

MARCH
2025



01 EDITION
2025

ENOC NEWS

ENOC 2025 Training Session on Child Participation

On 4 March 2025, ENOC held online its annual training session on child participation and child protection in participatory processes.

This year's edition delivered a theoretical and a practical part, and addressed past and potential challenges in engaging with children in a safe and inclusive environment. Participants also discussed different aspects of children's right to physical health, ENOC's 2025 thematic focus, on which children will express views and contribute to ENOC's policy work in this area.

More than 30 participants participated in the training, among which 15 ENYA country Coordinators representing the following member institutions part of this year's project:

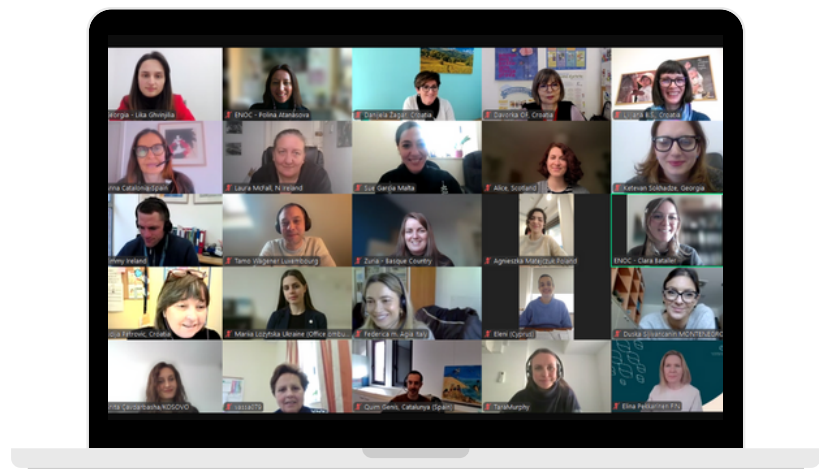
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|----------------------|---|------------|---|---------------------|
| Andalusia/Spain | • | Iceland | • | Northern Ireland/UK |
| Basque Country/Spain | • | Italy | • | Poland |
| Catalonia/Spain | • | Luxembourg | • | Scotland/UK |
| Croatia | • | Malta | • | Slovakia |
| Cyprus | • | Montenegro | • | Ukraine |

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Next ENYA event: the [ENYA](#) Forum in Croatia on 1st and 2nd of July 2025 !

ENOC - First Bureau meeting of 2025

The ENOC Bureau held its first meeting of the year on 30th January 2025. The Bureau members and the ENOC Secretariat met online to discuss key priorities for the year ahead, including :

- The ENOC 2025 work plan around the main focus area addressing children's right to physical health
- The appointment of an independent expert advisor on the annual topic
- Planned events and the implementation of the ENYA project
- Governance

The Bureau will undertake a number of stakeholders meetings on 18 March 2025 in Brussels and hold a Bureau meeting on 19 March 2025.

EU & INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES IN THE CHILDREN'S RIGHTS FIELD

CoE - New Online Training course on Protecting Children from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse

The Council of Europe has launched a new [online training course to strengthen the protection of children against sexual exploitation and abuse](#). Developed under the CoE Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2022-2027), this course is aligned with the Lanzarote Convention, a key international instrument for preventing abuse, supporting victims, and ensuring justice. It highlights promising practices from states working to implement these standards effectively.

The training is part of the HELP Programme on human rights education and complements other courses on child-friendly justice, family law, and the rights of refugee and migrant children.

Find out more and enroll [HERE](#) (available in English and French).



European Commission - 5th report on combatting Trafficking in Human Beings

Released in January 2025, the European Commission's fifth report on combatting human trafficking highlights a 20.5% increase in registered victims between 2021 and 2022, with children making up 19% of all victims. While child trafficking cases have slightly declined by 3%, it remains a serious concern, particularly in the context of sexual and labour exploitation.



SAVE THE DATES !



Brussels

Stakeholders meetings

18 March 2025

ENOC Bureau meeting

19 March 2025



Strasbourg

Mid-Term Review

**Conference of the Strategy
for the Rights of the Child**

(2022-2027)

3-4 April 2025



Word Health Day

7 April 2025



Luxembourg

ENOC Spring Seminar

26-27 May 2025



Croatia

ENYA Forum

1-2 July 2025



CoE - New appointments :

- Head of the Children's Rights Division and CoE Coordinator for the Rights of the Child

Agnes von Maravić is the new [Head of the Children's Rights Division](#) and Council of Europe Coordinator for the Rights of the Child, thus succeeding to Regina Jensdottir.

- Special Envoy on the Situation of Children of Ukraine

Thórdís Kolbrún Reykþjardóttir has been appointed as Special Envoy of the Secretary General on the situation of children of Ukraine.

Find out more about it [HERE](#).



CoE - Call for Event Management Services in Belgium, Poland & Slovenia

The Council of Europe, in partnership with the EU, is seeking event management services in three member countries: Belgium, Poland, and Slovenia, as part of the [Child-friendly Justice project](#) (2024-2026).

This initiative aims to enhance the protection of children in contact with the law across Europe, – whether as offenders, victims, or witnesses – in judicial, non-judicial, and administrative proceedings across Europe.

Find out more [HERE](#).

The revised [Anti-Trafficking Directive](#), in force since July 2024, strengthens legal measures, victim support, and child protection, including online exploitation as an aggravating factor.

Click here to read the report!



European Commission- EU Youth Platform's 2025-2026 Work Plan

The EU Youth Platform has unveiled its 2025-2026 Work Plan, co-created with children to ensure their voices shape the priorities. Following extensive consultations with children and young people, the plan focuses on key areas that matter most to them and align with the European Commission's agenda, such as:

- Equal opportunities and social inclusion;
- Ensuring access to quality education, healthcare, and housing;
- Mental health and well-being (supporting children's happiness and safety, both online and offline);
- Online safety (empowering children to navigate the internet safely and understand their digital rights);
- Climate action (encouraging children's participation in environmental protection).

The platform will engage children through consultations, study and peer visits, and co-created child-friendly policies. These activities will help integrate children's perspectives into EU decision-making.

Read more [HERE!](#)



European Commission - New call for Proposals on Rights of the Child and Children's Participation

The CERV-2025-CHILD call for proposals has been published, with an unprecedented budget of 17€ million. This call focuses on three key priorities:

- 1) Advancing children's rights in the digital age by promoting digital literacy, raising awareness of children's rights online, and reducing the negative impact of digital use on children's well-being;
- 2) Fostering children's engagement and participation to complement the work of the EU Children's Participation Platform;
- 3) Embedding a child rights perspective in national and local policies to strengthen the mainstreaming of children's rights across the EU.

The call opened for submissions on 16 January 2025, with a deadline of 29 April 2025.

Find out more [HERE](#).

Missing Children Europe - LGBTQI+ project

Missing Children Europe, along with IGLYO (The International LGBTQI Youth & Student Organisation) and the University of Portsmouth (England), have launched a two-year project to study the experiences of LGBTQI+ young people who went missing as children, whether due to homelessness, running away, or being forced to leave home.


The project aims to prevent risks, support affected children, and improve professional responses by addressing discrimination and gaps in care.

It will collect data via a survey and interviews, develop a report for professionals, create an online info hub with resources, and provide training for educators, social workers, and other key stakeholders. Policy recommendations will be presented at a European Parliament symposium to drive systemic change.

For more info, click [HERE](#).



UNCRC 98th session - Concluding observations on Slovakia

 The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child issued its concluding observations on Slovakia's sixth periodic report, highlighting key concerns and recommendations.

Urgent issues include the need to prohibit corporal punishment, prevent ill-treatment of Roma children by law enforcement, and improve the protection of children deprived of a family environment.

The Committee also calls for better support for children with disabilities, inclusive education, and strengthened safeguards for asylum-seeking and migrant children. Other priorities include addressing child poverty, mental health, and the full implementation of children's rights in national policies.

The Committee's 99th session will take place in May 2025, reviewing reports from eight countries, including Norway under the Simplified Reporting Procedure (SRP).

Read the observations [HERE](#).

UPDATE ON ENOC MEMBERS' ACTIVITIES

BELGIUM (French Community) - Publication of the 2023-2024 Annual Report

In November 2024, the General Delegate for Children's Rights of Belgium/French Community presented its annual 2023-2024 report, available [HERE](#) (in French). The report covers various themes, including mental health, children with disabilities, and challenges in support services.

A [child-friendly version](#) (in French) and a [sign language version](#) are also available.



SOS Children's Villages report

On International Day of Care and Support, SOS Children's Villages has released a Global Report on Children's Care and Protection, highlighting the challenges children face when separated from their families and how to prevent it.

Based on the voices of over a thousand children, young people, and families, as well as research from eight countries, including ENOC member Denmark, the report sheds light on gaps in child protection and social support systems.

Read the report [HERE](#).



OHCHR - Albania Condemned Over Birth Registration Failures

The UN Human Rights Committee ruled that Albania violated the rights of three Roma children by failing to register their births, leaving them at risk of statelessness and unable to access education, healthcare, and social services.

The Committee found that Albania's birth registration system disproportionately affects Roma and ordered the state to register the children and reform its policies to prevent similar violations.

Find out more [HERE](#).



LUXEMBOURG - Publication of 2024 Annual Report

The Ombudsman for Children and Adolescents (OkaJu) has released its 2024 Annual Report, shedding light on the pressing challenges children's rights in Luxembourg face.

It explores key areas such as mental health, the integrated child protection system, violence and digital-related harm, as well as child poverty and social exclusion.

Find the report [HERE](#) (in French).



ENOC is co-funded by the European Union's Citizenship, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV) programme. The content of this publication 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.

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SCOTLAND / UK - Investigation launched into Police's Use of Force against Children

The Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland has launched an investigation into the use of force by Police Scotland against children. Recent data from the Scottish Police Authority reveals that children are more than twice as likely as adults to experience such measures.

The investigation aims to analyse Police Scotland's data and to publish recommendations to ensure children are treated with dignity and care.

Find out more about the investigation [HERE](#).



ICELAND - 30 Years of the Ombudsman for Children

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the Ombudsman for Children in Iceland! Established in January 1995, the institution celebrated this milestone with a special event attended by the Prime Minister of Iceland and former Ombudsman for Children.

Throughout the year, the Office will focus on the theme of child-friendly justice.

Find out more on their website [HERE](#) (in Icelandic).



ITALY - New Independent Authority for Children and Adolescents

On 14 January 2025, Marinella Giannina Terragni took office as the new Independent Authority for Children and Adolescents in Italy.

We warmly welcome Marinella and look forward to working together at ENOC!

Find out more [HERE](#) (in Italian).



ENGLAND/UK - 2023/2024 Annual Report

The Help at Hand annual report from the Children's Commissioner for England was published in December 2024.

It highlights key areas of work over the past year, including a focus on autism, ADHD, children with complex needs deprived of liberty, and the state of advocacy services for children and young people in England.

Read the full report [HERE](#).