

Eurochild Conference 2018

Building a better Europe with children: All aboard!

Under the patronage of the President of the Republic of Croatia

29–31 October; Opatija, Croatia



#EurochildConf



CALL FOR WORKSHOPS PROPOSALS

Date: 29-31 October 2018

Location: Opatija, Croatia

Co-host: Society “Our Children” Opatija

Deadline for submission: 1st June 2018 (extended deadline)

Template for proposals: Downloadable form [here](#)

Send to: agata.daddato@eurochild.org

Eurochild is seeking proposals from organisations and experts interested to run 90’ workshops at its 2018 Conference ‘Building a better Europe with children: All aboard!’, held in Opatija on 29-31 October.

The event will bring positive examples of how public decision-makers at local, national and European levels are respecting the right of children to participate in decisions affecting them. The conference will host an estimated 250-300 participants including public sector officials, politicians, children’s rights professionals as well as children themselves. It is expected that a third of the participants at the Conference are under the age of 18. By involving under 18 years-olds in the planning, preparation and delivery of the conference, the conference itself will be an example of participation in action.

Specific aims and expected outcomes of the conference

The aims of the conference are to:

- Increase political awareness of the value of children’s participation in public decision making across Europe by showcasing experience and evidence of what works across countries at local, national and European levels and what lessons can be learnt.
- Highlight how children’s participation in decision-making helps reduce poverty and promote social inclusion and improve the quality of services for children and families in vulnerable situations.
- Generate interest and commitment from national policy makers to develop national strategies on children and young people’s participation, as recommended in the EU [Staff Working Document](#) linked to the European Pillar of Social Rights.
- Build Eurochild’s capacity to engage children meaningfully in making decisions and taking action.

To achieve these goals the conference includes the following activities:

- Share positive examples of how public decision-makers at different levels (local, national and European) are respecting the right of children to participate in decisions affecting them, guided by Article 12 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, in particular emphasising how these processes engage children who

traditionally are less likely to have their voices heard, for example children in public care, children with disabilities, children of migrant background or ethnic minorities.

- Bring evidence on why involvement of children in decision-making processes brings positive outcomes, both for the children and young people involved, for communities and for society at large, for example by promoting social inclusion and community engagement. It will be an opportunity to give guidance to government representatives on how to develop and implement inclusive child participation practices.
- Develop recommendations for policy makers and practitioners on why and how to strengthen child participation in public decision-making. These recommendations should support implementation of the European Commission’s 2013 Recommendation on Investing in Children and the 2017 European Pillar of Social Rights¹, as well as the Council of Europe’s Committee of Ministers’ Recommendation 2012 on the participation of children and young people under the age of 18 and the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2016-2021)².
- In the way it has been conceived and organised, the conference serves as a positive example of child participation in practice, by involving under 18s in its planning, preparation and delivery, as well as ensuring the event’s accessibility and added-value to participants under 18.
- Provide an opportunity to reflect on the outcomes of a children’s consultations on the Future of Europe – an activity that is currently under development in partnership with UNICEF EU Office and is expected to feed into an event in the European Parliament plenary on 20th November 2018.

Programme outline

Children and youth are involved both in the design, organisation and implementation of the conference. During the conference, children and adults will work together with high-level speakers who will address the conference together with children and youth. Adults and children will be **co-facilitating** workshops and study-visits. Below you find the outline for the programme of the conference. A more detailed agenda is currently being developed by the organisers and the Children’s Advisory Group.

	<i>Monday 29 October</i>	<i>Tuesday 30 October</i>	<i>Wednesday 31 October</i>
AM	Arrival of participants	Study Visits Lunch	Human Library Conference Closing Lunch
PM	Conference Opening	Workshops	Departures
Evening	Welcome reception, dinner and evening programme	Conference dinner and evening programme	

Call for workshops proposals

The workshop sessions aim to showcase good practices demonstrating how public decision-makers at local, national and European levels are respecting the right of children to participate in decisions affecting them. They can equally address what hasn’t worked and lessons learnt from past experiences.

¹ The [staff working document accompanying](#) the European Pillar of Social Rights recommends that EU Member States “develop national strategies on children and young people’s participation”. The outcomes of this conference will contribute to elaborating how and why countries should act on this recommendation.

² The Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2016-2021) includes as one of its five priorities the ‘participation of all children’.

You are invited to submit your proposal to organise a workshop, including programme design, delivery of presentations and facilitation.

Priority will be given to examples of practice that focus on inclusion of all children who might be particularly vulnerable due to their situation (e.g. children with disabilities, ethnic minorities ...). Please note that workshops co-delivered with children and young people involved in the projects are particularly welcomed. Evoking children's presence and perspective in the workshops could also be through video or other materials, which present the opinions and views of children on a specific theme.

The participation of each presenter should be secured before submitting the proposal.

The workshops will each run twice for 1,5 hours each time on Tuesday afternoon (14h30-16h00 and 16h30-18h00). They should be adaptable for a group of participants ranging from 30-40 persons and be accessible for both adults and children and young people (from 11 years onwards). The possibility of having smaller discussion tables or other ways to make the format as interactive as possible should be explored.

Selected workshop organisers/facilitators will be asked to write a short report of the workshop with the main takeaways including relevant quotes from the discussion and a summary of key outcomes and recommendations. This can be a written report or it can have a different format (e.g. photo compilation, video).

Selection criteria

Proposals for contributions will be reviewed by a 'selection committee' made up of members of the Eurochild Secretariat, co-organiser/host in Croatia, and the children's advisory group which consists of 10 children aged 14-18, from 8 different countries.

Specific criteria against which the proposals will be evaluated are:

- Relevance with regard to conference theme and objectives
- Capacity and experience of co-facilitating with children
- Clear, focused and informed formulation of forward-looking recommendations for policy makers and practitioners on why and how to strengthen child participation in public decision-making
- Interactive and engaging format of the proposed session, suitable for an audience comprised of children and young people as well as adults
- Innovative format of the session (creative methods are encouraged, i.e. theatre / video making ...)
- Complementarity with other proposals

Please note that the workshops will take place in English only.

Child Protection Policy

Adults bringing children and young people under 18 are responsible for their safety and well-being travelling to and from the conference and during the conference. The organisation submitting good practice examples is also responsible for getting all necessary consent forms and insurances. [Eurochild's child protection policy](#) is leading for the protection and safeguarding of the children participating in the conference, this includes consent forms and insurances (health and travel insurance). Eurochild is responsible for insurances during the participation in the conference. For more information on Eurochild's child protection policy, the child protection focal person can be contacted: mieke.schuurman@eurochild.org.

Submission and timeline

Interested contributors for the workshops are requested to send their submissions to agata.daddato@eurochild.org by **1st June** using the **template for proposals downloadable form [here](#)**.

Registration fees / Sponsorship policy

Contributors are asked to pay the conference registration fee at the 'Early bird' members' rate, or if applicable, at the special rate for Croatia and neighbouring countries listed below. In case of workshops co-delivered with children and young people, the special rates for children's delegations will apply. The fee covers lunches, the welcome reception and conference dinners.

	'Early bird' fee (until 31 July)	Normal fee
Fees applied to selected workshop contributors		
Workshop contributors from other countries than listed below	150€/ person	
Workshop contributors from Croatia, Albania, Bosnia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia	120€/ person	
Special rate for children's delegations	200€/small delegation (2-3 children and 1 adult)	
	300€/big delegation (4-5 children and 2 adults)	
Fees applied for all participants (non-contributors)		
Participants from Croatia, Albania, Bosnia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia	120€/ person	
Eurochild members from other countries	150€/ person	175€/ person
Non-members from other countries	200€/ person	250€/ person
Special rate for children's delegations	200€/small delegation (2-3 children and 1 adult)	
	300€/big delegation (4-5 children and 2 adults)	
<i>Corporates interested in applying should contact Aracy Pires for corporate packages for sponsorship and engagement in the conference.</i>		

Sponsorship of travel: Eurochild will cover the travel costs up to a maximum of 300€ for up to two persons/contribution, or in case the workshop is co-organised by children and young people, up to two children/young people and one accompanying adult. Travel costs will be reimbursed following receipt of an expenses claim after the event. The maximum limit of 300€ is strictly applied unless written approval has been received in advance from the Secretariat. This is to ensure sponsorship of a maximum number of participants. Eurochild will also assist in organising transfer between the airport and the venues/hotel in Opatija for sponsored participants.

Sponsorship of accommodation: Eurochild will cover the accommodation costs for up to 2 nights for two persons/contribution or in case the workshop is co-organised by children and young people for up to 2 nights for three persons/contribution. Under exceptional circumstances 3 nights may be covered if required for preparation time or due to lack of travel options. The hotel rooms will be booked and costs will be paid directly by Eurochild. Extras (phone bills, bar etc.) are not included.

For more information about the conference, visit the [Eurochild website](#)

To apply, please use the template for workshops proposals downloadable form [here](#)