



Eurochild
Putting children at
the heart of Europe

Annual Report 2019

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.



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Introduction

In 2020 the global pandemic is changing the world as we know it.

As we look back to Eurochild's activities in 2019, we know that our past achievements will be put to the test in the coming months and years.

Leaders across Europe are taking action, first, to save lives and second, to save livelihoods. The recovery will be long and hard. Collaboration and coordination across countries will be more important than ever. The European Union has an opportunity to show its true value.

COVID-19 presents low health risk to children. But children will be profoundly impacted by this crisis. We are seeing a deepening of existing inequalities. Children and families already facing hardship before the pandemic are ill equipped to cope with its consequences. Reports of increased domestic violence and child abuse are alarming. Many families are struggling to make ends. Home schooling is especially challenging for those without internet or living in cramped conditions. Mental health concerns for children and adolescents are likely to escalate. Children in public care and care leavers are particularly vulnerable, stretching the capacity of child protection systems.

During this deeply worrying time, Eurochild has an important role to bring visibility to the plight of children throughout Europe. The network also needs to inform the response, ensuring that the economic stimuli that follow, take account of children's perspectives. Indeed if efforts to rebuild Europe are built on a full understanding of children's rights, our continent will be fairer and more resilient to shocks in the future. Children are our greatest asset. We should not be fearful for their future. We must equip them with the necessary tools to thrive in a rapidly changing and increasingly inter-connected world.

Eurochild is an extraordinary community of individuals and organisations united by a common mission to fight for children's rights. We have achieved much over the years. I am proud that, thanks in part to our campaigning, children emerged as a high priority for the EU in the 2019 change-over. There is a strong inter-group on children's rights in the European Parliament, and a Vice-President of the European Commission charged with the design of a comprehensive EU child rights strategy. Work on an EU Child Guarantee Initiative also gathered momentum.

I am also proud that Eurochild is leading by example on how to listen to, and involve children directly. Our exit from this crisis will be more robust and sustainable, if adults take the time to inform children and involve them actively in decisions.

The crisis will require Eurochild to redirect its efforts and adapt to new challenges. But our successes of last year – as documented in this Annual Report – provide a strong foundation on which to build. There has never been a more important time to defend children's rights.



H.E. Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca
President Emeritus of Malta
President of Eurochild

2019: A year in review

Membership

176
members



34
countries
represented

>2,000
child rights
organisations
represented



Advocacy and Communications



104+
meetings
with high level
decision-makers

742

people participated
in Eurochild events



12,662
views
of Eurochild's
videos

Children's participation



650
children worked directly with
Eurochild network



Almost 20,000
children and young people
consulted from over
48 countries



The change Eurochild wants to see

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

Ending child poverty in Europe

Almost 23 million children - that's one in four - are at risk of poverty or social exclusion across the European Union (Eurostat, 2018).

This rate is critically high in a number of countries, namely Romania, Bulgaria, Greece and Italy. Worryingly child poverty is increasing in countries usually associated with strong welfare systems, including France, Denmark, Sweden and Finland.

Eradicating child poverty in Europe is not simple, but it is a goal to which Eurochild remains committed.

The European Semester is the EU's economic, social and employment policy framework that influences national policies through a yearly cycle.

Together with 29 members, Eurochild assessed how country reports reflect the situation of children's rights in 22 countries and published alternative recommendations on the most urgent priorities. Our analysis supports the efforts of the European Commission. In particular officials responsible for Croatia, Estonia, France, Malta and Slovenia acknowledged the value of our inputs. The report "New opportunities for Investing in Children" was also used to gather support from Member States' Permanent Representatives to the EU for the European Child Guarantee initiative. Many members are using the report in their national advocacy efforts.

“ We take the issue of child well-being and rights seriously, in the context of the European semester but also of the European funds. The underlying socio-economic conditions in outer-most regions of France are far from being optimal. As a consequence, in our Country Report for France, Education/Health/Youth policy issues were highlighted as priority needs for investment linked to the Structural Funds. ”

Luca Barani, Programme Manager - EU policies & EU2020 Co-ordination for France, European Commission



Roundtable discussions at the Towards No Child Poverty in Europe 2030 event at the European Parliament

In November 2019, Eurochild shared its recommendations at a high-level political roundtable *Towards No Child Poverty in Europe 2030* in the European Parliament. Eurochild joined forces with Bertelsmann Stiftung, as well as allied Members of European Parliament to highlight the need for integrated approaches to address child poverty across Europe. Eurochild members from Austria, Denmark, Finland and France brought inputs to the discussions.

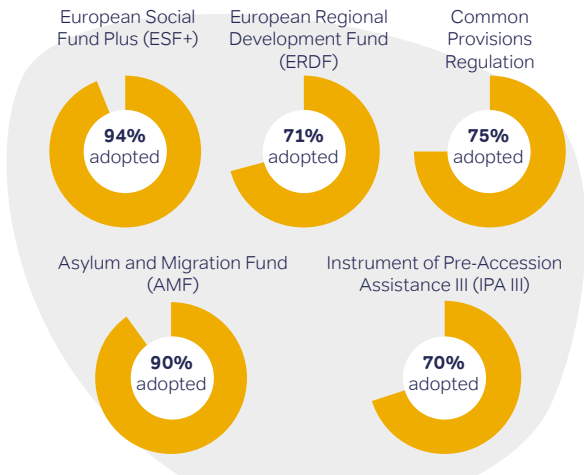
Eurochild joined forces with a wider EU Alliance for Investing in Children to pressure the European Council for more political commitment to children.

Owing to its success in uniting civil society to fight child poverty, Eurochild's member Alberio della Vita co-led a similar initiative in Italy where 3 in 10 children face poverty. They celebrated its first anniversary conference in January 2020. Eurochild staff presented how EU funds and policies can be used to help Italy tackle child poverty.

+ **Read the report "New opportunities for investing in children: 2019 Eurochild report on the European Semester"**

Child-proofing the European Union’s future budget

Eurochild is concerned that the EU’s next seven-year EU budget or Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) prioritises investment in children. We want to make sure EU money supports efforts to tackle child poverty, social exclusion and the transition from institutional to family and community-based care. We reviewed the proposals of the European Commission and provided detailed amendments. Many of our suggestions were taken up by the European Parliament.



The percentage of Eurochild’s amendments voted by the European Parliament on each EU fund in future EU budget 2021-2027

The key achievements include:

- setting a specific indicator to measure the how the ESF+ is reaching children under 18 as beneficiaries;
- increased allocations to social inclusion;
- strengthening the meaningful participation of civil society and service users in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the EU-funded programmes. In addition, in line with the ESF+, 2% of the funds have been specifically earmarked for capacity building of civil society in the Parliament’s mandate.

The Multiannual Financial Framework for 2021-2027 is still under negotiation at the time of writing of this report.

The Child Guarantee



“No child in poverty, that’s what we are fighting for. Ending child poverty and increasing opportunities for all young Europeans is paramount to reducing inequalities.”

The properly funded ESF+ is crucial to the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights and will contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Agnes Jongerius, Member of European Parliament and Spokesperson on Employment and Social Affairs.

The European Parliament’s proposal for the next ESF+ calls explicitly for the establishment of a **“Child Guarantee”**, with an additional allocation EUR 5.9 billion. Its position calls for EU Member States to allocate at least 5 % of their ESF+ resources to implement the European Child Guarantee, ensuring children’s equal access to free healthcare, free education, free childcare, decent housing and adequate nutrition.

Eurochild is actively contributing to shaping the Child Guarantee.

We provided input to the feasibility study ensuring that many members could contribute to reviewing reports and participating in the workshops. We also helped to ensure children’s voices were heard as part of this study.

Read more on the Child Guarantee feasibility study [here](#)



Tackling inequality in a child's first months and years

The seeds of inequality are sown in a child's first months and years. As Eurochild advocates for tackling child poverty and social exclusion, we cannot ignore the influence of care, nutrition and support to a child in their first months and years. As such, **Eurochild is targeting these first years in its upcoming advocacy campaign on Early Childhood Development (ECD), in collaboration with the International Step by Step Association.**

The purpose of the campaign is to **influence public policies and spending so that all families – but particularly those living with adversity – get the support they need to provide a healthy, safe and nurturing environment for their youngest children.** It is focused on children under the age of 6, with a particular emphasis on the first 1,000 days (0-3 years).

In partnership with the European Public Health Alliance and the Roma Education Fund, we intend to build a broad network of civil society organisations representing beneficiaries such as families with children with disabilities, families from Roma communities and migrant families. The campaign partners collectively reach hundreds, if not thousands, of member organisations with expertise in public health, early years workforce and children's rights.

With financial support provided by the Early Childhood Program at Open Society Foundations, the campaign, to be launched in mid-2020, will run until the end of 2021, with the possibility of extension until 2023.

Aims of the campaign:

- Increase political visibility of ECD at EU level;
- Help to channel more EU funds towards ECD investment, as a means of achieving the EU's political goal of reducing child poverty;
- Build capacity of national civil society to leverage EU influence and funding to support advocacy for better ECD policies and services at national level.

Civil society partners in 10 countries have been selected to run the campaign nationally: Spain, Portugal, France, Bulgaria, Romania, Hungary, Finland, Ireland, Serbia, North Macedonia.

The campaign's impact will be measured by the visibility of early childhood development in EU policy & funding proposals, including for example, the European Child Guarantee and the European Semester; and the extent to which these tools are used by local civil society to accelerate reform & influence public budgets at national level.



Celebrating seven years of successful advocacy to end institutions and strengthen families

Over seven years, Eurochild coordinated the Opening Doors for Europe's Children campaign that ran across 16 European countries to end institutional care and strengthen families.

At its closing event on 15 January 2020 in Brussels, the international partners – Hope and Homes for Children, SOS Children's Villages, FICE Europe and International Foster Care Organisation, national coordinators and European policymakers reflected on the lessons and achievements.

Many campaign countries, such as Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Romania and Ukraine, are increasingly prioritising child protection and deinstitutionalisation. It is particularly encouraging to observe the **number of children living in family-based foster care slowly exceeding the number of children living in institutions.**



Our joined efforts with civil society organisations within the campaign led us to strengthen our influence on the government and, as a result, the development

and approval of the National Strategy on Reforming the System of Institutional Care and Upbringing of Children for 2017-2026 and Action Plan, which is a huge step towards the implementation of deinstitutionalisation in Ukraine.

Halyna Postoliuk, the HHC Regional Operations Director, Eastern Europe and Central Asia



The creation and adoption of laws have been a very important part of the reform of the social protection system in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Implementation of these

laws will put us one step closer to ensure the placement of children in a family environment.

Mirza Avdić, Development Coordinator, Hope and Homes for Children Bosnia and Herzegovina



The communication between policymakers, stakeholders and NGOs has improved a lot in the past year. The Estonian Ministry of Social affairs has involved all institutions and organisations in the field of alternative care (state institutions and NGOs) in the problem-solving, planning and decision-making processes.

Helen Saarnik, Project Coordinator, Estonian Child Welfare Union

At the European level, **the European Semester process is now used effectively to push for reforms towards deinstitutionalisation**. All EU campaign countries country reports **refer to the policies** for the transition from institutional to family and community-based care or inclusive education for the 2021-27 programming period. The future EU budget 2021-2027 **prioritises the transition from institutional to family-and community-based care, promotes social inclusion**, and strives to improve policy **coherence** and **protection of children's rights**, especially those at risk or in care.



We are committed to continuing that work together in a collaborative way. We need powerful advocacy, we need the voices of young children who are in care and have left care, the voices of families who have been separated... these are part of the solution of ending institutional care.

Jana Hainsworth, Secretary General, Eurochild



According to the external evaluation of the campaign, national coordinators expressed pride in their newfound ability to connect with EU officials and use EU tools to support their advocacy. The factsheets featuring key information from each campaign country played an invaluable role in supporting EU country desk officers in their dialogue with governments. Through its innovative advocacy of bringing national expertise to bear on European recommendations, the Opening Doors campaign has left an indelible mark on the EU's role as a champion of deinstitutionalisation.



Final meeting of the campaign's international partners and national coordinators before the closing event



Helen Jõks, Adviser, Department of Child Well-Being, Ministry of Social Affairs, Estonia and Marie-Anne Paraskevas, Senior Policy Officer, European Commission at the panel discussion



+ **Read the Lessons Learned and Recommendations to Strengthen Families and End Institutionalisation for Children in Europe**

Ensuring EU funds remain a catalyst for reforming child protection systems

Over the last decade, hundreds of millions of euro from the EU's budget¹ have been spent on reforms in child protection and welfare systems both inside and outside the EU, contributing to the transition from institutional to family- and community-based care.

Eurochild has been influencing negotiations of the next EU budget negotiations in order to maintain, strengthen and expand the attention dedicated to child protection and deinstitutionalisation reforms.

Under the draft funding regulation for the European Social Fund Plus (2021-2027) countries will be obliged to invest in tackling children in poverty or social exclusion as well as to develop family- and community-based care services and move away from institutional care. The EU will also require Member States to involve civil society organisations in planning and monitoring the use of funds.

Thanks in part to Eurochild's advocacy, the European Parliament reintroduced deinstitutionalisation as the investment priority in the 2021-2027 **European Regional Development Fund** (ERDF) regulation.

The **Common Provisions Regulation** provides overall guidance on the use of EU funds. Here too, Eurochild helped to ensure the proposals refer to family-based and community-based services and protection of children's rights as guaranteed under the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, the UN Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Eurochild's advocacy efforts have also targeted the future **Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance III** (IPA III) which supports structural reforms in countries from the pre-accession region. Many

of these countries also have a high prevalence of children in institutional settings. Together with our partners in the Opening Doors for Europe's Children campaign, we have tried to ensure that the transition from institutional to family- and community-based care remains a priority and that involvement of civil society is guaranteed.

Our job in 2020 is to ensure the changes we have influenced in the proposals, see the light of day when the 2021-2027 EU budget is finally approved. After that we can work with our members to monitor implementation of EU funding programmes, to ensure the guidance is how the various Regulations are implemented in practice.



¹ **Structural Funds Watch report** outlines that €2.7 billion were allocated towards reforming care systems.

Promoting and protecting the rights of children in migration

Children in migration are denied access to many of the rights required under the UN Convention on the rights of the child. Eurochild collaborates with civil society partners to draw attention to their plight and to push for more and better protection.

FORUM for Unaccompanied Minors

Member organisation Fondazione l'Albero della Vita (Italy) coordinated the EU project "FORUM for Unaccompanied Minors: transfer of knowledge for professionals to increase foster care", aimed at expanding family-based care for unaccompanied migrant children. In April 2019 Eurochild coordinated a roundtable discussion in the European Parliament hosted by MEPs Miriam Dalli from Malta and former MEP Cécile Kyenge from Italy.

⊕ Read more about our work with the FORUM project [here](#).



The effective protection of children in migration means that not only do we provide appropriate housing, timely appointment of guardians, it means that we make sure

that their education is provided for and make sure that there is timely integration of these children into our societies.

Miriam Dalli, Member of the European Parliament



MEP Cécile Kyenge and Giulio Valtolina, Catholic University of Milan and Fondazione ISMU speaking at the FORUM event in the European Parliament

Initiative for Children in Migration

Eurochild also stepped up its engagement with the Initiative for Children in Migration, an informal collaboration among NGOs and international governmental organisations coordinating advocacy on EU law and policy impacting children in migration.

Together with Save the Children Europe and Terres des Hommes International Federation, Eurochild developed a position paper on *Promoting and Protecting the rights of children in migration through the multiannual financial framework 2021-2027*. We convened a roundtable in the European Parliament, hosted by MEP Javier Moreno Sánchez, and teamed up with Child Protection Hub to deliver a webinar on the subject.

Thanks in part to our advocacy, **the European Parliament is championing the rights of children in migration. MEPs have called on EU funding to support services for the reception and integration of migrant children.** They also called for the Asylum and Migration Fund to be used in line with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the principle of the best interest of the child.

⊕ Read the position paper **Promoting and Protecting the rights of children in migration through the multiannual financial framework 2021-2027**



MEP Javier Moreno Sánchez, MEP Eider Gardiazabal, Federica Toscano, Missing Children Europe; Reka Tunyogi, Eurochild; MEP Brando Benifei, at the launch of the position paper in the European Parliament

New EU leaders commit to putting children at the heart of Europe

2019 was a special year for the EU institutions with a change of guard at the European Parliament following elections in May and a new European Commission in autumn.

The year of change provided a perfect opportunity of campaigning to ensure our future leaders in the institutions commit to putting children at the heart of Europe. Ahead of the European Parliament elections, Eurochild, in coalition with over a dozen children's rights organisations and its own members, campaigned for a *Vote for Children*.

The *Vote for Children* campaign gathered signatures of support from candidates who committed to become *Child Rights Champions* by upholding children's rights if elected. Eurochild members and children from our Children's Council and National Forums joined the campaign actions to urge candidates across the EU-28 nations to become Child Rights Champions.

Eurochild's involvement in *Vote for Children* campaign had high returns in terms of outreach and visibility among the new and candidate parliamentarians. 300 candidates signed up to become *Child Rights Champions*. After elections, 1 in 7 European parliamentarians are Child Rights Champions. This group of *Child Rights Champions* are now gathered in an informal grouping of the new European Parliament as the Children's Rights Intergroup under the co-chairs MEP Caterina Chinnici, MEP David Lega, MEP Saskia Bricmont and MEP Hilde Vautmans.



Candidates for the European Parliament showed off their badges as Child Rights Champions



Former Swedish MEP Maria Corazza Bildt with Maltese MEP Roberta Metsola.

First vote of support to children's rights

The new supportive grouping established their presence with the first resolution voted in the European Parliament on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in November. **Many of Eurochild's priority demands were raised in the resolution which addresses the need for meaningful forms of child participation, and investing in public services for children**, including support for the establishment of a European Child Guarantee.

“ The European Parliament calls on the Commission and Member States to adopt the Bucharest EU Children's Declaration which highlights that “the culture of child participation can be built at all levels - family, community, local, regional, national and European - and can bring short- and long-term benefits to the society. ”

European Parliament resolution of 26 November 2019 on children's rights in occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.



H.E. Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca and Jana Hainsworth discussing the Vote for Children Campaign with Frans Timmermans, Vice President of the European Commission

Campaigning for an EU Commissioner for Children

Did you know that there is an EU Commissioner for Fisheries but no Commissioner for Children?

With the opportunity of a new European Commission taking over, Eurochild launched a petition to gather signatures supporting a new role at the European Commission – A Commissioner for Children. With a political leader, the EU would prioritise fighting the many challenges faced by children.

The petition letter to Donald Tusk, President of the European Council, stated that the role of a “European Commissioner for Children would be to champion the rights of children within the EU, accession countries and in its external action. The Commissioner would ensure all policies and EU funds have a positive impact on children’s lives.”

“ We helped Eurochild build a tongue-in-cheek landing site and an online petition. The team focused on the seemingly incongruous fact that there is no EU Commissioner focused on children yet there is one focused on fish - this was a surprising fact that also plays into the fact that many Europeans don’t have a solid grasp on what the Commission does or is responsible for. ”

Edelman, a leading global communications firm offered pro-bono guidance for the Child Commissioner campaign

The campaign may not have achieved its goal of a Child Commissioner, but it raised debate and attention among media, civil society and EU policy experts, and a modest number of signatures within a span of just over two months.

We are encouraged by the prominence of children’s rights in several key portfolios of the new Commissioners. Most importantly Vice President Dubravka Šuica from Croatia takes the portfolio of democracy and demography, leading the development of a comprehensive strategy on the rights of the child and Nicolas Schmit who is to lead on the coordination of the European Child Guarantee initiative to ensure children have access to basic services.

The campaign engaged peer networks who joined in support, as well as engaged citizens who became actively interested in the role of the EU in children’s rights following the campaign.

What will a European Commissioner for Children do?

Represent the interests of children in all EU affairs, for the 28 EU Member States, accession countries and in its external action.

She/he would make sure:

- children are visible
- that children are involved in all decision-making that affects them,
- and special initiatives are in place to improve children’s lives.

Commissioner for Children
Sign the petition



Vice-President of the European Commission Dubravka Šuica will prepare an EU strategy on the rights of the child

European Commissioner Nicolas Schmit is responsible for developing a European Child Guarantee

First Children’s Summit paves way for future of Europe debate

The first ever EU Children’s Summit was held under the leadership of the Romanian EU Presidency in May. Taking place a few days in advance of the Future of Europe Summit in Sibiu, Romania, the *Children’s Summit* sought to gather children’s opinions on the Europe they want and to discuss how to encourage children’s participation. It was organised by the National Authority on the Protection of Children’s Rights and Adoption in partnership with UNICEF Romania. Eurochild contributed to gathering children’s views and ensuring their active involvement at the summit itself. H.E. Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca, Eurochild President was invited to deliver a keynote speech.



Children are agents of change, in their own lives, the lives of our communities, our countries and our world. The right of children to participate is key to achieving access to all of their rights: such as protection from violence; from poverty and discrimination; and, tackling today’s environmental challenges, amongst others.

**H.E. Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca,
President of Eurochild**

She was joined by delegations of children from five countries, Malta, Cyprus, Estonia, Croatia and the UK (Scotland) who shared examples of participation from local and national levels to inspire the audience of design-makers, experts and leaders. Eurochild could also share its expertise gathered from its 2018 flagship conference in Opatija, Croatia on children’s participation in public decision-making.

Two young representatives from the Children’s Council in Opatija, Croatia who had been involved in preparing Eurochild’s conference spoke about their work. Sharon, a former Eurochild Children’s Council

member shared the results of the *Europe Kids Want* survey, conducted by Eurochild and UNICEF over the span of a year to gather views of children. According to the *Europe Kids Want* survey, launched by the European Parliament and supported by Eurochild and UNICEF, only 8% of children respondents feel that adults listen to their opinions when making decisions in their community.



Children from across Europe joined the first Children’s Summit in Bucharest, Romania in May 2019

We are a significant part of Europe’s population and we are writing our own story through marches, vocalization, and representation....

...We are asking that support for child participation platforms and forums be established at national and EU levels to inform children on political decisions and measures implemented by various national and international programs and projects, but also as a mechanism of scrutinizing children’s opinions on various issues.

The views and ideas expressed by children were compiled as *The Bucharest EU Children’s Declaration* adopted on 7 May at the Children’s Summit to guide European leaders.

Eurochild used the declaration to demand more structured mechanisms enabling children to engage with decision-makers at local, national and European levels.

Meet the new Eurochild Children's Council

The 2019 Eurochild General Assembly saw the transition from the very first Eurochild Children's Council (ECC) to its second group, whose mandate runs until 2021. The new Children's Council is composed of 12 children from 12 countries aged 11-16, each supported by an organisation from within Eurochild's membership and selected for their active engagement on issues of local or national concern, from bullying, to climate change, child participation and child poverty.

The members are: **Sioda** (Children's Rights Alliance/ Foroige, Ireland), **Eetu** (Tampere Children's Parliament/ Central Union for Child Welfare, Finland), **Yevhen** (Edukids, Ukraine), **Andreas** (PCCPWC - Cyprus Children's Parliament, Cyprus), **Victor** (Children in Wales, UK), **Ranya** (Legal-Informational Centre, Slovenia), **Martina** (The Malta Foundation for the Wellbeing of Society, Malta), **Una** (Child Rights Centre/ Club DX, Serbia), **Milena** (NNC/ SafeNet, Bulgaria), **Petra** (Society "our children" Opatija, Croatia), **June** (University of Deusto, Spain) and **Kärg** (Estonian Union for Child Welfare, Estonia).

It has been a busy year for the Children's Council as they raised issues with national and European parliamentarians, reached out to improve awareness of children's rights among other young people, and strengthened means of child participation locally and at European level.

In October, the Children's Council attended meetings in Brussels to begin the process of planning the 2020 conference, scheduled to take place in November 2020 in Hämeenlinna, Finland. They also worked with the secretariat to develop Eurochild's future child participation strategy addressing, among others, how to involve children from diverse backgrounds in our work.

The Children's Council returned to Brussels in November to mark the 30th anniversary celebration of the UNCRC on Universal Children's Day at the European Parliament. They have also been helping to develop the National Eurochild Forums and advising on a European Commission study on child participation.

Nationally, the 12 activists ran many projects including carrying out research into social media usage amongst teens in Ireland, and meeting with Cypriot decision makers to discuss ways of addressing child poverty. We are looking forward to collaborating further with the current and former members of the Eurochild Children's Council, and in particular to supporting more child led initiatives.

Visions for Europe

Two members of Eurochild Children's Council were asked to share their visions for Europe, which was published in Euractiv's 20th anniversary special.

“ I believe that with the right circumstances, Europe could be a paradise. Child poverty can finally be eliminated, climate change can be stopped, education systems will change for the interest of the children and all children will have good healthcare. ”

Andreas, Cyprus



Alice Hagger-Vaughan, Eurochild Child Participation Officer together with the Children's Council

“ In 20 years, I am convinced that our Europe will start to fully prioritise education and emotional well-being. ”

Victor, UK



Victor, Eurochild Children's Council, meeting European Commission Vice President Margrethe Vestager

Children take the high seat at the European Parliament

On 20 November 2019, the European Parliament hosted a high level event in celebration of the 30th anniversary of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. President of the European Parliament David Sassoli opened the event, recalling the Parliament's demand for a new EU strategy on the rights of the child. Her Majesty the Queen of the Belgians was the Guest of Honour. In their presence, an interactive set of speeches and comments allowed participants, young and old to share their views.

President Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca urged EU leaders to not consider their work done, demanding attention to tackling child poverty, children in migration and hearing the voices of children. Sioda, from the Eurochild Children's Council delivered a speech on behalf of the ECC, along with a panel of adults and children.



Children are not simply waiting to receive the future on a silver plate! We believe that children with their opinions can change the fate of Europe. Children are human beings not human

becomings...We are 20% of Europe's population, and 100% of the future you are building.

Sioda, Irish member of Eurochild Children's Council

Eurochild worked in collaboration with other child rights organisations to ensure meaningful participation of children. The Eurochild Children's Council joined other delegations of children to represent their views and ideas in meetings with European parliamentarians raising issues of local and European concern, and facilitated live interviews with MEPs Saskia Bricmont and Dragoş Pişlaru. A small delegation of children together with the President of Eurochild participated in a discussion with the EP Intergroup on Children's Rights and the French Secretary of State for Child Protection Adrien Taquet, in which they highlighted the need to involve children more systematically in decisions.



MEP Maite Pagazartundúa, together with members of the Eurochild Secretariat and Children's Council

Redefining power with the Council of Europe

In autumn 2019 Eurochild in cooperation with its member University of Central Lancashire supported the participation of 13 children (aged 11-18) from 10 countries in the Conference 'Redefining power: Strengthening the rights of the child' hosted by the Council of Europe.

The conference focused on five topics: child participation, the power of technology, speaking up against violence against children, protecting children's data and supporting children in contact with the justice system.

The children played a vital and active role – delivering speeches and posing questions to challenge adults and governments from across Europe to do more to respect, protect and promote children's rights.

James from Northern Ireland said that they need a platform on which to speak and be seriously listened to; and disabled activists need inclusion and accessibility. Rostyslav from Ukraine stressed the importance of children to be taught about cyber security and sexual education. Andrea from Serbia disagreed with one of the adult speakers, saying "I disagree that the opinion of a child should not be taken seriously because they can change their minds. Judges can also change their minds. Children should be listened to."

Read the young people's report of their intervention at the conference



MEP Saskia Bricmont being interviewed by Una and Petra from the Eurochild Children's Council in the studios of the European Parliament

Tools and training to help realise child participation

We Are Here - Child Participation Toolbox

In collaboration with the Learning for Well-being Foundation, Eurochild produced a practical set of tools 'We Are Here – Child Participation Toolbox'. The toolkit will help implement meaningful children's participation and encourage collaboration between generations. The Toolbox builds on a child rights perspective to support **meaningful child participation in a variety of settings**. It builds on an understanding that participation can come in many forms, and through a variety of engaging activities helps prepare children for these different situations. Uniquely, the Toolbox also offers tools to help find meaningful ways for children and adults to work together, thereby contributing towards building a culture of child participation across Europe as well as greater understanding and collaboration between generations.

Eurochild looks forward to use this toolkit with its members, allies in government and inter-governmental bodies to help realise child participation.



Final results: Europe Kids Want

Together with UNICEF, we co-developed a survey with children to gain an insight into the views and concerns of children around the continent. Nearly 20,000 responses were received from children in 48 European countries, including every member state of the European Union.

The top three recommendations from children to the EU are helping to keep peace in the world; protecting the environment and helping to make sure everyone is treated equally. Two thirds of the children and young people are positive about diversity, which is one of the core values of the EU. Fake news and artificial intelligence are new areas where the EU has to ensure children's rights are safeguarded.

The results were shared far and wide with decision-makers to act upon the recommendations including the European Parliament, Bucharest Children's Summit and the Council of Europe conference on Redefining power.

Working to engage children locally

As part of our commitment to developing child participation practices across our membership we established National Eurochild Forums (NEFs) in countries where our members are based. Each NEF is made up of between **15-25 individuals aged 10-18 who work together in their national contexts to investigate and gather the views of children at local level, with the aim of influencing national and EU decision makers.** National Eurochild Forums were initially piloted in Estonia (Estonian Union for Child Welfare), Malta (Malta Foundation for the Wellbeing of Society) and Bulgaria (National Network for Children) and as of 2019, one additional forum has been established by Society “Our Children” Croatia in Croatia.

Throughout 2019, the forums in Estonia, Malta and Bulgaria held various activities to launch their work of gathering views of children, consulting with groups of children to strengthen child participation in their own work. In Bulgaria, members have been reporting on the views of children from across the country on a wide range of subjects including the European Elections and inclusive education.

In Malta following a year-long consultation exercise among 2,400 children in 48 schools across Malta and Gozo, the Malta Foundation for the Wellbeing of Society published a 70-page report from the project ‘You Matter No Matter What’. “The findings reveal how children feel happy and fulfilled when they are listened to, how desperately they struggled to compete with other demands on adults’ time.” – Dr Ruth Farrugia, Malta Foundation for the Well-being of Society

 **Read the full report**
You Matter No Matter What

The Estonians, meanwhile have been working on developing a platform called Märka Last (Notice a Child) which is a digital meeting place where children around Estonia can publish stories, photos, videos, articles and opinions. Importantly the platform is a child-led initiative that will continue to develop according to the ideas of the children themselves.



The main idea from the beginning was not to have anything ready-made but instead to create a starting point and a platform which grows with youngsters themselves.

Kristi Mark, Estonian Union for Child Welfare





How Eurochild contributes 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 work
- ▶ Working in partnership & alliances with other organisations & networks

Bringing the children's rights sector together

Eurochild's General Assembly & Members Day had a record number of over 140 participants, including children and young people from the outgoing and incoming Eurochild Children's Council. **15 new members were endorsed, growing our network to 176 members in 34 countries.**

This annual gathering marked the first year of implementing our new Strategic Plan 2019-2021, a crucial year for the European Union, the 30th anniversary of the UNCRC, as well as the 15th anniversary of Eurochild. The meeting provided opportunities to share experiences and gain new knowledge in specific topics linked to Eurochild's strategic goals.



The GA was very well organized, well-structured and time efficient. I felt that all relevant topics were addressed well and qualitative participation of members was clearly felt. I got a good insight

into how Eurochild is structured and how the organisation and General Assembly works and all the impressive activities being undertaken towards implementing Eurochild's mission and vision.

Maximilian Ullrich, National Coalition for the implementation of the UN CRC Austria



High level representatives from the European Commission were invited for a special session ahead of the General Assembly to help members reflect on child rights advocacy in a changing Europe.

Members actively contributed to workshops on influencing, child participation and Eurochild's network development. The influencing workshops focused on Eurochild's European Elections campaign, the next EU budget, the upcoming campaign on Early Childhood Development and children in institutional care. The child participation workshops reviewed implementation of Eurochild's child participation strategy and gathered members' input on building structural mechanisms for

child participation in EU institutions. To progress the development of the network, we evaluated membership communications and held a workshop on ethical standards.

Eurochild members brought a huge breadth of topics to the open space session, sparking an energetic session on topics ranging from child participation to fake news, from climate change to cross-generational working.



Josefine Hederström, Stefaan Hermans and Valeria Setti from the European Commission responding to questions asked by children from the Eurochild Children's Council.

Partnering with Dentons for legal assistance

Eurochild entered into a strategic partnership with the world's largest law firm, Dentons, enabling Eurochild and its members to access operational and strategic legal assistance on a pro bono basis. The partnership formalizes a relationship which began in 2018. Dentons and the member firms of the Nextlaw Referral Network have already provided over 200 hours of pro bono assistance to both the Eurochild Secretariat in Brussels and Eurochild members across Europe.

Dentons is fully committed to making a meaningful contribution to the communities in which we live and work, through our pro bono legal work. We are excited about our new strategic partnership with Eurochild. Together we will help protect children's rights across the Continent.

Tomasz Dąbrowski, CEO of Dentons Europe



Campaigning with our members across Europe

Members actively engaged in the development and success of Eurochild's campaigns throughout 2019, including the campaign on the Vote for Children ahead of the European Parliament elections.

Spain – Plataforma de Infancia mobilises political support

La Plataforma de Infancia joined Eurochild's **Vote for Children** campaign to achieve a European Parliament committed to children's rights, calling on Spanish European Parliamentary candidates to become Child Rights Champions. Eurochild supported their event on 14 May, where they invited representatives of the main national political parties to speak about children's rights.

Among those invited to speak, Susana Solís, Mónica Silvana and Antonio López-Istúriz were elected MEPs. A total of **17 Spanish Child Rights Champions** were elected from different political parties ensuring that children get the visibility they deserve in the next mandate of the European Parliament.



Sharon, former member of the Eurochild Children's Council speaking at the roundtable together with other children and candidates for EU elections.

In **Malta** and **Croatia** our member organisations involved children in the campaign action and got many candidates to sign up to become Child Rights Champions. In Malta, two roundtable events were hosted by the Malta Foundation for the Wellbeing of Society offering opportunities for dialogue between children and candidate parliamentarians. Children raised several issues ranging from accessible healthcare and environmental concerns to (online) bullying. In Croatia, Society 'Our Children' Opatija hosted a special event with Children's City Council Opatija to encourage dialogue between children and MEP candidates urging them to stand up for children's rights if elected.



MEP Antonio López-Istúriz White, EPP; MEP Susana Solís Pérez, Renew Europe Group; Ricardo Ibarra, Plataforma de Infancia; MEP Mónica Silvana, S&D; Patricia Caro, candidate for Unidas Podemos.



Group photo of Croatian children and candidates for the European Parliament elections

Supporting members to influence

Slovenian Ministers commit to greater children's participation

In November, Eurochild member the **Slovenian Association of Friends of Youth** organised a conference Citizens of the Future with the support of Eurochild. It was attended by Slovenian Ministers, NGO representatives and 150 young people aged 13-17. The conference was co-facilitated by Edvina, a former member of the Eurochild Children's Council.

The event culminated in a letter of cooperation on children's participation being signed by the Slovenian Minister for Education, Science, and Sport, the Minister for Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, and representatives from the National Children's Parliament and Slovenian Association of Friends of Youth. The letter highlighted a strong political commitment to children's right to participate: *"the participation of children in decision making on the individual, family and organisational level as well as in politics and society, is essential for the exercising of children's rights."*

In 2019, Eurochild supported two member-led events: Citizens of the Future hosted by Slovenian Association of Friends of Youth and the Vote for Children event hosted by Plataforma de Infancia in Spain. This support contributes to members influence at a national level and strengthens the link to EU policy-making and political processes.

Advocating with our national partner networks

National Partner Networks (NPNs) are networks of children's rights organisations who are crucial to strengthening Eurochild's voice in Brussels and in the Member States capitals. The current 23 NPNs play an important role in linking EU and national/regional policies relevant for children and young people.

In 2019 the NPNs met in Brussels in September, enabling mutual exchange and learning in particular about the newly elected European Parliament and



Dr. Jernej Pikalo, Slovenian Minister for Education, Science, and Sport, Mag. Ksenija Klampfer, Minister for Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, Uroš Brezovšek, President of the National Committee for Children's Parliaments, Darja Groznik, the President of the Slovenian Association of Friends of Youth Slovenia sign a letter of commitment to children's right to participate

new structures of the European Commission. NPNs provide valuable input to Eurochild's work on the European Semester and the child guarantee. They are supported by updates on key EU developments, templates and advocacy toolkits and enabling their participation in key EU conferences to ensure their expertise is heard by decision-makers and policy-makers at the highest levels of decision-making.

Fighting the anti-child rights attacks

At the NPN meeting, Eurochild members in countries such as Bulgaria, Czechia, Hungary, Poland, Serbia and Slovakia shared their challenges of countering anti-child rights movements. For example, in Bulgaria disinformation campaigns have derailed adoption of important national policy reforms and undermined trust in civil society. The peer exchange offered through Eurochild is an important source of support and ideas on how to fight back. Eurochild also helps to draw attention to their concerns by connecting with European parliamentarians, co-signing letters to EU Commissioners and helping to attract media attention. The annual state of civil society report by CIVICUS, a global alliance of civil society organisations and activists dedicated to strengthening citizen action and civil society throughout the world, featured an interview with Eurochild and Child Rights Connect on these anti-child rights movements.



National Partner Networks meeting in Brussels

Acknowledgements to our allies and partners

Eurochild could not achieve the impact it does without the extraordinary commitment of its members and the children and young people involved in our activities. A heartfelt thank you for all your contributions.

In addition, Eurochild is very grateful to its funding partners, the organisations with whom we work in partnership, our contractors and consultants. In particular we would like to thank:



Our funding partners

- European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion, Disability & Inclusion Unit
- European Commission, DG Justice, Fundamental Rights Policy Unit
- OAK Foundation
- Open Society Foundation – Early Childhood Programme
- Martin James Foundation
- Porticus
- UNICEF Regional Office for Europe & Central Asia
- UNICEF Romania
- Children's Rights Division of the Council of Europe



Umbrella networks and coalitions Eurochild is part of

- EU Alliance for Investing in Children
- Global Coalition to End Child Poverty
- European Expert Group on the transition from institutional to community-based support
- European Public Health Alliance
- Social Platform
- Child Rights Connect
- Child Rights Action Group
- European Anti-Poverty Network
- Initiative for Children in Migration
- Civil Society Liaison Group of the EESC



Our consultants

- Rachel Barlow, Senior Adviser, Ellwood Atfield
- Gilles Klass, ExecAdvice
- Kevin Jackson, CRM Consultant
- Anne Crowley, Red Kite Research and Consultancy
- Veronique Lerch, Human Rights Consultant
- Frazer Goodwin, Human Ecology Consulting Brussels
- Jonathan Ellis, Campaigner, Teacher, Catalyst
- Stacy Topouzova, PhD Candidate, University of Oxford
- Tamsin Rose, Director, Progress Works
- Cath Larkins, University of Central Lancashire
- Ed Thorpe, Thorpe European Services
- Mária Herczog, Senior Policy Analyst, Institute for Human Services, Columbus, Ohio, US



Our pro-bono partners

- Dentons
- Edelman for guidance on the EU Child Commissioner campaign



Our contractors & service providers

- Design & printing: Page in Extremis, L'Union
- IT Support: B&B Computer Solutions
- Accountancy & auditing: Danielle Ost, Danielle Quivy
- Website: Wikafi, ACW
- Hotels and event venues: Penta, Thon Hotels, Motel One, Park Inn by Radisson Brussels Midi

Telling the children's rights story to our growing audiences

Eurochild's growing audiences are spread across many channels, regions and areas of interest. We have invested in video production and storytelling to ensure the story of the children's rights community is shared far and wide, to support our mission of putting children at the heart of Europe. From social media to traditional media, Eurochild is ensuring its presence is recognised as a reliable and responsive children's rights network.

Media mentions

This year saw significant rise in media mentions and opinion pieces published thanks to greater engagement with members, the Eurochild Children's Council, Vote for Children and EU Child Commissioner campaigns and a new high profile President! Eurochild's commentary was featured in **Forbes, Euronews, Politico newsletters and Euractiv, as well as national press in Wales, the Netherlands, Romania, Portugal, Spain and Malta** on the breadth of our key areas of work and campaigns.

Newsletters

Eurochild's monthly public newsletter, featuring news, resources, opportunities and events continues to see strong growth in readership with almost 5,000 subscribers.

Expanding our social media outreach

We surpassed our internal yearly targets to see increase across all social media channels. Eurochild's social media presence has over 16,000 followers in total. See the most popular posts on the right!



Find us online and **subscribe** to our monthly newsletter to stay in touch!



Twitter

36 RTs, 52 likes:
#childrights in emoji



Facebook

41 likes, 39 shares: Today, at the European Parliament, we launch our European semester report on the situation of children in 22 European countries. At a high-level political round table with Bertelsmann Stiftung, European policy makers and civil society actors, we'll discuss how Europe can eradicate child poverty by 2030. Read our press release and five key findings now!



Instagram

193 likes: Meet the Eurochild Children's Council! The video introducing Sioda, Irish member of the Eurochild Children's Council got plenty of attention on Instagram.



Video views: 12,662

Eurochild produced a series of informative videos, from explaining the Child Guarantee to introducing the new Children's Council.

Governance

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 as well as the diversity of the types of organisations in membership. The Management Board is divided into sub-committees to better guide the secretariat in communications, finances, fundraising, governance, HR/staffing, membership, and children's participation.

In April 2019, the General Assembly elected two new members of the Management Board - Uroš Brezovšek, Slovenian Association of Friends of Youth and Adrian Oros, Hope and Hopes for Children Romania.

The General Assembly elected a new Eurochild President, H.E. Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca, newly appointed Honorary member of Eurochild and President Emeritus of Malta.

H.E. Coleiro Preca has dedicated her life to social well-being of the most vulnerable in society and was influential in bringing change to social policies in Malta, as Minister for Family and Social Solidarity and later as President of Malta. In 2014, she founded the Malta Foundation for the Wellbeing of Society which is a member of Eurochild and works actively with children to create spaces for them to share their views.

President Coleiro Preca took over from Hanna Heinonen, CEO of the Central Union for Child Welfare. The network is grateful to Hanna for the expertise she brought to the Management Board over seven years.

Since election, the new Board has held meetings in Brussels and in Berlin, where they took the opportunity to engage with members and officials in the government ahead of the future German EU Presidency.

The 2019 Management Board



H.E. Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca,
Honorary Member,
Malta - President



Ljiljana Vasic,
Pomoc Deci, Serbia –
Treasurer & appointed
Vice President



Sean O'Neill,
Children in Wales,
UK (appointed Vice
President)



Mariana Pisarska,
National Network for
Children, Bulgaria



Miia Pitkänen,
Central Union for Child
Welfare, Finland



Uroš Brezovšek,
Slovenian Association of
Friends of Youth,
Slovenia



Adrian Oros,
Hope and Hopes for
Children Romania,
Romania

In memoriam:

We bid adieu to Norah Gibbons, a committed children's rights defender and former President of Eurochild (2016-2018) who passed away in April 2020. Norah's expertise in child protection and governance was valued by all. The Eurochild community honours her commitment to children's rights.



Eurochild’s governance and working structures

Eurochild is guided by its membership. The visual below explains the structures used to involve members and children in Eurochild’s decision-making and implementation of our activities in 2019.

I. GOVERNANCE AND DECISION-MAKING



II. IMPLEMENTATION

Secretariat

Brussels-based team, servicing the network and implementing its priorities

Secretary General - Oversees day-to-day management of the network and its strategic development. Appointed by the General Assembly upon a proposal of the Management Board.

Secretariat Staff and Interns - The Secretariat team is based in Brussels, led by the Secretary General. Implementing the network's priorities in different areas including policy and advocacy, projects and campaigns, communications, membership, finance, administration and child participation.

III. ADVISORY AND WORKING GROUPS

Working Structures on Thematic Priorities & Advocacy

Thematic Interest Groups - On children in alternative care, family and parenting support and early childhood education and care

Advisory Groups & Task Forces - Groups of members contributing to different activities and projects

National Partner Networks - Appointed within the membership, representative networks or coalitions of child rights organisations at national level

Working Structures on Child Participation

Eurochild Children's Council - Selected group of children supported by Eurochild members from across Europe, advising on advocacy, governance and flagship activities

National Eurochild Forums - National structures led by selected members, where children exchange ideas and views on particular issues of concern to them

Child Participation Reference Group - Open group of members with expertise in child participation, including former members of the Eurochild Children's Council

Secretariat

The secretariat is the backbone of the Eurochild network. We thank our staff and interns at the secretariat in Brussels for their efforts in 2019!

The 2019 Secretariat is composed of:

Management, Operations and Finance

Jana Hainsworth, Secretary General
Andrea Witt, Head of Operations
Axelle Stainier, Head of Finance
Grazia Angerame, Events and Office Assistant (March - September)
Audrey Liénard, Events and Office Assistant (from October)

Communications

Perna Humpal, Head of Communications
Davide Rambaldi, Communications Officer
Tetiana Sykes, Communications & Campaigns Officer

Policy, Advocacy and Child Participation

Réka Tunyogi, Head of Advocacy
Katarina Nanou, Senior Policy and Advocacy Coordinator (until July)
Agata D'Addato, Senior Policy Coordinator – Policy, Research and Practice
Mieke Schuurman, Senior Policy Coordinator – Children's Rights and Child Participation
Alice Hagger-Vaughan, Child Participation and Policy Officer
Zuzana Konradova, Membership & Project Officer (from April)
Ciaran O'Donnell, Policy and Communications Assistant (from September)

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

Ciaran O'Donnell, Policy and Advocacy Intern (March 2019 - August 2019)
Enrico Paolo Tormen, Policy and Advocacy Intern (from September 2019)
Oleksandra Kuzminska, Communications Intern (February 2019 - July 2019)
Amy Leete, Communications Intern (from September 2019 – February 2020)

We have moved!

Following three comfortable years with Kind en Gezin in the south-side of Brussels, the Eurochild secretariat moved its offices in end-November to the EU quarter. The secretariat is now based in the Vlaams Overheid building, next to the European Parliament.



Accounts and funding

Income Statement

Income	2017	2018	2019
Membership fees	61.685	60.660	62.525
EC EaSI grant	843.716	897.850	856.806
External co-funding for joint activities & project grants	420.033	368.639	437.175
Miscellaneous	5.837	5.069	6.412
Interests	0	0	0
Income total	1.331.271	1.332.218	1.362.918

Expenditure	2017	2018	2019
Operating expenses	548.148	520.024	545.812
Payroll	712.173	745.240	745.506
Financial charges	1.506	1.773	1.826
Expenditure total	1.261.827	1.267.037	1.293.144
Operating result	69.444	65.181	69.774

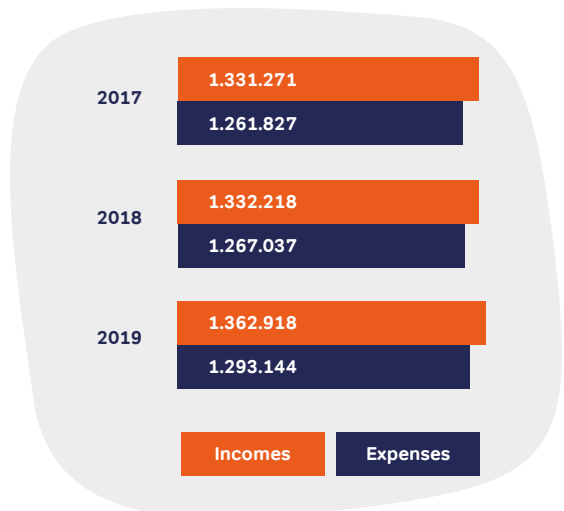
External Cofunding & project grants	2017	2018	2019
Individual and Joint Actions contributing to work plan	15315	43.206	8.393
Oak Foundation - Childnomics	187.562	30.201	-
Oak Foundation - Core Support Grant	137.130	208.276	217.440
Open Society Foundation - Early Childhood Programme	-	-	74.963
Council of Europe	8.823	2.490	10.461
Family Foundation	-	-	22.181
Hope & Homes for Children	50.012	50.021	-
Project Grants	21.191	34.445	103.737
Total	420.033	368.639	437.175

Balance Sheet

Assets	2017	2018	2019
Fixed assets	3.220	15.126	8.745
Trade accounts receivable	19.534	29.670	22.818
Other receivables	185.928	22.579	21.616
Grants Receivable	168.059	329.783	612.507
Advances to partners for projects	-	-	-
Prepaid expenses	14.290	18.141	5.547
Accrued incomes	1.096	0	0
Cash & Bank	188.558	96.439	289.907
Assets total	580.685	511.738	961.140

Liabilities	2017	2018	2019
Equity (own funds)	93.543	158.724	228.498
Grants	112.768	173.135	546.587
Fixed liabilities	0	0	
Trade Account payables	58.600	65.667	83.129
Trade accruals	240.496	40.227	26.246
Other payables	7.688	5.250	8.978
Deferred Profit	2.395	250	0
Social liabilities	65.195	68.485	67.702
Liabilities total	580.685	511.738	961.140

Yearly comparison



Year end result :
€ 69.774

Meet the members

Eurochild has 176 members spanning 34 countries. 23 of these members are National Partner Networks, representing over 2,000 children's rights organisations in total.

ALBANIA		FINLAND	
The Children's Human Rights Centre Albania - CRCA**	https://www.crca.al/en	Central Union for Child Welfare Finland	www.lskl.fi
AUSTRIA		Federation of Mother and Child Homes and Shelters	www.etkl.fi
CONCORDIA Social Projects	www.concordia.or.at	Mannerheim League for Child Welfare	www.mll.fi
National Coalition for the Implementation of the UN CRC - Austria	www.kinderhabenrechte.at	Pesäpuu Ry - Centre of Expertise in Child Welfare	www.pesapuu.fi
SOS Children's Villages International	www.sos-childrensvillages.org	FRANCE	
Vorarlberger Kinderdorf GmbH	www.kinderdorf.cc	Association Samuel Vincent	http://samuelvincent.fr/
Individual members: Maud Stiermet, Sharon Schneider		Children of Prisoners Europe	http://childrenofprisoners.eu
BELGIUM		Comité National de Solidarité Laïque	www.solidarite-laique.org
Active Citizen Europe	www.activecitizenurope.org	Fondation des Apprentis d'Auteuil	www.fondation-auteuil.org
Alliance for Childhood European Network Group	www.allianceforchildhood.eu	Group SOS Youth	www.groupe-sos.org/jeunesse
Children's Rights Knowledge Centre - KeKi	www.keki.be	Initiatives of Change France	http://fr.iofc.org/home
Child Rights Coalition Flanders	www.kinderrechtencoalitie.be	National Federation of Association for Child Protection - France	www.cnape.fr
Diversity in Early Childhood Education and Training	www.decet.org	Nexem	www.nexem.fr
Don Bosco International	http://donboscointernational.eu/	Secours Populaire Français	www.secourspopulaire.fr
Dyslexia International - Sharing expertise*	www.dyslexia-international.org	Individual members: Anne Williams, Philippe Roux	
European Alliance of Initiatives for Applied Anthroposophy - ELIANT	www.elianteu	GERMANY	
European Council for Steiner Waldorf Education Kind en Gezin	www.ecswe.org www.kindengezin.be	Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Kinder- und Jugendhilfe	www.agj.de
Learning for Well-being Foundation (former Universal Education Foundation)	www.learningforwellbeing.org	Bavarian Youth Council	www.bjr.de
Office of Birth and Childhood - ONE	www.one.be	German Association for Youth Protection	www.deutscher-jugendschutzverband.de
The Open Door (La Porte Ouverte)	www.laporteouverte.eu/index.html	German Children's Fund	www.dkhw.de
VBJK, Ressource and Research Centre for Early Childhood Care and Education	www.vbjk.be	National Coalition Germany - Network for the Implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child	www.netzwerk-kinderrechte.de
Individual members: Francesca Stuer, Fred Deven*, Janine Renier, Julien Van Geertsom, Margareta Kovacova		GREECE	
BULGARIA		ERGO-LEARNING4LIFE	http://ergo.academy/
Cedar Foundation	www.cedarfoundation.org	EYSEKT - ESF Actions Coordination and Monitoring Authority	www.esfhellas.gr/en/Pages/Default.aspx
For our Children Foundation	www.detebg.org	Iliachtida - Hospitality Centre for Sick Children and Family	www.iliachtida.gr
Know-how Centre for Alternative Care for Children, New Bulgarian University	http://knowhowcentre.nbu.bg	Network for Children's Rights - Greece	www.ddp.org.gr
National Network for Children - Bulgaria	http://nmd.bg/en/	Prolepsis Institute	www.prolepsis.gr
Social Activities and Practices Institute	www.sapibg.org	Roots Research Center NGO	www.roots-research-center.gr
CROATIA		Society for the Development and Creative Occupation of Children	www.eadap.gr
Coordination of Associations for Children		The Smile of the Child	www.hamogelo.gr
Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Sciences, University of Zagreb	https://www.erf.unizg.hr/en	Union of Women of Heraklion	www.kakopoiisi.gr/
FICE Croatia**	www.fice.hr	HUNGARY	
Ombudsman for Children - Croatia	www.djete.hr	European Non-Governmental Sports Organisation Youth	www.youth-sport.net
Society «Our Children» Opatija	www.dnd-opatija.hr	Family, Child, Youth Association	www.csagyi.hu/en/
Union of Societies «Our Children» Croatia	www.savez-dnd.hr	Hintalovon Child Rights Foundation	www.hintalovon.hu
Individual member: Ivana Jedud Boric		Office of the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights - Hungary	www.ajbh.hu/
CYPRUS		Terre des Hommes Fondation Lausanne in Hungary	www.tdh-europe.org
Pancyprian Coordinating Committee for the Protection and Welfare of Children	http://pccpwc.org/	IRELAND	
CZECH REPUBLIC		Children's Rights Alliance Ireland	www.childrensrighst.ie
Alliance for the Rights of the Child**		EPIC Empowering People In Care	www.epiconline.ie
Defenders of Children's Rights - DCI Czechia (former Defence for Children International)*	www.dci.cz	Individual members: Helen Lynch, Hugh Frazer, Maria Corbett, Norah Gibbons (Honorary)	
In the Interest of the Child, the Civic Association	www.vzd.cz	ITALY	
Velky vuz Sever	http://www.velkyvuz-sever.cz	Cesvi	https://www.cesvi.org
Vterina poté (Second After)	www.vterinapote.cz	CIFA	www.cifaong.it
DENMARK		Department of Human Sciences for Education - University of Milano-Bicocca**	https://www.formazione.unimib.it/en/research/laboratories-and-research-centres
Fairstart Foundation	www.fairstartfoundation.com	Fondazione L'Albero della Vita ONLUS	www.alberodellavita.org
Joint Council for Child Issues (Bornesagens Faellesrad)	www.boernesagen.dk	Intermedia Social Innovation	www.intermediasocialinnovation.org
Individual member: Geert Jorgensen		Istituto Degli Innocenti	www.istitutodegliinnocenti.it
ESTONIA		Mission Bambini Foundation	www.missionbambini.org
Estonian Union for Child Welfare	http://www.lastekaitseliit.ee/en/	Patrizio Paoletti Foundation for the development and communication	www.fondazionepatriziopaoletti.com
		Individual members: Giovanni Giulio Valtolina**, Fabio Cruccu**, Serena Virdis**	

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!**

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	http://www.pvc.lt/en/
VŠĮ Auto moto group**	www.automotogroup.eu
Individual member: Dainius Puras	
LUXEMBOURG	
Ombuds - Committee for the Rights of the Child	http://ork.lu/index.php/fr/
MALTA	
Foundation for Social Welfare Services	http://fsws.gov.mt/en/Pages/default.aspx
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: H.E. Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca (Honorary)	
NORTH MACEDONIA	
First Children's Embassy in the World - Megjashi	www.childrensembassy.org.mk
NETHERLANDS	
Children International Press Centre Foundation	http://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	http://fdi.pl/index.php/pl
Department of Applied Sociology and Social Work - University of Lodz	www.eksoc.uni.lodz.pl
Happy Kids Foundation	www.happykids.org.pl
One World Association	www.jedenswiat.org
Polish Foster Care Coalition	www.koalicia.org
PORTUGAL	
Nossa Senhora do Bom Sucesso Foundation	http://fnsbs.pt/
SOS Criança Department (Instituto de Apoio à Criança)	http://www.iacrianca.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
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	http://pic.si/about/
Slovenian Association of Friends of Youth	www.zpms.si
Slovenian NGO Network ZIPOM	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	http://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	
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	http://arielfoundation.org
Children's Rights European Academic Network (previously ENMCR)	http://crean-network.org
International Association for Steiner/Waldorf Early Childhood Education	www.iaswece.org
TURKEY	
Hayat Sende Youth Academy Association	http://hayatsende.org/
UKRAINE	
Charity Fund EDUKIDS**	
Hope and Homes for Children Ukraine	www.hopeandhomes.org.ua
International Charity Partnership for Every Child	www.p4ec.org.ua
International Non-Governmental Organisation "International Leadership and Development Center"***	http://ildc.org.ua
Individual member: Antonina Slipchenko	
UNITED KINGDOM	
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/
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.md.ac.uk
Refugee Rights Europe	http://refugeerights.org
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/cypp
Individual members: Catriona Williams - Honorary Member**, Florence Koenderink**, Jeffrey Coleman, John Fitzgerald, Malgorzata Kmita, Marion Macleod, Professor Sir Albert Aynsley-Green	

* members who will officially withdraw at General Assembly 2020

** candidate members to be endorsed at General Assembly 2020

in orange: National Partner Networks

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