

Newsletter



ENOC News & Announcements

ENOC Dublin Seminar on Equal Opportunities for all Children in Education

The ENOC working seminar on Equal Opportunities for All Children in Education took place on 7&8 June 2016 in Dublin, Ireland. The seminar was kindly hosted by the Irish Ombudsman for Children's Office. Some twenty participants from twelve ENOC member institutions took part in the two days of discussions. They provided an important input to the seminar theme and contributed to the improvement of the scope and terms of the ENOC draft statement on equal opportunities for all children in education. The drafting committee was supported by an external advisor, Prof. Xavier Bonal, independent expert on education and Professor of Sociology and Education, University of Barcelona. The draft version of the statement will be sent to all ENOC members well in advance of the ENOC 2016 Annual Conference. It is expected that the statement will be further discussed and adopted at the 20th ENOC General Assembly. You can find more information on the ENOC Dublin Seminar [here](#).

ENOC Bureau in EC meetings on children in migration

Due to the migration crisis in Europe, earlier this year Ms Vera Jourová, Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality began a regular dialogue with civil societies and international organizations operating in the field on the question of the protection of children in migration.

The former ENOC Chair, Mr. Marc Dullaert, participated in the first meeting (February 2016) which coincided with the release of the first report of the ENOC Task Force on Children on the Move. Mr. George Moschos, Deputy Ombudsperson of Children's Rights, Greece and member of the ENOC Bureau participated in the second meeting, held on 13 June 2016 in Brussels. Mr. Moschos drew the attention of the Commissioner to the repeated calls for action launched by ENOC in its recent letters addressed to EU and national authorities regarding the particularly fragile situation of children on the move in Europe and the need for an enhanced cooperation regarding the relocation of a large number of UAM. Further details on the meeting and on Mr. Moschos' intervention can be found [here](#)

ENOC participated in the UK House of Lords EU Home Affairs Sub-Committee inquiry into unaccompanied minors (UAM) in the EU

The House of Lords EU Home Affairs Sub-Committee visited Brussels on 27 April 2016 to take further evidence from stakeholders for its inquiry into unaccompanied minors in the EU. The Committee asked witnesses about reliable data figures, key challenges facing UAM, cooperation amongst EU member states and the effectiveness of the EU's response to the ongoing refugee crisis and the influx of UAM in Europe. ENOC was invited to give oral evidence as part of the Committee's inquiry. Mr. Bruno Vanobbergen, Flemish Children's Rights Commissioner and member of the ENOC Task Force on Children on the Move, participated at the meeting on behalf of ENOC. He presented the main findings of [ENOC's latest report](#) (January 2016) on the current situation of children on the move in Europe and reiterated the ENOC position on the issue. For more information on the Committee's inquiry into UAM in the EU, see [here](#).

Inside this issue

ENOC news & announcements:	1
Update on European & International activities in the CR field	2
Update from ENOC members	
Institutions' activities	3
Upcoming events	3

ENOC 20th Annual Conference & General Assembly: registration is open!

All ENOC members & invited observers are kindly reminded to register for the Annual Conference by no later than **August 15th, 2016**.

Registration forms should be emailed to the [ENOC Secretariat](#).

Please note that if you wish to stay in any of the proposed hotels and use preferential rates, you should complete your hotel booking by no later than **August 1st, 2016**.

Further information on the Conference and the provisional programme are available [here](#).

In Brief:

- ✓ [Manifesto](#) on *Early Years and Children's Rights*, by Early Years Regional Alliance (EYRA)
- ✓ [Special progress report](#) marking the *10th anniversary of the UN Study on Violence against Children*, by the Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children
- ✓ ["What Children Think"](#), a video that interviews children on what they think adults should do to protect missing children including UAM. See also Missing Children Europe's [Annual Report](#) and [Data Report](#).

The 'End child statelessness' campaign of the European Network of Statelessness (ENS)

Thousands of children in Europe are growing up without a nationality, without a country to belong to. They are often not allowed into schools, or even to see a doctor if they are sick. They have no chance to grow up like other children. Statelessness brings hardship and anguish to children and their parents alike. More than half of the countries in Europe are failing to put in place simple legal safeguards that would address the problem. The ENS launched a petition to end childhood statelessness in Europe and a [short animation](#) explaining what life is like for stateless children in Europe and calling on European leaders to act now. You can also read the ENS first annual report [here](#).

Terre des Hommes Child Labour Report 2016

The report ["Because we struggle to survive"](#)-Child Labour among Refugees of the Syrian Conflict shed light on the problem of child labour, including its worst forms, among refugee children from the ongoing conflict in Syria. The report presents the overall picture and analyses the push and pull factors for child labour among internally displaced children in Syria, refugee children in the neighboring countries, and in the countries they are heading to. It focusses on protection and prevention mechanisms for children as well as promising practices.

Update on European & International activities in the children's rights field

European Social Network's report "Investing in children's services, Improving Outcomes"

On 31 May 2016, the European Social Network (ESN) launched a [report](#) on the implementation of the European Commission's recommendation (2013) '[Investing in Children: Breaking the cycle of disadvantage](#)'. In this recommendation, the EC asked Member States to develop comprehensive policies based on three pillars: access to resources, access to quality services and child participation. A key focus of the recommendation was access to quality services for children particularly early childhood education and care; equal opportunities in education; healthcare; adequate housing; and family support and alternative care arrangements. This study looks at how the principles on quality services in the EC's recommendation Investing in Children are implemented in 14 EU countries (Belgium, Bulgaria, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, The Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom).

Need to protect unaccompanied minors in Europe: New report of the Council of Europe SG's Special representative on Migration and Refugees

Mr. Tomáš Boček, Special Representative on Migration and Refugees of the Council of Europe's Secretary General published a [report](#) in **May 2016** on the situation of refugees and migrants in Greece and "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia". The report is based on fact finding visits to the two countries in March 2016. An important issue addressed is the treatment of refugee and migrant children, especially UAM, in Greece. The report calls for alternatives to detention for children who are often detained while their asylum claims are being processed or on their way to shelters. It also draws attention to the importance of making some provision for education in the camps and the need to strengthen the Greek child-protection system to protect refugee and migrant children from exploitation.

PACE adopts resolution on "Fighting the over-sexualisation of children"

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe expressed its concern about the over-sexualisation of children in the media, marketing campaigns, TV programmes and everyday products. This phenomenon can have a serious impact on children's self-esteem, well-being, relationships and equal opportunities, and can be detrimental to their physical and mental health. The Assembly is also concerned about "sexting", which has swept through Europe's schools, often leading to significant psychological trauma. In adopting a [resolution](#) on the basis of a special report, PACE called on member states to draft effective legislation and frame policies to prevent the over-sexualisation of children, drawing on studies and scientific data collection. The PACE also urged states to take legislative action to put limits on the sexualized depiction of children in the media and advertising, and recommended to develop sex and relationship education programmes in schools and support educational staff, in order to protect children in an over-sexualised environment.

UNICEF Child Alert: Danger Every Step of the Way

A total of 2,809 deaths were recorded in the Mediterranean between January 1 and June 5, 2016, as compared with 3,770 for the whole of last year. The vast majority were on the Central Mediterranean route - and many were children. Today, more than nine out of ten refugee and migrant children arriving in Europe through Italy are unaccompanied, including many girls. These children are at particular risk of abuse and exploitation. Following these tragic findings, UNICEF published [Child Alert: Danger Every Step of the Way](#) describing the harrowing journey that tens of thousands of children are making in the hope of finding safety or a better life in Europe. Gathering testimony from children themselves the [Child Alert](#) reveals the trauma children suffer getting to Europe and the risks they are forced to take along the route. It also reminds of the rights and principles that all children, no matter who they are, or where they come from, are entitled to; due consideration of their best interests; the right to be heard when determining their status; equitable access to protection, healthcare and education; need to accelerate family reunification processes or to broaden the definition of family ties when in children's best interests; strengthening the guardianship and child protection systems; and last but not least the prohibition of detention due to their migration status.

Updates from ENOC members

✓ On 21 April, 2016, the **Commissioner for Children's Rights of Cyprus** spoke before the PACE (Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe) Network of Contact Parliamentarians to stop sexual violence against children, about her experience from the implementation of the Pilot Project of the Council of Europe "One in Five" Campaign, in Cyprus. The Cyprus Pilot Project, under the name "*Strengthening national policies to stop sexual violence against children: A Council of Europe project involving pilot initiatives in Cyprus*", (2013-2016), was presented as an example of good practice. The project was implemented through a steering group comprised of all relevant partners in Cyprus. The Commissioner stressed that the momentum created by the project made it possible to achieve both goals of the "One in Five" campaign in Cyprus, taking on board the recommendations to that effect of the Commissioner. In particular, a comprehensive legislative framework, which enables Cyprus to stand against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children, was enacted in July 2014, paving the way for the ratification of the Lanzarote Convention, on 12 February 2015. This was followed by the adoption of a comprehensive National Strategy taking on board all important elements including the establishment of a Children's House (on the basis of the islandic Barnahus model) which will answer the need for introducing child-friendly procedures, as regards support and treatment of the child-victim and family, on the one hand, and prosecution procedures, on the other. On behalf of ENOC, the Cypriot Commissioner for Children's Rights also participates as an observer in the meetings of the Lanzarote Committee.

✓ In Zagreb, Croatia on 20 May 2016 the **Ombudsperson for Children's Office of Croatia** hosted the COPE (Children of Prisoners Europe) Annual Conference entitled *Children with a Parent in Conflict With the Law: What are their best interests? How can they be met?* The conference gathered over 200 delegates including representatives of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, UNICEF, the European Commission, Ombudspersons for Children's Offices from across Europe, and various NGOs operating on the field. See more information on the event [here](#) and [news](#) from COPE.

✓ On 9 June 2016 the **UN Committee on the Rights of the Child** published its *concluding observations* with regards to the following ENOC member countries: [Bulgaria](#), [Luxembourg](#), [Slovakia](#) and the [UK & Northern Ireland](#).

Upcoming Events

- ❖ **5-7 July 2016:** Eurochild Conference 2016 "*Children's Rights Matter: Why Europe needs to invest in children*", Brussels, Belgium
- ❖ **13-16 July 2016:** International Conference on *Global Issues in Intervention Development in Contexts of Political Violence* with a focus on migration and psychological support, organised by the University of Notre Dame (USA), Rome, Italy
- ❖ **26 July-1 August 2016:** International Conference in the spirit of Janusz Korczak, *CATS-Children as Actors For Transforming Society*, Caux, Switzerland
- ❖ **7-8 September 2016:** International Conference "*Challenges for Ombudsman institutions with respect to mixed migratory flows*", hosted by the People's Advocate of Albania (with the cooperation of AOM, IOI, AOMF and FIO), Tirana, Albania
- ❖ **20-21 September 2016:** ENOC 20th anniversary Annual Conference "*Equal Opportunities for All Children in Education*", Vilnius, Lithuania
- ❖ **22 September 2016:** ENOC 20th General Assembly meeting, Vilnius, Lithuania

If you have any suggestions or if you would like to include any information or upcoming events in our newsletter please send the details to secretariat@ombudsnet.org (Re: ENOC Newsletter).

JULY 2016						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

AUGUST 2016						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

SEPTEMBER 2016						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

European Network of Ombudspersons for Children

Council of Europe
 "Agora" Building
 Office n°B5 07V
 67075 Strasbourg Cedex
 Tel. +33 3 90 21 54 88
 E-mail:
secretariat@ombudsnet.org

Find us on the Web:
www.enoc.eu

*ENOC is financially supported
 by the
 European Commission*

