

## ENOC NEWS

### ENOC 2025 RECAP

Throughout 2025, ENOC continued to work on advancing the **protection and promotion of children's rights in Europe**, building on enhanced synergies between the members and strong cooperation with external partners operating at the European and international level.

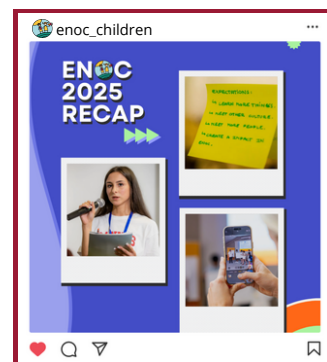
The main part of this year's activities focused on **Children's Right to Physical Health**, where ENOC developed a [Policy Position Statement](#) informed by the findings of an ENOC-wide research, and by the views and experiences of the young people involved in this year's ENYA (European Network of Young Advisors) project. These numerous outcomes were disseminated among ENOC's key partners to draw attention to children's physical health rights and to follow up on the proposed policy recommendations.

ENOC also provided an invaluable platform for members to share views and practices. ENOC held: an online Training session on Child Participation and Child Protection in Child Participation, a two-dimensional Spring Seminar, the ENYA Forum, and the 29th Annual Conference and General Assembly. The ENOC Bureau also remained fully engaged, holding 6 meetings in 2025.

Throughout the year, ENOC issued several **ad-hoc statements on pressing issues affecting children**, including children on the move at the EU borders, children impacted by the war in Ukraine, and the protection of children in Gaza.

ENOC was also **represented in major international and European events**, such as the UNICEF Conference on Independent Children's Rights Institutions, the European Parliament Hearing on Alternative Care, the 15th EU Forum on Children's Rights, the OSCE International Forum on child rights protection in Central Asia, and others.

The year was marked by **strong advocacy, meaningful participation, and close collaboration** across the network. Stay connected for our 2026 work!



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### IN THIS ISSUE:

ENOC News P. 1

EU and  
International P.3  
Activities

ENOC members' P. 4  
activities

## ENOC 29th ANNUAL CONFERENCE REPORT

The ENOC **29th Annual Conference**, held on 17-18 September 2025, in Bucharest, Romania, with over 100 participants gathered, was the concluding event on the annual policy theme addressing the protection and promotion of Children's Right to Physical Health. The Conference report **offers an overview of the event and the different sessions.**

The discussions held, and the presented research findings showed that, **although there is an important legal framework in the majority of the ENOC member countries, major inequalities persist between and within the same country.** Participants called for a stronger political commitment, better prevention, and more inclusive, child-friendly health services. The event was also the occasion to present ENOC's key research findings, based on contributions from 27 ENOC member institutions.



The **highlight of the event** was the **ENYA** session, with Young Advisors part of the 2025 project who presented and shared their views and personal experiences in areas such as access to quality healthcare, nutrition and healthy food in school, health and sexuality education, preventing and combating addictions, and period dignity.

[Read the report.](#)



### ENYA YOUTUBE CHANNEL

ENOC launched its new **YouTube channel**, now home to a **collection of videos developed in the framework of the ENYA (European Network of Young Advisors) project!**

The channel gathers all the ENYA videos produced since 2015, offering a **throwback to children and young people's reflections** on key rights issues addressed by ENOC in the last 10 years. Every year, young people from ENYA participating institutions explore a specific right or theme, and ENOC produces a video **capturing their discussions, ideas, and recommendations.** The channel now includes **more than ten years of work** covering topics such as:

- Violence against children
- Education
- Youth identity and relationships
- Mental health
- Participation in decision-making
- Covid-19
- The digital environment
- Climate justice
- Independent children's rights institutions
- Alternative care
- Children's right to physical health.

[ENOC YouTube channel.](#)



**SAVE THE DATES !**



**International Day of Education**  
24 January 2025



**Vienna**  
**FRA Consultation Meeting**  
**with Ombudspersons for**  
**Children on strengthening**  
**integrated child protection**  
**systems**  
28-29 January 2025



**Brussels**  
**European Parliament**  
**Roundtable "Joining forces:**  
**strengthening cooperation for**  
**children's rights in Europe"**  
5 February 2025



**Brussels**  
**ENOC Bureau Meeting**  
5-6 February 2025



**International Day of Women**  
**and Girls in Science**  
11 February 2025



## UNICEF & EUROPEAN COMMISSION - JOINT STATEMENT

On World Children's Day, **UNICEF** Deputy Executive Director Kitty van der Heijden and the **European Commissioner for Intergenerational Fairness, Youth, Culture and Sport** Glenn Micallef called for renewed action to end **child poverty**, urging governments and stakeholders to prioritise children in policies and budgets.

With strong tools such as the EU Child Rights Strategy, and the UNICEF-EU partnership, coordinated efforts, they focus on investing in children, supporting families, addressing root causes, and ensuring children's voices are heard.

[Read the statement.](#)



## COE - NEW RECOMMENDATIONS ON CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

The Council of Europe launched two new recommendations on **protecting children's rights in parental separation and care proceedings**, developed with direct input from children. The ENOC Secretariat attended the event in Strasbourg, ahead of World Children's Day.

[Find out more.](#)

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

## EUROPEAN COMMISSION - 7TH MEETING OF THE EU NETWORK FOR CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

The ENOC Secretariat attended the 7th meeting of the EU Network for Children's Rights, organised by the European Commission.

The meeting brought together Member States, EU institutions and stakeholders to **review progress on the EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child**, discuss upcoming Council Presidencies' priorities, and **exchange on key policy areas** including the European Child Guarantee, online safety and cyberbullying, intergenerational fairness and climate action, protection from violence, child sexual abuse, mental health, and child-friendly justice.

Participants also heard contributions from young people and explored current initiatives aimed at improving children's well-being across Europe.



## END CORPORAL PUNISHMENT - CZECH REPUBLIC & SWITZERLAND FULLY PROHIBIT CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

NGO End Corporal Punishment informed that two major milestones were recently reached, as both the Czech Republic and Switzerland **adopted legislation fully prohibiting all corporal punishment of children**.

- In the Czech Republic, an amendment to the Civil Code, entering into force on 1 January 2026, explicitly states that **corporal punishment, mental distress, and other degrading measures violate children's dignity**. The law reinforces **parents' duty to support children's development without resorting to violence**, and will be accompanied by awareness and education measures.
- In Switzerland, both parliamentary chambers approved the integration of **non-violent parenting into national law** in September 2025, entering into force in 2026. Any form of **physical or severe verbal punishment** will be recognised as violence, ending long-standing legal ambiguity and establishing non-violent parenting as the national standard.

With these reforms, 39 States in Europe and Central Asia now fully prohibit all corporal punishment of children, the highest number in any region. Violent punishment, however, remains lawful in several European

countries, including Armenia, Belgium, Italy, Serbia, and the UK.

Read more about [End Corporal Punishment](#).



## UNCRC - COP30 STATEMENT RELEASED

During the opening of COP30 in Belém (Brazil) in November 2025, the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child released a statement on **children's rights in the context of climate and environmental action**. The Committee recalled, based on [General comment No. 26 \(2023\) on children's rights and the environment with a special focus on climate change](#), that States Parties have **immediate and ongoing obligations** to prevent foreseeable **harm to children** caused by environmental degradation, including climate change.

[Read the statement.](#)

# UPDATE ON ENOC MEMBERS' ACTIVITIES

## NORTHERN IRELAND/NICCY - TWO REPORTS ON EDUCATION AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

The Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People (NICCY) has recently published **two reports on key issues for children's rights**:

- on inclusive education: ["Every Child's Right to Inclusive Education Specialist Provisions in Mainstream Schools \(SPiMs\)"](#)
- on equal protection: ["Closing the Legal Gap: Learning from Europe – Strengthening the Case for Equal Protection from Assault in Northern Ireland"](#)



## BELGIUM/FLANDERS & FRENCH COMMUNITY - JOINT RECOMMENDATIONS ON PALESTINIAN CHILDREN

The General Delegate of Children's Rights (French community) and the Children's Rights Commissioner (Flanders) of Belgium, together with the Belgian Federal Migration Centre, have issued a **joint recommendation** after **several children of Palestinian origin born in Belgium were wrongly assigned "undetermined" nationality**.

The institutions warn of risks such as **statelessness and loss of fundamental rights**, and call on authorities to ensure that decisions on nationality fully respect **children's rights and their best interests**.

Read the joint recommendation (in [French](#) and in [Flemish](#)).



## UNICEF - NEW REPORT ON PROTECTING CHILDREN IN ONLINE GAMING

A new UNICEF paper highlights how **violent and criminal groups** are increasingly **using online gaming platforms to contact and recruit young players**.

While gaming has many benefits, its social features are being misused at scale, creating **new risks for children**. The report calls for **coordinated action from the gaming industry, policymakers, and child protection actors** to ensure gaming remains safe and protective.

[Read the Working Paper.](#)



## UNICEF - CHILD NUTRITION REPORT 2025

UNICEF has published its **2025 Child Nutrition Report**, which warns that, for the first time, **obesity among school-age children has surpassed underweight worldwide**.

The report shows how unhealthy food environments, dominated by cheap, ultra-processed products and weak regulation, are driving this rise and failing to provide children with **affordable, nutritious options**.

Read the [full report](#) and the [report brief](#).



## SLOVENIA - ANNUAL REPORT 2025

The Human Rights Ombudsman of the Republic of Slovenia published its 2024 annual report, covering key developments in the protection and promotion of children's rights.

The document examines areas such as **education, healthcare, the situation of children with disabilities, and the protection of unaccompanied minors**, including those affected by human trafficking.

Read the [Annual report](#) and its [summary report](#).

## LUXEMBOURG - OKAJU ANNUAL REPORT 2024

OKAJU released its annual report, offering a representation of children's rights in Luxembourg in 2025.

The report combines a thematic analysis of major rights issues with a review of the institution's activities. It explores two core areas:

- **Justice and protection** (family law, access to justice, protection in digital spaces, child victims of violence, etc.)
- **Living environments** (precariousness, disability, migration, environmental rights, etc.)

Both highlight **progress and persisting challenges** for children and young people.

[Read the report](#) (in French).



**Welcome !**

In November 2025, **Tatjana Katkić Stanić** took office as the new Ombudsperson for Children in Croatia.

We welcome her and thank her predecessor, **Helenca Pirnat Dragičević**, for her dedicated work during her time as Ombudsperson for Children in Croatia and as a former member of the ENOC Bureau !



**Happy holidays from Polina and Clara at the ENOC Secretariat!**



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