



If you can't read this e-mail, click [here](#) - Press CTRL and '+' to increase the font - To unsubscribe, simply reply with UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject line.

Introduction

Dear colleagues and friends,

Eurochild is gearing up for its **Annual General Assembly** 25-26th June where a new 5-year strategic plan will be adopted. We look forward to welcoming many old and new members to Brussels!

Children are not yet centre stage in Europe, but in the latest round of **County Specific Recommendations** – the main tool for keeping member states on track with the Europe 2020 strategy – there is a growing recognition that Europe's future depends on children growing up happy, healthy & confident. The need to tackle child poverty, deinstitutionalize, and invest in early years services are just some of the messages targeted to member states from the European Commission. A more detailed analysis is underway – particularly in the light of our own members suggestions for CSRs that were published this month in a joint report of an ad-hoc coalition of NGOs (see below).

The highlight of last month was the **round table on family and parenting support**, organized in cooperation with UNESCO, immediately following the Demographic Forum. The event promoted a wider understanding at EU level of what family and parenting support is, what's really needed to support parenting, what are the lessons learned in this field and see possible ways to put those lessons into practice.

In a few days time, Eurochild launches its joint campaign with Hope & Homes for Children on "**Opening Doors for Europe's Children**". Our partners in 12 countries will be coordinating the campaign at national level with a view to ending institutional care and strengthening families.

Kind regards,

Jana Hainsworth
Secretary General

News from Eurochild

[Annual Conference 2013: Call for contributions to workshops, forum of good practices and exhibition](#)

[Eurochild welcomes EP support of child poverty Recommendation](#)

[Taking Play Seriously! - Round table event in the European Parliament](#)

[European expert group on transition from institutional to community-based care gets 3 new co-chairs](#)

[Eurochild at seminar on Public policies supporting positive parenthood in Europe](#)

[Report of Eurochild's Round Table Debate Grandparents as carers out](#)

[Eurochild and Civil Society Organisations call for real participation in EU 2020 decision making](#)

[Eurochild & UNESCO round table on Family and parenting support](#)

[Eurochild and members participate in the consultation for the 2013 Enlargement Package](#)

News from Eurochild's members

[Albero della Vita \(Italy\) holds round table discussion on Children Left Behind](#)

[ENGSO \(Germany\): Safer, better, stronger! Recommendations sent to European Commission](#)

[National Network for Children \(Bulgaria\) presents Report Card 2013](#)

[Alliance for Childhood \(Belgium\) launches book on 'Improving the Quality of Childhood in Europe'](#)

[Children in Northern Ireland launched Training Programme to improve childcare for children with disabilities](#)

[EveryChild Moldova's Programme Experience: Improving Children's Lives through Deinstitutionalisation](#)

News from EU Institutions

[EPIC: submission of Good Practises](#)

[CoR Survey says child poverty among is main challenge for EU local authorities](#)

[European Commission adopted proposals for Country-specific Recommendations](#)

[World No Tobacco Day](#)

[EU to address youth unemployment](#)

[EU commits to ensuring basic education for every child by 2030](#)

[European Commission awards 4.5 million grants to the missing children hotlines](#)

[European Commission holds Demography Forum](#)

News from the United Nations

[UNICEF's State of the World's Children Report 2013 focused on children with disabilities](#)

[UNICEF: 600,000 children below poverty line in greece](#)

News from other networks and organisations

[COFACE: Cyberbullying is not only about technology but about behaviour](#)

[IOM publishes report on migrant children](#)

[Poverty on the rise in richer countries](#)

[European Social Network Peer Review](#)

[OECD: Growing risk of inequality and poverty as crisis hits the poor hardest](#)

[Social Platform: Annual Report 2012](#)

News from national level

[Albania: Eleven Child Protection Units to be established in Tirana](#)

[Fostering Network \(UK\): Survey reveals extent of placement breakdown](#)

[UK: Report on recruitment of minors by the British armed force](#)

[New book: Childhoods, Real and Imagined](#)

[Latvia wants to equate smoking near children with violence](#)

Opportunities

[Children & Young People Now Awards](#)

[Summer School on International Children's Rights: Leiden and The Hague](#)

Upcoming events

[EUROCITIES launches Cities for Active Inclusion](#)

[Third International Research-to-Practice Conference](#)

[CHI's 10 Year European and EU Data Publications](#)

[Digital agenda for Europe conference](#)

[Intergenerational Learning Cities](#)

[Eurochild's Annual Conference 2013 - Building an inclusive Europe – the contribution of children's participation](#)

[To top](#)

NEWS FROM EUROCHILD

Annual Conference 2013: Call for contributions to workshops, forum of good practices and exhibition

Eurochild's 10th Annual Conference "**Building an inclusive Europe – the contribution of children's participation**" will take place from 13-15 November 2013 in Milan, Italy.

It's hosted by Eurochild member **Albero della Vita Foundation** in cooperation with the **Italian national Ombudsman for Children**, Municipality of **Milan** and and the **PIDIDA network**.

We are now **calling for contributions** to workshops, forum of good practices and conference exhibition.

Find here the [Concept Note](#), the [call for Contribution](#) and the [Application form](#).

For more information visit: www.tinyurl.com/Eurochild-AC2013

Deadline for submission: **30 June 2013**

Eurochild welcomes EP support of child poverty Recommendation

On 30 May MEPs gave their support to the European Commission [Recommendation Investing in Children – Breaking the cycle of Disadvantage](#). The support comes in a form of a resolution adopted by the Employment and Social Affairs committee. This resolution, which has a section dedicated to the Recommendation, was **further improved** with references to the comprehensive **three-pillar approach to child poverty** that recognises **children as rights holders**; and the need to focus on **early intervention and prevention** rather than reaction to tackle child poverty.

Eurochild welcomes the significant strengthening of the text and looks forward to its adoption in plenary in June. Find here the relevant documents:

- [European Parliament Draft motion for resolution](#)
- [EP Amendments](#)



- [European Commission Social Investment Package](#)

Taking Play Seriously! - Round table event in the European Parliament

The Toy Industries of Europe organized a round table in the European Parliament on **the importance of play**. It highlighted how play contributes to creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship in the long-term. Developmental psychologist **Justine Howard** demonstrated how play contributes to **learning and children's emotional well-being**.

Eurochild Secretary General Jana Hainsworth intervened adding the European-policy perspective and highlighting the **necessity for an EU framework for promoting and protecting children's rights** and implementation of the recent Investing in Children Recommendation which provides a holistic perspective to children's well-being.

For more, visit: www.importanceofplay.eu



European expert group on transition from institutional to community-based care gets 3 new co-chairs

Eurochild Secretary General, Jana Hainsworth ends her one-year office as co-chair of the **European expert group on transition from institutional to community-based care**. Jana has been co-chairing the group together with **Luk Zelderloo**, Secretary General of EASPD and **Jan Jarab**, Regional Representative for Europe to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. The year has been **very successful** with the [launch of the Guidelines and Toolkit](#) in November last year and the securing of funds to support our joint efforts to influence negotiations and national level programming of structural and pre-accession funds.

The team now hand over the reins to a new team of co-chairs: **Jean-Claude Legrand** Senior Regional Advisor Child Protection for UNICEF Regional Office CEE-CIS, **John Halloran**, Chief Executive of the European Social Network, and **Carlotta Besozzi**, Director of the European Disability Forum.



Eurochild at seminar on Public policies supporting positive parenthood in Europe

On 23rd May in Florence, the **European Network of National Observatories on Childhood (ChildONEurope)** organised a seminar on 'Public policies supporting positive parenthood in Europe: new policy prospective?', with the aim of facilitating discussion about this important - and still rather unexplored - topic among practitioners and policy makers at the national level.

Maria Herzog, Eurochild President, also contributed to the debate on behalf of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child.

A key message for governments is that investment in 'enabling' services for children and families is investment in the future that brings long term gains. Parenting interventions should sit alongside wider family support measures that tackle the root causes of poverty, social exclusion and inequality.

Find more [here](#).



Report of Eurochild's Round Table Debate Grandparents as carers out

The report of **Eurochild's Round Table Debate** 'Grandparents as carers – Trends and support services in Europe' is out.

The event has taken place in Brussels at the European Parliament on 24 April 2013 and has been hosted by Austrian **MEP Heinz K. Becker (European People's Party)**.

Find the report [here](#).



Eurochild and Civil Society Organisations call for real participation in EU 2020 decision making

At a cross-party public Hearing in the **European Parliament** on 14 May 2013, **Eurochild and other European Civil Society Organisations (CSOs)** have joined forces in an ad-hoc coalition **to present country-specific recommendations (CSR) for 2013 in the areas of employment, poverty, education, tax, environmental change and gender equality.**

Eurochild Secretary General Jana Hainsworth spoke on behalf of social civil society organisations within the coalition, voicing their demands for more social inclusion measures and social impact assessment procedures ahead of macroeconomic decisions to be included in the CSRs for 2013.

See Hearing programme [here](#).

See joint press release [here](#).



Eurochild & UNESCO round table on Family and parenting support

On Tuesday 7 May 2013, Eurochild and UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre organised a round table debate on "Family and parenting support in challenging times" at the European Commission.

Jana Hainsworth, Eurochild Secretary General, emphasised that "Support to families and parents – particularly but not only to the most vulnerable at risk of exclusion – will make a difference. It can contribute to more equality in our societies and it is fundamental in order to enable children to grow up in nurturing environments where they are able to realise their full potential".

Download speakers' presentations and background documents [here](#).



Eurochild and members participate in the consultation for the 2013 Enlargement Package

Every year in October, the **European Commission** publishes its so-called "**Enlargement Package**": a set of documents to evaluate the progress of the European countries towards their eventual accession to the European Union and to **propose the EU enlargement strategy for the upcoming year.**

This year, Eurochild, with invaluable help from its members, [Hope and Homes for Children in Bosnia and Herzegovina](#) and [MODS](#) in Serbia, participates in NGO consultations for progress reports in these two pre-accession countries, measuring progress achieved between October 2012 and September 2013.

On 13 May, **we delivered written submissions to the European Commission** focusing on the respect of children's rights in these countries, and on the current gaps and challenges in addressing child poverty, de-institutionalization and protection of children belonging to minorities, among other issues.



[To top](#)

NEWS FROM EUROCHILD'S MEMBERS

Albero della Vita (Italy) holds round table discussion on Children Left Behind

On Wednesday 24 April 2013 **Fondazione L'Albero della Vita**, in collaboration with **Fondazione Patrizio Paoletti** – education partner, **Eurochild** and **Childrenleftbehind.eu**, organized a round table debate "**Promoting the rights and well-being of children left-behind in transnational families**". The event took place in the European Parliament in Brussels and was hosted by MEP Ms. **Roberta Angelilli**.



The meeting re-affirmed the European dimension and the scope of the issue of **children left behind - between 500.000 and 1.000.000 children under 18**. The need to raise visibility of the issue and of the existing knowledge at national and European level also emerged, as well as the need to help parents stay in their country or leave with their children thanks to adequate policies.

Further, to improve existing child protection systems and social experimentation nationally and at transnational level was also a key point. Existing European policies and sources of funding were also brought into the discussion and debated. Click here for more: <http://www.childrenleftbehind.eu/>

ENGSO (Germany): Safer, better, stronger! Recommendations sent to European Commission

The main objective of the "Safer, better, stronger!" project is to sensitise and **raise awareness about the prevention of sexualised violence** on all levels of the **European sports environment**. It fosters networking and exchange of experiences in a sustainable manner through compiling a **catalogue of 'good-practice' examples**, campaigning for an open dialogue and gathering impulses for a **European sports policy** presented at the **2012 Conference** "Safer, better, stronger! Prevention of sexual harassment and abuse in sports", which was held in November 2012 in Berlin.

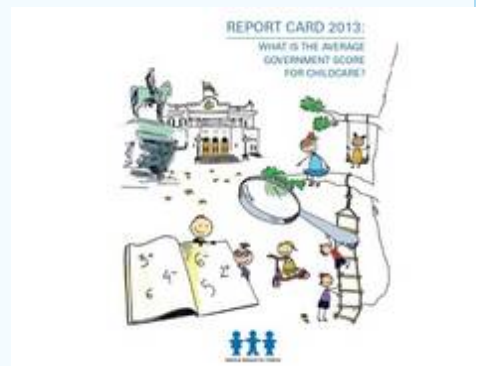


The project's final Recommendations have now been sent to the European Commission. The prevention of sexual harassment and abuse in sports is clearly a **comprehensive issue** with **many different stakeholders and institutional players** on the European, national and local level. However, across the member states there is **wide variation in the extent to which this issue is recognized and addressed**. Sports organizations in many countries **lack appropriate structures and mechanisms** for the prevention of sexualized violence and the protection of children and young people from such abuse.

Read more about the Recommendations [here](#).

National Network for Children (Bulgaria) presents Report Card 2013

The **National Network for Children** presented its second annual independent monitoring report: "Report Card 2013: What is the average government score for childcare?" This document aims to **appraise the implementation of selected government commitments** in the area of child and family policies in Bulgaria **during the 2012 calendar year** and to include recommendations to support the decision-making process of the state administration.



"Report Card 2013" contains 5 areas (school subjects), 16 subareas and 40 commitments. **Analysis includes: brief description of the commitment; description of facts and data from the experts assessment and the answers of the state institutions about the respective commitment; recommendations for urgent actions (concrete steps and possible directions of work).**

Find the whole report [here](#).

Alliance for Childhood (Belgium) launches book on 'Improving the Quality of Childhood in Europe'

The **fourth book** in the series '**Improving the Quality of Childhood in Europe**' is **out**. It covers the **Working Group on the Quality of Childhood at the European Parliament (QoC)** session number 31-37. You can **download it** [here](#).

The hard copy of the book is expected to be published in **October 2013** at the **Unfolding Conference in Brussels**.



Children in Northern Ireland launched Training Programme to improve childcare for children with disabilities

Children in Northern Ireland (CiNI), the regional umbrella body for the children's sector in Northern Ireland, has launched a **series of training programmes to increase childcare capacity for children with disabilities**. The courses are open to childminders, day care and after schools staff, parents and family members, including grandparents.

Pauline Leeson, Chief Executive of CiNI explains why there is a need for such training: *"There are increasing numbers of children with complex health needs. Often these young people tend to fall between disability services and children's services and therefore their unique and specific circumstances and needs as children with disabilities are often overlooked. Children with disabilities, and their families, can become invisible when key decisions are made about establishing the need for planning and delivering services, including public services."*

Click [here](#) to find out more.



EveryChild Moldova's Programme Experience: Improving Children's Lives through Deinstitutionalisation

This report by Eurochild member **EveryChild Moldova** is intended to be a resource for programme managers, project workers and authors initiating or participating in the design and implementation of programmes and projects aiming to **improve children's lives through deinstitutionalisation**.

It is intended for sharing with relevant networks and has been placed in the public domain as a resource for practitioners engaged with issues related to children in institutional care and development of systems for deinstitutionalisation.

Click [here](#) for more.



[To top](#)

NEWS FROM THE EU INSTITUTIONS

EPIC: submission of Good Practises

The new **European Platform for Investing in Children** (EPIC) is calling stakeholders and experts to submit practices to the platform, with a view to including them on the website and positively influencing outcomes for children and their families across Europe.

What are child focused practices? A child focused practice is an action that an organization undertakes that affects outcomes for children and their families, and may include policies, regulations, programmes, interventions, and other strategies.

Using evidence-based information to improve outcomes for children and families - EPIC is an open and user-friendly European tool for **mutual learning and exchange of child focused practices**. When a practice impact has been evaluated in the past, and if practices are submitted together with evaluation information, they are reviewed using a coherent [evaluation framework](#) involving an external [expert panel](#).

How can I submit practices? Practices can be submitted through an online submission form, found in the '[Practices that Work](#)' section on the [EPIC website](#). **Submissions will be posted in a [User Registry](#) within four weeks**. If there is sufficient evidence available, the practice will be listed in a separate section for [Evidence-Based Practices](#).

For further information contact: EMPL-EPIC@ec.europa.eu

CoR Survey says child poverty among is main challenge for EU local authorities

Between 19 February and 6 May 2013, the **Committee of the Regions's Europe 2020 Monitoring Platform** carried out a survey among local and regional authorities on the 'European Platform against Poverty and Social Exclusion' Flagship Initiative.

The results of this survey say 'child poverty' was mentioned as second major challenge by local authorities around Europe (36% of respondents). The first challenge resulted to be 'decent and affordable housing' (72%).

Find the summary and full report [here](#).

European Commission adopted proposals for Country-specific Recommendations

On 29 May the **European Commission** has published its proposal for [Country-specific Recommendations \(CSRs\)](#) for 2013. Find here the key documents:

- [Commission Communication on the CSRs](#)
- [Country-specific recommendations 2013: frequently asked questions](#)
- [Press Release](#)

The **Eurochild Secretariat** will soon **analyse the CSR proposals** and look at the measures which are relevant for **reducing child poverty and improving children's well-being**.

World No Tobacco Day

Every year, smoking kills almost 700,000 people in Europe and causes millions more to suffer from diseases associated with smoking, including cancers, cardiovascular and respiratory diseases. Around 50% of smokers die prematurely - on average 14 years earlier than non-smokers. Despite these shocking statistics, nearly a third of EU citizens smoke, **70% having started before the age of 18**.

"The time has come **to put an end to cigarettes for teenagers**. The time has come to rule out increasingly flavoured and attractive tobacco products **targeted at very young people**. Tobacco products should not look like toys or cosmetics, or taste like vanilla or chocolate. Tobacco products should look and taste like tobacco products and Europe needs solid legislation to ensure this", Commissioner Tonio Borg said on the eve of World No Tobacco Day.

Read more [here](#). Find the 10 common myths [here](#).

EU to address youth unemployment

The **European Council** met on 16-17 May and **identified the role of work in the development, well-being and social inclusion of young people as a priority**.

Following, the **Commission's Youth Employment Package** deliberated a **Recommendation** to Member States on introducing the **Youth Guarantee** approved by the European Council on 28 February 2013. The **Youth Guarantee** aims at ensuring that all young people up to age 25 receive a quality offer of a job, continued education, an apprenticeship or a traineeship within four months of leaving formal education or becoming unemployed.

The **Commission will support Member States through EU funding**, by promoting exchanges of good practice, monitoring implementation of **Youth Guarantees** in the European Semester exercise and awareness-raising.

Find more information [here](#).

EU commits to ensuring basic education for every child by 2030

The **European Commission** has committed to making education more equal and of a higher quality in the **Development agenda** beyond 2015 through continued financial support, during a High level event in Brussels.

Development Commissioner, Andris Piebalgs, announced on Thursday, 23 May 2013, that **at least 20% of the 2014-2020 aid budget is foreseen for human development and social inclusion, education being a main component of it**. As much as €2.5 billion will be mobilised for education, confirming it as a priority for EU development post-2015. At least €1.5 billion will go to the future **Erasmus for All** programme (an academic exchange programme between EU and overseas universities, which has helped pupils improve their education by gaining experience of studying abroad).

For more information click [here](#).

European Commission awards 4.5 million grants to the missing children hotlines

Under the Daphne Programme, **the European Commission has awarded 4.5 million grants to the national hotlines for missing children**.

In November 2010 the **Commission** had adopted a communication campaign titled 'Dial 116 000: The European hotline for missing children' with the aim of:

- renewing the call on the EU countries to implement the missing children hotline as a matter of priority;
- ensuring the same high quality of service throughout the EU.

The European Commission, with the support of Missing Children Europe, the European Federation for Missing and Sexually Exploited Children, has

also organised [a conference on the issue that will be held in Brussels on 30 May 2013](#).

Find more information [here](#).

European Commission holds Demography Forum

The **2013 Demography Forum** organised by the European Commission on 6-7 May, **explored and debated the feasibility and the expected returns from the SIP, the Social Investment Package** adopted on 20 February 2013 with the aim of responding to the social emergency caused by the economic crisis and the longer-term demographic challenges Europe is facing.

Assessing the SIP - The SIP puts an emphasis on enabling services, "enabling people to deal with risk" throughout their lives. The modernisation of Europe's social policies entails adopting a life course approach which focuses on strengthening people's current and future capacities. The **SIP** is about social policy reform to improve effectiveness and impact. It is not necessarily about more resources, but it is about using resources differently. Actions in this direction will be crucial in better achieving the **Europe 2020** goals in education, employment and poverty reduction.

Find out more [here](#).

[To top](#)

NEWS FROM THE UNITED NATIONS

UNICEF's State of the World's Children Report 2013 focused on children with disabilities

On 29 May **UNICEF** launched their **2013 State of the World's Children report on Children with Disabilities**.

Some 93 million children worldwide – 1 in 29 of those aged 14 or younger – live with a disability. The report uncovered the unsurprising link between poverty and disability, and demonstrated the long-last impact of growing up in a society that is unable or unwilling to adapt to the needs of children with disabilities.

The recommendations contained in the report focus, primarily, on **fighting discrimination and enhancing the awareness** of disability among the general public, decision-makers and service providers. The report **calls for dismantling barriers to inclusion to children's environments** (schools, health facilities, public transport), **ending institutionalization of children with disabilities** and **supporting families so that they can meet the higher costs of living associated with caring for a child with disabilities**.

UNICEF 2013 report (including an easy-to-read version of it), together with supporting materials, videos, can be found on the [UNICEF website](#). janina.arsenjeva@eurochild.org

UNICEF: 600,000 children below poverty line in greece

According to a **UNICEF** almost 600,000 children in Greece are living below poverty line. A growing number of children are deprived of basic living requirements. The figure has been published on the report 'The state of children in Greece 2013' released on 22 May 2013 by **UNICEF** and **Athens University**.

Find more information [here](#).

Source: Greek Reporter.

[To top](#)

NEWS FROM OTHER NETWORKS AND ORGANISATIONS

COFACE: Cyberbullying is not only about technology but about behaviour

Tuesday's (28 May) Europe-wide cyberbullying conference, organised by **COFACE**, gathered over 80 participants in **Madrid**, all experts in the field from all over **Europe**.

As part of the **#DeleteCyberbullying project**, the conference took on ambitious goals to bring together a great variety of actors involved in the fight against cyberbullying, such as families, young people, NGOs, schools, law enforcement and the industry.

Read the whole press release [here](#).

IOM publishes report on migrant children

The **International Organisation for Migration (IOM)** has released a publication targeting policymakers and practitioners in the field of migration and

child protection, along with academics and activists, which discusses the situation of migrant children.

Migrant children are often overlooked in the development of national laws and policies addressing migration and child welfare. The situation is even direr for migrant children in irregular situations, **who are often treated as criminals**. Despite the existence of international laws designed to respect, protect and fulfil all children's rights, States have yet to fully implement these rights for the migrant child, as they often overlook the migrant child as a distinct rights-holder in developing migration laws and policies.

Find the report [here](#).

Source: PICUM.

Poverty on the rise in richer countries

Child poverty has risen in 16 **OECD** countries since 2007, with sharper increases in Turkey, Spain, Belgium, Slovenia and Hungary. [This confirms a previously identified trend of young people and children replacing the elderly as the group most at risk of income poverty](#) across the **OECD**.

Child poverty is increasing in UK too. The **Institute for Fiscal Studies** estimates **UK child poverty figures to go up until 2020**. The phenomenon is being followed closely by the **Joseph Rowntree Foundation**, which has been publishing on [UK anti-poverty strategies](#) and [child poverty](#).

European Social Network Peer Review

The **European Social Network (ESN)** organised a peer review in Dublin on 15th May 2013 which brought together a delegation from each participating country (Ireland, Bulgaria, Sweden and France) and comprised of representatives of child welfare and children services directors, national government representatives and service providers. **Representatives from Eurochild's member organisations One Family Ireland, the National Network for Children Bulgaria and CNAPE France participated in the peer review.**

Recognition that children services is the cornerstone of economic development and a necessity for cohesive economic policy and workforce development strategies needs to be promoted. This aspect combined with new ways of working across sectors (State and NGO) will build more appropriate methods of implementation.

For more information visit www.esn-eu.org.

OECD: Growing risk of inequality and poverty as crisis hits the poor hardest

Income inequality increased by more in the first three years of the crisis to the end of 2010 than it had in the previous twelve years, before factoring in the effect of taxes and transfers on income, according to new OECD report and data.

The analysis says that the welfare state has cushioned the blow for many but warns that further social spending cuts in OECD countries **risk causing greater inequality and poverty** in the years ahead.

After taxes and transfers, **the richest 10 per cent of the population** in OECD countries **earned 9.5 times the income of the poorest 10 per cent** in 2010, up from 9 times in 2007. The gap is largest in Chile, Mexico, Turkey, the United States and Israel, and lowest in Iceland, Slovenia, Norway and Denmark.

Click [here](#) to read more.

Social Platform: Annual Report 2012

In 2012, the economic crisis made more victims, with 26 million Europeans out of work, 23.4% youth unemployment and 120 million people at risk of poverty and social exclusion.

The Social Platform and its members focused on trying to revert the trends by requesting the inclusion of a **Social Pact in EU economic policies**, supporting the creation of quality employment, and enabling the development of social services and social enterprises.

To voice the concerns of those who suffer the most from the crisis, the SP produced 30 policy documents (based on our members' contributions), and sat on 18 EU advisory/expert groups and spoke at 36 high level external events.

Download the Annual Report 2012 [here](#).

[To top](#)

NEWS FROM NATIONAL LEVEL

Albania: Eleven Child Protection Units to be established in Tirana

The Municipality of Tirana has approved the allocation of 4 million ALL (28.000 Eur) through a Decision of the Municipal Council **for the recruitment of 11 social workers to identify and manage cases of children at risk or victims of abuse in each district of the capital.**

During the roundtable organized by the **Municipality of Tirana** to define collaboration of all actors and local State structures in partnership with **UNICEF** and **main NGOs working on child protection issues**, **Terre des hommes Albania** presented the joint capacity building strategies to support the new **Child Protection Units**.

The new **Child Protection Workers** will be recruited by the Municipality in collaboration with the various districts.

Read more [here](#). Source: Tdh

Fostering Network (UK): Survey reveals extent of placement breakdown

A survey by the **Fostering Network** shows that in the last two years, **the majority of foster parents (61%) have cared for children who have previously had two or more moves between homes.**

A total of 43% have looked after at least one child who has been moved four or more times, and more than one in 10 (11%) have cared for children who have had 10 or more moves before coming to live with them.

The charity, which launched its annual **Foster Care Fortnight campaign**, says the reason so many placements are breaking down is because suitable foster families are not available.

As a result, children are being moved too far away from their families, forced to move school and unnecessarily split up from brothers and sisters.

Read more [here](#). Source: Children & Young People Now.

UK: Report on recruitment of minors by the British armed force

The **British armed forces** enlist around 22,000 people each year to replace personnel who leave; of these, around **4,700 are under 18 years of age**. A report published by Child Soldiers International shows that **recruiting minors is highly costly and, due to the legal requirements governing their recruitment and deployment, leads to operational pressures**. The report also argues that raising the minimum age of recruitment to 18 would better serve young people's interests.

Source: Child Soldiers International.

Download the report [here](#).

New book: Childhoods, Real and Imagined

Childhood researchers use a **wide range of theories and methods**. '[Childhoods, Real and Imagined](#)' reviews **connections and contradictions** between different approaches, and ways to combine them.

It sets out **twelve basic ideas** in critical realism that can increase our research understanding of children's real bodies and their interpersonal relations within social structures.

Latvia wants to equate smoking near children with violence

Rianovosti reports that the **Latvian parliament passed a bill** that would make **smoking in the presence of children equal to an act of physical violence**. The draft law, which proposes amendments to the current law on the protection of children's rights, puts smoking in the presence of children on a par with any form of physical or emotional cruelty, sexual violence, negligence or any other behavior that could be detrimental to a child.

Click [here](#) to read more. Source: TdH

[To top](#)

OPPORTUNITIES

Children & Young People Now Awards

The **Children & Young People Now Awards**, the gold standard in services for children, young people and families, are **open for entries**. The awards are now in their eighth year, and entries are invited from across the public, voluntary and private sectors. As ever, the work entered must be able to

demonstrate its impact. Awards are available across 21 categories. Entry is free and the **deadline to enter is 4 July**.

Click [here](#) for more.

Summer School on International Children's Rights: Leiden and The Hague

The **Grotius Centre has announced a new summer course on international children's rights for this summer** in close cooperation with Professor Ton Liefwaard, Professor of Children's Rights (**UNICEF chair**) at Leiden Law School and Professor Julia Sloth-Nielsen, University of the Western-Cape, who will coordinate the course.

The deadline for registration is 1 July 2013.

Find more information and the provisional programme [here](#).

[To top](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **EUROCITIES launches Cities for Active Inclusion**

EUROCITIES Cities for Active Inclusion partners will host eight national events **between June and October in 2013**.

The partner cities will cover topics such as social innovation in active inclusion practices (**Barcelona**, 7 June), people at risk of poverty and exclusion (**Brno**, 19-20 June), Roma and the labour market (**Sofia**, 20-21 June), the Birmingham social inclusion process (**Birmingham**, 10 July), poverty and disadvantage (**Bologna**, 17 September), social return on investment (**Rotterdam**, 19 September), the social economy (**Copenhagen**, 27 September) and the long-term unemployed (**Stockholm**, 1 October).

Find more information [here](#).

- **Third International Research-to-Practice Conference**

The **Third International Research-to-Practice Conference** «Early Childhood Care and Education», November 21-23, 2013 (Moscow, Russia).

Title: «Early Childhood Care and Education».

When: 21-23 November, 2013.

Where: Moscow, Russia.

Who: Hosted by Moscow Pedagogical Academy of Preschool Education in cooperation with Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation and other Russian and international NGOs, networks and educational institutions.

What: The conference will bring the major early education issues and prospects for further research up for discussion, showcase up-to-date studies in early education, enhance collaboration and network cooperation, as well as the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) in the field of early education.

More information is available [here](#) and the registration form is [here](#).

For any questions contact info@ecceconference.com

- **CHI's 10 Year European and EU Data Publications**

Title: '10 Year European and EU Data Publications'.

When: Wednesday 26 June 2013, 15:00-17:30.

Where: EU Parliament in Brussels.

Who: Child Helpline International.

What: In 2013 CHI celebrates its 10 year anniversary and the collection of data from over 126 million contacts made to child helplines by children and young people worldwide. They will launch 'CHI's 10 Year European and EU Data Publications' with EU Politicians and Policy Makers in order to provide a platform for exchange and ensure commitment from key decision makers to make a lasting change in the lives of young people.

Find more information [here](#).

- **Digital agenda for Europe conference**

Title: "The Digital Agenda for Europe: what role for regions and cities".

When: Tuesday, 2 July 2013, 10:00 - 16:00.

Where: Committee of the Regions, Jacques Delors Building, Belliardstr. 99-101, 1040 Brussels.

Who: the Committee of the Regions.

What: the conference will focus on the main priorities of the flagship initiative: the development of regional digital strategies, digital entrepreneurship, e-government and e-participation, etc. It will be a platform for gathering political input from the local level on the delivery of the flagship initiative, but also for exchanging experience and good practice in digital policies. The event is primarily aimed at policy makers and senior experts of national, regional and local public administrations, as well as specialists from academia, businesses, networks and associations.

Find [more information](#) and the [registration form](#).

- **Intergenerational Learning Cities**

When: 16-18 October 2013

Where: Cuenca, Spain

What: Third ENIL Conference. The event will present the benefits of **intergenerational learning** to different aspects of life in a city: from social cohesion to employment.

The stimulating programme of talks, workshops and activities include:

- The return of the citizen to the neighbourhood: learning to be
- "It takes a village to raise a child – and to teach an old man new tricks": cities as spaces for learning to know
- Co-habitation – Development and urbanism, living standards, historical events
- "Why ain't we livin' together?" - cities as spaces for learning to live together
- Entrepreneurship - Forging new job opportunities
- Peer Learning stands
- Inaugural ENIL Awards for good practice in intergenerational learning

All the plenaries will be simultaneously interpreted in English, French and Spanish. Workshops will be in English with one workshop in each series interpreted in English, French and Spanish.

Conference website: www.enil2013cuenca.eu

- **Eurochild's Annual Conference 2013 - Building an inclusive Europe – the contribution of children's participation**

Title: "Building an inclusive Europe – the contribution of children's participation"

When: 13-15 November 2013

Where: Milan, Italy

Who: Hosted by **Albero della Vita** in cooperation with the Italian national Ombudsman for Children, Municipality of Milan and other Italian NGOs and networks.

Fill in [this form](#) to be kept updated or to signal interest to get involved.

For any questions contact info@eurochild.org

[To top](#)