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Upcoming Events:

28-29 March 2019:
Council of Europe training seminar "*Monitoring places where children are deprived of their liberty as a result of immigration procedures*"
Paris, France.

2-3 April 2019:
12th European Forum on the rights of the child
Brussels, Belgium.

3 April 2019:
ENOC Bureau meeting
Brussels, Belgium.

9-10 May 2019:
ENOC Spring Seminar
Manchester, UK.



ENOC is co-funded by the European Union's Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme (REC 2014-2020). 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.

Newsletter

❖ ENOC News & Announcements



ENOC Bureau Meeting in Strasbourg

The first ENOC Bureau meeting for 2019 took place on January 15, at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg where the ENOC Secretariat is based. The Bureau discussed in detail the work plan for 2019, planned projects, events, funding and operations of the ENOC working groups along with other matters.

On the same occasion, the ENOC Bureau met with **Ms. Dunja Mijatović**, [Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights](#), to explore further areas of mutual cooperation and support.

The ENOC Bureau also met with **Ms. Regina Jendstittir**, Head of Council of Europe Children's Rights Division. She updated the Bureau about recent work and achievements of the Council of Europe Children's Rights Division. Among those, she spoke about the 'IT package' and the recently adopted recommendation on [Guidelines to respect, protect and fulfil the rights of the child in the digital environment](#), the revised [Internet Literacy Handbook](#), and the newly adopted [Handbook on how to convey child-friendly information to children in migration](#).

The next Bureau meeting will take place on April 3, 2019 in Brussels where the Bureau is also planning to attend the 12th European Forum on the rights of the child.

ENOC Chair at the 20th anniversary of the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights #RightsForward

At the invitation of Commissioner Mijatović, the ENOC Chair, Ms. Geneviève Avenard participated at a special event celebrating [the 20th anniversary of the institution of the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights](#). The current Commissioner Dunja Mijatović, together with the previous Commissioners Álvaro Gil-Robles, Thomas Hammarberg and Nils Muižnieks held a panel discussion on January 22, 2019 to reflect on the evolution of human rights since the office was created. They discussed current challenges and the next steps that need to be taken in order to defend and solidify the protection of human rights across Europe.

New ENOC Assistant Coordinator

The ENOC Secretariat is welcoming a new staff member, Ms. Coralie Da Silva. As Assistant Coordinator, Coralie will help improving the Network's communication and dissemination tools and assist in the daily administrative, coordination, policy and advocacy activities.

ENOC 2019 work plan: progress

Three ENOC working groups (WG) have been set up. The ENOC WG on **children's rights in the digital environment**, led by the office of the Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People (NICCY), has already launched activities by disseminating a specially designed questionnaire aiming to collect relevant data from across the membership. The collected data will be analysed and serve as a basis of the future ENOC statement on the same subject. The WG will [...]

[...] be supported in the drafting of the statement by **Ms. Elisabeth Milovidov**, external independent expert advisor. A working seminar to mark progress on the issue will be organized on 9 May 2019 in the Media City UK in Manchester, hosted by the BBC. On the same occasion, ENOC will hold a capacity building session on child protection policies to take place on Day 2 –May 10th, 2019 – of the same event.

The WG on **ending detention of migrant children** held a meeting last January in Brussels and is currently working on a draft statement on the same issue.

The **ENYA** child participative project is going through the first phase of its implementation where a number of different activities and events are currently taking place in the 18 participating ENOC member institutions. The ENYA Forum is scheduled to take place on 25-26 June 2019 in Brussels, Belgium.

❖ Update on European and International activities in the CR field

Statement of Anna Maria Corazza Bildt in the framework of the Brussels III Conference on the future of Syria

The EU and the UN co-chaired the third conference on “*Supporting the future of Syria and the region*” in Brussels on 12-14 March 2019. The conference sought to further mobilise the international community behind efforts to support the Syrian people and achieve a lasting political solution to the Syria crisis. Anna Maria Corazza Bildt, the newly-appointed European Parliament Coordinator for Children’s rights, highlighted that children are paying the highest toll of this protracted crisis. She urged all donors to prioritise children, to continue humanitarian aid and long term development, and to strengthen cooperation with host countries to increase their capabilities to combat all forms of violence against children.

First meeting of the Project Steering Group of the Council of Europe Project “End Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse @ Europe”

The first meeting of the Project Steering Group of the Council of Europe Project End Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse @ Europe took place on March 4, 2019 in Strasbourg. This project aims to support member States to prevent and combat online child sexual exploitation and abuse. The Steering Group is composed of representatives of ten countries: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, Turkey, Ukraine and representatives of the Council of Europe and project partners. Project activities include, among others, a baseline mapping of Council of Europe member States, development of a gap analysis methodology to assess legislative and policy frameworks, training strategies for law enforcement, judges and prosecutors, etc.

Next events of the project:

8-9 April 2019: capacity building conference for civil society representatives on Lanzarote Convention awareness raising and OCSEA, Strasbourg, France. By invitation only.

16-17 May 2019: regional conference on preventing and combatting OCSEA, Strasbourg, France.

UN Human Rights Council 40th session (25 February – 22 March 2019)

On March 4, 2019, a full-day meeting on the rights of the child was devoted to “empowering children with disabilities for the enjoyment of their [...] human rights, including through inclusive education”. It addressed approaches and actions needed to overcome challenges children with disabilities face in claiming their rights, as well as States’ legal obligation to respect and protect the human rights of children with disabilities.

Publications:

Council of Europe: a Handbook on “How to convey child-friendly information to children in migration: a handbook for frontline professionals”

The Council of Europe published in December 18, 2018 the Handbook “How to convey child-friendly information to children in migration: a handbook for frontline professionals”. This practical handbook contains food for thought from children to improve communication and examples of promising practice to develop child-friendly information adapted to the child’s age and maturity, language, gender and culture.

IDEA: New tools developed

The EU-funded project IDEA (Improving Decisions Through Empowerment and Advocacy) has produced some new tools:

- Checklist: Planning Ahead for Potential international Litigation.

This checklist is designed to help those who want to pursue a remedy under the European Convention on Human Rights.

- Child Participation Advocacy Tool.

This tool is a quick reference guide for practitioners working in child protection in Ireland seeking to use international law in advocating for children’s rights in domestic courts.

- Contact with children in care.

This document provides summaries of judgments delivered by the European Court of Human Rights concerning the right to contact with children in care. It aims to assist child protection practitioners to utilise this case law in advocating for this right in domestic courts.

On March 5, 2019, the NGO Panel for [the United Nations Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty](#) delivered a [statement](#) during the Interactive Dialogue with the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict. The NGO Panel welcomed the increased focus on the deprivation of liberty of children, but called on States to continue to contribute to and support the development of the Global Study, and to implement its recommendations. The study will be delivered to the UN General Assembly in October 2019.

❖ Update on ENOC member institutions' activities

Scotland: #ENYA2018 [recommendations](#) echoed by Scotland's Public Audit and Post-legislative Scrutiny Committee's report on children and young people's mental health

On March 14, 2019, Scotland's Public Audit and Post-legislative Scrutiny Committee released their [Report on children and young people's mental health](#). Following the European Network of Young Advisers' (ENYA) recommendations about how countries across Europe could get better at realising children and young people's right to the best mental health possible, their suggestions echo what young people have said. A key conclusion of the Committee is that more research is needed around children and young people's mental health in general, and that children and young people should get the help and support they need as quickly as possible.

Greece: "Relocation revisited, The Greek Case" report

The Greek Ombudsman published a report on the EU Relocation Programme for asylum seekers, on the occasion of the Regional Board of the International Ombudsman Institute meeting in Athens on February 20, 2019. The report, focusing on data available on the relocation program concerning Greece, aims to serve as a background paper for those who will undertake to draft the relevant policies and to give a perspective of those working in the field of refugee protection. Read the full report [here](#).

Italy: Charter of children's rights within their parents' separation

The Italian Independent Authority for Children and Adolescents released the Charter of children's rights within their parents' separation, after hearing legal, social, psychological and pedagogical professionals, as well as the children of the "Consulta dei ragazzi", the young advisors of the Authority. This Decalogue containing ten rights of children and young people facing their parents' separation and inspired by the rights and principles of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, promotes the centrality of children even when a crisis of the couple occurs. Read the full charter [here](#).

Nordic Ombudspersons for Children: Joint statement on respect of the legal rights of children in conflict with the law

On November 11, 2018, the Nordic Ombudspersons for Children (Iceland, Sweden, Norway, Greenland, Finland and the Danish National Council for Children) released a joint statement. The statement expresses a general concern of the Nordic Ombudspersons about the legal rights of children alleged of having infringed penal law; and a specific objection of the Danish National Council for Children against the amendments of the Danish Penal Code and the Social Services Act, which implement a Juvenile Delinquency Board that will handle cases concerning children in conflict with the law from the age of 10. Together they urged their respective governments to ensure that the legal rights of children alleged of having infringed penal law are respected and to ensure that the repercussions for minors who have committed a crime are always based on what is best for the child. The full joint statement is available upon request.

Publications:

FRA: New set of findings

The EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) released [a new set of findings](#) on differences in legal minimum ages covering social rights, education, employment and finance, alternative care, LGBTI and mobility.

New UNICEF Report

UNICEF published a report called "Towards a Child Rights-based Assessment Tool to Evaluate National Responses to Migrant and Refugee Children". This paper examines a range of tools, guidelines, and formats available to monitor and evaluate various aspects of national responses to migrant children and argues for the need to integrate them into a single coherent, child focused, rights-based framework. Read the report [here](#).

Global Report 2018: Progress towards ending corporal punishment of children

The Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children published its [Global Report 2018](#) in January 2019. This latest report takes stock of the shifting global context and increasing movement to end corporal punishment. It highlights the major achievements of 2018 and the areas in need of more urgent attention in 2019.

European Network of Ombudspersons for Children

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