

Eurochild's 2026 Conference on Child Protection Systems

#EurochildConf Programme

16-17 June 2026, Aliathon-Resort, Paphos, Cyprus.

The conference is co-organised by Eurochild and its member, the Pancyprrian Coordinating Committee for the Protection and Welfare of Children (PCCPWC), and hosted by the Cyprus Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

The conference is co-moderated by a representative from the Eurochild Children's Council and **Bruce Adamson**, Human rights lawyer specialising in children's rights; Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, and former Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland; Chair of the European Network of Ombuds for Children.

Tuesday 16 June	
10h00 – 11h00	<p>Conference Opening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The President of the Republic of Cyprus will be represented by the Minister of Education, Sport and Youth, Dr Athena Michaelidou. • Deputy Minister for Social Welfare Mrs Clea Papaellina, Cyprus • Ninetta Kazantzis, PCCPWC President • Tanya Ward, CEO of the Child Rights Alliance Ireland and Eurochild President <p>Inspirational speeches by two young people, former members of the Eurochild Children Council: Lana from Croatia and Michalis Tsangarides from Cyprus.</p>
11h00 – 13h00	<p>Introductory Session followed by interactive discussions with participants and a Networking exercise with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Macarena Céspedes Quintanilla, Vice-President of Plataforma de Organizaciones de Infancia; Global Director of Advocacy and Social Research at Educo; ChildFund Alliance representative in the Technical Content Team of Joining Forces • Sergio Costa Araujo, Invited Adjunct Professor at Porto Polytechnic School of Education; Collaborator Researcher at inED, Center for Research and Innovation in Education



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Julien Vangeertsom, Former Chair of the Management Board of the Belgian Federal Administration for Social Integration • Vasylyna Dybaylo, Director, Partnership for Every Child • Ulla Siimes, Executive Director of Central Union for Child Welfare Finland • Lucija Vejmelka, Associate Professor at the Faculty of Law, University of Zagreb; President of Steering Committee at FICE Croatia
13h00 -14h00	<i>Lunch</i>
14h00 -15h30	Six Interactive Parallel Workshops
15h30 -16h30	<i>Coffee break</i>
16h30-18h00	Six Interactive Parallel Workshops
20h00	<i>Conference Dinner</i>

Wednesday 17 June	
09h00 -11h00	Human Library (15 books in 3 sessions of 30 minutes)
11h00 – 11h30	<i>Coffee break</i>
11h30 – 13h00	Six Interactive Parallel Workshops
13h00 -14h00	<i>Lunch</i>
14.00 – 15.00	Including Me Interactive Plenary Session on how to create inclusive child-friendly documents with children, inspired by work of the Eurochild’s Children’s Council and Learning for Well-Being (led by Laure Pailleau and Darren Bird)
15:00 – 15:35	Closing speeches <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs Sonia Vila Nuñez, Cabinet expert, on behalf of the Vice-President Commissioner Mînzatu • Ewa Kopacz, Vice President of the European Parliament • Anne Kayser, Secretary to the CDENF at the Council of Europe • Katarina Ivankovic-Knezevic, Director for Social Rights and Inclusion, Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission - TBC • Sandra Aigner-Accardo, Project Manager at European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights • Liz Canavan, Assistant Secretary General in the Dept of Taoiseach, Ireland - Representing the Irish EU Presidency
15:35 - 15:55	Closing ceremony by Eurochild Children’s Council
15:55-16:00	Closing remarks by Sabine Saliba , Eurochild Secretary-General



Workshops: preview of the topics

- Deinstitutionalisation and child protection
- Preventing child-family separation and generational poverty
- Online safety for children
- GUIDE: stories of guardianships
- Preventing violence
- Child participation (child-led session)
- Challenges and trauma Ukrainian children face
- AI and online child protection
- Strengthening trust in child protection systems through participation
- Working across disciplines for children's well-being
- Social protection through the sensory perspective of children with disabilities
- Leaving care - transitioning to community-based living

More details on the workshops and human library coming soon.

For further information, please visit eurochild.org/event/eurochild-conference-2026

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