

Ensuring children's safety from violence - Supporting grassroots child-rights CSOs tackle violence against children

Daphne-CHILD's approach and vision

<p>Problem statement</p>	<p>Violence against children remains pervasive across Europe and we see many of its manifestations across our work as Europe's leading network for civil society working with and for children. From the growing impact of cyber-bullying and online abuse on children's well-being and mental health, to child sexual abuse affecting at least one in five children in Europe, to children growing up in or arriving into Europe from conflict zones, to the trauma experienced by millions of children growing up in institutional care. The myriad forms of violence against children prevent them from enjoying their childhood and their rights to develop into healthy and happy individuals.</p> <p>Other forms of violence meanwhile, those of a more indirect nature, are also a pressing concern to the children's well-being and rights. Structural violence, which is built into the structure of society and manifests itself as unequal power, indirectly causes harm through a steady process of political, economic or social discrimination, ultimately reducing a person's potential. In Europe, such violence can be seen in unequal access to free and quality healthcare, mental well-being services or school meal programmes as well as the existence substandard social housing initiatives and social protection measures, which further compound existing inequalities and keep children in poverty. Poverty and structural violence amount to no less suffering than direct and physical forms of violence. Often, children's voices and experiences are absent in discussions related to preventing and tackling forms of violence as well as the systems designed to protect children. Children have told us that protection from violence is one of the biggest priorities for them. Children are not only victims in need of protection, but are full right holders, including their right to be heard.</p>
<p>Target population</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civil society actors in 9 selected European countries (BG, IE, EL, ES, HU, PT, RO, RS, and UA), from grassroots organisations working with children growing up in the most deprived communities and families. • Children, including those experiencing or at risk of experiencing violence, be it direct or indirect. • Decision-makers, politicians, policymakers at European and national levels.
<p>Project objectives</p>	<p>Objective 1: Provide financial support to grassroots CSOs that improves the development of child-rights based responses and services, integrating children's views and opinions, to address violence against children.</p> <p>Objective 2: Build capacities of grassroots CSOs to co-create and implement projects addressing violence against children through mentoring, training, peer-to-peer exchanges, and mutual learning activities.</p> <p>Objective 3: Establish and sustain a dynamic hub of information to underpin, empower, and sustain the work of grassroots organisations supported by this project.</p> <p>Objective 4: Evidence and experiences of grassroots CSOs involved in the project inform Eurochild's work and the EU's ongoing work around issuing recommendations for integrated child protection systems for Member States.</p>

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Activities needed to reach outcomes	Core project components (critical elements that will create change)	Outcomes (change that the project aims to achieve for the target population)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setting up National Focal Points within CSOs offices in membership of Eurochild and TdH in the 9 target countries to coordinate the national outreach and collection of project proposals. • Establish an Advisory Board including representatives from Eurochild/TdH, 3-4 experts from the Eurochild network, and 2 Eurochild Children's Council members. • Organise capacity building/training sessions, including (but not limited to) child participation; child protection; advocacy with children. • Peer-to-peer exchange among funded projects with projects within their countries and between countries where countries have similar objectives/target groups of children. • Setting up a dedicated website/page where the outcomes of the projects are presented. 	<p>Sub-granting, capacity building, and technical assistance for national CSOs - including grassroots organisations working with the most deprived communities, families and children.</p> <p>Children themselves involved in discussions and planning to combat violence against children. It is vital that they are given meaningful spaces to share expertise and support development of strategies and solutions for combatting violence in their communities, as well at national and European levels.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civil society organisations in 9 European countries have improved financial capacity, skills, and knowledge to tackle violence against children, through investing in family strengthening, community building at EU and national level, combatting violence, advocacy actions such as holding national government to account, and meaningful engagement with communities' representatives and other key stakeholders. • Child participation mainstreaming within EU policies and funding is enhanced, including in activities focused on addressing violence against children • EU and national policymakers are more aware of, and sensitive to, involving children themselves in the development of strategies and solutions for combatting violence.
Impact	<p>➤ Improved civil society led child protection services to tackle violence against children across Europe taking into account children's opinions.</p>	