



Eurochild
Putting children at
the heart of Europe

Annual Report 2015



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 AISBL Avenue de la Porte de Hal / Hallepoortlaan 27
1060 Brussels, Belgium.
Tel. +32 (0)2 511 70 83 - Fax +32 (0)2 511 72 98

info@eurochild.org - www.eurochild.org

Printed April 2016

Contents

Introduction 4

What did we achieve in 2015? 6



1. Putting the child at the heart of policymaking 7



2. Building a community of professionals 12



3. Giving a voice to children and young people 14



4. Developing the Eurochild network 16

Accounts and fundings 22

Introduction



Starting in Eurochild 10 years ago, I was not a children's rights expert. My professional background included coordinating networks in the sector of youth volunteering and renewable energy. I was then, and remain, a passionate European. I had witnessed the value of connecting organisations and people across Europe, both in widening horizons and improving professional practice.

I still count my lucky stars to have landed the job of Secretary General at Eurochild. Over the last 10 years, I have developed a deep respect for the children's rights movement, and a conviction that implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) offers real hope for societal transformation. I particularly value that Eurochild's membership is first and foremost organisations working directly with children and families, sometimes in very difficult circumstances. Their knowledge and experience is rooted in daily practice. Realization of children's rights will not happen if it remains in academia or among elite group of advocates, but only when they are understood and applied by professionals, and in families and communities. I also believe that as much as the UNCRC provides a normative framework putting legal obligations on duty bearers, it ultimately requires a change of mindset and societal values.

Building on the breadth and depth of its members' expertise, Eurochild has had significant impact on policies and funding, particularly at EU level. The next few years will be critical for us to convert these achievements to real change at the national, regional and local level. That's why we've recently focused our energies on strengthening national networks of child rights organisations – so called national partner networks. Another focus is to engage children and young people directly in our work so their views and experiences are adequately taken into account. We've made important progress here, and I'm delighted that our 2016 Eurochild conference is, for the first time, organised in partnership with children and young people from across our member organisations.

I'm grateful to have worked with so many inspirational and committed people over the last 10 years. I have learnt so much from all the members, but Eurochild's two Presidents Catriona Williams and Maria Herczog deserve specific mention. Without their vision and passion Eurochild would not be where it is today.

Jana Hainsworth,

Eurochild Secretary General

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'J Hainsworth', written in a cursive style.

In 2016 I will step down after two terms of 3 years as President of Eurochild. It has been an extraordinary journey. Since I joined as a founding member of Eurochild, the network has gone from strength to strength, growing in membership and influence. What I like about the network is its ability to combine its high-level political advocacy with a firm grounding in practice and implementation of children's rights, the personal encounters, friendships, mutual support, and solidarity. I have been privileged to play an active role in all the thematic working groups and the campaign to end institutional care, among many other programs. I've witnessed first hand the value of learning from one another across countries and cultures. I'm proud that one of my legacies is "Childonomics" – the on-going project Eurochild coordinates on measuring the long-term social and economic return on investing in children – in which I'm happy to continue playing a role as scientific advisor.

Later this year, I expect to move across the Atlantic to take up a new role as Senior Technical Advisor of the Better Care Network. I'm excited by the prospect of bringing my expertise and deepening my knowledge in a global context. But progress for children in Europe remains close to my heart and I will retain close links with colleagues and friends from Eurochild. It is easy to become demoralised in the current political climate where – as in my own country, Hungary – short-sighted populism is taking hold. However despite current setbacks, it is important to retain perspective and acknowledge progress, particularly at the EU level. The Commission's Recommendation on 'Investing in Children: Breaking the cycle of disadvantage' was a breakthrough and its link to Europe2020 and use of EU structural



funds until 2020 offers opportunities. Despite the absence of a comprehensive, ambitious successor to the EU Agenda on the Rights of the Child, children's rights are increasingly addressed in EU policy making – thanks to the efforts of the child rights coordinator, the recent establishment of the Intergroup on Children's Rights and the efforts of experts, NGOs, activists and advocates. And as co-chair of the European Expert Group on the transition from institutional to community-based care, I've witnessed the positive influence the EU can have in promoting reforms to end institutional care.

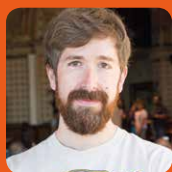
I wish the network every success in the future. I will be staying in contact both through my home organisation, Family, Child & Youth Association and in my new role. Its not *adieu* but *au revoir*.

Maria Herczog, Eurochild President
Chair of the Family, Child and Youth
Association, Hungary

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'dr. Maria Herczog', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

PART I

What did we achieve in 2015?



“Eurochild gives us the chance to influence EU

institutions on matters that affect children and families, for example through events, consultations and EU dialogues.”

Francesco Salvatore, l'Albero della vita (Italian member)

1. Putting the child at the heart of policymaking

A. Investing in children receives support of the European Parliament

Eurochild campaigned Members of the European Parliament to demand their backing for targets to end child poverty.

Knocking on doors by members and the Secretariat payed off! The Written Declaration on investing in children received overwhelming support and became the most signed Written Declaration since 2011. The demands were adopted as a resolution of the European Parliament and forwarded to the European Council and Commission.



“Macroeconomic policies need to protect children and their families as a political priority”

Adopted text of the Written Declaration on investing in children.

The resolution calls upon the European Commission to introduce specific indicators on children at risk of poverty; it also urges EU governments to implement the European Commission Recommendation ‘Investing in Children: Breaking the cycle of disadvantage’.



“We, MEPs want child poverty to be given the political attention it deserves. We must make investing in children a priority if we want Europe to prosper. In my country, Spain, economic recovery is starting to take off, and this should positively impact on the fight against child poverty. A robust economic recovery has to be inclusive, that is why it is crucial to give equal opportunities to all children.”

MEP López Istúriz-White, the first co-signer of the initiative.

The Written Declaration on Investing in Children was launched by MEPs Antonio López-Istúriz White, Anna Maria Corazza Bildt, Caterina Chinnici, Jean Lambert, Julie Ward, Gabriele Zimmer, Mairead McGuinness, Jana Žitňanská, Filiz Hyusmenova, Vilija Blinkevičiūtė, Nathalie Griesbeck, on 7 September 2015.



MEPs show their support for the Written Declaration on investing in children

B. Greece: Children in alternative care can now expect reforms

Economic crisis, austerity measures and severe disruption caused by cash controls this year have hurt the children of Greece. Eurochild helped focus attention on the plight of children in alternative care amidst the economic and political turmoil and drove through some critical reforms.

A mapping study was published in September 2015, the first study to provide comprehensive data on the number of institutions and residential care settings for children in Greece and the characteristics of the population of children and adults living in these settings in 2014. Eurochild co-funded this study as part of the 'Opening Doors for Europe's Children' campaign, to

support its Greek member Roots Research Center gather data and raise awareness.



“Institutional care is ruining the lives of thousands of children in Greece. That can be prevented and we have opened the eyes of public authorities on it”

Mary Theodoropoulou, Roots Research Center and Opening Doors National Coordinator in Greece.



Our call to action for reforms

The study initiated discussions and lent support to the call to action demanding an end to institutional care for children and replacing with family-centred initiatives, like foster care programs. Mary Theodoropoulou from Roots Research Center was invited to join the Ministry-led working group on child protection. Roots Research Center has now secured budget for the development of an office in Crete where they run a small pilot project on training and support of foster families and on raising public awareness of the benefits of community and family based care.

Since then, the Ministry of Social Solidarity has announced that it will undertake reforms for the protection of children.

+ Find out more on the 'Opening Doors for Europe's Children' campaign on www.openingdoors.eu

1 This is against practice encouraged by UN Guidelines on Alternative Care of Children

The challenge:

2,825

children and adults in institutional/residential care settings for children

±30¹

Average number of children and adults per institutional/residential care setting

182

Babies and toddlers aged 0-3 years

The potential for reforms:

32 

children placed in foster families in 2014

84

children adopted from institutions in 2014

124

children that left institutional care to be reunified with their families



Dora Kassimeris (Iliachtida, Hospitality centre, Greece) with a Syrian family: Faek Hajji Othman, his wife Rania, their daughter and baby.

C. Protecting the rights of child refugees

From **Finland to Greece, Ireland to Serbia**, Eurochild members are offering support and services to refugee and migrant children. While some are offering immediate, **humanitarian aid**, others are involved in **training professionals** who come into contact with children, or supporting integration, with classes in the local language. Others are working with local authorities to **run group homes for children**, ensuring children are cared for, as far as is possible, within a family or placed in family-like alternatives.

The majority of unaccompanied minors in the EU are placed in institutional reception centres, whereas alternatives exist. Eurochild is concerned that institutions may hinder the long-term integration of refugee and migrant children into society. Along with SOS Children's Villages, we started

planning a discussion on policy measures and funding possibilities to enable local and national actors to provide **emergency and long term care for unaccompanied children**.

The experience of our members and their recommendations helped make transnational connections and to inform the EU in its development of a child rights based migration policy. Eurochild, together with other leading organisations in the fields of human rights, child rights, health and social inclusion, including UNICEF, OHCHR and the European Network of Ombudspersons for Children, **wrote an open letter** to raise concerns over the lack of attention afforded to children's rights in migration and refugee policy discussions and developments.

D. Transforming UN and EU statements into real change in the lives of children

Eurochild, along with its members and with support of Child Rights Connect, gathered the views of nearly 2,700 children from more than 70 countries about how governments spend money to protect and promote child rights. Children demanded transparency, accountability and investment in infrastructure for their development – like health, food, schools, and playgrounds.

“ Governments should provide information about how they are spending money for children, including in ways that are accessible to children.”

A common message of 2700 children from 70 countries

These crucial messages of the children were delivered to the UN to support the Human Rights Council Annual Day on the Rights of the Child. On this day, the UN Human Rights Council adopted the resolution “Towards better investment in the rights of the child”, taking on board the need to budget for promotion and protection of children’s rights!

It also highlights the importance of child participation in budgetary and fiscal processes. This resolution added much needed political weight to the existing EU recommendation on Investing in Children. However, to turn these recommendations into reality, we need specific evidence and concrete arguments to prove the long term social and economic returns of investing in children.

Building the evidence – Childonomics



Childonomics

To build concrete evidence, Eurochild has launched a

research project aimed at developing a tool to determine the long-term social and economic return of investing in children. The tool will include an economic model informed by the costs of different services and approaches to supporting children and families in vulnerable situations. It will look at long-term societal costs linked to insufficient investment and misdirected funding of outdated care systems, which disenfranchise and further marginalise vulnerable children and families. The approach aims to be as comprehensive as possible, addressing the inter-play between social welfare, child protection, health and education services.

Funded by Oak Foundation, this project aims to increase awareness about the costs and benefits of reforming welfare systems among those outside the child rights community. It will provide a means of engaging in dialogue with Ministries of Finance and those responsible for managing public spending across different sectors.



“ Childhood must be a political priority. Whether or not childhood gets the necessary attention can be seen looking at government’s budget proposals.”

David Ruiz, Vice-President of FEDAI, Spain (Federació d’entitats d’atenció a la infància i l’adolescència)



Children's rights must be mainstreamed within broader debates on issues of global concerns.

E. Amplifying our voice with alliances

Collaboration is key for the Eurochild network and this is how we amplify the voice of the children's rights sector.

We work with a number of civil society networks and organisations to ensure children's rights are addressed in broader European debates. Social and economic policies, poverty reduction or the role of civil society in general, the Eurochild network ensures the children's rights perspective is heard and understood.

Social Platform is the platform of social NGOs in Europe. Our Secretary General Jana Hainsworth was elected President of Social Platform in the summer and will guide the work of the platform for the following two years.

Eurochild is part of the **EU Alliance on Investing in Children** and led this Alliance to gather signatures at the European Parliament on the Written Declaration on Investing in Children. The EU Alliance is composed of organisations that are focused on ensuring the Commission Recommendation 'Investing in Children' is implemented at national and local levels. In March 2015, Eurochild supported the launch of the Implementation Handbook which offers case studies and useful resources to

turn the Recommendation document into reality.

In October, Eurochild joined the **Global Coalition Against Child Poverty**. The Global Coalition is concerned at the devastating effects of poverty in childhood on children and societies. Building on the momentum created by the Sustainable Development Goals, we will work together with the Coalition members and independently, to support the recognition of child poverty and the practical actions to alleviate it.

Eurochild is also a member of the **Child Rights Action Group, European Anti-Poverty Network** and **Child Rights Connect**. Eurochild also became a full partner in Children as Actors in Transforming Society.



2. Building a community of professionals

A. Connecting policy, practice and research to work for advancement of children's rights



As a network, Eurochild sees its unique role in bringing different key roles together to help find solutions and break barriers to the realisation of the rights of children. With a focus on family and parenting support, we organised such a gathering in Galway, Ireland on 1-4 December.

In cooperation with UNESCO Chairs Global Network, Council of Europe and UNICEF Innocenti Office of Research, Eurochild organised the Galway School “Child Rights in Practice and Research: Realising children's rights through empowering parents and families”. UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre were the perfect host for such a unique gathering.

16 country delegations took part; each delegation comprising a policy-maker, a ‘policy literate’ practitioner and a researcher, to reflect the different perspectives of academia, policy and practice.

Universal vs Targeted services? How much evidence is enough? When is state intervention supportive and when is it harmful? Child directed intervention or parental need oriented intervention?

The event addressed these questions with a focus on the best interests of the child, building an economic case for child centred family and parenting support, integrated transfers and services for better child outcomes, evaluation methods and use of evaluations for advocacy purposes.

The key discoveries from the Galway School included:

- Need to focus resources toward prevention & early intervention.
- Importance of the ‘value context’ for government & co-production with parents and children.
- Need for moral imperative considering child welfare.
- Need to integrate community and local based solutions to national and international policy and to adapt responses to unique cultural, political, and environmental contexts.
- Need for interagency coordination and collaboration for dynamic responses to existing and emergent needs.
- Need to encourage reflective practice & to promote practice wisdom.



“It is important not only to develop basic structures and evidence-based programs but also support social capital between families and strengthen civil society. And that development should be based on participation of all stakeholders, NGOs and especially children and families.”

Julia Kuokkanen, Special Advisor
Ulla Lindqvist, Program Manager
Petri Paju, Researcher

B. Empowering policy makers with expertise and knowledge in children's rights

In recognition of its expertise, Eurochild was invited to bring the child rights perspective to three European Commission-led Peer Reviews in Social Protection and Social Inclusion, focused on integrated services and cooperation at local level, conditional cash transfers and quality early childcare services, hosted by Belgium, Hungary and the Czech Republic, respectively.

These peer reviews are aimed to help EU countries learn from each other on key issues related to social protection and social inclusion, and build the expertise of policy makers in national governments. They can focus on good practices or support the host country in gathering advice from other EU countries, experts and stakeholders to inform the preparation of a policy reform or a new programme or institutional reform.

These peer reviews bring together several representatives of the host country (policy-makers, stakeholders, independent experts), an official representative of each participating member state, expert in the specific field, as well as an independent expert (researcher, NGO, etc.), European Commission representatives, representatives from civil society and other key stakeholders.

We believe the transparent involvement of civil society and other stakeholders is fundamental for accountability of state actors and creation of broader spaces for civic dialogue. The publication of a report ensures a clear follow-up to each seminar. **Eurochild calls for a transparent evaluation and monitoring** of such meetings to enable maximum impact.



“Peer reviews are an excellent opportunity for Eurochild to contribute to a process of service improvement and to bring a child-centred approach and a child rights dimension to strategic discussions within member states and across the EU. Both the papers compiled in advance of the review and the concluding report are valuable resources in informing policy, strategy and practice at all levels. They also provide a way to highlight the unique and invaluable knowledge and experience that Eurochild staff and members bring to policy dialogues.”

Marion Macleod, Children in Scotland (National Partner Network)

3. Giving a voice to children and young people

A. With Children, For Children: children demand dialogue with the European Parliament



In advance of Universal Children's Day, European Parliament in Brussels played host to a determined group of children and young people who returned home with a commitment from Members of the European Parliament that children's participation would be discussed at the European Parliament Intergroup on Children's Rights.

Eurochild, together with its members Universal Education Foundation, European Child Rights Unit (of Liverpool University), and MEP Julie Ward welcomed children from across Europe (Italy, Moldova,

Kosovo, Bulgaria, France, Lithuania, the UK and Ireland) to Brussels to talk with Members of the European Parliament and European Commission officials about their involvement in decision-making processes.

Children's reflections:

- Children and young people would like to have more of a dialogue with MEPs and adults in general. They raised the question how this could be realised.
- More funding and support is needed to enable their participation at European level.
- Several children raised the idea of setting up a European children's council or parliament, where children from national children's councils and parliaments would be united and consulted on European issues.

Commitments of EU officials:

- Anna Maria Corazza Bildt MEP and co-chair of the parliamentary intergroup on children's rights said that the EP Intergroup would place children's participation on its agenda. She also suggested that children and young people use social media to contact MEPs.
- Martine Reicherts, European Commission Director-General of Education and Culture, raised the importance of involving children and young people more, especially given their interest in politics and decision-making.



Children talk to MEP Anna Maria Corazza Bildt who is the Chair of the European Parliament Intergroup on Children's Rights



MEP Julie Ward with children and young people at CATS in 2015

B. Teaching advocacy to children and young people at CATS

Teaching advocacy to children and young people in the middle of the Alps! This year, Eurochild sponsored the participation of five children's delegations, supported the preparation and promotion of the event, and held a week-long workshop on advocacy for children's rights at CATS (Children as Actors for Transforming Society). CATS is a unique international partnership focused on bringing children and adults together in partnership. Its main event is a conference in Switzerland.

At this year's conference children and adults together, mapped allies and influencers as they learnt how to bring changes to their schools and other environments. Eurochild members including Apprentis d'Auteuil, EPIC Ireland, Cyprus Children's Parliament, Estonian Union for Child Welfare, and UCan Young Researchers (of University of Central Lancashire) actively participated as 'books' in the human library, or ran workshops and supported participation of young people.

Children and young people were involved, not only as participants, but as contributors to the design of the conference. Eurochild supported the young people's online steering committee using social media tools.

Eurochild believes in the mission of CATS: enabling active participation of children in society to bring real, sustainable change.

The learning experience for people of all ages is what brings this conference alive each year and is the inspiration for the Eurochild Conference planned for July 2016.

Eurochild is a proud core partner of CATS, along with Child to Child, Universal Education Foundation, Initiatives of Change France and the Initiatives of Change Foundation. The Eurochild Secretariat is active in the steering and core committees that govern the development of this initiative.



4. Developing the Eurochild network

A. Strengthening the organisation with support of Oak Foundation

Eurochild has enjoyed a long and fruitful relationship with the Oak Foundation. Since 2012 it has supported our efforts to strengthen child rights advocacy particularly in the field of deinstitutionalisation. Oak Foundation has also entrusted us to lead the project “Childonomics: measuring the long-term economic and social value of investing in children”.

We are delighted that in 2015 this cooperation stepped up a gear with a core grant offered from November 2015 to December 2018. The core grant will be invested in supporting progress in child participation, developing our child protection policy and practice, and capacity building in advocacy – both at Secretariat and member-level.



Besides co-funding elements of our work programme with the European Commission, it also enables the Eurochild secretariat to dedicate resources to an organisational strengthening process. Together with a selected external consultancy, Brussels-based Organisational Development Support, Eurochild is undertaking a thorough review and self-assessment. In the first instance we are looking at **membership engagement, measuring impact and income generation.**

The strengthening process will prepare Eurochild for the future and offer the network the freedom to dream and do big!

B. Supporting members to share practice and build knowledge

Eurochild is strengthening ties with national and local actors by funding and supporting national events with our members. In 2015, we supported our members in Lithuania, Scotland (UK) and France to organise conferences specific to the issues concerning children's rights in these countries. Through these events, we raise awareness on EU tools, policies and

recommendations and gather concrete 'on the ground' challenges to feed back in to our policy and advocacy work with the EU institutions.



Agata D'Addato of the Secretariat addresses the conference in Vilnius, Lithuania.

Lithuania – Violence against Children – 30 April

The Lithuanian Informal Coalition of NGOs for Child's Rights organised a high-level conference 'Protect my childhood' in Vilnius, Lithuania. The event focused on the realisation of children's rights and the promotion of child well-being through strengthening and protecting families and preventing institutional care. The conference received wide media coverage owing to its concrete demands to end corporal punishment.

Scotland (UK) – Children with disabilities – 3-4 December

'Include and empower', an international conference was held by Children in Scotland in Edinburgh on improving the rights and well-being of disabled children and young people. The conference allowed policymakers, practitioners and professionals to share practice and learning with colleagues from across Scotland and the wider EU.



Children at the Paris event

France – Investing in Children and Climate Change – 22 October

Solidarité Laïque organised the workshop 'Investing in children: building a society sensitive to children's rights'. The event enabled participants including young people, civil society and public administration to exchange views and practices on children's rights in the attempt to see how EU policies and instruments can support projects in France. The workshop featured three main topics: poverty and decent living conditions, education, and children's participation. Parallel to the workshop, children brainstormed on ideas fight climate change, which were shared publically in advance of the Climate Change conference in Paris (COP 21).



“We are a small NGO, so we don't always have the time and the resources to participate in everything. But what I appreciate is that you communicate a lot in 'second instance', so if we are not available to attend somewhere, you often provide the possibility to follow seminars via web streaming so we can still benefit from it.”

Maud Stienet, La Porte Ouverte (Belgian member)

C. Eurochild's membership

Eurochild strives to include all actors that have an interest in the rights and well-being of children and young people. Our membership is thus very diverse: from national child-rights networks to service providers, from advocacy organisations to government departments and academic institutes. Our members also vary in terms of geographical scope, areas of activities, type of work, capacity.

In 2015, the General Assembly endorsed the following organisations and individuals:



The Eurochild members at the General Assembly

joined the Eurochild network – Coalition for Children Slovakia.

Eurochild's 18 NPNs collectively represent an estimated 1900 organisations across Europe.

This year, NPNs contributed to the assessment of the European Semester and participated in the annual conference of the European Network of Children's Ombudspersons in the Netherlands. They shared good practices of engagement of ombudspersons and civil society and agreed to further their collaboration.



BELGIUM - La Porte Ouverte

FRANCE -

Secours Populaire Français
Initiative of Change France

LATVIA - Latvian Child

Welfare Network (Associate Member)

SLOVENIA - Slovenian
Association of Friends of Youth

SPAIN - FICE Spain

SWEDEN - Thomas
Hammarberg (Honorary Member)

National Partner Networks – Making national connections



National Partner Networks
The Eurochild Network

National Partner Network (NPN) is a type of member organisation that

is the 'go to' organisation in their country or region on a broad range of issues concerning children's rights and well-being. They have a pivotal role in supporting Eurochild in the coordination of EU and national advocacy. They meet twice a year and bring our collective messages to national governments. In 2015, a new NPN

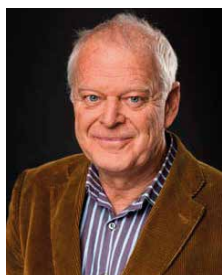


“Through our active work, we want to convince the Slovak government that civil society organisations, devoted to children and youth, have an irreplaceable role as partners in designing and implementing systemic change but also in providing public services to children and families.”

Dana Rušinová, Director, Coalition for Children Slovakia (Eurochild NPN)

D. Who's who: Honorary members

Eurochild expressly invites accomplished individuals selected by the Management Board for their significant contributions towards children's rights & well-being in the European context, awarding them honorary membership to the network. Eurochild is delighted to collaborate with its honorary members and learn from their experience to steer the future direction of children's rights in Europe.



Thomas Hammarberg
(endorsed at General Assembly 2015)

Thomas Hammarberg has served a number of senior roles in

government and civil society including acting as Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe, Secretary General of the Olof Palme International Center, Ambassador of the Swedish Government on Humanitarian Affairs, and Secretary General of Save the Children Sweden. He was Secretary General of Amnesty International in the early 1980s and received the Nobel Peace Prize on behalf of Amnesty in 1977. He is currently Honorary President of Mental Disability Advocacy Center.



Eugeen Verhellen
(joined Eurochild network in 2004)

Eugeen Verhellen is the founder and director of the Child Rights Centre at Ghent University.

Professor Verhellen has a long and impressive track record in children's rights. He is the author of many academic articles and books, has lectured on children's rights throughout the world, and has been active in Flanders in selecting the Children's Rights Commissioner and co-founding the UNICEF Chair.



Norah Gibbons
(pending endorsement by General Assembly 2016)

Norah Gibbons is the Chairperson of Tusla, Ireland's

dedicated State agency responsible for improving well-being and outcomes for children. Ms Gibbons has been working to improve children's lives through her work in both the statutory and voluntary sector in the UK and Ireland. She was the Director of Advocacy of Barnardos from 2005 to 2012; Member of the Commission to Inquire into Child abuse 2000-2009; Chair of the Confidential Committee of the Commission from 2000 to 2005, and the Roscommon Child Abuse Inquiry in 2009. She co-chaired the Independent Child Death Review Group with Dr Geoffrey Shannon from 2011 to 2012. Ms Gibbons is currently a member of Acknowledgement Forum of Historical Abuse Inquiry in Northern Ireland.

E. Team

Management Board

Members of the Management Board are elected by the General Assembly for a term of three years. The Management Board is responsible for the overall strategic development of the organisation, which it puts to the General Assembly for approval.



“As a Board member, you are the voice of members at a strategic level. You are there to support the staff and the organisation. It has been a privilege to serve Eurochild as a Board member and as a national network and I look forward to many years of collaboration and partnership ahead.”

– Pauline Leeson, Treasurer in Eurochild Management Board and Chief Executive, Children in Northern Ireland

The 2015 Management Board comprises:



Maria Herczog,
Family Child Youth
Association,
Hungary, President



Pauline Leeson,
Children in Northern
Ireland, UK,
Treasurer



Otto Sestak, Hope
and Homes for
Children, Romania,
Member



Kelig Puyet, SOS
Children's Villages
International,
Member



Ivano Abruzzi,
l'Albero della vita,
Italy, Member



George Bogdanov,
National Network for
Children, Bulgaria,
Member



Hanna Heinonen,
Central Union
for Child Welfare,
Finland, Member

Secretariat

The Secretariat Staff is based in Brussels to enable easy access to key EU decision making bodies and civil society actors based around the EU institutions.

In 2015, the Staff comprises:

- **Jana Hainsworth**, Secretary General who completed 10 years of service with Eurochild
- **Monique Kesteloot**, Finance and Office Manager (retired in December 2015)
- **Manon Jacobs**, Financial and Administrative Assistant
- **Mafalda Leal**, Senior Policy Coordinator – Children's Rights and Participation (until September 2015)
- **Agata D'Addato**, Senior Policy Coordinator – Policy, Research and Practice
- **Aagje Ieven**, Senior Advocacy and Campaigns Coordinator (until December 2015)
- **Réka Tunyogi**, Advocacy and Parliamentary Officer
- **Andrea Witt**, Policy and Organisation Development Officer
- **Marie Dubit**, Senior Membership Officer (until September 2015)
- **Perna Humpal**, Head of Communications (from April 2015)
- **Federico Lanzo**, Communications and Campaigns Officer
- **Nerea Rial**, Communications and Events Assistant (until September 2015)



The Secretariat hosts trainees on a regular basis to support the policy and communication work:

- **Greta Mackonyte**, Policy and Advocacy (September 2014 – March 2015)
- **Jana Lopusna**, Policy and Advocacy (March 2015 – June 2015)
- **Jasmin Aherdan**, Advocacy and Campaigns (March 2015 - September 2015)
- **Katerina Nanou**, Advocacy and Campaigns (September 2015 – December 2015)
- **Luca Merotta**, Policy and Advocacy (September 2015 – December 2015)
- **Gwyn Bouwman**, Communications (September 2015 – March 2016)

PART II

Accounts and fundings

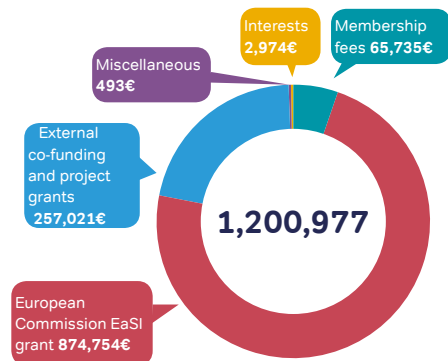


“ My
greatest
wish is having
Youth Councils within
the sports sector in all
European countries and
seeing young people
recognised and
empowered.”

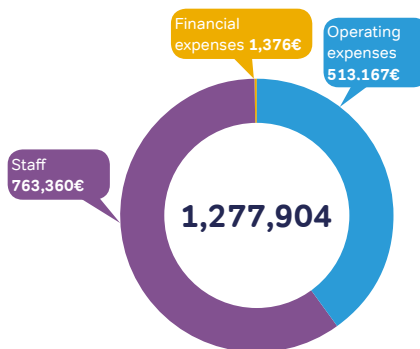
Nevena Vukašinović, Secretary General of ENGSO Youth

Eurochild thanks its funding partners and donors who were crucial to the achievements we made in 2015.

Income

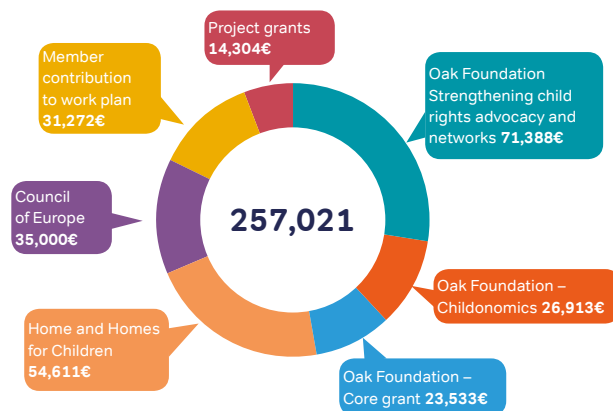


Expenses

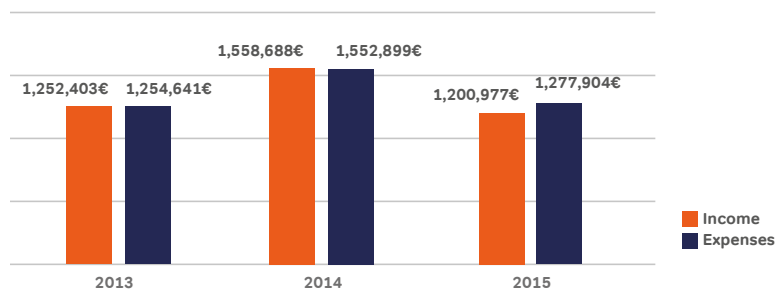


Year end result:
-76,927€

Cofunding and project grants



Yearly comparison





Eurochild
Putting children at
the heart of Europe



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>

© Eurochild 2016