org.ua
International Charity Partnership for Every Child	www.p4ec.org.ua
Individual member: Antonina Slipchenko	
United Kingdom	
Centre for Applied Childhood, Youth and Family Studies - Huddersfield University*	www.hud.ac.uk/research/researchcentres/cacs/
Children's Parliament Scotland	www.childrensparliament.org.uk
Children's Rights Alliance for England	www.crae.org.uk
Children in Northern Ireland	www.ci-ni.org.uk
Children in Scotland	www.childreninscotland.org.uk
Children in Wales	www.childreninwales.org.uk
Child to Child	www.child-to-child.org
Department of Applied Social Research, University of Bedfordshire	www.beds.ac.uk
European Children's Rights Unit - University of Liverpool	www.liverpool.ac.uk/law/research/european-childrens-rights-unit/
Health and Social Care Board*	www.hscboard.hscni.net
Home-Start Worldwide	www.homestartworldwide.org
Hope and Homes for Children**	www.hopeandhomes.org
International Foster Care Organisation (IFCO)	www.ifco.info
Lifestart Foundation	www.lifestartfoundation.org
Middlesex University	www.mdx.ac.uk
Refugee Rights Europe	refugeerights.org.uk
The Early Years Organisation	www.early-years.org
Together (Scottish Alliance for Children's Rights)	www.togetherscotland.org.uk
UNESCO Centre	www.unescocentre.ulster.ac.uk
University of Central Lancashire - The Centre for Children and Young People's Participation, School of Social Work	www.uclan.ac.uk/cyp
Individual members: Jeffrey Coleman, John Fitzgerald, Malgorzata Kmita, Marion Macleod**, Professor Sir Albert Aynsley-Green	

In orange: National Partner Networks

* Members who will officially withdraw at General Assembly 2019

** Candidate members to be endorsed at General Assembly 2019

Join the Eurochild network!

If you want to contribute to creating a society that upholds children's rights and offers them an environment to grow up happy and healthy, contact us!

Find us on    
or email us info@eurochild.org



Eurochild
Putting children at
the heart of Europe

Get involved and support Eurochild

Help us change the way society views and treats its children. We work with civil society, governments, social workers, foundations, academics and children themselves to protect and promote their rights.

Donate today.

Eurochild AISBL Avenue de la Porte de Hal / Hallepoortlaan 27
1060 Brussels, Belgium.

www.eurochild.org