

ENOC 21ST ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

COMPREHENSIVE RELATIONSHIP
AND SEXUALITY EDUCATION:
**IMPLEMENTING THE RIGHT
OF CHILDREN TO BE INFORMED**

19–21 September 2017

The Finlandia Hall Congress Centre



**Lapsi-
asia**

ENOC

European Network of Ombudspersons for Children



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Equality and Citizenship Programme
of the European Commission



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Welcome to the 100-year-old Finland!

I warmly welcome each of you to Helsinki, the capital of Finland.

Today, in 2017, our continent and the rest of the world are undergoing a period of uncertainty. Our work, as independent and autonomous supervisors of the rights of children, is needed in this demanding environment. The key elements of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child – participation, protection, provision – must be turned into everyday reality in the lives of children.

However, words are not enough. Governments must take effective and consistent measures to implement the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. This requires society to assess the impacts of its decisions on children. To protect the best interests of the child, any decision-making affecting an individual child or the child population, either directly or indirectly, must involve a child impact assessment.

We, the ombudspersons for children and our joint organisation, the ENOC, are responsible for promoting a research-based child policy that builds on the experiences of children. However, we must overcome a range of challenges posed by the times in which we live. Too many governments are taking decisions on the basis of short-term political goals, instead of trying to improve the conditions in which children live and grow.

The realisation of fundamental and human rights is uncertain in many countries. The United Nations is doing its best, but as national rapporteurs we, the ombudspersons for children, are well aware of how encumbered the UN system is. For example, the optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, on the individual communications procedure, works better in principle than in practice.

In future years, we European ombudspersons for children will probably need to initiate a dialogue on reforming the UN reporting system. We would serve the interests of children around the world by proposing the necessary measures for the UN reform.

Secondly, the sound expertise of ombudspersons for children is needed in today's world, where war and the build up of arms are gathering speed. Today, 90 per cent of victims of war are women and children. The international community is unable to provide the weakest and most vulnerable people with sufficient protection.

Although we ombudspersons for children deal with serious themes, we do so full of hope. A more child-friendly world is not only possible, it is essential.

A hundred years ago, Finland was a poor country that chose the education of its entire nation and promoting public health as its key national development goals. In many respects, access to universal services for everybody, regardless of their background, propelled Finland to the forefront of global development. Examples of this include our free-of-charge basic education and school lunches.

I wish everyone a successful Conference and the General Assembly in Finland, which is celebrating 100 years of independence. Tomorrow, our children will reflect what we, as adults, and society regarded as our current priorities.



Tuomas Kurttila,

Ombudsman for Children, Finland



About ENOC

The European Network of Ombudspersons for Children (ENOC) is a not-for-profit association of independent children's rights institutions (ICRIs). ENOC mandate is to facilitate the promotion and protection of the rights of children, as formulated in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child: ENOC aims are:

- to encourage the fullest possible implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the child,
- to support collective lobbying for children's rights,
- to share information, approaches and strategies,
- to promote the development of effective independent offices for children.

ENOC was established in 1997 and as of 2008 has an independent Secretariat in Strasbourg, with office accommodation provided by the Council of Europe. Since 2008, ENOC is financially supported by the Fundamental Rights and Citizenship programme of the European Commission.

ENOC adopted Standards for Independent Children's Rights Institutions at its annual meeting in Paris.

At a special members' meeting held in Dublin in 2006, it adopted statutes (see Annex) with strict criteria for membership. Since then the Statutes have been revised twice, in 2011 in Warsaw, and in 2012 in Nicosia.

ENOC wants to establish links and share information and strategies with independent children's rights institutions – children's ombudspersons, commissioners for children, or focal points on children's rights in national human rights institutions or general ombudsman offices.

ENOC holds an annual meeting each year.

By 2017 ENOC had grown to include 42 institutions in 34 countries within the Council of Europe, 23 of which EU countries. Membership is limited to institutions in the 47 member states of the Council of Europe.

The Bureau consists of five persons, the past Chairperson, the current Chairperson, the Chairperson-elect, the Secretary and Treasurer of the Network.

The Chairperson-elect, Secretary and Treasurer of ENOC are elected by the General Assembly during its annual general meeting. The Chairperson-elect is elected for a non-renewable one-year term and begins his/her functions at the beginning of the following annual general meeting of the General Assembly. The Secretary and Treasurer are elected for a one-year term and may be re-elected for a maximum of two further consecutive terms (three years in all). They take up their post immediately following election.

CURRENT ENOC BUREAU COMPOSITION (2016-2017):

- The current Chairperson: **Ms. Edita Ziobiene** (Ombudsperson for Children's Rights, Lithuania)
- The Chairperson-elect: **Mr. Tuomas Kurttila** (Ombudsman for Children, Finland)
- The Past Chair: **Mr. Niall Muldoon** (Ombudsman for Children, Ireland)
- The Secretary: **Ms. Maria J. Larios** (Deputy Ombudsperson for children's rights, Catalonia)
- The Treasurer: **Mr. George Moschos** (Deputy Ombudsman for Children's Rights, Greece)



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For further information on ENOC:
www.enoc.eu

Conference Programme

ENOC 21st ANNUAL CONFERENCE • 19–20 September 2017

COMPREHENSIVE RELATIONSHIP AND SEXUALITY EDUCATION:
IMPLEMENTING THE RIGHT OF CHILDREN TO BE INFORMED

Day 1

Tuesday • 19 September 2017

08:00 – 09:00 **Registration**

Moderator: Tuomas Kurttila, *Ombudsman for Children, Finland*

09:00 – 10:00 **Conference opening:**

Ms. Edita Žiobiene, *ENOC Chair,
Ombudsperson for Children's Rights, Lithuania*

Ms. Regina Jensdottir, *Head of Council of Europe Children's Rights Division*

Representative of the European Commission

Representative of the EU Fundamental rights agency

10:00 – 11:15 **Session I: National practices on the Conference theme**

11:45 **School lunch for all participants**

11:15 – 14:30 **Visits per group to Childrens' Day Care Centers / Basic Education Schools**

14:30 – 14:45 **Tea/Coffee Break**

14:45 – 15:15 **Feedback session from field visits**

15:15 – 17:30 **Country Reports Roundtable** *(2 min each)*

SOCIAL EVENING PROGRAMME

19:00 **Finland Dinner: 100 Years**

Venue: The House of the Estates, Snellmaninkatu 9-11, Helsinki

Conference Programme

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COMPREHENSIVE RELATIONSHIP AND SEXUALITY EDUCATION:
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Day 2

Wednesday • 20 September 2017

Moderator: Niall Muldoon, Ombudsman for Children, Ireland

09:00 – 10:30 **Session II: National Practices on the Conference theme**

10:30 – 11:00 **Tea/Coffee Break**

11:00 – 12:00 **Age appropriate sexuality education**

Raisa Cacciatore,

Physician, Child psychiatrist, The Family Federation of Finland

Discussion

12:00 – 13:00 **Lunch**

Moderator: George Moschos, Deputy Ombudsman for Children's Rights, Greece

13:00 – 15:00 **ENYA 2017 RIO project**

- Presentation by participating young people of the project, young people's recommendations and feedback from ENYA Paris Forum
- Small group discussions on how Ombudspersons for Children listen to young people and involve them in their work
- Feedback in plenary from group discussions

15:00 – 16:00 **International adoption**

- Presentation by **Bruno Vanobbergen,**
Flemish Commissioner for Children's Rights, Belgium
- Group discussions (up to 3 groups)

16:00 – 16:15 **Tea/Coffee break**

Closing of ENOC 21st Annual Conference

16:15 – 17:30 **1st Round Discussion of the draft ENOC statement on Relationship and Sexuality education (Only for ENOC members)**

18.00 **Cultural visits**

General Assembly Programme

ENOC 21st GENERAL ASSEMBLY • 21 September 2017

ENOC members only

Day 3

Thursday • 21 September 2017

Moderator: Edita Žiobené, ENOC Chairperson, Ombudsperson for Children's Rights, Lithuania

- 09:00 – 09:15 **Election of the new ENOC Bureau**
- 09:15 – 9:30 **Presentation of ENOC annual activities (2017)**
Edita Žiobené,
ENOC Chairperson, Ombudsperson for Children's Rights, Lithuania
- 09:30 – 09:45 **Presentation and approval of ENOC accounts**
George Moschos,
ENOC Treasurer, Deputy Ombudsperson for Children's Rights, Greece
- 09:45 – 10:45 **Discussion and adoption of the ENOC statement**
"Relationship and sexuality education:
implementing children's right to be informed"

10:45 – 11:00 **Tea/Coffee break**

Moderator: Tuomas Kurttila, Ombudsman for Children, Finland

- 11:00 – 11:45 **Brainstorming:**
Discussion on ENOC's 2018 thematic programme, activities
and future of ENOC
- 11:45 – 12:30 **Open discussion**
Brexit and it's impacts to the Children
- other issues raised by the ENOC Bureau or by ENOC members
- 12:30 **End of ENOC 21st General Assembly**

12:30 **Lunch**

Ombudspersons presentations*

Albania: People's advocate **Erinda Ballanca**

Mrs. Erinda Ballanca graduated from the Law Faculty of the University of Tirana in 1996 with a Golden Medal. Following graduation, she became an associate lecturer at the Law Faculty of the University of Tirana lecturing in Constitutional Law and Legislative Technique.

Mrs. Ballanca was involved as a Member of the Coordinating Group for drafting Albania's Constitution in 1998. She has been a local legal expert in several projects approximating Albanian legislation with the *acquis communautaire* under the UE/PHARE Program for Albania. As a local expert for GIZ, she contributed to the drafting of the Albanian law on international arbitration based on UNICITRAL standards. The Albanian Parliament elected Mrs. Erinda Ballanca as the People's Advocate of Albania for a five year mandate on 22 May 2017.

Armenia: Human rights defender **Arman Tatoyan**

Dr. Tatoyan studied law at Yerevan State University and University of Pennsylvania Law School, Philadelphia PA and obtained Doctor of Law (Ph. D. in Law) academic degree. Currently he is visiting professor in the Yerevan State University (Faculty of Law), American University of Armenia, Academy of Justice of Armenia.

On 23 February 2016 was elected as Human Rights Defender of Armenia. Ex officio he is Head of the National Preventive Mechanism under the UN OPCAT. On June 2016 Dr. Tatoyan was appointed ad hoc judge in the European Court of Human Rights from June 2016.

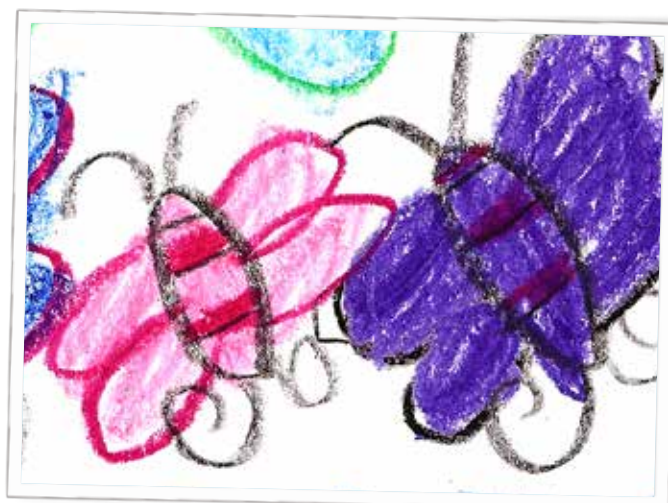
Belgium: Ombudsman **Bernard De Vos**

Bernard De Vos is the General Delegate (Ombudsman) for Children's Rights of the French Community of Belgium since 2008. He was Chair of ENOC, the European Network of Ombudspersons for Children, in 2013-2014.

Before that, Bernard De Vos was the Director of a special service provided to vulnerable young people in Brussels for more than 15 years. He also initiated the creation of several innovative services in the field of youth protection and assistance. He is the author of several books and articles on childhood and youth issues.

Belgium: Commissioner **Bruno Vanobbergen**

Bruno Vanobbergen (1972) got his PhD in Educational Sciences at Ghent University (Belgium) in 2003 with a research on the commodification of childhood. He published several articles in international journals on (the history of) childhood. He was professor at the Rijksuniversiteit Groningen (The Netherlands) and visiting scholar at Rutgers University, Camden (USA). In June 2009 he was appointed by the Flemish Parliament as the Flemish Children's Rights Commissioner. As a Commissioner he is responsible for monitoring children's rights in Flanders by mediating, investigating complaints and giving policy recommendations. Vanobbergen is also guest professor childhood studies at Ghent University.



Bosnia and Herzegovina: Ombudsman **Nives Jukic**

Ombudsman Nives Jukic has a degree in law obtained from the Faculty of Law at the University of Sarajevo. After that she successfully passed bar exam. In period from 07.08.1997 to 31.12.2001 she was Assistant Ombudsman of the Federation of BiH appointed by the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In this capacity she was involved in investigations related to the alleged human rights violations and civil freedoms as enshrined in the Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina and international treaties and was engaged in deciding on human rights violations and drafting of recommendations. In addition to that she was involved in following the proceedings before the courts, initiating and participation in preparation of reports and other duties characteristic for the functioning of the Ombudsman of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Prior to her appointment for the Ombudsman of Bosnia and Herzegovina, she was holding position of the Head of Department for the Rights of persons with disabilities – Ombudsman Associate and in this capacity she managing and coordinating the operation of this Department resolving individual and group complaints of citizens related to violations of the rights of persons with disability, following of systematic measures in legislative field related to this group and preparation of contributions to special and general reports.

Ms Nives Jukic was appointed on 17 November 2015 to serve as Ombudsperson of Bosnia and Herzegovina for a 6-year period and this is her second term as Ombudsperson.

Bosnia and Herzegovina: Ombudsman **Ljubinko Mitrovic**

Professor Dr Ljubinko Mitrovic was born on 23 August 1958 in Olovo, Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. He graduated from the Faculty of Law in Banja Luka on 17 June 1981. His professional career includes the engagement in education, business sector and public administration. He is married and a father of three daughters.

In December 1998 he finished his master studies at the Faculty of Law in Banja Luka, and his doctoral studies and obtained a PhD degree for the first time at the Faculty of Law of the UNION University in Belgrade, and then for the second time, in June 2012 at the Faculty of Law of the University in Niš. Since 2016 he is a tenured Full Professor. He is a member and an examiner within the Bar Examination Panel in the Republic of Srpska since 2005, and a member of the Professional Examination Panel for work in the administrative bodies of the Republic of Srpska and also a member of the Editorial Council of the "Criminology and Criminal Law Review" issued in Belgrade, and a member of Editorial Board and Advisory Board and the Editor of a professional-scientific review in the field of law entitled – Annals of the Faculty of Legal Sciences with the Pan-European University APEIRON Banja Luka.

Mr. Mitrovic participated in work of several commissions for drafting of legislation (the most prominent being the Law on the Protection and Treatment of Children and Juveniles in Criminal Proceedings and the Law on Confiscation of Illicitly Acquired Property).

Mr Mitrovic was appointed on 17 November 2015 to serve as Ombudsperson of Bosnia and Herzegovina for a 6-year period.



Croatia: Ombudswoman **Ivana Milas Klaric**

Dr. Ivana Milas Klaric is ombudswoman for children since 2014. She is assistant professor at the Faculty of Law, University of Zagreb, on department of family law.

Cyprus: Commissioner for Children's Rights **Leda Koursoumba**

Ms. Leda Koursoumba was appointed as the first Commissioner for Children's Rights in August 2007 following the enactment by the House of Representatives of the Commissioner for the Protection of Children's Rights Law in June 2007 (Law 74(I)/2007). On 2014 she was reappointed at the same position. Ms Koursoumba studied Law in England and she is a registered advocate in Cyprus. She has specialized in the fields of Constitutional Law, Administrative Law and Human Rights Law, in particular Children's Rights Law, and has dealt extensively with issues relating to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and generally issues relating to children. She has represented Cyprus before international courts, organizations and Committees of the United Nations and of the Council of Europe, in particular human rights treaty-bodies, including the Committee of Experts on the Rights of the Child.

Estonia: Chancellor **Ülle Madise**

Ülle Madise is the Estonian Chancellor of Justice. The Chancellor of Justice is a one-person independent constitutional institution which, among other tasks, is the Ombudsman for Children. Ülle Madise, PhD in law, is a professor of Tartu University. She has been working at the Ministry of Justice, State Audit Office and as a legal advisor for the President of the Republic of Estonia. Ülle Madise is a well-known expert in constitutional and public law issues.

Finland: Ombudsman for Children **Tuomas Kurttila**

Tuomas Kurttila is the Ombudsman for Children in Finland. The Council of State appointed Kurttila to this post on March 13, 2014. Kurttila holds a Master's Degree in Administrative Sciences and Theology. Tuomas Kurttila, who was born in 1978, has earlier worked, among other things, as the Executive Director of Finnish Parents' League and as the General Secretary of the Finland's Advisory Council for Youth Affairs. He is a long-time member of the Advisory Council for Children's Affairs, which supports the Ombudsman for Children in his or her work. In their reasoning for the appointment, the Council of State valued the experience Kurttila has gained in diverse positions of responsibility and his in-depth knowledge of interest groups, in addition to his work experience. Tuomas Kurttila was one of the writers of the joint publication 10 Questions on Upbringing (2011) by Ombudsman for Children, National Institute of Health and Welfare and Finnish Parents' League, which set a new ground for the national discussion on children's upbringing.

France: Defender of Children **Geneviève Avenard**

Geneviève Avenard is the French Defender of Children, Deputy to the Defender of Rights since October 2014. She has nearly 30 years of experience in policy making concerning children, child welfare and children with disabilities, and has worked for 25 years in local governments (départements). She is also Chair of the Committee on the Rights of the Child of the French speaking Ombudsmen Association (AOMF).

Georgia: Deputy public defender **Ekaterine Skhiladze**

Ekaterine Skhiladze serves as a deputy Public Defender of Georgia and manages, coordinates and supervises activities of the following structural units of the Public Defender's Office: the Center for Child's Rights, the Department of Protection of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Department of Gender Equality, the Analytical Department, the Department of Equality and the Human Rights Academy.

Ekaterine Skhiladze has a wide experience of working both in governmental and non-governmental sectors and has a considerable expertise in the sphere of gender equality. Furthermore she is a Kato Mikeladze Award winner, which was granted to acknowledge her contribution as a women's rights activist in Georgia.

Iceland: Ombudsman **Salvör Nordal**

Salvör Nordal was appointed the Ombudsman for Children in July 2017 in Iceland. She is a doctor in philosophy and was from 2001 director of the Centre for Ethics at the University of Iceland as well as assistant professor in philosophy. Salvör Nordal was a member of a Working Group on Ethics as part of a Special Investigation Commission of the Icelandic Parliament, 2009-2010, investigating the fall of the Icelandic Bank. She was elected to the Constitutional Assembly in 2010 and chaired the Constitutional Council in 2011. She has published numerous essays on applied ethics, social philosophy and democracy.

Ireland: Ombudsman **Niall Muldoon**

Dr Niall Muldoon is Ireland's second Ombudsman for Children. He was appointed to this position on February 17th 2015 by the Head of State, His Excellency, President Michael D. Higgins, following an open competition and interview process involving children and adults. As Ombudsman for Children, Dr. Muldoon is directly accountable to the Houses

of the Oireachtas. The Ombudsman for Children's Office (OCO) deals with complaints by, or on behalf of, young people about public bodies such as the Health Service Executive, schools, voluntary hospitals and children's prisons.

Niall is a Registered Counselling and Clinical Psychologist who has worked in the area of Child Protection for almost 20 years. He has provided therapy and support to children and families, from all over Ireland, affected by sexual abuse and he has also offered therapy, risk assessments and support to adults who had sexually offended against children and to those who had been abused as children. He was regularly called upon to provide expert testimony in the courts. Niall also worked within the field of Intellectual Disability for a number of years.

Italy: Independent Authority for Children and Adolescents **Filomena Albano**

The Italian independent Authority for children and adolescents was established in Italy by law 12 July 2011 and exercises the functions and duties granted to it by this law, with autonomous organizational powers, with administrative independence and without any hierarchical subordination.

Filomena Albano was appointed Italian independent Authority for children and adolescents with a determination adopted by the Presidents of the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate of the Republic in March 2016, for four years, renewable one single time.

Filomena Albano is a judge with a long experience both at courts and as the Director of Office for international judicial cooperation at the Ministry of Justice. From 2009 to 2015 she was a Commissioner of the Commission for International Adoptions at the Presidency of the Council of Ministers. She was the contact person for Italy of the European Judicial network in civil matters as well as an expert of the working group on the revision of regulation (EC) 2201/2003, the so-called Bruxelles II bis. She was member of the Groupement Européen des Magistrats pour la Médiation.

Lithuania: Ombudsperson **Edita Žiobienė**

Edita Žiobienė is Lithuanian Ombudsperson for Children's Rights since 2010. She graduated in Sociology, Law and holds a Doctor of Social Sciences (Law) degree and is Prof. in Public Law Institute of Mykolas Romeris University. Since 2016, Ms. Žiobienė is a member of the Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities. She is an author of numerous scientific publications on national human rights institutions, protection of human rights, issues in the sphere of protection of children's rights, protection of the right to privacy, problems of discrimination, human trafficking, etc.

Malta: Commissioner **Pauline Miceli**

The Commissioner for Children is Ms Pauline Miceli who was appointed on the 5th of January 2016 for a period of three years. The Commissioner for Children strives to safeguard the best interests of all children living in Malta and Gozo.

Pauline Miceli is an educator by profession and has worked both as teacher and administrator at secondary and post-secondary levels for many years. She occupied the post of Head of Giovanni Curmi Higher Secondary School before her retirement. She holds a degree in Youth and Community Studies and has worked in the voluntary sector for youth and children in care.

She was involved in educational broadcasting for children and adults as producer and presenter of radio and television programmes for a number of years. Ms Miceli published a number of books for children and a study based on Women's life stories. In the past she contributed regularly to a local newspaper.

Netherlands: Ombudsperson **Margrite Kalverboer**

The Dutch parliament appointed Margrite Kalverboer as the Netherlands' ombudsperson for Children, on 20 April 2016.

The Dutch parliament appointed Margrite Kalverboer as the Netherlands' ombudsperson for Children, on 20 April 2016. Margrite Kalverboer is a Professor of Child, Pedagogy and Migration Law. She studied law and clinical child and adolescent studies at the University of Groningen. In 1996 she gained a PhD with research on the way that educational and care problems are reported to the Child Care and Protection Board Northern Division.

From 1996 to 2002 she was a behavioural scientist and head of Care at the Het Poortje young offenders' institution in Groningen. After that she became university reader in the Youth Care section of the department of Special Needs Education and Child Care of the University of Groningen.

Norway: Ombudsman **Anne Lindboe**

Anne Lindboe is currently serving as the Norwegian Children's Ombudsman. She was appointed by the Government of Norway for a six-year term in 2012. She obtained the cand.med. (MD) degree at the University of Oslo in 2000, and was approved as a specialist in pediatrics in 2011. She also holds an MBA in Management from the Norwegian School of Economics. From 2008 to 2011, she was a medical expert for the police in cases about violence and abuse, and from 2010 she was also a researcher at the Norwegian Institute of Public Health.

Russia: Moscow Ombudsperson for Childrens' rights **Evgeny Bunimovich**

Evgeny Bunimovich was born in 1954, in Moscow. In 1975, he graduated from Moscow State University, Faculty of Mechanics and Mathematics.

Poland: Ombudsman Marek Michalak

Marek Michalak is a pedagogue, sociotherapist, social activist. The Ombudsman for Children, holding office for 4th and 5th term. In the years 2011 - 2013 he was appointed to the post of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the European Network of the Ombudsmen for Children ENOC from Strasbourg. He was the initiator of many campaigns for protection of the rights of the child, for example better protection of children against harm (including introduction of absolute ban on beating children), proclaiming 2012 as the Year of Janusz Korczak, introducing the All-Polish Preschooler's Day and the All-Polish Day of the Child's Rights, adopting the 2nd Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, organizer of the International Congress on the Rights of the Child in Warsaw, originator of the Warsaw Declaration.

Since 1996 he also belongs to the International Chamber of the Order of Smile - he held the post of the Vice Chancellor in the years 2003-2007 and since 19 January 2007 he coordinates the Chamber work as its Chancellor.

Serbia: Deputy Ombudsman Gordana Stevanovic

Ms Stevanovic graduated from the Faculty of Law, University of Belgrade, in 1998; she passed the bar exam in 2001, and earned her master's degree from the Faculty of Political Sciences in 2009. She continued her professional development via trainings in public administration, human resources management, and public administration, and became a certified change management trainer for employees in public administration bodies.

From 1999 to 2001, she worked as a judicial intern in the Fourth Basic Court in Belgrade. In the course of 2001 she was a Legal Advisor in the NGO "Society for the Promotion of Roma Settlements", where she was involved in the implementation of various projects and surveys relating to the improvement of the status of the Roma population, primarily the exercise and protection of their labor rights and the rights of women and children to health care and education. From 2002 she worked as a Senior Advisor at the Federal Ministry of National and Ethnic Communities. From late 2002 to 2003, in the framework of OXFAM, she educated citizens, especially women,

on the delivery of health care to women and children. At the same time, from 2001 to 2009, she worked as a Legal Consultant to the NGO "Roma Women's Center Bibija".

From 2004 to 2009 she was the Head of the Service of the Republican Committee for Resolving Conflicts of Interest. From 2009 until her election as the Deputy Protector of Citizens, she served as the Assistant Secretary General of the Administrative and Technical Service of the Protector of Citizens and managed affairs in the Department for Handling Complaints. In this period she was particularly engaged in the protection of rights and oversight procedures in respect of the rights of women to parenting, the privacy of women in medical procedures, as well as the protection of women's health, health care and health insurance of children.

Spain, Catalonia: Deputy Ombudsman Ljubinko Mitrovic

Deputy for the Defense of Children's and Adolescents' Rights since 2010, exercises delegated competencies for the protection of children and adolescents in the terms of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Previously, she had been director of Social Affairs and Parliamentary Relations of the Catalan Ombudsman institution (2004-2010).

She holds a doctorate in Law from the University of Barcelona and is a tenured university lecturer in Constitutional Law at the same university. Her research has focused on the study of institutions, especially Parliament, and on fundamental rights.

She has held teaching posts in various universities, aside from the University of Barcelona, such as the Simón Bolívar Andean University (1999), and in different master's programs and specialized courses such as the Master's Degree in Immigration and Intercultural Education, offered by the University of Barcelona's College of Philosophy, and the Master's Degree in Public Law of the Public Administration School of the Generalitat (Autonomous Government of Catalonia). She has also worked as a consultant in Constitutional Law for the Open University of Catalonia.

Sweden: Temporary Ombudsman **Anita Wikström**

Anita Wickström is acting as temporary Ombudsman for Children in Sweden until a new Ombudsman is appointed by the Swedish government. Anita has extensive experience in legal affairs primarily from Swedish Ministry of Justice. Anita is also Chief Judge at Linköping District Court.

Switzerland: Ombudsman **René Schlechter**

Rene Schlechter was born in 1954 in Luxembourg and studied History in Paris Pantheon Sorbonne and educational sciences in Münster, Germany. He was employed in counseling service for couples and families and has worked as a director of the child helpline in Luxembourg offering services for children, young people and parents (www.kjt.lu) and running the BEE SECURE Helpline and the BEE SECURE Stopleftine.

He has been Ombudsman for the Rights of the Child from from 2013 and his mandate is until 2017.

Turkey: Ombudsman **Celile Özlem Tuncak**

Born in Ankara on November 13, 1970. Completed her secondary education and high school level at Atatürk Anatolian High School in Ankara between the years 1981 to 1988.

Her career continued as a free-lance lawyer between the years of 1994 to 1997; as the Lawyer and Head of Legal Department in the Office of PTT Director-in-chief in Bursa between the years of 2007 to 2008, as the Minister Advisor in the Ministry of Labour and Social Security between the years of 2008 to 2009; as the Minister Advisor in the Ministry of Transportation, Maritime Affairs and Communication between the years of 2009 to 2014; as the Legal Advisor of PTT Corporation between the years 2013 to 2014; as Acting Executive Director of PTT Corporation on 02/09/2013; as the Deputy General Director of Insurance Premiums under Social Security Institution on 10/05/2014; as the First Legal Adviser in Social Security Institution between 12/05/2016 to 12/12/2016 and as the Prime Ministry Advisor (Partial Assignment) between the dates of 03/08/2016 to 12/12/2016.

Elected as the Ombudsman by the Joint Committee of Petitions and Human Rights under TGNA on November 2, 2016



United Kingdom, Northern Ireland: Commissioner **Koulla Yiasouma**

Koulla Yiasouma took up appointment as NI Commissioner for Children and Young People (NICCY) in March 2015.

She trained as a social worker and previously worked in probation, NI Women's Aid and prior to her appointment was the Director of Include Youth for almost 17 years. Include Youth is an organisation that works to promote and protect the rights and best interests of disadvantaged and vulnerable young people.

Koulla has been involved with a number of strategic and inter-agency bodies seeking to improve outcomes for children, families and communities. She is a passionate advocate for the rights of all children, especially those with the most challenging behaviours, and she represented these issues on these bodies.

Koulla was involved with a number of voluntary and community based organisations. She was a Board member of the Patient and Client Council, a school governor, a member of the NI Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership, and the Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland.

United Kingdom, Scotland: Commissioner **Bruce Adamson**

Bruce is a lawyer who has over 20 years of experience in children's rights. Originally from New Zealand, he moved to Scotland in 2002. A Member of the Children's Panel for 13 years, he has worked directly with vulnerable children and their families, listening to their experiences and making decisions about their safety and wellbeing.

Mr Adamson has been on advisory boards for several public authorities and civil society organisations and is a former Chair of the Scottish Child Law Centre. As legal officer at the Scottish Human Rights Commission, he was central to the development of law, policy and practice covering the broad spectrum of children's rights. In 2013, he was the United Nations Representative for the Global Alliance of National

Human Rights Institutions, representing institutions from over 100 countries to improve human rights in Scotland and across the world.

Mr Adamson has acted as an international expert for the Council of Europe, the European Union and the OSCE. Working in emerging democracies in the Western Balkans and Ukraine, he has helped to improve the situation for children in some of the most challenging situations in Europe. He has also been a member of several international projects, including one on the reform of the European Court of Human Rights and another on increasing the ability of national parliaments to act as human rights guarantors.

United Kingdom, Wales: Commissioner **Sally Holland**

Sally Holland became Wales' third Children's Commissioner for Wales in April 2015.

In her first year in post she undertook a large-scale consultation with children and young people throughout Wales, and used the findings to set her priorities for her first three-year plan. Her priorities include mental health and well-being, effective anti-bullying strategies, reducing inequalities and improving transitions to adulthood for those who have ongoing support and care needs. She is campaigning for equal protection in the law for children from physical assault and hopes to see all public bodies in Wales adopt and implement the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Sally is a registered social worker with experience in the statutory and voluntary sectors. Prior to taking up the post of Children's Commissioner, she was a Professor at the School of Social Sciences at Cardiff University. During her time at Cardiff University, she founded and became director of CASCADE Children's Social Care Research and Development Centre. Originally from Scotland, Sally has lived in Wales since 1992 and is a keen Welsh learner.

Twitter: @childcomwales

Background paper for the ENOC Statement

Comprehensive relationship and sexuality education: implementing the right of children to be informed

Coordinating party: the Office of the Ombudsman for Children in Finland

Raisa Cacciatore

Child psychiatrist; Adolescent health specialist; Expert physician, the Family Federation of Finland; Member of the World Health Organization (WHO) European expert group in sexuality education, in collaboration with the German Federal Centre for Health Education (BZgA).

Susanne Ingman-Friberg

Midwife; Master of Public Health; Expert in family issues, the Family Federation of Finland

Miila Halonen

Adolescent health specialist; Expert physician, the Family Federation of Finland

Dan Apter

Specialist in Obstetrics & Gynecology; Chief Physician & Director, VL-Medi Clinical Research Center; Member of the World Health Organization (WHO) European expert group in sexuality education, in collaboration with the German Federal Centre for Health Education (BZgA).





EVERY CHILD MUST BE ENSURED THE POSSIBILITY OF BALANCED DEVELOPMENT AND SAFETY SKILLS!

Comprehensive Relationship and Sexuality Education is a process of acquiring information and forming opinions, beliefs and values as well as achieving skills to search closeness and to be safe. It also means supporting and protecting an age-appropriate positive attitude towards oneself, respecting diverse bodies and experiences of safe closeness.

Sexual development is a life-long journey. Children's sexuality is different from that of adolescents and adults. *A child's sexuality* is about curiosity, learning how to respect one's own and other people's bodies, exploring emotions and pleasure as well learning accepted behaviour and norms and basic safety skills. *Adolescent sexuality* is different from that of children and adults. It is about sensitivity, slow encouragement, learning of sexual feelings, emotions and pleasure as well as learning of sexual relationships. Sexual development is a sensitive process where attitudes adopted in childhood can strongly influence sexuality later in life. Experiences involving negative feelings may lead to problems in adult functioning. The interaction of Comprehensive Relationship and Sexuality Education (CRSE), biological maturation and the child's experiences provides the basis for the child's perception of their own body and human sexuality, human development, interpersonal relationships, norms and diversity.

Children's safety education means extensive support for the development and growth of children and young people. Safety education promotes children's and young people's self-esteem and self-

confidence, emotional and interactive skills and good interpersonal relationships, and encourages them to talk about difficult issues. Safety education teaches children and young people skills that may help them avoid bullying, subordination, violence, incitement, harassment and sexual abuse or, in case they end up in such situations, help them to protect themselves and defend their limits.

Safety education strengthens children's own resources, ways of coping, and abilities to defend themselves and their limits. Safety education encourages children to tell adults about their worries, which in turn makes adults more sensitive to children's concerns and malaise.

The objective of sex and relationship education is to help and support young people through their physical, emotional and moral development. A successful programme, firmly embedded in PSHE, will help young people learn to respect themselves and others and move with confidence from childhood through adolescence into adulthood.

Children learn about sexuality from their parents, siblings, relatives, peers and professionals in day care and preschools as well as from the media. The use of various online services is increasing among young children, and the amount of public sexual information reaching children is growing. This creates the demand for age-appropriate CRSE that responds to the need of information in different developmental stages. Unfortunately day care programmes often lack a perspective to CRSE. The subject is dealt with in basic education without mentioning the word sexuality.

In 2010 the World Health Organization (WHO) and the German Federal Centre for Health Education (BzGa) in collaboration with a European expert group published *the Standards for Sexuality Education in Europe*. The aim was to encourage European countries to introduce CRSE or to broaden already existing programmes to a more holistic direction. This framework involves 'learning about the cognitive, emotional, social, interactive and physical aspects of sexuality'. In addition, *the Standards* identify eight topics of CRSE in all age groups.

WHY DOES CRSE OF SMALL CHILDREN SOMETIMES RAISE OBJECTIONS AMONG ADULTS?

Fears and misconceptions cause resistance to children's age-appropriate CRSE. Adults themselves have rarely received any high-quality, developmentally adequate CRSE in their childhood, but many have negative experiences of badly provided information. This raises understandable fears, concerns and a desire to protect their own children. In addition, poor-quality information available on the Internet and contents that downright jeopardize children's development emphasize the need to provide children and their parents or guardians with CRSE that is of high quality in view of the child's development and that takes into account the child's interests.

The real nature of early sexual development and childhood sexuality may not be known. Instead, sexuality is understood through adultism: as something that starts only in adolescence (or in adulthood) or narrowly relates to intercourse and reproduction.

One misconception is that children should be given an answer only if they ask a question and only to the question they ask. This does not take into account the fact that children socialize early and learn taboos and norms, which means that they are not likely to ask anything. Especially if a topic causes discomfort among adults, sensitive, shy or frightened children keep silent. Nor are children always capable of asking about their rights or ethical issues. For this reason, they must be encouraged to ask, wonder and also question.

One often-heard misconception is that giving information would directly inspire children to test/seek adult sexual experiences. The fact that sexual development focuses on children's interest in an age-appropriate manner is ignored. The same misconception has earlier hindered adolescents' CRSE, but studies show that CRSE promotes adolescents' sexual health.

Yet another misconception is that information destroys children's innocence. The fact that unsecure sources of information, such as peers, siblings, media, untrained professionals or random adults, may continuously provide information and experiences to children is ignored.

One belief is that sexuality is a private issue and cannot be handled outside the family. However, CRSE is not always easy to parents, and therefore parents also need advice and support related to it. In any case, CRSE is every child's right. The more trusted adults children have to discuss these issues with, the safer it is for the children.

One fear is that providing CRSE to children predisposes children to sexual abuse. In fact, without age-appropriate safety skills, children are more vulnerable to abuse – without words to tell what has happened or skills to say no. It must also be taken into account that children are most often mistreated in their own family by their closest adults.

Because of the misunderstandings and fears, parents and professionals have difficulties in communicating with each other about the promoting of children's sexual health. Discussion is rare and mainly connected with sexual abuse instead of children's needs and empowering children. Thus national programmes and agreements are needed.

Children express their sexuality and curiosity in several manners at home, in day care and at school, yet adults may override their right and need for CRSE. For example, 0–6-year-old children ask questions or express their sexuality through their behaviour on a daily basis. Early childhood education and care professionals are left without training and instructions on how to respond to children and must guess what constitutes normal, deviant or alarming behaviour. It has to be ensured that children are not afraid of turning to an adult in any questions and problems, and that all questions that children have are answered.

Professionals' competences and willingness to implement CRSE vary, and children do not receive equitable, reliable, development and age-appropriate responses and information to ensure their well-being and development. For example, symptoms of health-related problems or abuse may be ignored or judged.

SIGNIFICANCE OF AGE AND LEVEL OF DEVELOPMENT.

Basic questions per age group.

The understanding of age-specific sexuality and sexual health has received only little attention. National instructions are missing and even definitions of 'child sexuality', 'normal sexual development' and 'acceptable childhood sexual behaviour' vary.

What is essential in the sexual education of small children?

Small children get to know their own body and the differences between different bodies and learn the names of different parts of the body and the norms related to privacy and nudity. They learn to take care of their personal hygiene. Children also learn how to show and control their emotions, and they learn about the related norms and habits as well as the basics in socio-emotional and safety skills. Children's sexuality is based on curiosity and learning, and it is exploratory and playful. Small children's positive self-image and body confidence must be protected against violations. They must be taught basic safety skills and told about their rights, even if they did not ask about them. All parts of the body have names, and the attitude towards all parts is approving. Respect for individual bodies is supported. Adults have a positive attitude towards children's questions about the body and sexuality. Children are helped to put into words and approve their emotions and bodily experiences. Children are allowed to play, explore and express themselves without any gender stereotypes restricting them. Privacy is taught from the perspective of good manners and everyone's rights. Children are informed of their right to be safe and to say 'no'. Children are taught safety skills from the perspective of age-appropriate CRSE. Alarming sexual behaviour leads to providing help to the child.

What is essential in the sexual education of pre-teens?

The confusion, sensitivity, rapidly changing body and volatility of self-confidence and emotions among pre-teens pose big challenges. They need information on the individuality, diversity/variety and development phases of puberty and support for their changing body, mind and identity. At the same time, they look increasingly for experiences and want to take risks, but they have a poor sense of responsibility and a poor ability to perceive entities or assess risks. Pre-teens need a lot of support related to safety skills and risk management. Their sexual impulses get stronger, and they need information on sexuality, masturbation, emotional control and dating.

What is essential in the sexual education of teenagers?

An increasing number of young people start dating in this phase, and experiences of shared sexuality become topical for them. A young person needs extensive information in good time in advance on all areas related to CRSE. It has to be planned and agreed on how to answer questions about pregnancy, how it starts, and giving birth. In addition, we need youth-friendly, confidential sexual health services that are easily accessible to young people, as well as contraception that is free of charge. *The mandatory 'health education' including a curriculum of CRSE has decreased teenage abortions.*

APPEAL – WHAT DO WE WANT TO HAPPEN NEXT?

The aim is to support all children's sexual health equally already in early childhood education. This will strengthen children's *rights, safety skills, knowledge, positive self-image and body confidence both* in early childhood education and at home. Professionals need clear instructions and information on how to appropriately support children's body sense education and their parents. There must be national regulations and programmes for CRSE. Schools must have systematic CRSE plans and CRSE contents that are based on the needs of children and adolescents. Teachers need high-level training and competences. Sexual health services for both children and adolescents are close to them and available to help them.

We are missing data on the quality and level of children's CRSE in Europe and how well the European countries have introduced and adopted the Standards. With data on the current situation, it would be possible to make necessary advocacy plans and boost communication strategies. More data is needed.



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Raisa Cacciatore

Raisa Cacciatore (b. 1956) is a physician and child psychiatrist who, in her well-received books, has encouraged people to approach the issues of puberty, growing independent, and sexuality with an open mind. Her books provide young people with information on things that they can find difficult to share with adults while providing the parents with perspectives that support the growth of their children.

In her straightforward, warm and humorous style, Cacciatore speaks to boys and girls about changes in their body during puberty and emphasises the meaning of love as the basis of relationships. Parents are encouraged to find a common natural language with their children to discuss various development stages. Instead of role models advocated by the media and porn industry, a children grow up on terms of their own body and learn to respect their and others' bodily integrity.

Cacciatore has participated in the creation of a multi-volume "babies' library" that has been distributed to all new parents for several years. The colourful books, which support the development of the newborn, comprise nursery rhymes, songs and physical exercises. These contribute simultaneously to the development of the baby's senses and interaction skills.

Raisa Cacciatore is a member of the World Health Organization (WHO) European expert group in sexuality education, in collaboration with the German Federal Centre for Health Education (BZgA).

SELECTION OF WORKS

An Adult Woman and Sex

(Aikuisen naisen seksi, WSOY 2011 – with Erja Korteniemi-Poikela)

Step by Step. The Development of Sexuality. A Guide for Parents

(Portaita pitkin. Lapsen ja nuoren seksuaalisuuden kehittyminen. Opas vanhemmille, WSOY 2010 – with Erja Korteniemi-Poikela)

How to Support the Child's Self-esteem. A Guide for Parents

(Miten tuen lapsen ja nuoren itsetuntoa. Opas vanhemmille, WSOY 2009 – with Erja Korteniemi-Poikela and Maarit Huovinen)

Hey Babe, I'm So Hot! The Youth's Own Book about Sex

(Hei beibi, mä oon tulta! Nuoren oma seksikirja, WSOY 2008 – with Pia Brandt and Erja Korteniemi-Poikela)

Sitting in a Tree, K-I-S-S-I-N-G. The Challenges in Growing up. A Guide for Parents

(Huomenna pannaan pussauskoppiin. Eväitä tyttöinä ja poikana kasvamisen haasteisiin syntymästä murrosikään. Opas vanhemmille, WSOY 2007)



SAFETY SKILLS AND YOUR BODY

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND ATTITUDE



NAMES OF BODY PARTS

WHAT A CHILD SHOULD KNOW

Tell the child about all parts of the human body.

Teach the child the names of various body parts.

Help the child get familiar with the human body by various means: by looking at pictures, by drawing, by playing.

WHAT A CHILD SHOULD BE ABLE TO DO

The child knows that it is all right to talk about all body parts, with grown-ups and with other children.

The child is able to talk about his or her own body.

The child can use appropriate and acceptable words about body parts.

HOW A CHILD SHOULD FEEL ABOUT THE HUMAN BODY

All parts of the human body are equally good.

It is important that you appreciate your body and take care of your body.

All kinds of bodies are equally good.

It is a good thing that there are different kinds of bodies.



THE SWIMSUIT RULE

WHAT A CHILD SHOULD KNOW

Tell the child that the body parts under the swimsuit are private things.

Only the child may decide about them.

Nobody may touch the body parts under the swimsuit or look at them or talk about them if the child does not want to.

Help the child get familiar with the Swimsuit Rule by various means: by looking at pictures, by drawing, by playing.

WHAT A CHILD SHOULD BE ABLE TO DO

The child knows which body parts are private and that they should not be shown to anyone if the child does not want to.

The child knows that looking and exploring things under a friend's swimsuit is all right only if both of you feel it's all right and comfortable.

The child knows the Swimsuit Rule and can say no if someone tries to break the rule.

HOW A CHILD SHOULD FEEL ABOUT THE HUMAN BODY

There are different body parts. Some of them are special, private, and valuable.

You may and you should protect them.

You don't let everyone see them, even if they are good and valuable.



THE TOUCH RULE

WHAT A CHILD SHOULD KNOW

Tell the child about various ways you can touch others.

You may only touch if your friend feels that it is nice and that it is all right.

Touching should not make you feel bad about your body or make you uncomfortable.

You know best yourself how you feel about being touched and if you want it. And so does everyone else.

A good touch is not a secret.

Good touching makes you feel comfortable and gives you a nice feeling.

WHAT A CHILD SHOULD BE ABLE TO DO

The child learns that before touching someone else it is best to ask if it is all right, for example before kissing or before touching private body parts.

The child knows that there are different kinds of touching and that a touch can give different feelings.

The child can recognize his or her own feelings.

The child is able to say no to unwanted touching.

The child accepts that another child says no to touching.

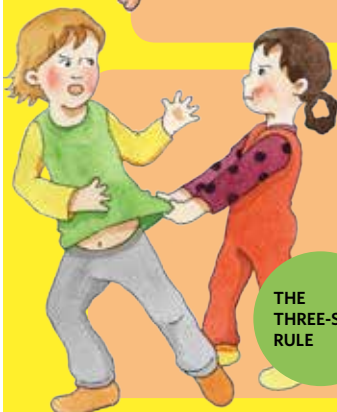
HOW A CHILD SHOULD FEEL ABOUT THE HUMAN BODY

The child can decide who may touch the child's body.

You must always respect the body of another person.

Everyone has the right to decide about one's own body, and this right must always be respected.

Nobody may use foul words about another person's body, as that may hurt and give bad feelings.



THE THREE-STEP RULE

WHAT A CHILD SHOULD KNOW

Help the child learn the Three-Step Rule.

If you get a bad feeling in some situation or when someone touches you:

1. Say NO.
2. Get away.
3. Go to a grown-up person you know and trust, and tell about it.

WHAT A CHILD SHOULD BE ABLE TO DO

The child knows what to do if the situation is scary or gives a bad feeling.

The child is able to recognize a bad touch or uneasy closeness.

The child is able to say no.

The child knows how to ask for help.

HOW A CHILD SHOULD FEEL ABOUT THE HUMAN BODY

The child has the right to self-defence.

Grown-ups help the child to follow the Three-Step Rule.

The child can and may ask grown-ups for help.

It is a good idea to tell a safe grown-up if a touch gave you a bad feeling.

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Väestöliitto

PLAIN ENGLISH

Emma & Elias
PIDETÄÄN HUOLTA LAPSISTA

Practical information

CONFERENCE AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY VENUE

The Conference will be held in the Finlandia Hall (Finlandia-talo) Congress Centre in the centre of Helsinki. The Hall was designed by Alvar Aalto and was built in 1971. The Finlandia Hall was the only part of Alvar Aalto's new Helsinki city centre plan that he had envisioned.

You can find more information about the Finlandia Hall in www.finlandiatalo.fi and about its architecture in www.finlandiatalo.fi/en/architecture.

The Conference venue is located just 300 meters away from the Helsinki central railway station.

The address is Mannerheimintie 13e, Helsinki.

HOW TO GET TO THE CONFERENCE VENUE?

Finlandia Hall is located in the city centre, 20 kilometres from Helsinki-Vantaa Airport. A taxi will cost about 50 euros.

The Helsinki region public transportation train (lines P and I) from the airport to the city center (railway station) takes about 30 minutes and costs about 5.50 euros one way (buy seutulippu, regional ticket). You must buy the ticket before you step into a train.

There is also Helsinki region public transportation bus number 615 takes about 30 minutes and costs about 5,50 euros one way.

You can find Helsinki region public transportation information in www.reittiopas.fi – also in English. In this web page you can also put the place you are coming from and going to and it will give you the best route from one place to another in Helsinki region.

There is also Finnair bus. You can check the schedule and route and buy tickets in www.pohjolanliikenne.fi/cs/pl/en/fcb_timetable

THE EVENING RECEPTION ON TUESDAY 19TH

A group dinner for all Conference participants will take place on Tuesday (19.9.2017) evening in the House of the Estates (Säätytalo). The House of the Estates was built in 1891 to host the meeting of the Estates that formed the Finnish parliament in the end of the 1800s. Now this dignified Neo-Renaissance building serves as a venue for meetings and official functions held by the central government.

You can find more information about the dinner venue in vnk.fi/ministerio/saatytaalo.

The Dinner venue is located in central Helsinki, about 1 km away from the railway station. It is near the old center in Helsinki. You can walk or take a tram number 4 to the direction of Katajanokka. Take off on stop "Ritarihuone".

CONTACT DETAILS

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