

Daphne-CHILD High Level Conference

Date: Thursday 1 October 2026: 09:15 – 16:00 CET.

Location: European Economic and Social Committee (EESC), Rue Van Maerlant 2, 1000 Bruxelles.

Programme agenda – subject to change

- **9.15-10:00:** Arrival, registration and welcome coffee.

SESSION 1 – Practice and policy insights

- **10:00-10:15: Welcome remarks**, by Ciaran O'Donnell, Daphne-CHILD Programme Lead, Eurochild, and EESC representative.
- **10:15-10:55: Addressing violence against children – insights from practice**
 - Moderated by Zsofia Karetka, Communications Lead for Daphne-CHILD and Terre des hommes. Grantee partners sharing insights from addressing violence against children in 3 different contexts.
- **10:50-11:30: Strengthening integrated child protection systems to address violence against children – insights from policy**
 - Moderated by Mieke Schuurman, Director of Child Rights and Capacity Building, Eurochild
 - Glen Micallef, European Commissioner for Intergenerational Fairness, Youth, Culture and Sport (invited)
 - Kinga Joó, Member of the European Economic and Social Committee, National Association of Large Families, Hungary (invited)
 - Norma Foley, Minister for Children, Disability and Equality, Ireland, or representative of the Irish EU Presidency (invited)
- **11:30-11:40: Group photo, followed by a ten minute break.**

SESSION 2 – Peer Exchange and Learning

Human Library – The Daphne-CHILD programme funded 48 civil society organisations to address violence against children in their local contexts. Children's meaningful participation was at the heart of each project, with initiatives, interventions, and campaigns all organised involving children and their communities. Through a Human Library peer exchange, attendees have the chance to meet and hear directly from the 48 grantees, to learn more about their local challenges, and take inspiration for designing interventions addressing violence against children across Europe.

This session is designed as an interactive peer exchange space, with refreshments available throughout. Participants are invited to engage at their comfort.

- **11:50-12:30: Human Library – Round 1**
- **12:30-14:00: LUNCH at the EESC (location – TBC)**
- **14:05-14:45: Human Library – Round 2**
- **14:45-15:25: Human Library – Round 3**

SESSION 3 – Concluding reflections

- **15:30-16:15: Reflections roundtable: The role of civil society as re-grantors in the field of addressing violence against children – Lessons from the CERV-Daphne programme**
 - Moderated by a member of the Daphne-CHILD Advisory Board (TBC), featuring a panel with:
 - Marie-Cecile Rouillon, Coordinator for the Rights of the Child, European Commission (invited)
 - Learning shared from CERV Daphne re-grantors: Eurochild, BKJ, WVI RO, Educo, NNC, Bodossaki (invited)
- **16:15-16:30: Closing remarks** - Eurochild and EESC representative.
- **16:30:** Event closure.

Event programme concept

Daphne-CHILD (daphne.childhub.org) is a 3-year sub-granting and capacity-building programme, delivered by Eurochild and Terre des hommes. The programme has supported 48 grassroots civil society organisations across 9 countries in Europe address violence against children, with children meaningfully participating throughout each project from design to finish.

Join us in Brussels on 1 October, as we mark this year's International Day of Non-Violence, celebrate the work of the grantee partners in this programme, and amplify the importance of addressing violence against children across Europe, within the [EU's Recommendation on developing and strengthening integrated child protection systems in the best interests of the child](#).

Together with our partners in the European Economic and Social Committee's Civil Society Organisations' Group, join us for a day of high-level discussions with policymakers and civil society professionals, to listen, to share, and to create commitments and collaborations that can take the learnings from these inspirational civil society efforts to realise children's right to live a life free from any form of violence, and grow up in a safe, peaceful, and nurturing environment.

Further information: The Daphne-CHILD programme is active in nine European countries: Bulgaria, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Spain, and Ukraine. We are distributing €1.3 million in sub-grants to support local interventions addressing violence against children and young people. The 48 projects funded under this programme aim to support 23,000 children, 3,200 families, and 1,800 professionals.

Contact for info: [Ciaran O'Donnell](#), Programme Manager for the Daphne-CHILD programme, Eurochild.

This event is organised by Eurochild, Terre des hommes and the EESC, with financial support from the EU's Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme, and is co-hosted with the EESC.