

# Newsletter

January-February 2020

## In this issue:

ENOC News and Announcements p. 1

Update on European and International Activities in the CR field p. 2

Update on ENOC members' activities p. 3

Publications p. 2-3

## Upcoming Events

### Save the dates!

#### 14-15 May 2020:

ENOC Spring Seminar, Chişinău, Moldova

Registrations to the Spring Seminar will be opened soon.

#### 24-25 June 2020:

ENYA Forum, Stockholm, Sweden

#### 21-23 September 2020:

ENOC Annual Conference & General Assembly meeting, Edinburgh, Scotland

## • ENOC News and Announcements



### ENOC Bureau meeting in Brussels

The first ENOC Bureau meeting for 2020 took place on **21 January 2020** in Brussels, Belgium. The Bureau discussed and agreed on a number of important issues for the Network such as planned activities and projects to be launched and implemented in 2020, but also membership and finance issues.

The ENOC 2020 thematic focus is **child rights impact assessment (CRIA)**. CRIA is a process that supports a systematic assessment of the impact on the rights, needs and interests of children and young people affected by decision and actions of governments, institutions and

others. ENOC members, working as a forum, will carry out extensive work on this topic, through a **Position Statement** and a **Common Framework of Reference** for undertaking a process of CRIA, as a key mechanism for implementing the UNCRC.

A **working seminar** to mark progress on the issue will be organized on 14 May 2020 in **Chisinau, Moldova**. On the same occasion, ENOC will hold a capacity building session on the revision of its Statutes on Day 2 – 15 May 2020. The ENYA child participation project has been launched and a number of activities and events are currently taking place in the 15 participating ENOC member institutions. The **ENYA Forum** is scheduled to take place on **24-25 June 2020** in Stockholm, Sweden.

### ENOC Bureau met European stakeholders in Brussels

On 22nd January 2020, the ENOC Bureau held a number of meetings in Brussels with European stakeholders to promote the outcomes of ENOC's 2019 thematic work on children's rights in the digital environment, discuss respective work plans and explore cooperation opportunities.

The Bureau first met with **Valeria Setti, European Commission Coordinator on Children's Rights**. She presented the work plan of the European Commission, especially the development of the new Strategy on Children's Rights. The ENOC Bureau explored funding opportunities particularly for non-EU ENOC members, along with other issues.

The ENOC Bureau then carried out a contact meeting with **the new Vice-Chair of the European Parliament and Coordinator on children's rights, Ewa Kopacz**. She introduced her new role and insisted on her will to strengthen cooperation with ENOC.

A meeting with two of the **new Co-Chairs of the European Parliament Intergroup on children's rights MEPs Saskia Bricmont and David Lega**, and the Coordinator of the Intergroup Emilio Puccio was also organised. They presented the main priorities of the Intergroup for 2020, including the appointment of an EU Special Representative on Children's Rights. The ENOC Bureau encouraged the MEPs to involve children and young people in their work on a more regular basis, and shared experience and some good practices from their countries and from the ENYA project.

Finally, the ENOC Bureau met the **European Data Protection Board (EDPB)**, an independent European body which contributes to the consistent application of data protection rules throughout the EU. This meeting was the opportunity to share views on ENOC and ENYA recommendations on children's rights in the digital environment.

The ENOC Bureau explored with **Andrea Jelinek, EDPB Chair**, how independent institutions on children's rights could help the work of the EDPB, especially regarding the future EDPB Guidelines on children's data.

You can find more information [here](#).

- **Update on European and International activities in the CR field**

### **PACE Resolution 2321(2020) on International obligations concerning the repatriation of children from war and conflict zones**

In an urgent debate in Strasbourg on 30 January 2020, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) expressed its concern about the situation of the children in Syria and Iraq whose parents, believed to be affiliated to ISIS/Daesh, are citizens of Council of Europe member States. By adopting a [resolution](#), the Assembly called on member States to "actively repatriate, rehabilitate and (re)integrate these children without further delay", which it considers "a human rights obligation". The Assembly underlined that children are right holders in their own capacity and their rights cannot be undermined by the actions of their parents. The Assembly urged the European Union to embed a children's rights approach in its counter-terrorism efforts.

### **First meeting of the Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child**

The first plenary meeting of the Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child (CDEF), the Council of Europe intergovernmental body responsible for standard-setting activities in the field of the rights of the child, took place on 4-6 February 2020 in Strasbourg, France. The CDEF continues the work completed by the Ad Hoc Committee for the Rights of the Child (CAHENF, in place from 2016 to 2019) with added responsibilities. It guides the CoE work in the children's rights field by advising the Committee of Ministers on appropriate action and proposals. The CDEF also oversees the implementation of the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2016-2021), ensures that the rights of the child are mainstreamed into all relevant Council of Europe committees, bodies and member states. The first meeting was opened by **Ms. Gabriella Battaini-Dragnoni, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe**. You can find her speech [here](#).

Discussions covered the five priority areas of the CoE Strategy for the Rights of the Child: equal opportunities, participation, a life free from violence, child-friendly justice, and rights of the child in the digital environment. The ENOC Secretariat participated in this event as an observer and presented ENOC 2019 activities and planned activities for 2020. Find all related materials [here](#).

### **Feasibility Study for a Child Guarantee Conference, 17 February 2020**

In its resolution of 24 November 2015 on reducing inequalities with a special focus on child poverty, the European Parliament called on the European Commission and EU Member States to introduce a "[Child Guarantee](#)". The ambition of this Child Guarantee is that every child in Europe has access to the following key services: free health care, free education, decent housing, adequate nutrition and free childcare. In 2017, the European Commission decided to explore via a Preparatory Action, the feasibility of a possible "Child Guarantee" for children in vulnerable situations. The Feasibility Study for a Child Guarantee (FSCG) closing conference took place on 17 February 2020 in Brussels, Belgium. This conference was the opportunity to present and discuss with stakeholders the findings of the FSCG.

**Bruce Adamson, ENOC Chair-elect and Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland** intervened in Session 2 of the conference entitled "Legal framework for EU intervention and Enforcement of legal obligations". He presented the coordinating and supporting role that ENOC and Ombudspersons for Children could play to monitor and challenge failures to implement the Child Guarantee. You can find the agenda [here](#).

## **Publications**

### **European Commission: Child Safeguarding and Child protection policy – tips and examples**

The European Commission published a special article explaining the absolute necessity for all organisations working with children to have robust child protection policies and provided some tips and examples to help them develop such policies. The [article](#) explains what a child protection policy (CPP) means, and why it is important to have it and apply it when working with children.

ENOC has developed a new [CPP](#) endorsed at the 2019 General Assembly. This CPP was developed to ensure the highest standards of professional behaviour and personal practice to ensure no harm occurs in any situation to children and young people during their involvement in ENOC activities. All ENOC members, as well as new applicants for ENOC membership, that do not have their own safeguarding policies guaranteeing the same or higher level of protection, are expected to sign up to ENOC's revised CPP and demonstrate their commitment to develop their own CPP which reflects the local context and legal framework.

### **Eurochild – We Are Here: A Child Participation Toolbox**

In January 2020, Eurochild released a Toolbox on child participation, co-produced in collaboration with their member the Learning for Well-being Foundation. It offers a practical set of tools to implement meaningful children's participation in a variety of settings and prepare children to play leading roles in participatory events. Throughout the 6 modules, the user is guided on how to run sessions with children and adults, whilst also giving explanations of different aspects of child participation. Read the Toolbox [here](#).

- **Update on ENOC members' activities**

### Italy Safer Internet Day, 11 February 2020

On 11 February 2020, the [Independent Authority for Children and Adolescents](#) participated in the Italian edition of the Safer Internet Day at the National Railway Museum of Pietrarsa, Naples, Italy. The Italian children and young people who took part in the 2019 ENYA project presented [the ENYA recommendations](#) on children's rights in the digital environment, as well as a child friendly version of the Italian law 71/2017 "Regulation for the safeguarding of minors and the prevention and tackling of cyberbullying". This [publication](#) entitled "Cyberbullying, what is it and how to defend yourself?" helps children understand their rights and when they are violated when it comes to the online world and cyberbullying. It serves as a guide for children and young people to protect themselves online and prevent cyberbullying.

### High-level meeting on a safer digital environment for children in Norway, 12 February 2020



On 12 February 2020, the [Norwegian Ombudsperson for Children](#) held a high-level meeting on children's rights in the digital environment with 120 participants, including ministers and secretaries of state from five ministries, the president of Parliament, a member of the executive council of the Sámi Parliament, representatives

from the political parties, directors of eight governmental agencies, several NGOs and businesses. The Ombudsperson's young advisors, who took part in the ENYA 2019 project, participated in the event and presented their [report "Young people thoughts on the digital environment"](#). The [ENOC Statement](#) and recommendations on children's rights in the digital environment were also presented to the participants.

The work related to children in the digital environment in Norway is currently fragmented and divided between six ministries. In this context, this meeting was an initiative of the Ombudsperson to contribute to long-term and coordinated work for a safer digital environment, and to the establishment of a holistic strategy on children and the digital environment. 35 of the participants also signed a joint statement during the meeting, and committed to implement two measures of their own choice during the next year. Learn more [here](#).

### Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children – Global report 2019, Progress towards ending corporal punishment of children

The Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children launched its [Global Report 2019](#) tracking progress towards universal prohibition of corporal punishment. 58 states have now prohibited all corporal punishment of children, including 4 in 2019: Georgia, South Africa, France and Kosovo. The past year has also seen encouraging progress in UK nations and territories challenging the English common law defence of "reasonable chastisement" of children. Scotland repealed the equivalent defence in October, followed by the British Crown Dependency of Jersey in December and Wales in January. Government commitments to address violence against children have accelerated in recent years. The list of committed states is available [here](#).

### French Economic, Social and Environmental Council: "Sexual and Reproductive Rights in Europe: Between threats and progress" Report

The French Economic, Social and Environmental Council published a study (available in [French](#) and [English](#)) called "Sexual and Reproductive Rights in Europe: between threats and progress". This report, written by Véronique Séhier, Co-Chair of the French Family Planning, gives an overview of the state of play regarding sexual and reproductive rights in Europe and outlines avenues for further reflection to ensure effective access to these fundamental rights. The report highlights that the European Union is lagging behind on these issues and there are major discrepancies according to each country's state legislation. The report suggests that the European Union should play a greater role in reinforcing sexual and reproductive rights, especially through the European Union's ratification of the [Istanbul Convention](#).



#### ENOC SECRETARIAT

Council of Europe "Agora Building  
Office n° B507V  
67075 Strasbourg Cedex  
Tel. +33 3 90 21 54 88  
E-mail: [secretariat@ombudsnet.org](mailto:secretariat@ombudsnet.org)  
Find us on the Web: [www.enoc.eu](http://www.enoc.eu)

*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@enoc.eu](mailto:secretariat@enoc.eu)*

ENOC is co-funded by the European Union's Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme (REC 20142020). The content of this newsletter represents only the views of ENOC and is its sole responsibility. The European Commission does not accept any responsibility for use that may be made of the information it contains.