

Terms of Reference for the consultancy: Advocacy coordination supporting a Europe-wide campaign on Early Childhood Development

Deadline for applications: 7 December 2020

About Eurochild

Eurochild is a network of organisations and individuals working with and for children throughout Europe, striving for a society that respects the rights of children. Our vision is a society where children and young people grow up happy, healthy and confident and respected as individuals in their own right. Our mission is to promote the rights and well-being of children in policy and practice through advocacy, membership exchange and research. Eurochild's Strategic Plan sets out the network's goals for the period 2019-2021. In particular:

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

As part of our strategic goal to end child poverty and social exclusion, we advocate for early childhood development to be a public policy priority, for holistic and integrated policies and practices, for increased investment in family and parenting support, and for the development of a competent early childhood workforce and governance system.

About the campaign

Eurochild and the International Step by Step Association (ISSA) are co-leading the European Campaign on Early Childhood Development *First Years First Priority*. The European Public Health Alliance (EPHA) and the Roma Education Fund (REF) are associate partners.

- Through the Campaign we aim at leveraging EU funding and policies to catalyze national reforms and public investment, ensuring that all families with young children, and in particular the most vulnerable, get the right kind of support at the right time.
- The campaign focuses on prioritizing children from birth to 6 years, with a special attention to the first 1,000 days - the period from conception to the end of a child's second year.
- Building on the Nurturing Care Framework developed by UNICEF and WHO, we aim to influence policies and services in the fields of social welfare, pre- and post-natal health care, early education and care, parenting and family support and child protection.
- The Campaign model is top/down – bottom/up: we combine EU and national advocacy thanks to the active engagement of National coordinators in 9 countries from across the European region.
- NCs are supported through the campaign and advocate at a national level, harnessing the opportunities provided by EU political and funding processes.
- The campaign targets EU decision-makers responsible for driving EU policy and funding priorities National policy makers' National civil society.

Role and responsibilities

In the context of this Campaign Eurochild is looking for an Advocacy Consultant to coordinate and support delivering an influencing strategy for the Campaign, monitor relevant developments for ECD at EU level, reach out to EU target audiences promoting the key messages of the campaign and support National Coordinators in their outreach to policy makers. The Advocacy Consultant will:

- Under the guidance of Eurochild Head of Advocacy further develop, implement and update the campaign's strategic influencing strategy.
- Draft tools and materials to influence EU decision-making promoting ECD policies and programmes.
- Reach out to relevant target audiences in Brussels promoting the key messages of the Campaign.
- Support national coordinators in their outreach to EU policy makers.
- Contribute to regular reporting on outcomes of advocacy actions.
- Convening the Campaign Advocacy Task Force meetings and keep track of discussions and decisions made.
- Represent the campaign in external alliances and meetings as appropriate.

The Campaign Advocacy Consultant is supervised by Eurochild Head of Advocacy and works in close collaboration with the Campaign Coordinator – Eurochild Senior Project Manager. The Consultant work plan and responsibilities will be outlined at the beginning of the consultancy and will be revised on an ongoing basis to respond to emerging opportunities and needs. The Advocacy Consultant will also liaise with international partners in the Campaign and with other advisors involved in specific Campaign tasks.

Candidate requirements

- Proven track record in political influencing, ideally at EU level, with at least 5 years' relevant professional experience.
- Knowledge of the functioning of the EU institutions and leveraging EU opportunities at national levels both within EU Member States and neighborhood countries.
- Demonstrable capacity to work across the political spectrum and to drive evidence-informed advocacy.
- Experience of working with and/or for the non-profit sector, preferably in the field of children's rights.
- Excellent networking and communication skills.
- Enthusiasm and strong work ethic.
- Team work and collaborative spirit.
- Excellent writing skills in English.
- Knowledge and experience on early childhood development is an added value

Conditions for this consultancy

- Activities in relation to this consultancy are expected to take place between January and June 2021 with possibility to renew the contract until the end of 2021.
- For this consultancy Eurochild is willing to pay a daily fee of 250 EUR VAT excl. up to a maximum of 13.000 EUR VAT excl. for 6 months. This sum is inclusive of all expenses except for travel and



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accommodation costs. Occurrence of travel will be assessed with Eurochild staff. Travel and accommodation costs will be covered by Eurochild prior approval of responsible staff.

- This consultancy is home-based. If conditions allow, the Advocacy Consultant will attend meetings and events in Brussels as part of the influencing activities.
- Terms of payment (instalments) and time of payment will be discussed prior to signing the contract.

How to apply

Interested candidates are invited to send their CV and motivation letter, by **Monday 7 December 2020**, to Agata D'Addato, Eurochild Senior Project Manager and Campaign Coordinator. Short-listed candidates will be notified and invited to interviews (conducted online).

For submitting an application or for questions about this consultancy please email Agata D'Addato, Eurochild Senior Project Manager at agata.daddato@eurochild.org