

ENOC 29th Annual Conference 2025
Bucharest, Romania

Protecting and Promoting Children's Right to Physical Health

ENOC 29th Annual Conference: 17– 18 September 2025

ENOC 29th Annual General Assembly: 19 September 2025

Conference Venue: [Hotel Capitol](#), Bucharest



Co-funded by
the European Union

„ Not only is children’s right to health important in and of itself, but also the realization of the right to health is indispensable for the enjoyment of all the other rights in the Convention.”

(Committee on the Rights of the Child, General comment no. 15 (2013) on the right of the child to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health (art. 24))

The right to physical health is a key principle of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. It goes beyond ensuring timely and suitable preventive, curative, rehabilitative, and palliative healthcare services, but includes the fundamental right of every child to grow, develop to their full potential, and live in conditions that promote their well-being. Achieving the highest possible standard of health requires implementing programs that address the root causes and social determinants influencing children's health.

Despite a strong international and European framework, there is a need for greater political commitment, adequate resource allocation, and a more comprehensive approach to health, as significant disparities persist both between and within countries.

This year's ENOC Annual Conference will address different aspects of children’s right to physical health across Europe, with a focus on the level of implementation at the local and regional level. Key findings from ENOC’s 2025 research will be presented, mapping national frameworks in force and good practices applied in ENOC countries, identifying persistent gaps, especially for vulnerable children, and addressing inequalities and discrimination in access to healthcare.

Furthermore, the role and level of investment from both public and private sectors in prevention and early intervention programmes (e.g. childhood obesity, substance use, STIs), and access to specialised healthcare tailored to children’s specific needs will also be examined.

The Conference will mark the conclusion of ENOC’s annual work on the topic. It will bring together a wide range of stakeholders, including young participants from the European Network of Young Advisors (ENYA). Children’s Ombudspersons and Commissioners from Europe and beyond, along with representatives of major European and international organisations, governmental authorities, professionals and other key stakeholders, are expected to take an active role in the event and share their expertise on the Conference theme.

Day 1

17th September 2025

08.30-09.00

Registration

09.00-09.30

Welcoming & Opening Session

Moderator:

Vasile COROI, ENOC Chair-elect, Children's Ombudsperson, Moldova

Speakers:

- Renate WEBER, People's Advocate (Ombudsman), Romania
 - Elina PEKKARINEN, ENOC Chair, Ombudsman for Children, Finland
 - Ewa KOPACZ, European Parliament Vice-President and EP Coordinator on Children's Rights (by video message)
 - Regina DE DOMINICIS, UNICEF Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia (by video message)
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09.30-10.30

Session 1: The realisation of children's right to physical health at the regional and global level

Moderator:

Caroline VRIJENS, ENOC Past-Chair, Children's Rights Commissioner, Belgium/Flanders

Speakers:

- Mariana IANACHEVICI, member of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child
- Dr Hans Henri P. KLUGE, Regional Director for Europe, World Health Organisation (by video message)
- Tanja GERWIEN, Co-Secretary of the Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child, Council of Europe
- Prof. Ann DE GUCHTENAERE, Secretary General, European Academy of Paediatrics, Paediatric Section of U.E.M.S.
- Bogdan SIMION, President of the Federation of Non-Governmental Organizations for Children (FONPC), member of Eurochild

- Questions and discussion on session 1
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10.30-11.00

Coffee break

11.00-12.00

Session 2: The realisation of children's right to physical health at the national and local level

Moderator:

Vasile COROI, ENOC Chair-elect, Children's Ombudsperson, Moldova

Speakers:

- Ala NEMERENCO, Minister of Health (or representative), Moldova
 - Vadim AFTENE, Head of the General Policy Directorate for Integrated Medical Services, Ministry of Health, Moldova
 - Helena-Omna RAICU, President of National Authority for the Protection of Child Rights and Adoption, Romania
 - Gabriela ALEXANDRESCU, Executive President, Save the Children Romania
 - Galina LESCO, Head of YK Neovita, Moldova
 - Questions and discussion on session 2
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12.00-13.20

Lunch & group photo

13.20-14.40

ENYA 2025

Speakers:

- ENYA delegates
 - Danijela ŽAGAR, Advisor to the Ombudsman for Children in Croatia and ENYA 2025 General Coordinator
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14.40-15.40

Updates from ENOC members (part I)

Moderator:

Elina PEKKARINEN, ENOC Chair, Ombudsman for Children, Finland

15.40-16.00

Coffee Break

16.00-16.30

Updates from ENOC members (part II)

Moderator:

Elina PEKKARINEN, ENOC Chair, Ombudsman for Children, Finland

16.30

Closing of the day

- Vasile COROI, ENOC Chair-elect, Children's Ombudsperson, Moldova
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19.00

**Dinner (Hotel Capitol, Calea Victoriei 29, 010061
Bucharest)**

Day 2

18th September 2025

09.00-09.30

Welcoming & Opening Session

09.30-09.35

Opening of Day 2

Vasile COROI, ENOC Chair-elect, Children's Ombudsperson, Republic of Moldova

09.35-10.20

Session 3: Results and conclusions of the ENOC survey on the Protection and Promotion of Children's Right to Physical Health

Speaker:

- Vasile COROI, ENOC Chair-elect, Children's Ombudsperson, Republic of Moldova
 - Questions and discussion on session 3
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10.20-10.50

Coffee Break

10.50-12.00

ENYA 2025 Recommendations on the Protection and Promotion of Children's Right to Physical Health

Speakers:

- ENYA delegates
 - Danijela ŽAGAR, Advisor to the Ombudsman for Children, Croatia and ENYA 2025 General Coordinator
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12.00-13.00

Lunch

13.00-14.00

Monitoring the implementation of children's right to physical health by Independent Children's Rights Institutions (ICRIs) - panel

Moderator:

Niall MULDOON, Ombudsman for Children, Ireland

Speakers:

- Alina PANGRATE, Counsellor coordinator, Territorial Office Constanța of People's Advocate, Romania
 - Chris QUINN, Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People
 - Mina GERHARDSEN, Ombudsperson for Children, Norway
 - Oksana CHERVIAKOVA, Deputy of the Commissioner for the Rights of the Child, Ukraine
 - Questions and discussion on the panel
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14.00-16.00

Field visits

16.00-16.20

Coffee break & evaluation form

16.20-16.30

Conference closure

- Elina PEKKARINEN, ENOC Chair, Ombudsman for Children, Finland
 - Vasile COROI, ENOC Chair-elect, Children's Ombudsperson, Moldova
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16.30-17.45

General Assembly pre-session (only for ENOC members)

Discussion on ENOC's position statement

Day 3

ENOC General Assembly

19th September 2025

09.45-10.00 **Registration**

10.00-11.30 **ENOC Annual General Assembly**

- Presentation of ENOC annual activities
 - Presentation and approval of ENOC annual accounts
 - Discussion and vote on a request for membership upgrade
 - Election of the new Bureau 2025-2026
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11.30-11.45 **Coffee & Refreshment**

11.45-13.00 **ENOC Annual General Assembly**

- Endorsement of ENOC position statement on the Protection and Promotion of Children's Right to Physical Health
 - Open calls: ENYA 2026 coordination office, WG Membership applications, Child Protection Team, ENOC Spring Seminar host institution
 - Brainstorming on ENOC 2027 annual focus
 - Any other issue raised by members
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13.00-14.00 **Lunch**

End