



**Eurochild**

Putting children at  
the heart of Europe



**Annual Report  
2016**

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

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Printed March 2017

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# Introduction

Dear friends, supporters and colleagues,

Progress towards the full realisation of children's rights in Europe suffered several setbacks in 2016. **Growing inequalities are negatively impacting children's lives**

and many governments are cutting public spending on welfare, family support and prevention services due to austerity measures. Meanwhile children make up a significant number of migrants and refugees fleeing extreme poverty and war. Whether unaccompanied or with family members, the rights of these children are being violated daily. The European Union's capacity to address these and other challenges are being tested to their limit, not least by the Brexit vote in the UK.



**Norah Gibbons,**  
President



**Jana Hainsworth,**  
Secretary General

But we know achieving widespread recognition of, and respect for, children's rights is a long, slow process and progress is not linear.

Despite the setbacks **2016 also brought important positive**

**developments:** the Council of Europe adopted a 6-year ambitious children's rights strategy with high-level political commitment from many of its 47 member states; the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child issued two new General Comments giving guidance to governments on public spending for the realisation of children's rights, and implementation of children's rights during adolescence. During its Presidency of the European Council, the Netherlands gave a high political priority to tackling child poverty and promoting integrated approaches. We can build on these developments in 2017.

Networks such as Eurochild have a vital role to play. Organisations come together

at national, pan-European or global level to achieve something bigger than themselves. Eurochild's impact is closely intertwined with that of the European Union, knowing that promoting social inclusion and fundamental rights are among the EU's objectives.

We remain hopeful that the European Commission's proposal for a Pillar of Social Rights will put children's rights centre stage and bring new impetus to implement the 2013 Recommendation on Investing in Children. We're also supporting and influencing plans for a 'child guarantee' that is gathering support from across political groups in the European Parliament.

Our work to engage directly with children and young people is gaining momentum. **For the first time our 2016 conference involved children in the A to Z of planning, delivery and follow-up.** In 2018 our biannual conference will be hosted in Edinburgh by Children in Scotland. Preparations are already underway to make this even more child friendly and participative. This goes in line with our efforts to build an ambitious child participation strategy so that participation becomes a part of our policy, advocacy and organisational development.

The year ahead looks challenging but also full with opportunity. We hope you will join us, along with our members, to support our goals to put children at the heart of Europe.

Yours sincerely,

**Norah Gibbons,**  
President

**Jana Hainsworth,**  
Secretary General







# 1 Putting children at the heart of policymaking

# Ending child poverty in Europe

Of the 100 million people under the age of 18 in the European Union, over 26 million are at risk of poverty or social exclusion – more than one child in every four.

## Eurochild's 2016 Report on the European Semester

The EU's coordination of economic policies does not help Member States address child poverty, which affects more than one child in four in the EU. This is one of the main findings of our 2016 [yearly report](#) on the European Semester. Based on a survey of 28 children's rights organisations from 20 EU countries, the report looked at the extent to which the European Commission 'Recommendation on Investing in Children: Breaking the cycle of disadvantage' (2013) has been implemented and whether the European Semester process, a yearly cycle of economic policy recommendations, is helping or hindering the achievement of positive outcomes for children. The report also offers alternate recommendations to break this tragic cycle and encourage EU Member States to invest in children.

## Dutch dynamism scores top grade on child poverty in EU Presidency scorecard

During the Dutch EU presidency (January-June 2016) EU ministers adopted the Council Conclusions on '*Combating poverty and social exclusion: an integrated approach*', which aims at breaking the transmission of poverty and puts the emphasis on comprehensive policy solutions.

## Working towards a Child Guarantee

Eurochild is advising EU policy makers on a potential European Child Guarantee, which could contribute to ensuring every child has access to free healthcare, education, childcare and decent housing and nutrition. In reaction to the initial ideas of the Socialists and Democrats Group in the European Parliament, Eurochild published its own recommendations and continues to work with the European Commission to shape a preparatory action.

## New initiative under consultation: the European Pillar of Social Rights

Eurochild gathered the views of its members to respond to the public consultation on a proposal for a European Pillar of Social Rights. Initiated by the European Commission, this Pillar would identify and promote common principles **in the field of employment and social policies, including early childhood education and care**. This initiative should guide policies and **lead reforms national level ranging** from equal opportunities and access to the labour market to adequate and sustainable social protection systems.



Read our [scorecard](#) assessing the effectiveness of the Dutch EU Presidency.

# Building momentum with the Sustainable Development Goals



In late 2016, Eurochild joined 74 other civil society organisations to formally launch SDG Watch Europe. This broad coalition aims to ensure that the EU and its Member States live up to

the commitments they made when signing Agenda 2030, commonly known as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which should apply at home as well as abroad.

**Children and young people** expressed their support for these goals. The declaration prepared by children and young people at the July 2016 Eurochild conference demanded action:

*"We want adults to care about our future: How will they leave the world for future generations? **We want to grow up in a world with clean air and water, quality education and health available to everyone, where families live in peace, in sustainable 'child friendly cities' and parents have decent work. We want a world where responsible consumption and production is encouraged.**"*

The EU as a signatory to the SDGs, has an important role to play in making the Agenda 2030 a reality. That is why Eurochild, as part of the SDG Watch coalition, will **push the EU to keep its promises for a better tomorrow.**

## SDG Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere

Eurochild continued its engagement in global discussions with civil society actors working to end child poverty through the Global Coalition. We participated in the Research Scoping meeting co-hosted by the Impact Initiative and the **Global Coalition to End Child Poverty** to identify research gaps in the broad area of child poverty, setting the tone for the Research Conference planned by the coalition for 2017.



The Sustainable Development Goals explained on stage at the CATS Conference 2016

© Federico Lanzo Eurochild



Read the publication [Putting children first: A policy agenda to end child poverty](#), a policy

briefing that outlines key building blocks for how countries can address child poverty.



## Protecting rights of children on the move

Throughout the year, we witnessed the harsh conditions under which children have to survive, deprived of basic rights such as health care, education, birth registration and housing, as well as due process and justice in immigration and asylum procedures, legal representation, and effective guardianship for unaccompanied children.

Alongside other civil society partners, Eurochild demanded that these children be considered as children first, regardless of their migration status. We offered our expertise at a **hearing of the UK House of Lords EU Committee** on the situation of unaccompanied children in the EU, highlighting the need to take children's views into account.

Many of our members are fighting for the **rights of migrant and refugee children** so that they can have a decent childhood, whether it is through direct services including education and psycho-social support or advocating to their governments and EU institutions for integrated policies.

*“Unaccompanied children often face discrimination in Austria. Austrian children deprived of parental care grow up in small group homes which have a capacity of up to 8-10 children; whereas unaccompanied children grow up in institutions which have a capacity of up to 50 children.”*

**Stefan Bauer**, Austria

*“Behind the right to education and access to school lies the sense of ‘normality’ which has to do with their right to go to school, have friends, play or do activities. Also, this school time protects children from exploitation, trafficking or prostitution.”*

**Roland Biache**, France



Read [Turning the tide for children on the move](#)

Read our joint statement: [Children cannot wait: 7 priority actions to protect all refugee and migrant children](#)



One of the many Sketch My Rights drawings depicting migrants and refugees. Drawing by Electra Sarantinou, 11 years

## How is the EU faring in realising children's rights?

Eurochild's analysis of the European Commission's 2015 Report on the application of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights welcomed its focus on child protection and references to the Investing in Children Recommendation. However, the Report fails to address rising child poverty levels in the EU, which threaten the realization of children's rights.

Eurochild continues to build **greater support for children's rights within the European Parliament** through the Intergroup on children's rights. Along with the Child Rights Action Group, a renewed [website](#) was launched in mid-2016 publicising the work done by the Intergroup on Children's Rights.



Anna Maria Corazza Bildt, MEP and Chair of European Parliament Intergroup on Children's Rights speaks at an event in the European Parliament

### Child-Budgeting Guidelines developed for the Observatory on Children, Youth and Youth Assistance, Belgium

In early 2016 the Wallonia-Brussels government commissioned Eurochild to develop guidelines on child budgeting. The guidelines have been based on reviews showing that **an estimate of investment in children can assist the government to make better public policy decisions** and it can enhance an approach that privileges 'value for money'.

Many countries are interested in measuring and monitoring their investments in children, due to the UN's Sustainable Development Goals; but it is also a requirement by the UNCRC (Article 4).

The research developed **a series of steps which would facilitate a child-focused analysis of public expenditure**. The steps include analysis of budget inputs, what is being allocated to and spent on children, and budget outcomes for children; in other words the changes in the lives of children. Key to the implementation of these steps is to create ownership in the government, ideally within the Finance Ministry and other relevant ministries.

The OEJAJ study complements Eurochild's advocacy on investing in children and furthers our efforts to inform governments about the UN General Comment 19 on public budgeting.

#### What is child budgeting?

A process by which children's rights are better reflected in public policy making, specifically in the government budget. It can also include participation of children in the budget-setting process.

# Childonomics – Measuring the long-term social and economic return of investing in children



**Childonomics**

The Eurochild Network

With support of the OAK Foundation, Eurochild is coordinating the 'Childonomics' research project, which aims to measure the long-term social and economic return of investing in children. This project, which also fits in the framework of the European Commission's Recommendation on Investing in Children, will **develop and test an economic model to measure the costs of different child welfare and protection systems against expected outcomes for children, families and society as a whole.** Particular attention is given to preventing children being separated from their families, supporting their reintegration and reducing reliance on institutional care.

The Childonomics approach will be developed and tested in **Malta and Romania - selected because of recently introduced reforms and a strong political interest in child and family policies.** Their governments recognized the need to build a stronger evidence base to support policy and spending choices and better understand the effectiveness of public spending on child protection.

Childonomics aims to help model the social and economic cost of policy reforms in the short and long term, and thus offer a planning tool for public policy and spending. It should gather evidence of the economic cost of not providing sufficient support for parents and children or high quality alternative care for children.



Stay up to date [#Childonomics](https://twitter.com/Childonomics)

## The Opening Doors Campaign for Europe's Children matures



In 2016 the Opening Doors for Europe's Children campaign entered its second Phase bringing on board three new international partners, FICE Europe, the International Foster Care Organisation, and SOS Children's Villages International and expanded into three Western European countries Austria, Belgium and Spain in an effort to break the myth that institutional care only concerns Central and Eastern European countries.

The Campaign now runs in 15 countries across Europe, 10 EU Member States, 2 Neighbour countries and 2 Pre-Accession countries calling for the strengthening of families and the end of institutional care.

2016 was a year of preparation for the Phase II of the Opening Doors Campaign; setting the goals and objectives together with the Campaign's national coordinators and international partners. The second

phase of the Campaign was officially launched on 1 December 2016, along with the Campaign's updated website, featuring 15 updated country fact sheets, new successful stories of deinstitutionalisation, news on partnerships and key focus areas. The research from these 15 countries shows that once again, **poverty is one of the main reasons of children's placement in institutional care across Europe** and that **children with disabilities remain one of the groups most discriminated against**.

In its next phase, the Opening Doors campaign aims to support national efforts to develop child protection systems that strengthen families and ensure high quality family and community based alternative care for children by leveraging EU funding and policy and building capacity of civil society.

Eurochild is supported by 4 international partners:







© Alexander Kirov

Children on stage at the Council of Europe Conference in Sofia



© Davide Rambaldi Eurochild

The children and young people advisory group visiting the Parliamentarium Museum in Brussels in November



© Federico Lanzo Eurochild

Younger participants at the CATS Conference 2016



© Alexander Kirov

The children and young people who took part in the Council of Europe Conference in Sofia for the Child Rights Strategy launch

## Milestones for the future

The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child General Comment No. 19 on Public Budgeting for the Realisation of Children's Rights is **the first UN document to provide detailed guidance to states on their legal obligation to invest in children**. Released late 2016, it has the potential to inform and support governments to understand how to build public budgets that work for children's rights.

### Council of Europe Strategy on the Rights of the Child

The Council of Europe strategy launched a 6-year strategy on the rights of the child. Eurochild looks forward to cooperating with the Council of Europe to help implement the priorities. In 2016 Eurochild coordinated the participation of children at the high-level launch conference in Sofia. We also participated as observer in the newly established Ad hoc Committee for the Rights of the Child. In December the Eurochild National Partner Networks, together with ChildPact members, received training on Council of Europe's instruments which can support their children's rights advocacy at national level.

### Forthcoming European Pillar for Social Rights

In its aim to rebalance social with economic goals, the European Commission will publish the European Pillar of Social Rights in spring 2017. Eurochild would like to see this reinforce implementation of the Recommendation on Investing in Children, policy guidance issued in 2013. We are keen to see national targets and indicators set for tackling child poverty and effective benchmarking of progress across EU Member States.



2

Conference by, with  
and for children

# Children's Rights Matter: Why Europe needs to invest in children

5-7 July 2017 - Brussels, Belgium

Eurochild 2016 conference co-hosted by Kind en Gezin and

Office de la Naissance et de l'Enfance

One in four children are growing up in poverty and exclusion; there are unprecedented numbers of migrant and refugee children entering Europe – many of them unaccompanied; and still over half a million children are placed in institutional care, in contradiction to human rights standards.

The Eurochild conference ***Children's Rights Matter: Why Europe needs to invest in children***, gathered children and adults, policy makers, child rights experts, politicians, academics and others to answer the question why Europe needs to invest in children.



The Children and Young People Advisory Group meeting Her Majesty the Queen of Belgium; Photo by Dieter Hautman

With over 270 participants including 60 children and young people from 34 countries, discussions ranged from how children feel about migration, poverty and alternative care and how their concerns are addressed by national and European policies. Through the human library we learnt how individuals and organisations are making positive difference. The closing session allowed children and young people to put their demands to European and national politicians and officials.

## From personal to political: Making children's voices count

*"We know this conference is not going to solve all the problems of today. However we want to send out the message that our societies will only prosper if they are inclusive. Inclusion and respect for diversity starts in childhood. Ensuring every child can grow up happy, healthy, confident and respected as individuals in their own right will have a transformative effect on our society. That is why we have called this event: Children's Rights Matter: Why Europe needs to invest in children."*

In her opening address Eurochild's President **Norah Gibbons** reflected on the importance of prioritising children's rights at such a critical time in the European Union's history.

In welcoming participants, conference co-hosts and Eurochild members, Kind en Gezin and Office de la Naissance et de l'Enfance (ONE) emphasized **the importance of universal provision of services for all children**. **Benoit Parmentier** and **Katrien Verhegge** recognized the challenge both organisations face in responding to the individual needs of particularly vulnerable groups of children such as those with a disability or migrant and refugee children.





Her Majesty  
The Queen of  
Belgium opening  
the Eurochild  
Conference

In her address **Her Majesty Queen Mathilde of the Belgians, Patron of the Conference** gave powerful messages both to policy makers and to children and young people in the audience:

*“There can be no doubt that the best investment in the future is to take the best possible care of the next generation”. “Both today in the conference room and tomorrow in society, YOU will be instrumental in the success and failure of the goals we formulate and celebrate here. YOU must be given a voice and YOU will make good use of it.”*

**Her Majesty Queen Mathilde of the Belgians,**  
Patron of the Conference

The following panel discussion connected personal experiences to the political sphere. Three specific groups of children were under focus: migrant children, children in care and children living in poverty. Several important messages emerged from the debate moderated by **Ross Ashcroft** and **Yasmine Naciri** (Young Ambassador).

**Valeriu Nicolae**, the then Secretary of State for the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, Romania and Roma activist, spoke about the significance of asking children to be honest with us (adults) in the current climate. He agreed that

governments are investing less and less in children and youth and that those living in poverty suffer a vicious cycle of having no opportunities.

According to **Vika Tchibor**, a young person who had experienced care in the UK, “we need to invest more money in making sure that the people who are taking care of vulnerable children are educated.” Her sentiment was similar to that of **Abbe McLatchie**, Education, Participation and Achievement Manager at By the Bridge Therapeutic. She called for **further investment in the professionals working with children**, as there is a clear lack of the requisite skills and knowledge. She also emphasised the importance of education for children in care as it enables them to take control of their lives.

Concerning asylum-seeking and refugee children recently arrived in Europe **Viola Gjoka**, Programmes Coordinator from Network for Children's Rights Greece, stressed the urgent need for a stable and comprehensive policy from the Greek government. **“The experience we give to these children will determine the future.”** Reflecting on the number of unaccompanied children arriving in Europe, **Lilana Keith**, Advocacy Officer at PICUM, asked the question “why are children migrating alone in the first place? Does this mean the child couldn't move with the family?”

During the debate children and young people challenged participants to ensure conversations are accessible and inclusive and that the voices of children and young people are really listened too.



**See the poster to read the declaration and understand how children were involved throughout the planning and delivery of the conference!**



## Investing in children in practice

According to Eurochild a child-centred investment strategy includes five sub-themes:

- Education;
- Early years policies;
- Health promotion;
- Family strengthening;
- Social protection and welfare support

Study visits gave participants first-hand experience of how Belgium delivers services in these five areas. **From pre-schools to reception centres for asylum seekers, from the European Parliament to an art centre offering support to foster care children and families**, participants explored different aspects of investing in children.

The afternoon workshops were selected following a call to Eurochild members, with several being run by children and young people themselves. They spanned a wide range of topics from different European countries.

## Responding with political action

*“Investing in children as early as possible is the best and most valuable choice we can make in Europe”*

**Marianne Thyssen**, European Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Labour and Mobility

A high-level panel discussion was moderated by **Emily Holt**, Uclan Young Researcher, Lancashire County Council and **Ross Ashcroft**. **Vasiliki Kokkori** from the cabinet of **Marianne Thyssen**, talked about the importance of participation, presenting the open consultation on the European Pillar of Social Rights. **Ioannis Dimitrakopoulos**, Head of Equality and Citizens' Rights Department, European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights reiterated the importance of engaging with civil society, in particular with children. In relation to education systems, he said “if we don't discuss with children about school systems and what they should learn, we will be raising adults who are passive...”



The closing panel with young co-moderator Emily Holt (first from right, 2nd row)

**Elke Sleurs**, State Secretary for Combating Poverty, for Equal Opportunities, for Disabled People and for Science Policy, Belgium, recalled Belgium's national poverty action plan and emphasised the need to support single parents. When addressing child poverty, **Gianluca Esposito** Head of Equality and Human Dignity Department, Council of Europe stated that “investing in children is economically much more intelligent than [fixing] all the damage done after.”



Warming up exercise at the Eurochild Conference 2016



The Young Reporters Team on stage

**Verena Knaus**, Senior Policy Advisor at UNICEF Brussels office made a passionate plea for a "black box" approach. After a plane crash experts will look systematically and rigorously at what went wrong and what can be learnt. Children will be better off if politicians and policy-makers were more honest about past errors and what should be done differently in the future.

We thank our co-hosts Kind en Gezin and ONE for their support and collaboration; the children and young people who took out time from their daily lives to prepare workshops, learn to moderate and facilitate and offer their advice!

## Reaching out to rest of Europe and beyond!

### How are you #investinginchildren?

Beyond the participants, the voices and messages from the conference reached far and wide through traditional and new media. We used novel approaches to engage target audiences at local, national and European levels. Children and young people were involved in the planning and delivery of the conference communications. Through traditional press and broadcast media we reached the Belgian audiences; social media channels Instagram and Snapchat introduced Eurochild Conference to a new and younger audience. Twitter was the focus of live reporting and helped us reach almost 2 million people!

### Children's participation

Children, ages 12+, were involved both in the design, organisation and implementation of the conference. Children and adults jointly worked together during this conference as chairs, speakers, facilitators and rapporteurs. Find out more in the attached poster or go online!

### Evaluation

*“ At Eurochild conference, our opinions were taken into consideration. Adults and children were one. A complete team, working together, having fun, talking to people with important names and asking them to change something. I think this is amazing. No more discrimination.”*

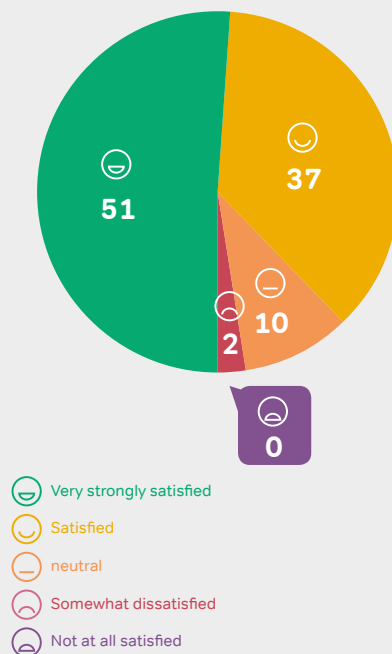
**Daniela**, Young person from Children's Consultative Council, World Vision Romania

*“The involvement of children and young people was very productive, gave new ideas and the necessary tools to continue to influence the states and societies in the EU regarding the rights of the children.”*

**Antria Kyprianou** Pancyprrian Coordinating Committee for the Protection and Welfare of Children, Cyprus

Conference participants rated the event favourably on all aspects, with 88% strongly satisfied with the conference overall, while a majority of the respondents said that the knowledge and information gained will be ultimately beneficial in their work. The highlights included strong involvement and engagement of children and young people, the networking opportunity, high level speakers, interesting and inspiring activities such as the human library and the study visits, along with positive energy and concrete take-aways.

What is your overall assessment of the conference?



Vlada Bujac (Moldova), the winner of Sketch my Rights with Norah Gibbons, President of Eurochild



The UK House of Lords EU Committee report on “Children in crisis: unaccompanied migrant children in the EU” recognised Eurochild 2016 conference as a *Good practice in Enabling children to be heard.*





3

Giving a voice  
to children and  
young people





Group photo from the *With Children For Children* event at the European Parliament

## Building a European Parliament with children, for children

On the occasion of International Children's Day, 15 children from over 9 EU countries travelled to the European Parliament in Brussels to share how they are influencing decisions that affect children at local level. Speaking directly with Members of the European Parliament in bilateral meetings, they called for greater access to child-friendly information, allocation of resources for formal participatory processes and greater information to children on how money is spent in order to participate in decision-making.

European Parliamentarians from the Intergroup on the Rights of the Child showed strong support for ongoing dialogue and participating in a take-over day, allowing a child to step into their shoes for a day.

*“The intergroup on children's rights strongly supports any initiative that brings us closer to the real experiences and views of children.”*

**Caterina Chinnici**, Co-chair of the EP Intergroup on Children's Rights

## Council of Europe strategy built on the views of children

Eurochild helped 10 children participate in the high-level conference to launch the Council of Europe's Strategy on the Rights of the Child (2016-2021) in Sofia in April. With the support



Young people report back at Council of Europe Conference at the launch of the strategy on the rights of the child

of our Bulgarian member National Network for Children and international child rights consultant Darren Bird, the children spoke on issues including LGBTI rights, access to justice and child participation and reported back from the 9 thematic sessions to the plenary.

*“I was very happy that we (the young people) were able to participate too. And that we were able to give feedback to the professionals from our perspective. The conference was prepared well... in the sessions the participants could really participate and ask questions etc. Instead of just listen to the speakers. What I really liked was that the people really listened to us and took our opinions seriously.”*

A young participant in the Council of Europe conference.

## Children as Actors for Transforming Society

Eurochild also supports the participation of children in other fora, including CATS or Children as Actors for Transforming Society of which Eurochild is an associate partner. It is a unique international partnership focused on bringing children and adults together through a yearly conference in Switzerland.

## Child-friendly resources



Discover the [child-friendly version](#) of the European Commission Recommendation on Investing in Children – available now in 3 languages – English, French and Dutch.

Eurochild engaged experts to work with a group of children to produce a version of this key document which remains the most comprehensive recommendation for governments to invest in children.

# 4

## Strengthening the network

178



.....  
Total members of  
Eurochild

33



.....  
Number of countries  
represented

1900



.....  
Eurochild's 19 National Partner Networks  
collectively represent an estimated 1900  
organisations across Europe

## A growing membership

Eurochild has a diverse membership that offers valuable perspectives into the situation of children's rights at local and national levels. Eurochild members have differing voting rights owing to their status – full, associate or honorary.

In 2016, **Eurochild welcomed 17 new members** after a vote by the General Assembly. Eurochild has a total of 178 members, including organisations and individuals working to promote children's rights in Europe.

**In 2016, the General Assembly endorsed the following full members:**

**BELGIUM** Don Bosco International  
[www.donboscointernational.eu](http://www.donboscointernational.eu)

**FRANCE** M.E.C.S LA MAISON – ADAEAR  
[www.adaear.org](http://www.adaear.org)

**GERMANY** Bavarian Youth Council  
[www.bjr.de](http://www.bjr.de)

**GREECE**  
Prolepsis Institute  
<http://www.prolepsis.gr>

Union of Women of Heraklion  
<http://www.kakopoiisi.gr>

**HUNGARY** Terre des Hommes Fondation  
Lausanne in Hungary [www.tdh-europe.org](http://www.tdh-europe.org)

**IRELAND** Youngballymun  
<http://www.youngballymun.org>

**ITALY** Mission Bambini Foundation  
[www.missionbambini.org](http://www.missionbambini.org)

**ROMANIA** Heart of a Child Foundation  
<http://www.engl.inimadecopil.ro/>

**SPAIN** iCmedia  
[www.icmedianet.org](http://www.icmedianet.org)

**SWEDEN** Social Services of Halmstad  
<http://www.halmstad.se>

**SWITZERLAND** Ariel Foundation  
International <http://www.arielfoundation.org>

**UNITED KINGDOM** Middlesex University  
<https://www.mdx.ac.uk/>

## National Partner Networks – Making national connections



**National  
Partner  
Networks**  
The Eurochild Network

National Partner Networks (NPN) are the 'go to' coalition 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.

This year, **a new national partner network was appointed by the General Assembly.**

The German National Coalition will act as German NPN, along with AGJ (The Child and Youth Welfare Association). German National Coalition, in existence since 1995, has over 115 members including key children's rights NGOs.

In 2016, the NPN group met twice.

The first meeting was combined with the 8th Regional Meeting of Children's

Rights Coalitions Forum in Europe, which took place in April in Tallinn, Estonia.

The second NPN meeting was jointly organised with ChildPact and supported by the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, France. NPNs familiarised themselves with Council of Europe's policy instruments and brainstormed on how to make better use of them. The NPNs also shared experiences of leveraging EU, Council of Europe and UN instruments and learned from each other about strengthening their impact.



The National Partners Networks met in Strasbourg on 16 December

## Supporting members to advocate nationally

In 2016, members in Ireland, Northern Ireland and Slovakia organised conferences on child poverty and inclusive education in partnership with Eurochild.

### Children in Northern Ireland 24 May 2016 – Making it Happen

The conference was held shortly after local elections to gather commitment of newly elected members of the legislative assembly to invest in children. Under the umbrella of the Child Poverty Alliance, Children in Northern Ireland organised this conference and produced 6 key demands to the government.

### Children's Rights Alliance Ireland 24 June – Making child poverty policies real

The conference called on delegates from across the NGO, public and private sectors to join forces in order to successfully meet the Government's target of eliminating consistent poverty by 2020. The Government showed its commitment, evidenced by the attendance of two Government Ministers at the Dublin conference, including Minister for Social Protection, Dr. Leo Varadkar TD and Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, Dr. Katherine Zappone TD. The conference sparked a debate at the Irish Parliament.

1/10

.....  
children in  
Ireland are living  
in consistent  
poverty.

*“I attended a very good conference on child poverty last week, organised by the Children's Rights Alliance .... I will, of course, be looking for measures in the budget that increase income supports targeted at those who need them the most, but the real focus has to be on improving services...”*

Dr. Leo Varadkar TD Irish Minister for Social Protection



From left to right Jana Hainsworth, Dr. Katherine Zappone TD, Irish Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, Dr. Leo Varadkar TD, Irish Minister for Social Protection, Tanya Ward, Chief Executive, Children's Rights Alliance Ireland

### Coalition for Children Slovakia 24 November – Respectful Schools

The conference was organised by the Coalition for Children Slovakia and Children of Slovakia Foundation with partners, Eurochild and Orange Foundation, under the auspices of the Embassy of Finland. The conference introduced the National Programme for Education Development “Learning Slovakia” in the context of international trends and experiences with the current curriculum reform in Finland. It included a session on how the European Semester can be used to influence national policies. The conference led to greater awareness of inclusive education thanks to the participation of students of Roma background and children with a disability.



# Eurochild prepares itself for greater participation of children

## Child participation in Eurochild's internal development begins

As a children's rights network Eurochild advocates for the right of the child to be heard in all decisions that affect him/her. To show that this is possible, we are putting ourselves to the test! We are developing a Child Participation Strategy, which will include child participation standards and ensure that child participation is embedded into our internal working structures. The Child Participation Strategy aims to enable Eurochild to meaningfully engage children in influencing policies, strategic planning and organising events. **Eurochild aims to achieve a 'gold standard' in participatory practice by 2020.**

In November children aged 12-17 years from eight countries came together with Eurochild staff and members experienced in child participation to start shaping Eurochild's child participation strategy. We expect it to be adopted by members at the 2017 General Assembly after further consultation with members and children.

## Eurochild adopts its internal Child Protection Policy

Our work on children's participation is guided by the nine requirements for meaningful, safe and inclusive children's participation based on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Child protection is key and Eurochild has developed a child protection policy to ensure the highest standards of professional behaviour and personal practice to ensure no harm occurs to children and young people during their involvement in Eurochild activities, projects and programmes. The child protection policy applies to Eurochild staff, management board members, interns, volunteers and all those acting on behalf of Eurochild, such as members, consultants and trainers.

Participation in Eurochild's work and activities needs to be safe and fun for children and adults alike. Eurochild's child protection policy has been positively assessed by the Keeping Children Safe Alliance.



*“To advocate you need a plan! Children's rights have to be respected no matter what the situation is.”*

Young person responds to evaluation of the CATS Workshop on advocating for Sustainable Development Goals

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Young people discussing next steps for the Eurochild's child participation strategy

## Partnerships and alliances

We work with a number of civil society networks and organisations to ensure children's rights perspective is addressed in broader debates, at national, European and international levels. In 2016, Eurochild joined the newly created Sustainable Development Goals Europe Watch coalition.

Eurochild is a member of, or supports following alliances, networks and coalitions:

- **Social Platform**
- **European Public Health Alliance**
- **Child Rights Connect**
- **EU Alliance on Investing in Children**
- **Global Coalition Against Child Poverty**
- **Child Rights Action Group**
- **European Anti-Poverty Network**
- **Children as Actors for Transforming Society**
- **EU Semester Alliance**
- **European Expert Group on the transition from institutional to community based care**
- **Learning for Well-being Foundation**



A young girl with dark hair and bangs is the central focus, wearing large black headphones and a white shirt with a ruffled collar. She is looking upwards and to the right with an attentive expression. The background is filled with other people, also wearing headphones, suggesting a group activity or a workshop. The entire image is overlaid with a warm orange tint. The text 'Governance & Team' is written in white, sans-serif font on the left side of the image.

# Governance & Team

The participants  
of the Eurochild  
General Assembly in  
April 2016



## Governance

### Management Board – A new leadership takes the reigns

At the 2016 General Assembly, we bid a teary goodbye to Maria Herczog, who came to the end of her two terms as Eurochild President. Along with Maria, Pauline Leeson CBE, Chief Executive of Children in Northern Ireland, Ivano Abbruzzi, President of Albergo della Vita in Italy and Kelig Puyet, Head of Global Advocacy in SOS Children's Villages International completed their terms. We are

grateful for their enormous contribution, vision and guidance over the last 6 years.

The elections brought forth a new leadership under Norah Gibbons. An honorary member of Eurochild, Norah Gibbons worked for many years in social work in both the statutory and voluntary sector in the UK and Ireland. She is a champion of children's rights and has a unique insight into child care. She currently also acts as Chair of Tusla, the child and family agency of Ireland.

#### The 2016 Management Board comprises:



**Ms Norah Gibbons,**  
Honorary Member,  
Ireland - President



**Ms Ljiljana Vasic,**  
Pomoc Deci, Serbia -  
Treasurer



**Ms Hanna Heinonen,**  
Central  
Union for Child  
Welfare, Finland



**Ms Dana Rusinova,**  
Coalition for Children  
Slovakia, Slovakia



**Mr Otto Sestak,** Hope  
and Homes for  
Children, Romania



**Mr George Bogdanov,** National  
Network for Children,  
Bulgaria



**Mr Geert Jorgensen,**  
Associate Member,  
Denmark



Outgoing and incoming members of the Management Board met with the Secretariat in June 2016



## Team

### Secretariat

The Secretariat staff in Brussels plays a crucial role in connecting policymakers with its members, organising events, supporting members and representing children's rights in various policy fora in and around Europe.

#### In 2016, the Staff comprised of:

- **Jana Hainsworth**, Secretary General, who completed 10 years of service in 2016!
- **Andrea Witt**, Executive Assistant/Conference Coordinator
- **Axelle Stainier**, Head of Finance
- **Manon Jacobs**, Financial and Administrative Assistant (until March 2016)
- **Andreia Dos Santos**, Administrative Assistant (from May 2016)
- **Mieke Schuurman**, Senior Policy Coordinator – Children's Rights and Child Participation
- **Agata D'Addato**, Senior Policy Coordinator – Policy, Research and Practice
- **Réka Tunyogi**, Head of Advocacy (On maternity leave March 2016 – October 2016)
- **Emma Grindulis**, Advocacy and Parliamentary Officer (maternity cover March - October 2016)

- **Katerina Nanou**, Policy and Advocacy Officer and coordinator of the Opening Doors campaign
- **Prerna Humpal**, Head of Communications
- **Federico Lanzo**, Communications and Campaigns Officer (until October 2016)
- **Tetiana Sykes**, Communications Coordinator for the Opening Doors campaign (from December 2016)
- **Davide Rambaldi**, Communications Assistant (hired following his internship in December 2016)
- **Nicolas Meslaoui**, Participation and Network Development Officer (until July 2016)
- **Tinna Ros Steinsdottir**, Child Participation and Network Development Officer (from October 2016)

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

- **Gwyn Bouwman**, Communications (September 2015 – March 2016)
- **Isabelle Schlegel**, Administration and Events Intern (February 2016 – July 2016)
- **Dhanishtha Kuruvilla**, Policy and Advocacy (March 2016 – September 2016)
- **Flavia Colonnese**, Policy and Advocacy (from September 2016)

# Accounts & Funding



## Income Statement

Income	2014	2015	2016
Membership fees	62,555	65,735	62,285
EC EaSI grant	1,118,452	874,754	874,711
External co-funding & revenues for Individual and Joint Actions, and other project grants	372,691	257,021	481,469
Miscellaneous	4,057	493	5,174
Interests	933	2,974	0
<b>Income total</b>	<b>1,558,688</b>	<b>1,200,977</b>	<b>1,423,639</b>

Expenditure	2014	2015	2016
Operating expenses	890,463	513,167	645,373
Payroll	660,272	763,360	722,353
Financial charges	2,165	1,376	1,372
<b>Expenditure total</b>	<b>1,552,899</b>	<b>1,277,904</b>	<b>1,369,098</b>
<b>Operating result</b>	<b>5,789</b>	<b>-76,927</b>	<b>54,541</b>

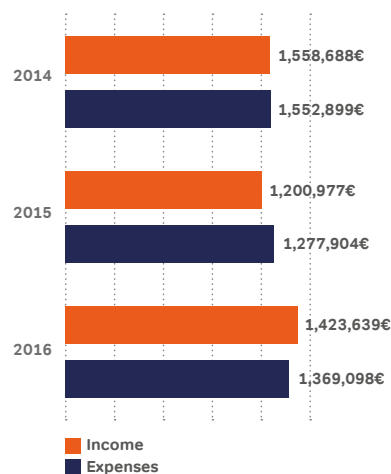
## Balance Sheet

Assets	2014	2015	2016
Fixed assets	15,736	10,974	2,574
Trade accounts receivable	35,983	14,760	7,655
Other receivables	43,519	28,372	20,252
Receivable grants	223,690	217,062	202,504
Advances to partners for projects	-16,588		
Prepaid expenses	0		32,803
Accrued incomes	7,068	4,993	2,090
Cash & Bank	864,735	338,045	215,337
<b>Assets total</b>	<b>1,174,143</b>	<b>614,206</b>	<b>483,215</b>

Liabilities	2014	2015	2016
Equity (own funds)	46,484	-30,442	24,099
Grants	768,149	467,593	110,885
Fixed liabilities	0		0
Trade Account payables	162,743	92,948	192,224
Trade accruals	38,564	32,480	41,205
Other payables	31,197	6,047	42,548
Deferred Profit	0		2,458
Social liabilities	127,006	45,581	69,796
<b>Liabilities total</b>	<b>1,174,143</b>	<b>614,206</b>	<b>483,215</b>

External Cofunding & project grants	2015	2016
Individual and Joint Actions contributing to work plan	31,272	46,437
Oak Foundation - Childonomics	26,913	124,735
Oak Foundation - Core Grant	23,533	231,972
Oak Foundation - SCRAN	71,388	-
Council of Europe	35,000	37,366
Hope & Homes for Children	54,611	29,167
Project Grants	14,304	11,792
	<b>257,021</b>	<b>481,469</b>

### Yearly comparison



Year end result:  
54,541€



Watch "Level up - Putting children at the heart of Europe" to see how Max and Laura fight the monsters!



**Eurochild**  
Putting children at  
the heart of Europe



### **Get involved and support Eurochild**

Help us change the way society views and treats its children. We work with civil society, governments, social workers, foundations, academics and other experts to improve the rights of children.

**Donate today or contact us to know more!**



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>