

OCTOBER  
2022



03 EDITION  
2022

## ENOC NEWS

### IN THIS ISSUE

ENOC News P.1

EU and  
International  
Activities P.2/3

ENOC members'  
activities P.3

### ENOC 26th Annual Conference Shaping the Future: Children's Rights in a Climate Crisis

The 26th Annual Conference "[Shaping the Future: Children's Rights in a Climate Crisis](#)" took place on **19-20 September 2022** in **Reykjavik**, hosted by the [Ombudsman for Children's office](#) in Iceland. The 26th ENOC General Assembly was held directly after, on 21st September 2022.

The Conference brought together 92 participants, including 52 representatives of ENOC member institutions, 15 young people and their Coordinators involved in the European Network of Young Advisors (ENYA) project, observer organisations and representatives of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, Council of Europe, European Parliament, recognised child rights experts, and local climate young and adult activists, and artists.

In 2022, ENOC members and children involved in ENYA worked together on Children's Rights and Climate Justice.

The annual Conference being the concluding event of ENOC's annual activities, provided the unique opportunity to wrap up findings and debate on Children's access to environmental justice. Thus, Prof. Laura Lundy - our 2022 expert - presented [ENOC's report on Children's Rights and Climate Justice](#) drawing on a survey of practice across the membership while **ENYA young people** held an interactive session introducing their [recommendations](#) on Climate Justice.

ENYA representatives also participated in a session on Children as Human Rights Defenders underlining the critical role children and HRD play for the recognition of the right to a healthy environment as a human right. Local young climate activists also had the opportunity to challenge the Icelandic Minister for Food, Agriculture and Fisheries on Iceland's Climate Strategy. A science educator, young reporters for the environment and a young musician and climate activist, took active part in the event to present their creative and artistic approaches to raising awareness of the impact of environmental harm on the realisation of children's rights.

ENOC members also had the opportunity to share latest developments in the child participation and Child Rights Impact Assessment (CRIA) area in their respective countries and regions as part of their statutory obligation to provide an update of their annual activities.

As an outcome, the General Assembly endorsed the [ENOC 2022 statement](#) on *Children's Rights and Climate Justice* informed by a research of practices across the ENOC membership and the views of more than 300 young people involved in this year's edition of ENYA's "[Let's Talk Young, Let's Talk Climate Justice!](#)"

## ENOC Position Statement on the impact of high energy prices on children

On 17th October 2022 - marking the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty - ENOC released a new [ad-hoc statement](#) addressing **the impact of high energy prices on the realisation of children's rights**.

The statement draws attention to the devastating impact on children's rights of unfettered and unmitigated energy price rises and high inflation rates resulting from the unprecedented economic and financial crisis already experienced in Europe and exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and the Russian invasion of Ukraine. The statement puts forward eight concrete, actionable, rights based, recommendations calling on European and national authorities to endorse, implement and support each of them.

### ENOC's contribution to external events

#### #EU 14th Forum on Children's Rights#

The past-Chair, Theoni Koufonikolakou, participated on 27-29 September 2022 in the 14th edition of the [EU Forum on Children's Rights](#) dedicated to "*Bringing Children to the Centre: Empowering, Protecting and Including Children*". Theoni was a keynote speaker in a high level session dedicated to Integrated Child Protection Systems. She addressed challenges and incoherences in current child protection systems and called for a rights based approach where children involved in those systems are seen as rights holders and not as victims.

#### #1st Annual Seminar of the European Network of Child Friendly Justice#

ENOC's past-Chair, Theoni Koufonikolakou, took part on 14 October 2022 in Brussels in the first Seminar of the CFJ-EN where taking a 360° view, different stakeholders exchanged views on how to best make justice more child-friendly across Europe. Theoni spoke in the final session of the event where she highlighted the role of some Ombudspersons for Children as an effective complaint mechanism for children and the importance of being provided with appropriate means to fully embrace this function.



## EU & INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES IN THE CHILDREN'S RIGHTS FIELD

### Council of Europe - New recommendation on environmental rights

In a [Recommendation](#) on human rights and the protection of the environment adopted on 27 September 2022, the CoE Committee of Ministers called on its 46 member states to actively consider recognising, at national level, **the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, as a human right**. The Committee expressed particular concerns when it comes to the disproportionate effect environmental degradation may have and called on member states to take adequate measures to protect the rights of those who are more vulnerable to, or at particular risk from, environmental harm.

**SAVE THE DATES!**

#### ▶ Strasbourg

6th CDENF (Steering Committee on the Rights of the Child) plenary meeting - 15-17 November 2022

#### ▶ Brussels

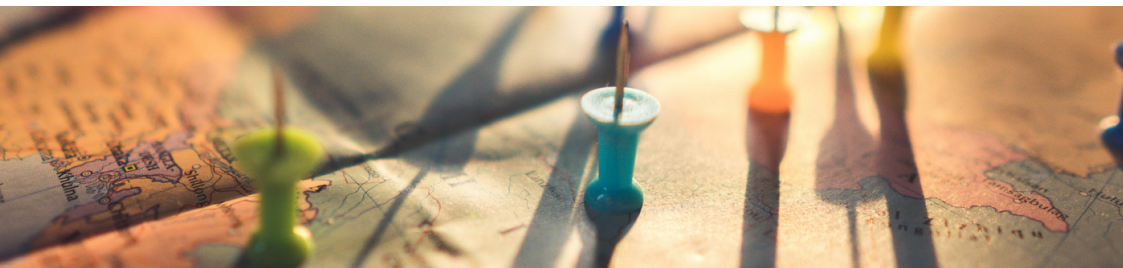
MISSING CHILDREN EUROPE - Under the Radar: Towards more integrated child protection responses from children who run away from home or care - 15 November 2022

#### ▶ Brussels

European Parliament COVID-19 COMMITTEE - hearing on the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 on children - 8 December 2022

## Council of Europe - Stakeholders consultation on a draft Guide to the participation of children in decision-making regarding their health

Council of Europe's Steering Committees for Human Rights in the fields of Biomedicine and Health (CDBIO) and the Steering Committee on the Rights of the Child (CDENF) are jointly preparing a **Guide to the participation of children in decision-making processes regarding their health**. The aim of the guide is to provide practical guidance to health and other professionals working for and with children on how to improve their practices when involving children in decision-making processes affecting their health. To that end, and while acknowledging the importance of promoting the participation of children in the development of health policies and services, it focuses on individual health-care decision making. Interested stakeholders can provide comments on the [draft Guide](#) via an [online questionnaire](#) by **Friday, 18 November 2022**.



## UPDATE ON ENOC MEMBERS' ACTIVITIES

### ITALY - new powers

The Office of the Italian Authority for Children and Adolescents has been provided, by a new Law approved in June 2022, full autonomy and independence regarding the recruitment of the office's permanent staff while up until recently staff members were mainly seconded personnel from the public administration.

*"It is a significant step in the process of strengthening the powers of our office and the system of protection of children and adolescents, which comes at a time of crisis in which it is essential to give priority to the rights of children and young people. A reform that the same Authority has long called for to start a path that leads us to become the center of governance of all the actions and initiatives to be taken on children's rights"* - **Carla Garlatti**, The Authority for Children & Adolescents, Italy.

### SCOTLAND - New Guide on how to involve children in CRIA/CRIE

The Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland launched a new resource '[Listen, engage, have fun: Guide on involving children and young people in child rights impact assessment \(CRIA\) and child rights impact evaluation \(CRIE\)](#)'. The Guide was developed together with other stakeholders and informed by the ideas and views of over 100 children aged 8-13 living in East Lothian. The purpose of the project was to develop understanding of and good practice on how children can be involved in CRIA and CRIE processes. More [info](#).

### ENOC Secretariat

Council of Europe « Agora Building »

Office n° B5 07V

67075 Strasbourg Cedex

Web: [www.enoc.eu](http://www.enoc.eu)

Tel: +33 3 90 21 54 88

e-mail: [secretariat@ombudsnet.org](mailto:secretariat@ombudsnet.org)



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.

**If you have any suggestions or if you would like to include any information or upcoming events in our newsletter, please send the details to [secretariat@ombudsnet.org](mailto:secretariat@ombudsnet.org)**

## Council of Europe - [Webinar Report](#)

"Evaluation and Determination of the best interests of the child in parental separation and care proceedings".

The [event](#) took place in June 2022, organised by the Civil Society Committee on the Rights of the Child of INGO Conference (Council of Europe) to explore perspectives and best practices on the matter across Europe. ENOC's past-C Chair, Theoni Koufonikolou, took part in the event as a speaker in the session related to children's defence in case of violations of their needs.

## NEW MEMBER



ENOC welcomed a new associate member - **the Ombudsman Institution of Kosovo\***

\*This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSC 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence