

Building a better Europe with children: All aboard!

Children's participation in public decision-making



Eurochild Conference 2018 Report



Eurochild
Putting children at
the heart of Europe







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Eurochild

Putting children at
the heart of Europe

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.

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We are grateful to our host, Society 'Our Children' Opatija for co-organising the event. Thanks also to all staff and volunteers of the host organisation and the Eurochild team for making the event a success.

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Our Sponsors

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Foreword

“Child participation in public decision-making” can feel like an alien concept to many people unfamiliar with children’s rights. People rightly ask: ‘why’, ‘how’, and ‘what does it actually mean?’ Eurochild’s 2018 conference in Opatija went some way to answering those questions.

First we heard several adults in positions of power speak about how listening to children helps them do their job better. For example, the Mayor of Opatija who meets with children every month and regularly consults with the Children’s Mayor; Princess Laurentien of the Netherlands who spoke passionately about the change that can happen when adults and children meet ‘as equals’; and the President of Malta who sees children’s right to participate as a foundation stone of societal well-being.

Second regarding the ‘how’ children participate in public decision-making, we wanted the participants not only to hear and see examples of how it works in practice, but also to experience it. So we co-organised the event with children, and children made up one third of the participants. It involved a lot more time and planning than a usual adult-focused event, but from the feedback we received, adults benefitted as much as the children!

Finally, ‘what does it actually mean?’ We gathered an extraordinary wealth of good practices from the field, and from across Europe – some documented in the conference background paper, some further explained in the workshops, the study visits or the human library. The examples show that children of all ages and all backgrounds can positively contribute to decision-making when given the right support. It also shows how involvement results in better policies and better services, and ultimately much better outcomes for children and society as a whole.

We believe this event makes a convincing case for decision-makers both to listen to children and to take their views seriously.

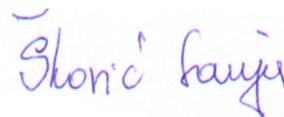
As follow-up participants agreed with three main recommendations for governments across Europe:

- 1. Every government in Europe should make teaching about children’s right to participate a mandatory part of the curriculum in every school.**
- 2. Every government in Europe should implement an inclusive participation strategy, for ALL children that obliges local, regional and national decision makers to take children’s views into account.**
- 3. Every government in Europe should be obliged to provide evidence of the impact of children in setting the agenda, influencing decisions and following these through.**

We look forward to working with children, with members, with allies and with governments to make these recommendations reality.



Jana Hainsworth
Eurochild Secretary General



Sanja Skorić
Secretary General of
Society Our Children
Opatija, Vice President of
Union of Societies Our
Children Croatia

Introduction

Eurochild's 13th Conference took place on the 29-31 October 2018 in Opatija, Croatia on the theme of children's participation in public decision-making. The event was organised under the patronage of the President of the Republic of Croatia. Eurochild's member Society 'Our Children' Opatija a non-governmental organisation which promotes the realisation of children's rights in society hosted the conference. They partnered with the City of Opatija which has committed to take care of its youngest citizens and develop the city based on the needs and views of its children. The City of Opatija received an honorary title Child Friendly City in 2005 and proved a welcoming location for children and adults alike.

The conference brought together practitioners, researchers, civil society actors, policy and decision makers along with children and young people themselves to contribute to improving children's participation in public decision-making. The conference showcased positive examples of how public decision-makers at local, national and European levels respect the right of children to participate in decisions affecting them, and recommendations for further action.

This report presents the highlights and learning from the three-day programme which featured high level speakers, workshops, study visits in and around Opatija, interactions in small 'home' groups and a Human Library session to provide inspiration and learning on how children can become active agents in influencing and improving public decision-making. The report concludes with a brief commentary on next steps and feedback from delegates on the impact the conference has had on policy and practice at the time of writing.

Nearly a third of the 326 delegates were children under the age of 18 – an impressive proportion for such an important conference. 100 children and young people under the age of 18 brought their ideas and perspectives on how to better engage in public decision-making. Such a rich and valuable set of experiences from across Europe ensured an inspiring, worthwhile, exciting and purposeful event in the child-friendly city of Opatija.

Building a child-friendly conference

The conference was co-organised with an advisory group of children and young people, divided into three sub-groups during the planning phase and the event itself.

- The Content Group played an important role in co-developing, preparing and delivering the programme.
- The Communications Group supported creation of media content and social media activities.
- The mission of the Care Group was to ensure all participants felt included and cared for.

Over 20 children living locally (supported by the Society "Our Children" Opatija, volunteered to support the smooth organisation of the conference.

Children from various organisations across Europe took the conference stage as speakers or co-moderators. At the end of each day participants spent time with their assigned to 'home groups' to unpack their experiences and share lessons they learnt. The programme also offered the participants informal opportunities and tools to exchange and express their views, including a social media wall, a vision art corner, opinion and inspiration walls or a voting table to decide on the focus of the closing session. Participants also had fun moments, playing new ice-breaker games and practicing the conference song and dance.



326 delegates attended the conference from **38** countries

100
children under 18

2
Kids Peace Prize
Nominees

40
children involved in organising
the conference including
the Youth Advisory Group,
the Eurochild Children's Council
and local volunteers

17
government
representatives

5
national

12
local or regional
(including 4 Mayors)

4 national ombudspersons

1 Princess

47 Eurochild members

+300  Tweets

3 recommendations to make children's participation in
public decision-making a reality across Europe!

Children's participation in public decision-making in Europe

Children's participation in public decision-making is a process through which children express their ideas about government policies, guidance, budgets and services; it is a process through which children's ideas produce changes in, for example, understanding, training, policy and practice. Children can be involved in every stage of the process – deciding what issues are important; giving their ideas and gathering ideas from others; reporting ideas to other decision makers; and in some instances, making decisions themselves about public services.

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A background paper for the conference gives an overview of current practice on children's participation in public decision making. It explains the legal, policy and societal value of children's participation. Using examples of practices that are inclusive of children from disadvantaged backgrounds the paper offers guidance on ensuring that children's participation is inclusive and impactful.

The paper can be downloaded here:

<https://bit.ly/2RXO8P4>



Article 12 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) establishes children's right to express their views on all matters that affect them. However, as the UN Committee's General Comment No. 12 makes clear, obligations under Article 12 go beyond creating opportunities for children to voice their opinions. Governments also have a responsibility to ensure that those views are heard by those making the decisions, and taken seriously.¹

According to the UN General Comment on the Right of the Child to be Heard, listening to children's views is essential to assess their best interests. Listening to children, taking their views and ideas seriously and responding positively makes a difference to children, to public services and contributes to creating a culture of respect and reciprocity. Taking extra efforts to ensure the inclusion of children who are disadvantaged (by poverty, racism or discrimination based on religion, disability, migration or other statuses) maximises those dividends for all concerned.

Children's participation in public decision-making takes place in Europe but inconsistently, without the full engagement of children in vulnerable situations and not on all matters affecting children. There are many more opportunities today for children to express their views than there were 20 years ago, but children's views must be clearly communicated to those with the responsibility to listen and make decisions. A survey of Eurochild members, consisting mostly of children's rights organisations, showed that inclusive and impactful children's participation happens when children communicate directly with powerful decision makers, and not via someone else. The role and outlook of professional adults responsible for children's participation and the decision-makers is equally important. Adults can make all the difference in the ways in which they support children to take part in decisions about policies and programmes.

To make children's participation inclusive and impactful, governments should have:

- A strategy for inclusion – with many different ways to support all children to participate
- Tools to inform children about opportunities to participate, including through social media, schools and advertising campaigns
- Child-friendly spaces for children to meet with decision-makers
- Tools, methodologies and training to encourage adults with decision-making powers to recognise the value of children's participation
- Mechanisms (including laws) that oblige decision-makers to involve children in decision-making.

1. RC(2009) General Comment No 12 The Right of the Child to be Heard, CRC/C/GC/12

Conference Opening Session



"Welcome to Opatija - a city of children's friends. I hope that each of us will learn a lot and together will come up with a perfect formula for building a Europe where all children grow up happy, healthy, and self-confident". - Petra, Children's Mayor of Opatija, member of the Youth Advisory Group to the Conference, Croatia



"A very warm welcome to the 13th Conference organised by Eurochild since it was created in 2004. I'm delighted to welcome so many participants from all over Europe and to tell you that over a third of our delegates are children. This is a conference for children and for adults to provide a forum for dialogue where we can build a better Europe with children at its heart." - Jana Hainsworth –Secretary General, Eurochild



"A child's right to participate in making decisions that concern the child is as we know, guaranteed by the Convention on the Rights of the Child and is embedded in the legislation and strategic documents of a number of European countries. But there is still much to do until this right is fully realised, especially in the case of the most vulnerable groups of children. - Valentina Otmačić – Head of Office, UNICEF Croatia



There was much excitement in the build up to the Eurochild Conference 2018 in Opatija, Croatia. Social media interaction accelerated as participants travelling all over Europe tweeted about their journey to the conference.



Croatia here we come! Getting ready to fly out to take part in the @Eurochild_org conference where MCPs and MSYPs will share their experiences of meeting First Minister @NicolaSturgeon and her Cabinet & influencing high level government. @OfficialSYP @together_sacr – Children's Parliament

Moderators:

- Dr Cath Larkins, Director of the Centre for Children & Young People's Participation, University of Central Lancashire, UK.
- Dylan, Youth Advocate (Ireland), Member of the Youth Advisory Group to the Conference.
- Zakya, Youth Advocate (UK), Member of the Youth Advisory Group to the Conference.
- Ivana Jeđud Borić, Associate Professor, Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Sciences, University of Zagreb.

Inspiring Speakers



“Without children our society has no future. Their ideas will create a new world”. - **Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović, President of Croatia (Video address)**

The President shared an anecdote of a boy who came to her office with a wish for a world where everyone lives happily and healthy. The President believes that all children must have a right to live without violence and must have a good education. She will continue to fight for these rights to be upheld for all children.



“Any action children take to claim their rights helps to change the world.”- **Tymon – Youth advocate, Children’s Peace Prize Nominee 2017, Poland**

Tymon recalled how his legal fight for access to information took him on a path to stand up for children’s rights. He shared his own experience of having his requests for information (on his family ancestors) rejected by state authorities because he was 10 years old and classified as a minor in the eyes of the law. When his requests had been rejected 10 times, Tymon was about to give up, but a friend told him “don’t give up. It’s not just you. I feel it too – we children are discriminated against”. Tymon realised that he was among 7 million other children in Poland and he decided to use the law. After being dismissed at lower courts, his case went to the Supreme Court and won! Children in Poland now have the same access as adults to information about their ancestors. Tymon’s legal interventions have even brought changes into Poland’s constitution. Tymon was invited to be the Minister’s advisor on electronic services for children.

“Children want to be in the position of partnership and not in a position of authority.”



“Listening to children is not an option, it is essential!”
- **Marie-Louise Coleiro-Preca – President of Malta (Video address)**

Her Excellency welcomed the opportunity the conference represented for children to be listened to and have their voices heard. She brought attention to children who are excluded and not often heard and urged to work together with Eurochild, the European Union and the international community. Her Excellency concluded by thanking children and young people for being the strongest advocates of their rights and referred to the duty adults have to provide opportunities for children to get their voices heard.



What are the 9 requirements for meaningful children’s participation?

- Respectful
- Transparent and informative
- Voluntary
- Relevant
- Facilitated with child-friendly environments and working methods
- Inclusive
- Supported by training
- Safe and sensitive to risk
- Accountable



“Every child has a chance if only we allow them to shine and flourish in a different environment.”
- **Princess Laurentien of the Netherlands**

The Princess introduced herself as a ‘dinosaur’ in complete ignorance of what it is to be a child today. Her humble words hid many lessons for the participants. She suggested an additional criteria for meaningful child participation – that adults take note of what they hear from children and young people. The Princess called for a ‘new normal’ where children and adults have a dialogue as equal partners and urged adults to “stand with and on behalf of children working as change-makers”. She reminded the adults that they may think they know what it’s like to be a child but they do need to check their assumptions. She advised children to be themselves and never to apologise for it. Being included is not always enough and the Princess called for emancipation. Adults have to learn to let go. We have to teach adults to ask the right questions to children, not to assume they know, nor ask leading questions.

Princess Laurentien said the rules of the game need to change (as with women’s rights) and she set out what she saw as the five pre-conditions for meaningful participation:

1. Ask the decision-makers to share the power. Are they willing to change the rules of the game?
2. Take more time over decision-making and be more deliberative. Participation needs to part of the process from the beginning and not be ‘an add-on’.
3. Remove the burden on children to show the value and worth of their participation. Decision-makers should have to prove why it’s not valuable, rather than children having to prove its value.
4. Recognise children as equal partners now – not in the future. The Princess stated that she did not like the phrase ‘Children are our future’. She would respond, ‘but what about now?’
5. Do not simply work with the children on the podium – the confident, outspoken children. Listen to other children too, children of different ages and backgrounds.

Princess Laurentien’s speech was particularly trending amongst participants as she promoted child participation and apologised on behalf of adults. The children picked up on this part of her speech and shared their reactions on Facebook.



I’m sorry on behalf of adults. I have only two pieces of advice. Children, remain yourselves, don’t be predictable, trust yourselves! Decision makers don’t just listen but change attitude, ask questions
- Princess Laurentien #EurochildConf



“Children should be encouraged and supported to make their voice heard and even the shyest children should be heard in one way or the other.” - **Fahima, Youth Advocate, Children’s Peace Prize Nominee 2017, Netherlands**

Fahima became passionate about raising attention a number of problems faced by children. She has talked to the child ombudsman in the Netherlands about child-friendliness in decision making; she has held discussions with the mayor of her city about problems faced by children in shelters. Fahima explained how when she first joined a youth task force against child abuse she was afraid to speak up.

“I was even shaking before I made the attempt to start speaking. Why? Because I was surrounded by (what I thought were) experts, people that were older than me who were studying to become a nurse or other professional. They knew more than me. Right?”

As time passed, Fahima went from being a shy 14-year-old to presenting her own research on Adverse Childhood Experiences in young children to Princess Laurentien of the Netherlands. During her journey, Fahima recalled having spoken to many children and young people and how she came to realise the value of 'voice'. Children, she said should be encouraged and supported to make their voice heard, with even the shyest children heard in one way or the other.

Fahima set out three reasons why she thinks children's participation is important:

1. Because children have the right to be heard and they have the right to information.
2. Because it is beneficial for children's development and self-esteem.
3. Because who else knows more about the best solutions than the people that experience the problems/situations themselves?

Fahima concluded by speaking passionately about her commitment to listening to children from more disadvantaged backgrounds and to children who are quiet or shy. She urged the audience to do the same. She also suggested that adults put themselves in the shoes of a child so that they understand better the concept of an environment that is child-friendly. Fahima left the audience with an inspiring quote from Desmond Tutu: *"listen, listen, listen and then go out in the world and act"*.

Social media – from Croatia to the world!



Inspired to be at #EurochildConf listening to great speakers and happy to contribute to the discussions representing #EURightsAgency - Astrid Podsiadlowski

The opening of Eurochild's Youth Advisory Group was quoted as an "inspiring opening" and this was the main feeling about the child participants in light of their work.



Great to be joining #EurochildConf 2018, in beautiful #Opatija, #Croatia Inspiring opening from @Eurochild_org Youth Advisory Group- #participation in action! #ChildRights - Maria Stephens, Participation Manager at the Children's Rights Alliance for England



"At that moment I realised that if I fought for my rights I wasn't only fighting for my rights but for the rights of all the children in Poland" 17 year old inspiring speaker & Children's Peace Prize Nominee Tymon #EurochildConf invites us all to make a difference! - Children's Parliament



"Listen, especially to the disadvantaged #children, to the children for whom it is not so easy to speak" -Fahima #EurochildConf – Terre des homme Juvenile Justice





Promising practices

Many good practices were shared throughout the conference programme to help participants reflect and learn from each other. These practices were shared through workshops, study visits in and around Opatija and in the human library. The workshop sessions focused on Eurochild's thematic priority areas: child poverty, de-institutionalisation, public spending and children's rights. Led by Eurochild members, the majority of the workshops were facilitated by a team of adults and children. The main discussion points from the workshops are presented below. Information on the study visits and the books in the human library are included in the appendices to this report.

Workshop 1

**Rights-based decision making by governments – how children and young people can make it happen!
Together - Scottish Alliance for Children's Rights , the Scottish Youth Parliament & the Children's Parliament, Scotland, UK.**

Contact: <https://www.togetherscotland.org.uk/>

Since the Cabinet of the Scottish Government committed to meeting with children and young people annually, children have shared their experiences and views on a range of issues including bullying, mental health, child poverty and Brexit with Scottish Ministers. In turn, Ministers have committed to give feedback on the steps they take to progress on these issues and embed a children's rights-based approach to their work. Children, young people and some of the adults involved in this meeting with the Cabinet in 2018 reflected on their achievements, the lessons learnt and how they can be applied to future engagement between children, young people and decision-makers.



*Hi! It's Ben from Children's Parliament here! On behalf of Rosy. Participants are currently discussing any similar events or structures to @officialsyp & @creativevoices in their country. It's interesting to hear what happens to other countries in Europe!
#EurochildConf - Scottish Youth Parliament*

*Become an unfeartie, someone who stands up for children's rights, children's parliament from Scotland. Lots of concerns over Brexit. #EurochildConf
- Scottish Youth Parliament*

Workshop 2

**What young children think would help them to live healthier, happier and more active lives: a report of a Children and Young People's Services Committee (CYPSC) Consultation Initiative in Ireland.
Roscommon Children & Young People's Services Committee (CYPSC) & Tusla, Ireland.**

Contact: <https://www.cypsc.ie/>
<https://www.tusla.ie>



Consulting with children on their priorities is a critical feature of the work of statutory, community and voluntary service providers in Ireland. Reflecting on a series of consultation sessions with very young children which have informed the development of Roscommon's Early Years' Health and Wellbeing Plan, this workshop outlined the rationale and the methods used to ensure that the voices of very young children are heard in decision-making processes. The workshop provided an opportunity to share the views and opinions of 3 and 4-year-old children on how their health and well-being needs can best be met by agencies and services in Roscommon. This was a light hearted, fun and interactive workshop designed to inspire similar initiatives with very young children.

Workshop 3

Child participation assessment and viewpoints for participation
Estonian Union for Child Welfare & Estonian Youth Work Centre, Estonia

Contact: <https://www.lastekaitseliit.ee/en/about-organisation/>



This workshop reflected on the lessons learnt from the piloting of the Council of Europe's Child Participation Assessment Tool in Estonia. The Assessment tool is meant to support countries in putting into place real and active child participation in all settings. A role play helped participants to investigate participation from different points of view and to identify the best approaches for different stakeholders. An overview of the participation of children and young people in Estonia led to discussions about different forms of participation including innovative and non-traditional forms of participation children and young people would like to see and experience.

Workshop 4

Takeover takeaway: A collective critical exploration of child and youth participation in protection and justice programmes
Terre des hommes Foundation

Contact: <https://www.tdh.ch/en/news/takeover-day-today-i-decide>

Using an interactive methodology inspired by forum theatre, colleagues from Terre des hommes shared promising practices and reflections from their initiatives in child and youth participation. This included the philosophy and roots of Takeover Day, the impact of new technologies on participation, safeguarding of children in vulnerable circumstances and ethics in the era of big data.

The workshop raised probing questions about the assumptions made when designing and implementing this work, including on inclusion and innovation. The session produced a set of 'takeaway' questions to guide young people and practitioners when planning and rolling out the next generation of participation initiatives in protection and justice programmes.



We're at #EurochildConf in #Croatia to talk about child participation. We've invited two young persons & children's rights activists from #Romania, Andreea and Angela, to join our team. Stay tuned for updates! - Terre des hommes Foundation

Workshop 5

Population-centric budgeting – child budgeting
City of Hämeenlinna & Central Union for Child Welfare in Finland, Finland

Contact: <https://www.lskl.fi/english/>



This workshop explored child budgeting and how to assess a public budget for its impact on children. The youth advocates from the children and youth council of the city of Hämeenlinna presented their roadmap of children's and youth's participation possibilities in policy decision-making processes. Participants had the opportunity to use the roadmap as a tool to evaluate the possibilities for children and young people's participation in their own countries.

Workshop 6

Experience Theatre: "From full time youth care to no care at all
Netherlands Youth Institute & Experienced Experts (ExpEx), the Netherlands

Contact: <http://www.youthpolicy.nl/en/About-Netherlands-Youth-Institute/Contact-us>



Experience Theatre held a performance about turning 18 years old. In The Netherlands that usually means a transition from full time youth care to no care at all. A group of young care leavers shared their experiences, through all kinds of creative forms such as spoken word and songs. Together with the audience they explored issues like: How independent are you when you turn 18? And what are your needs at that moment? The production left everyone feeling connected and empowered.



Fantastic @ExpEx_NL workshop about the power of theatre in addressing being in and leaving care #EurochildConf - Cath Larkins

Workshop 7

Prepare for Leaving Care: Care experienced young people involved in training professionals
SOS Children's Villages International and SOS Children's Villages, Croatia

Contact: <https://sos-dsh.hr/en/>

The Prepare for Leaving Care project seeks to build the capacity of professionals to be able to care well for, and realise, the rights of young people in transition from the care system. One of the core strengths of the project and of the training is the participation and involvement of care-experienced young people in all activities. The workshop shared results from the project and introduced participants to the training contents and method of co-delivering such trainings with care-experienced young people. Participants got an opportunity to experience just how powerful training sessions involving care-experienced young people as co-trainers are, and try one of the tools from the training.



Promoting and protecting the Rights of the Child and young people is one of the key guiding principles of preparing for leaving care @SOS_Advocates #Eurochildconf
- Charmaine Kerr

Workshop 8

Be. Active! Empowering a Digital Generation!

GSMA (Global association of mobile operators) in collaboration with UNICEF

Contact: <https://www.gsma.com>

<https://www.unicef.org/>



This workshop focused on digital youth participation; how the web and digital tools can be harnessed to amplify young people's voices and help children and young people's views to be heard and reflected in policy-making process. Participants were able to explore how best to support children in actively and safely navigating their online environment to become informed and empowered digital citizens and change makers. Input from the adults and children attending the workshop has been fed into a joint UNICEF /GSMA docu-



Be active! Sharing stories of young activists using digital tools for campaigns at the workshop by @unicef_hrvatska @GSMA #EurochildConf - Ralph Rogobete

Workshop 9

The Young Journalists turn up their voices

Network for Children's Rights Greece

Contact: <https://www.snf.org/en/grants/grantees/n/network-for-children%E2%80%99s-rights/community-center-operating-support/>



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Workshop 10

Including everyone – Involving disabled children and young people in decision-making
RIP: STARS Disabled young researchers & Coventry University, UK

Contact: <https://ripstars.net/>



Through this workshop RIP: STARS shared their methodology of undertaking co-led disabled young people's research to produce evidence, which can then be used to influence decision-making processes. The workshop engaged participants to think about the rights of disabled children to be heard and what can be done to overcome the additional barriers to participation that disabled children face. It explored how the social model of disability helps us to break down barriers and what ten things can be done to make disabled children's participation happen. Participants were enabled to see the value of disabled children and young people's participation in decision-making and to see the influence that they can have at local and national government levels.

Workshop 11

Inclusive and meaningful participation for children and young people in Northern Ireland
Barnardo's Disabled Children and Young People's Participation Project (DCYPPP), Northern Ireland

Contact: http://www.barnardos.org.uk/what_we_do/northernireland.htm



The workshop showcased examples of projects where children and young people with a disability have been able to influence policy-making across Northern Ireland. This included a peer coaching programme which works to increase young people's communication skills, their influencing capabilities and to improve their mental wellbeing. The contributors shared their experiences of the barriers that children and young people with a disability face in Northern Ireland and how they have been able to overcome some of these barriers by being involved in influencing policy and decision makers. The young people gave personal accounts of how the project challenges services and policy and their 10 tips on how to make services more inclusive for children and young people living with a disability.



During @BarnardosNI DCYPPP Workshop today at #EurochildConf we managed to get a room of 40 people to develop their own indictable pathway plans! Bringing the idea of inclusive planning to participants from across Europe. - Eugene Mone

Workshop 12

Poverty through the eyes of children - Children's and young people's participation in decision-making
Missing Chapter Foundation, the Netherlands

Contact: <https://www.missingchapter.org/contact>



The Missing Chapter Foundation works with five municipalities (Breda, Deventer, Groningen, The Hague and Leiden) in the Netherlands where they have established a Children's Council. Children advise their municipal councils on how best to tackle poverty. The children discover the value of having your say, while the adults learn to be receptive to new ways of thinking and new solutions. The facilitators shared their experience from the pilot – what form of children's councils works best; which approach produces the most worthwhile results; and which networks could be a good choice as co-operative partners.

Workshop 13

ICAM - A support programme for European schools - how to include Children Affected by Migration by improving the school climate of Convivencia and restoring Social and Emotional Wellbeing
The Including Children Affected by Migration (ICAM) Network

Contact: <https://www.icamproject.eu/>



The workshop provided opportunity to explore and refine the practical solutions which ICAM has developed to support the better inclusion in schools of the approximately 26 million European children who have been affected by migration. The ICAM programme has been successfully developed and trialled in 50 schools in Spain, Italy, Romania and Britain and is available for all schools Europe wide from January 2019. The workshop presented and discussed how all members of a school community can be encouraged to work together, firstly to create a climate of convivencia (living in harmony). Secondly, how to achieve the whole school development of Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) in order to help repair some of the damage many children have suffered as a result of the separation and loss caused by the upheaval to their lives when they migrate. And thirdly, how to engage with families through the ICAM family education training programme and the Social and Emotional Learning family materials for use in the home.

Conference Closing Session

Eurochild Secretary General Jana Hainsworth thanked everyone for their attendance and hard work throughout the three days and invited the audience to conclude with pledges to action. She reminded participants that Romania will soon have the European Presidency, followed by Finland and then Croatia. She also reminded participants about the European Parliament and the transition to a new European Commission. In other words – there are plenty of opportunities to remind our current leaders and identify new leaders to share the lessons we have learnt in integrating children’s participation into our public decision-making processes.

Petra, the Children’s Mayor of Opatija and member of the Youth Advisory group to the Conference invited the speakers to share their reflections before outlining the recommendations from the conference.

Reflections and closing remarks from invited speakers



“Regarding child participation – just do it! Rather than question it. Find a good way to communicate with children as equal partners.” - Danijela Žagar, Advisor to the Ombudsperson for Children



“The participation of children has to be a continuous process involving them in decisions that concern them at all levels, including the family, the school, the community, and at a national level. During the Romanian Presidency of the Council of the European Union, the Government of Romania will lead a Europe - wide consultation process with children. The conclusions of this consultation will result in a Children’s Declaration which will be presented at the Children’s Summit preceding the European Summit in Sibiu, Romania. This European event will strengthen the inclusion and ownership of children and adolescents in relevant EU decision and policy making processes.

Empowering children is not charity, and child participation is not something that should be done to ‘be nice to children’ – it is a legally binding general principle firmly established in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and reiterated in a number of other international and national instruments.

Thank you, Eurochild and Croatia for organising such an impressive event.” - Adina Mihaela Codres, Psychologist and senior counsellor, National Authority for the Protection of Child’s Rights and Adoption Ministry of Labour and Social Justice, Romania



“Child participation demands enhanced ways of working. Being child-focused in our approach is really important. We need to explain what participation is about and raise awareness. We need more time, funding and resources to do it properly”. - Marjo Malja, Ministerial Counsellor, Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, Finland



Geneviève Avenard, Children’s Commissioner, France and Chair of the European Network of Ombudspersons for Children (ENOC) emphasised the importance of reaching out to vulnerable groups of children.



FRA is monitoring how fundamental rights are implemented in the European Union through research, data collection and consultations with children. - **Astrid Podsiadlowski, Head of Sector Rights of the Child, Equality and Citizens Rights Department, European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA).**



The conference has given us motivation to act and plenty of new ideas. We all found out that we have the same mission. Now we all need to convince the people outside about the importance of involving children. - **Fahima – youth advocate, Children's Peace Prize Nominee 2017, Netherlands**



In many countries changing the legal system is crucial to making progress on child participation. Children should be taught from an early age about their rights so they know how to use them. Governments should be obliged to take children's views into account and they should provide evidence that they have done so. We're all special & we're powerful. Together we can build a better Europe for children – all aboard! - **Tymon, youth advocate, Children's Peace Prize Nominee 2017, Poland**



In Opatija children participate and their rights always come first. In Opatija there are Children's City Councils. The European Union should support countries that have Children's City Councils. - **Ivo Dujmić, Mayor of the City of Opatija**



By working with children, we are learning to think again from a child's point of view. It is important that children and adults make decisions together and that the changes that result from co-operation between children and adults meet the needs of all children, young people and adults. - **Sanja Škorić, Secretary General of Society Our Children Opatija, Vice President of Union of Societies Our Children Croatia**



Let's make our dreams come true. Share our ideas as widely as possible. Put pressure on policy makers and hold them accountable. - **Petra, Children's Mayor of Opatija, member of the Youth Advisory Group to the Conference, Croatia**



A reminder that participation protects children. The challenge is to make it happen for children who are at risk of exclusion. - **Hanna Heinonen, Interim Eurochild President and Director of Central Union for Child Welfare Finland**



Moderators:

- Dr. Cath Larkins, Director of the Centre for Children & Young People's Participation, University of Central Lancashire, UK
- Yevhen (Ukraine), Youth Advocate, Member of the Youth Advisory Group to the Conference
- Petra (Croatia), Youth Advocate, Member of the Youth Advisory Group to the Conference
- Jana Hainsworth, Eurochild's Secretary General

Recommendations

1. Every government in Europe should make teaching about children's right to participate a mandatory part of the curriculum in every school.
2. Every government in Europe should implement an inclusive participation strategy, for ALL children that obliges local, regional and national decision makers to take children's views into account.
3. Every government in Europe should be obliged to provide evidence of the impact of children in setting the agenda, influencing decisions and following these through.

Impact of the conference

Participants shared how they have been inspired by the conference into making changes in their policies and practices:



“We knew youth participation was important in our work, but we struggled how to make it work. The Eurochild Conference, the learning environment it provided and the knowledge of Eurochild have helped us to develop our own child participation strategy”. - **Project leader Joanne van den Eijnden, Netherlands Youth Institute.** Following the conference, the NJI have set up a child participation project, and invited a Eurochild representative to explain how they could embed children's participation into their work.



Yevhen, one of the Young Advisory Group members and one of the moderators at the Conference wrote a report on the future of child participation in Ukraine. He and a member of Eurochild's Children's Council, Angelina, shared the report and their experiences at a conference with other children and young people in Ukraine.



In Serbia, inspired by the conference recommendation for every government to implement an inclusive participation strategy, **Simonida** a member of Eurochild Children's Council motivated her peers in Club DX to write to the newly elected mayor of Belgrade encouraging greater children's participation. Soon after, the children gathered the views of another 250 children from six towns and presented a report to the President of the National Child Rights Council of the Government of the Republic of Serbia. The President subsequently invited the children from Club DX to present their findings and advise on how the Council can take forward children's rights in their new national plan of action. Staff from Club DX reported that, *“Children have been heard, and there has been a shift in the level of participation from ‘consulted and informed’ to ‘shared decision-making’ since the adult initiated activities on a national level will now include the children in process.”* In addition, Club DX are looking at how the teaching of children's right to participate might be introduced in every school. They have designed an interactive quiz on the ‘right to participate’ for school parliaments to use.



Finally, at the European level, Eurochild has since the conference, worked with partners, in particular with the Romanian government (who at the time of writing holds the EU Presidency) and the European Commission on the ways in which the EU institutions and Council of Ministers can institutionalise the participation of children in policy making. The Romanian government is to host a Children's Summit, during its EU Presidency. A Children's Declaration is to be discussed at this Children's Summit in Romania, setting out proposals for how children's participation can be organised more meaningfully.

Next Steps

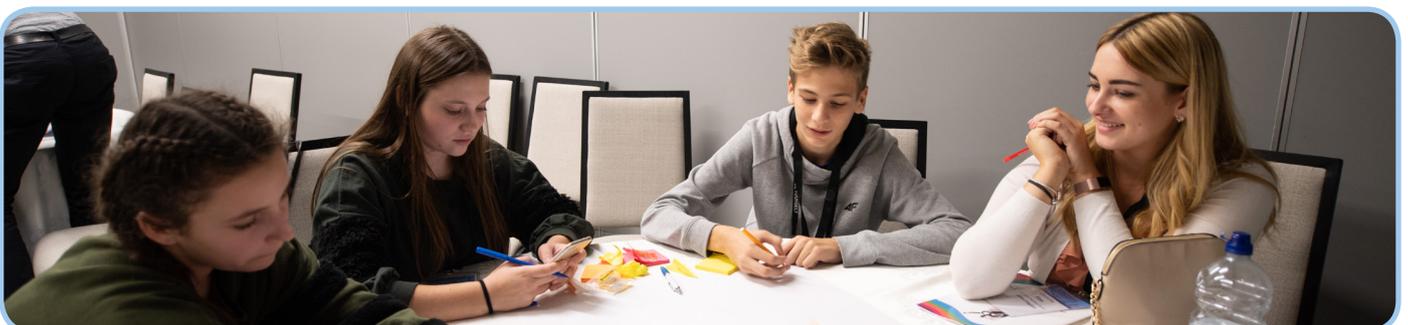
At the time of writing the Eurochild Secretariat has worked with its members, the Child Participation Reference Group (CPRG) and the Eurochild Children's Council (ECC) to explore ways in which the three recommendations from the conference can be taken forward. That is, how governments across Europe can be supported and encouraged to take action to:

- Make the teaching of children's rights mandatory in schools.
- Establish a strategic and inclusive approach to involving all children in public decision-making.
- Review and provide evidence of the impact of children's participation on such decision-making.

Eurochild invites individuals, organisations and other actors interested in taking forward one more more of these ideas to push for greater children's participation in public decision-making to contact the secretariat (mieke.schuurman@eurochild.org).

Interested in learning more?

- Read the Background report to the Eurochild Conference
<https://bit.ly/2RXO8P4>
- Follow the Twitter activity on #EurochildConf
<https://twitter.com/search?q=%23EurochildConf&src=typd>
- Read about Eurochild's work in giving a voice to children and young people
<https://www.eurochild.org/projects/eurochild-childrens-council/>



Annexes

Check the full programme online

<https://www.eurochild.org/events/eurochild-conference-2018/>

Study Visits

Union of Societies “Our Children” Croatia - 14th meeting of children’s councils in Croatia

Croatia’s first Children’s Council was established to boost child participation and general involvement in the local community. Currently there are 30 active Children’s Councils in Croatia. Representatives of 20 children’s councils gathered in Opatija at the time of Eurochild’s conference. Participants observed this annual meeting and asked questions to the young attendees on their work, how the children’s councils are organised and the topics being discussed. Participants were introduced to the work of children’s councils in Croatia as one of the models of effective inclusion of children in local and national decision-making processes and with the tradition of child participation in Croatia since 1990s.

<http://www.savez-dnd.hr/>
www.dnd-opatija.hr

Meet our hosts - Society ‘Our Children’ Opatija

This non-governmental organisation is designed and organising leisure time for children of preschool and elementary school age. Participants become familiar with the programmes and projects of the organisation to improve the quality of life of children in their local environment. Participants will meet volunteers of the Society “Our Children” Opatija showing the premises of the organisation and giving a short interactive presentation. Participants will become more familiar with the programs and projects of the organisation for improving the quality of life of children in their local environment. There will also be a short workshop for making memories from Opatija.

www.dnd-opatija.hr

Lovran municipality – Coordinating Committee for the Child-Friendly City

Since 2014 the municipality of Lovran carries the title “child friendly municipality”. In decision making processes the leaders of the local community put the quality of life of children and families at the first place. During children’s week (1st week October) in Lovran there are exhibitions, dialogues and cultural activities. Children have their say in developing proposals. Participants will find out more during the study visit. Participants will visit children’s art and literary work created under the project “Welcome to Opatija”, and the presentation of the Lovran’s Children’s Day and Mixa Marunada - traditional event for children. At the end of the visit the participants will have an opportunity to leave their message on a large canvas.

www.dnd-opatija.hr
<http://www.opcinalovran.hr/>

Child Friendly City of Opatija and its Youth Council

The Youth Council of the City of Opatija is the advisory body of the City Council, aiming to involve young people in the public life of the City and participation of young people in decision-making on issues of interest and importance for young people. Participants are introduced to the City of Opatija, activities of “City of Opatija - Child Friendly City”, the work and projects of the Children’s City Council and the work of the Youth Council. Participants will learn about the way children and young people can participate in the community and involve in decision-making processes. During this visit at the City Hall, participants will learn about how children and young people contribute to all kinds of decision-making related to the city’s development.

<http://www.opatija.hr/hr>
<http://www.opatija.hr/hr/grad-prijatelj-djece/djecje-gradsko-vijece1/>

Faculty of Teacher Education – Centre for Childhood Research, Rijeka

As future educators, students at this award-winning faculty are encouraged to be actively involved in making decisions about the courses they study. They apply these participatory models in their future work with children. Participants are introduced to the work of the Centre for Childhood Research, and are able to try and experience examples of transferring participatory learning from professors to students and from students to children.

This study visit will be very interactive as participants get to see and experience how students support and stimulate early childhood participation, which methods are used and how it contributes to children's participation in decision-making.

www.ufri.hr

<http://www.ufri.uniri.hr/en/about-us/structureofthefaculty/centre-for-research-on-childhood.html>

Children's home –Ivana Brlić Mažuranić, Lovran

Children's home "Ivana Brlić Mažuranić" Lovran offers temporary accommodation for children and young people from birth until they turn 21. Children's home has also developed non-institutional services aimed to help families at risk and prevent the exclusion of the child from the family. The objective of this visit is to understand the way child and youth care for those without adequate parental care is organised in the Republic of Croatia in the local community. Participants will observe a meeting of the 'User council', composed of children, and see the functioning of the process in which the users partake in decision-making activities about their lives in the Home.

www.dom-ibmazuranic.hr

Primary school "R. K. Jeretov", Area School Veprinac

All of the activities in this school are towards sustainable development, and all of the projects drive to bring it closer to the new generations and to their parents. Participants will learn how pupils of this ecological and environmentally oriented school are encouraged to be conscious about the problems of global society and become active participants of change, through different projects and activities offered during their education. Participants were exposed to the life and work of the school of sustainable life and will also see the projects the school is taking part of.

<http://eathink2015.org/en>

<http://zmergo.hr/english>

Primary school Viktora Cara Emina, Mošćenička Draga

Through this study visit participants learn about the work and advantage of a small school where conditions are very good, and get informed about the culture and customs of the area. Participants will be welcomed by students, teachers and the mayor of the municipality. They learnt how children participate in the school's management through the Council of Students. The visit offered opportunity to participate in cultural-artistic workshops and experience how the students cultivate the tradition of the region they live in.

Terra Association

Terra's mission is to promote the idea of humanity and philanthropy through work with vulnerable and marginalized groups of people, with the goal of developing a society in which every individual can achieve his or her rights and develop into a responsible and influential participant of the society. The study visit will focus on presenting Terra's project "Be informed, be active", a program for prevention of addiction development for high school students in student dorms. Participants will get familiar with the goals, activities and program users of the project, and have the opportunity to discuss ways of involving young people in raising awareness of alcohol and other addictions, opening up new issues and seeking new solutions. The participants were involved in an interactive workshop, watching movies and discussing effective ways to prevent young people drinking alcohol. The meeting was moderated by Association Terra's psychologists conducting prevention program activities.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_QpIQsArvf4&t=7s

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KpCV4pgGOiw>

Muscular Dystrophy Association Of Primorje-Gorski Kotar County

The association was established with the purpose of getting-together people with muscular dystrophy and similar neuromuscular disorders, members of their families and other interested citizens in order to offer health and social protection. The association is one of the most active in the area of people with disabilities, and through the project "Rijeka-Healthy City" and the working team "Let's Get Rid of Barriers" the city center of City of Rijeka was made more accessible. The purpose of the study visit was to familiarize visitors with the experiences and challenges of children and young people with neuromuscular diseases. During the visit participants were introduced to the activities of the Association at the local and national level in order to realize children's rights and equal opportunities among children and young people. Visitors will visit the Association, where a presentation of the role of children and young people with neuromuscular diseases and the importance of their experience and contribution to a better future for others was held.

www.uomd.hr

Building cities fit for children – experiences from Child Friendly Cities in Croatia and Slovenia

What would a city look like, if it was designed by children? This interactive session gave an insight into what cities look like, when they're developed with children's voices and priorities in mind by introducing UNICEF's Child Friendly Cities Initiative that brings together more than 3,000 cities and communities committed to advancing child rights and children's participation in local decision-making.

The workshop deep-dived into the Child Friendly Cities Initiative in two countries, Slovenia and Croatia. In the form of a talk

show interview, young people, NGO representatives and decision-makers will reflect on how children and young people can transform their cities through participatory action.

The discussion was followed by an interactive exercise “My Dream City”, in which children and young people were invited to a facilitated discussion on their thoughts on what they would like their city/community, and reported these back in a creative way. After the session, participants visited the Child Friendly City of Opatija.

Human Library

The Human Library took place on Wednesday 31st October morning 09:00-10:45.

There were more than 20 books to choose from and delegates had the opportunity to listen and have a discussion with three of them. Here is information about the authors and their stories.

Title: European evidence-based platform: European Platform for Investing in Children

Author: Barbara Janta, Senior Analyst, RAND Europe

Barbara Janta is working on the project European Platform for Investing in Children (DG EMPL), a platform for the exchange of practices on child- and family-friendly policies across the EU.

The book is set on an online platform hosted by the European Commission

The book provides an overview on the research and evaluation activities undertaken by RAND Europe for the European Platform for Investing in Children (EPIC). The EPIC project, funded by the European Commission is an online platform that explores and assesses evidence on child and family policies and practice and disseminates information on the effectiveness of these interventions.

Title: Child Participation in alternative care: Young people lead the way!

Author: Florine Pruchon, Advocacy Officer, SOS Children's Villages, France

The book is set in France.

This book gathers four stories on child participation in alternative care: 1) National Youth Councils in SOS Children's Villages France. 2) Participation of children and youth in training sessions. 3) Child participation in sport programmes. 4) Child participation in advocacy.

Title: The voice under the war

Author: Andreea Dana Osman, Young Student and Assistant-Teacher, Romania

Andreea has been involved with the Foundation of Princess Margaret of Romania, where students from different backgrounds came to help kids with their homework and undertake activities.

The book is set in the south of Turkey near the border with Syria. The action of the book takes place in one of the famous cities in Turkey, Gaziantep, a big producer of pistachios.

Andreea was involved in a public action team, teaching children using role-play and other games with the principle of inclusion as a basis.

Title: Voices and Policies

Author: Caroline Vink, the Netherlands Youth Institute, The Netherlands

The book is set wherever you want it to be.

Caroline works on many issues related to children, young people and families. She likes sharing ideas on including voices of everyone, but especially children in all the work and policies that concern them. She is also a parent with teenagers, and on that she could get a lot of advice from experienced experts.

Title: Implementation of the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (Sofia Strategy) in Germany

Authors: Linda Zaiane, Child Rights Advocacy Advisor and Britta Kaufhold, Participation Advisor, German Children's Fund (Deutsches Kinderhilfswerk), Germany

The book is set on the implementation of the Sofia Strategy in Germany, but at the same time on exchange, cooperation and things learned from actors at the European level.

Their work areas are defined by the Council of Europe's Strategy. The authors monitor the level of implementation of the strategy in Germany, implement projects to strengthen implementation and undertake advocacy work to inform politicians about gaps and hold them accountable for a better implementation.

Title: Empowering children through play - Rights Respecting Leisure Center in Reykjavik, Iceland

Author: Ingunn Fjóra Brynjólfsdóttir, Assistant Manager, Dalheimar leisure center, Iceland

The book is set in Reykjavik, Iceland.

The Dalheimar Centre works closely with UNICEF in Iceland, the neighboring school and teens club, parents, children and employees. They have incorporated the United Nations Convention on the Right of the Child into almost all aspects of their work. The Centre has now been recognized by UNICEF as a 'Rights Respecting Leisure Center' - the first in the world!

Title: Parents' House civil franchise

Author: Judit Regős, President, Parents' House Foundation, Hungary

The book is set in Budapest, Hungary.

At Parents' Houses, pedagogues of special psychological and sociological education are employed. With this expertise they are able to build trust relationships with families; recognize and handle upcoming problems and issues in parenting and family relationships; facilitate a community and help to keep connection to make sure real integration actually happens. The model ensures long-term sustainability providing opportunities for small entrepreneurs to thrive.

Title: Life with Spina Bifida

Author: Mirela Bukovac, Secretary of the Croatian Association for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus.

The book takes place in northern Croatia.

The book is set growing up with disabilities in small village Croatia, fighting against prejudice towards people with disabilities. It's been a struggle, challenging the points of view and prejudices that some people have – for example, feeling sorry for her parents, thinking that she won't succeed and become independent. Now she is looking forward to writing the best pages in her book!

Title: Given the Space, Using my Voice: A Child's Journey

Author: Sharon, young writer and Eurochild Children's Council Member, The President's Foundation for the Wellbeing of Society (PFWS), Malta

Sharon is a passionate 14-year-old girl from Malta who loves writing, and standing up for what's right. Child participation changed her life.

The book is set in a creative space; the space which started it all. A garden in which the voice of a child is given appropriate significance.

The book is about the journey of a shy 11-year-old who found her voice and was taught to use it. It is the story of a supportive group of people who helped this girl flourish and blossom.

Title: The Youth Experts Team – how children and youth (age 14-21) enhance the work of our project

Author: Sarah Menne, Project Manager, Bertelsmann Foundation, Germany

The book is set mainly in North Rhine-Westfalia, the most populated German state – and parts of it in Berlin.

The Bertelsmann Foundation engages in projects to combat child poverty with a child-orientated approach. Young people (aged 14-21) from different social backgrounds are engaged as experts to design policy recommendations and bring them to the attention of other young people and the wider public.

Title: Embarking on a reflective journey – Strengthening children and youth participation for policy makers

Author: Ellen Van Vooren, Researcher and Policy Advisor, Children's Rights Knowledge Centre (KeKi), Belgium

The book is set in Flanders, Belgium.

KeKi is developing a reflection tool on the participation of children and young people. The tool offers policymakers a starting point to design, implement and evaluate a participatory process. It encourages them to reflect on their implicit assumptions ('childhood images') about youth and children.

Title: Ombudsman for Children – Protector of Children's Rights

Author: Helena Pirnat Dragičević, Ombudsperson for Children, Croatia

The book is set in the offices of the Ombudsman for Children in an in many other places throughout Croatia where the Ombudsman for Children and her staff meet with children.

The book is about the work of the Ombudsman for Children, who monitors the realisation of children's rights and proposes what to do to improve the situation of children's rights. It is very important for the Ombudsman for Children to keep in touch with children and to hear their opinions.

Title: Child for Child

Authors: Edvina and Anna, Eurochild Children's Council Members, Greece and Slovenia

Anna is 16 years old and from the Proplesis Institute Organisation in Greece. Edvina is 16 years old and from the Slovenian Association of Friends of Youth in Slovenia.

The book is set in Brussels and in Anna's and Edvina's home countries (Greece and Slovenia).

The book is about their journeys and how they became activists on children's rights. How they became Eurochild Children's Council members and a part of Eurochild. They will also talk about their collaboration with UNICEF creating the Europe Kids Want survey.

Title: Unaccompanied 11-year-old girl from Afghanistan to Sweden – A happy story

Author: Donya Azimi Gailani, Children's rights activist and law student, Sweden

The book is set in Afghanistan and Sweden.

The book is about two siblings, one 10-year-old and one 11-year-old coming as unaccompanied children to Sweden. Their experience of foster care, learning the language, making friends, being bullied and their enormous drive and big ambitions.

Title: Toma Las Rendas – Hold the Reins

Author: "Mery" Maria Jose Bielo Bits, Former participant and active volunteer in the project Toma Las Rendas, Don Bosco Social Platforms, Spain

The book is set in Naranjoven Youth Centre – a social project of Don Bosco Social Platforms (Plataformas Sociales Salesianas – Pinardi). This centre is located in Fuenlabrad on the outskirts of Madrid.

The project focuses on promoting empowerment and participation in young people who come from very disadvantaged backgrounds. In the project young people acquire competences as agents of change through on-line training, face-to-face meetings with an educator, and the sharing of experiences in their local environments.

Title: Comhairle na nÓg Maigh Eo

Author: Grazvydas and Charlie/Foróige, Ireland

The book is set in County Mayo, Ireland.

Comhairle na nÓg are the child and youth councils in the 31 local authorities of Ireland. In light of the fact that Comhairle na nÓg is for young people under the age of 18 and who therefore have no other voting mechanism to have their voice heard, Comhairle na nÓg is designed to enable young people to have a voice on the services, policies and issues that affect them in their local area.

Title: This is his story...

Author: Meri, Student, NGO "KHAM" Delcevo and OSF

The book is set in Macedonia and in Germany.

The book is about a young guy who is forced to leave his homeland in order to seek a better life in Germany. He returns - this time with a different perspective and priorities. He wants to continue with his education, but the country doesn't allow him to. The book describes the hard times that the boy encounters. It illustrates how the challenges of a system can prevent children from developing their skills and achieving their dreams.

Title: The Augeo Youth Taskforce on Violence Against Children: what it is and why it works

Authors: Fahima, Member of Augeo Youth Taskforce and Desiree de Jongh, Manager, Augeo Youth Taskforce, The Netherlands

The book is set in the Netherlands and in the Czech Republic.

The book is about a group of young people who have suffered from adverse childhood experiences (ACEs). The young people share their experiences at conferences, advise policymakers and politicians and conduct youth surveys. The group thus ensures that young people with hands-on experience are seen and heard in initiatives to address violence against children. The Taskforce is also active in different countries in Europe. For example, a 'Hear and See Me' training course was organized in the Czech Republic.

Title: How to become a human rights defender: A practical guide

Author: Konstantinos, Teens4greece Founder, Member of Eurochild Children's Council and Human rights defender, Greece.

The book is set in Greece.

Konstantinos is 16 years old. He is passionate about children rights. He is the founder of Teens4greece.com and has been selected as a child advisor for the UN to represent Eurochild. This book describes the steps someone should follow to become a human rights defender. In a world where human rights are constantly violated it is now the time to raise our voice. To solve the problems, we need contributions from everyone and more specifically young people.

Title: My Journey through Life

Author: Sedin, Hope and Homes for Children, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Sedin is from a small city in Bosnia called Visoko. He lived there with his family for four years before he got sent to an orphanage in Zenica. He finished elementary school as an excellent student, and is now in the fourth year of high school (and he is still excellent!).

The book is set mostly in Zenica.

The book is about the challenge Sedin went through as an orphan. It's about friendships he made, memories he collected and things he learned about life.

Title: Child rights 101 for politicians and organisers of political campaigns

Author: Botond, Child Rights Ambassador & Barbara Nemeth, Head of Child Participation Programme, Hinalovon Child Rights Foundation, Hungary

Barbara Németh is responsible for the Child Participation Programme of Hinalovon Foundation. She has a background in psychology, advocacy and human rights. Botond is a child rights ambassador, a 16-year-old volunteer. In the last 15 months, he participated in various campaigns to raise awareness of children's rights.

The book is set in Hungary.

The child rights 101 was published in 2018, prior to the General Election campaign in Hungary. The publication draws attention to the forms of child participation in political campaigns and events that violate children's rights and makes recommendations for promoting real child participation.











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