

Call for external consultant to evaluate Eurochild's transnational sub-granting and capacity building programme

Eurochild is looking to recruit an external evaluator (or a team of evaluators) for the sub-granting and capacity building programme "*Daphne-CHILD: Ensuring children's safety from violence – Supporting grassroots child-rights CSOs tackle violence against children*".

Deadline for receipt of applications: 20 August 2026, 23:59 CET

1. Background and context

In May 2024 Eurochild and Terre des hommes Lausanne Foundation launched the [Daphne-CHILD](#), a 3-year (May 2024–April 2027) sub-granting and capacity building programme to empower civil society organisations (CSOs) working in the field of tackling violence against children and to improve child protection services across Europe, taking into account children's opinions.

This model of work builds on Eurochild's *modus operandi* as a transnational civil society network, involving civil society focus, exchange and learning; sub-granting activities; and leveraging Eurochild's network and Terre des hommes' expertise to build participants' capacities and amplify their work.

We are building organisational capacity of our grantees through networking and peer exchange, specialised training, and technical assistance. Through connecting local initiatives together, we aim to inform to broader European policy frameworks, namely the EU's 2024 *Recommendations on developing and strengthening integrated child protection systems in the best interests of the child*.

Daphne-CHILD programme has four [overarching objectives](#):

1. Provide financial support to local CSOs to develop child-rights responses to address violence against children, integrating children's views and opinions.
2. Build grantees' capacities through training and peer-to-peer exchanges.
3. Establish a dynamic hub of information.
4. Inform European efforts around strengthening integrated child protection systems.

The collective reach of this work is substantial. Over €1.3 million in sub-grants are being distributed across 48 civil society organisations in nine countries: Bulgaria (6 projects), Greece (5 projects), Hungary (4 projects), Ireland (5 projects), Portugal (6 projects), Romania (5 projects), Serbia (6 projects), Spain (5 projects), and Ukraine (6 projects).

Based on the data available from the grantee partners, our funded projects aim to engage over 23,000 children, 1,800 professionals, and 3,200 families. Indirect benefits of their work may reach more, through community-level changes, awareness campaigns, and knowledge dissemination.

We are searching for an individual or a team, hereafter referred to as “the Consultant” to evaluate this sub-granting and capacity building programme. The consultancy assignment will be managed by Eurochild in Brussels (in consultation with Terre des hommes).

2. Objective and scope of the evaluation

The general objective of this assignment is: to **carry out a process evaluation of the Daphne-CHILD programme model** - to implement this sub-granting and capacity building programme; and **identify early signs of impact for children, families, organisations, communities and wider contexts**.

We are looking for a Consultant to help us capture learnings, insights, early impact, and provide recommendations for this model of work. Specifically, this evaluation will help us determine whether this approach has achieved its objectives, blending financial and non-financial support, and considering:

- the wider impact this approach has on supporting smaller CSOs access funds to improve children's lives;
- the way the organisation's capacity has developed (effectiveness and sustainability);
- the efficiency and relevance of the non-financial support measures (networks, peer exchange, training);
- the relevance of learning for a broader EU policy context; and
- Eurochild's role as a civil society network for children's rights;

This learning will inform:

- The programme partners, Eurochild and Terre des hommes;

- our donor, the European Commission's CERV programme;
- broader international partners and donors in the field of strengthening child protection and children's rights, and supporting civil society;
- grantee recipients, and wider civil society peers.

3. Methodology

The evaluation will employ a number of quantitative and qualitative methods that may include:

- Desk review of programme documentation held by Eurochild and with grantee partners (i.e. application, progress reports, self-evaluation materials from grantee partners, including evaluation activities carried out with children; evaluation from capacity building activities);
- Key informant interviews with relevant stakeholders (such as representatives of grantees, partners in the implementation of the programme, team members, members of the Advisory Board);
- For consideration: Online focus group discussions and/or online surveys with grantees. Eurochild can support the Consultant with this.

The Consultant is welcome to propose other modalities or suggested approaches in their submitted expression of interest (see below). Eurochild can provide further information on available programme data.

4. Expected deliverables

The expected deliverables of the consultancy are outlined below:

1. **Inception report** containing detailed methodological and analytical framework of the research. The inception report will need to contain:
 - A description of the context and objectives.
 - A presentation of the research methodology, including data collection instruments.
 - Proposed workplan with deadlines for data collection and analysis.
 - An ethical section where potential ethical risks will be presented, along with mitigation strategies, tools, child safeguarding concerns (if children are to be consulted).
2. **First draft of the evaluation:** After the data collection phase and the subsequent analysis, a first draft of the evaluation will be developed (approximately 25 pages),

with a detailed description of the data collected, the analysis, and a set of draft recommendations for Eurochild and Terre des hommes.

3. The draft of the study is to be accompanied by a **presentation** (max. 20 slides) covering the main elements of the evaluation.
4. **Final draft of the evaluation and an executive summary:** Finalisation of all deliverables, incorporating feedback, submitted to Eurochild and Terre des hommes.

5. Timeline

The selected Consultant is expected to meet the following deadlines:

- Mid-September 2026: Service agreement signed and assignment begins. Eurochild will explore if the selected Consultant can attend the Daphne-CHILD external conference in Brussels on 1st October 2026 (travel and accommodation expenses will be covered by Eurochild).
- Mid-October 2026: Preparation and presentation of an inception report - detailing the agreed approach, methodology and tools to the Daphne-CHILD coordination team.
- November 2026–January 2027: Data collection and analysis carried out, facilitated by the Daphne-CHILD team. Updates on progress provided monthly.
- February 2027: Draft final evaluation report, approximately 25 pages, submitted to Daphne-CHILD coordination team for comments.
- Latest March 2027: Presentation by the evaluator and submission of final evaluation report to the Daphne-CHILD coordination team.

6. Required skills and experience

The external consultant should meet the following criteria:

- Demonstrable experience in monitoring and evaluating multi-country and/or multi-annual campaigns, partnerships, or programmes.
- Experience working with civil society organisations in the fields of granting and capacity building.
- Excellent writing skills and ability to concisely summarise evaluation results for different audiences.
- Fluent written and presentation skills in English.

- **Desirable:** Thematic knowledge and expertise in the fields of children's rights, addressing violence against children and child protection. Experience working in countries covered in the Daphne-CHILD programme.

7. Conditions:

- **Location:** Home-based with 3 to 6 online meetings of up to 2 hours with Eurochild and its partners (dates to be defined).
- **Duration:** The Consultant is estimated to need a maximum of 40 working days (October 2026 - March 2027). We are open to discuss this with the selected Consultant.
- **Remuneration:** The indicative budget for this assignment is €20,000, exclusive of VAT. Applicants are invited to propose the amount they feel is appropriate to fulfil the requirements set out above.
- **Payments:** Payments are processed upon receipt of invoices (timing of the payments to be discussed and agreed upon with the selected candidate).

8. Application procedure and selection criteria:

Interested and qualified candidates should submit the following documents by email to Ciaran O'Donnell (ciaran.odonnell@eurochild.org) by 20 August, 23:59 CET:

- An up-to-date CV, with previous relevant evaluations included with links if publicly available, with 2 references;
- A 1-page expression of interest, that clearly describes how the evaluator(s) meet the expectations of this call, highlighting past relevant assignments;
- A 1-page proposed methodology, timeline and budgetary proposal, including envisaged number of working days;

We will select the Evaluator based on the submitted materials and within the principle of "Value for money". We may request a call with candidates to inform the final decision.

Please note that by submitting, candidates agree that their personal data will be collected and processed, as set out in [Eurochild's Privacy Policies](#).

For further questions, please contact Ciaran O'Donnell, Partnerships and Programmes Coordinator at ciaran.odonnell@eurochild.org.

Annex: Core evaluation questions & supplementary information

Core evaluation questions

Below are a series of questions we are looking to be able to answer through this evaluation about the essence of this programme. However, how to reach these answers, we welcome the Consultant to propose how these may be best answered.

There are a number of suggested tools & data sources that can support answering these questions, complemented through direct engagement with grantee partners.

We are open to discussing with the successful Consultant on the final evaluation questions and framework to guide this assignment.

1. Have grants provided by the sub-granting programme (no more than €30,000 per project) had an overall positive impact for civil society organisation recipients?
2. Have sub-granted CSOs reported improved capacity in relation to child participation and safeguarding of children in their work (beyond the granted activities)?
3. Has technical support provided by Eurochild and National Focal Points been helpful for sub-grantees to access funding available via this programme?
4. Have participants reported increased capacity from the non-financial support activities, including thematic webinar sessions, peer and learning exchanges, the final cross-European conference in Brussels?
5. Have sub-grantees reported increased capacity in communicating their work through activities under the programme's dissemination activities: website profiling, interviews, amplifying of their expertise?
6. Have National Focal Points and Advisory Board members engaged in the programme reported beneficial involvement for their roles as focal points for local CSOs (e.g. visibility, local leadership, contributing to EU-wide developments, assessing sub-granting), or in shaping wider funding for CSOs?
7. Has this programme supported Eurochild and Terre des hommes' own capacity to support children's rights civil society organisations in Europe?
8. An assessment of the value of this model of funding – intermediary provision of financial and non-financial support for a European civil society network – is this a practice worth replicating or scaling up?
9. What other learnings, positive and/or negative, have been observed through the Daphne-CHILD programme, that may inform future evaluations.

We also welcome the opportunity to go deeper with this evaluation, examining the most significant change which could be attributed to this grant? What helped grantees in accessing this grant, how would they describe their learnings? In which way have our

own organisations gained capacity to support civil society organisations? What can be learned from activities that did not go as planned? Were there missed opportunities, and what could have been the benefits from these missed opportunities? How could the project continue post-funding, and if not, why?

Involvement of children's voices in the Daphne-CHILD evaluation

While it is not foreseen that there will be direct consultations as part of the evaluation approach, due to most grantee's projects having ended by the time of evaluation, there is significant self-evaluation data, including collected with children, that grantee partners have collected throughout their activities. This can inform the development of an evaluation theory to ensure that the evaluation is grounded in children's views and experiences in projects funded in Daphne-CHILD.

involvement, this does not necessarily mean speaking with children. If there has been feedback gathered from children about their experience and any outcomes, reviewing this **first** to inform a program theory (the story of how we think what changes are happening) would ensure the evaluation is at least grounded in children's views, and that the evaluation is working outwards from that.

Initiating the evaluation

We expect to work closely with the Consultant with initial consultations to develop a theory of change/programme theory to guide this process evaluation,

Eurochild and Terre des hommes can provide detailed information on data gathered through grantees' reporting. This will serve as a powerful tool to support the Consultant in evaluating the programme, but also support the initial evaluation theory of change, which can be revised in light of the analysis of all programme data.