

Eurochild Network Convention

Fostering Rights-Based Solutions to Tackle Child Poverty and Social Exclusion across Europe

2-3 July, Malta

On 2-3 July Eurochild and The Malta Foundation for the Wellbeing of Society organise a collaborative event for the Eurochild network with the aim to exchange, participate in member-led workshops, share good practice, listen, and engage with keynote speakers from the EU and the UN. The outgoing Eurochild Children's Council (ECC) will also participate and will hand-over their mandate after two years together to the new ECC.

Eurochild and the Malta Foundation for the Wellbeing of Society share a common vision: a society that champions the rights of every child, with a special emphasis on lifting children out of poverty. This collaborative event is designed to tackle the urgent issue of child poverty and social inclusion, shedding light on the transformative power of early childhood development in breaking the intergenerational cycle of disadvantage. In fact, targeted expertise shall be offered during this conference through the inclusion of the **Early Childhood Development Association Malta** as collaborators.

Eurochild, as the largest network of children's rights organisations in Europe, with 200 organisations and individuals in membership from across 42 European countries, strives for a society that respects the rights of every child, including very young children. We fight against child poverty and advocate for systemic reforms that address structural inequalities by calling for the prioritisation of public investment in childcare, education, healthcare, housing, and family support.

The Malta Foundation for the Wellbeing of Society believes in an aspirational, inclusive, just, equitable and eco-friendly society where all people may grow, enjoy a sustainable quality of life, and engage in productive and meaningful relationships. In such a society, nobody is side-lined, and human rights and dignity are respected.

The Early Childhood Development Association Malta (ECDAM) is a voluntary non-profit organisation committed to promoting and supporting high-quality Early Childhood Education and Care for all children and their families. The goal of ECDAM is to strengthen the values, knowledge and skills of all those involved in Early Childhood Education and Care and advocate for the highest quality in early years provision.

Convention Objectives:

- **Policy Impact:** Provide substantive inputs to EU policy debates on combating child poverty, advancing children's rights and wellbeing, and supporting and strengthening families.
- **Knowledge Exchange:** Enable sharing best practices related to advancing children's rights and wellbeing, including on early childhood systems, child poverty/children in need.
- **Amplifying Voices:** Ensure the voices of children and the organisations supporting them will be actively listened to and contribute to a more inclusive dialogue.
- **Collaborative Engagement:** Foster collaboration and exchange across Europe among civil society representatives, policymakers, practitioners, and researchers in children's rights and wellbeing.

2 July – DAY 1

9 to 9.45 am	Registration and coffee
9.45 to 11.15	<p>Opening of the conference</p> <p>Moderator: Sabine Saliba, Secretary General Eurochild</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hon Minister Falzon, Minister for Social Policy and Children's Rights, Malta • Marie-Louise Coleiro-Preca, President of Eurochild • Katarina Ivankovic , Director for Social Rights and Inclusion in the Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion of the European Commission • Sirpa Rautio, Director of the EU's Fundamental Rights Agency • Iris Abraham - Communications & Fundamental Rights Adviser, Cabinet Vice President Dubravka Šuica • Video Message from Nicolas Schmit, European Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights <p>Celebratory Handover Session from the current Eurochild Children's Council to the new Eurochild Children's Council</p>
11.15 to 11.45	Break
11.45 to 1pm	<p>Workshop 1: <i>Young Children's Participation in Curriculum Development: Educators' Transition from Prescriptive to Emergent Curriculum in Maltese Early Years Settings, Early Childhood Development Association, Malta</i></p> <p>Workshop 2: <i>Empowering Communities: A Holistic Approach to Tackling Generational Child Poverty, Concordia, Austria</i></p> <p>Workshop 3: <i>Child-family separation issues between poverty and marginalisation and the children's rights to family and protection - Know-how Centre for Alternative Care for Children, New Bulgarian University, Bulgaria</i></p> <p>Workshop 4: <i>An integrated approach to protecting children's rights online, Eurochild</i></p>
1 to 2.30pm	Lunch and networking
2.30 to 3.45	<p>Workshop 5: <i>Designing and Playing "Snakes and Ladders" of Children's Lives at Risk of Poverty and Social Exclusion, The Malta Foundation for the Wellbeing of Society, Malta</i></p> <p>Workshop 6: <i>Innovative Solutions for Child Mental Health: Lessons from Greece, The Smile of the Child, Greece</i></p>

	Workshop 7: Leveraging EU influence to deliver change for families in adversity in Bulgaria, Eurochild
	Workshop 8: Child Participation, Eurochild Children's Council
	<u>15h00-16:30</u> <u>FIELD VISITS: Marchese the Villa Bianca, a school of music for children with disabilities led by the Malt Trust Foundation</u>
3.45 to 4.15 pm	Coffee break
4.15 to 5.30	Workshop 9: Mental Health Specialists' Archipelago, National Network for Children, Bulgaria
	Workshop 10: Putting early childhood development on the political agenda: advocacy and campaigning at the national level, Eurochild
	Workshop 11: Put Children First: End Orphanage Volunteering and the Institutionalisation of Children, International Federation of Social Workers Europe
	Workshop 12: Right Outcomes – How can children participate in assessing the realisation of their rights?, Central Union for Child Welfare, Finland and the Dutch NGO Coalition for Children's Rights, The Netherlands
5.30 to 7pm	Free time
7pm	Dinner

3 July – DAY 2

9.00 to 11.45 (incl a coffee break)	Building Children's Futures project final conference
	<u>FIELD VISITS: ECDAM Childcare centres</u>
11.45 to 1.15pm	Workshop 13: "Be My Friend", Society "Our Children" Opatija, Croatia
	Workshop 14: - <i>Exploring and scaling models to institutionalise children's participation in democratic life at local level, experiences from Budapest and Naples, Fondazione l'Albero della Vita, Italy and Family, Child, Youth Association, Hungary</i>
	Workshop 15: - <i>Navigating Trauma: Advocacy and training for professionals in traumatized care systems and why trauma informed schools ensure educational success</i>

	<i>for all children, Roots Research Center, Greece and Gareth Williams-James, UK based independent education specialist</i>
1.15 to 3pm	Lunch and networking
3 to 4.30	<p>Closing ceremony</p> <p>Moderator: Sabine Saliba, Secretary General Eurochild</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Najat Maalla M'jid, UN Special Representative to the Secretary General on Violence Against Children • Marie-Cecile Rouillon, Child Rights Coordinator at the European Commission • Hon Prime Minister Dr Robert Abela, Prime Minister of Malta • Marie-Louise Coleiro-Preca, President of Eurochild

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