



CALL FOR CHILDREN'S DELEGATIONS

Please read the information below and complete [this form](#) to apply as children's delegation.

Children's delegation can include 2-5 children and 1-2 adults (maximum of 3 children for each adult). All children should be aged 10-17 at the time of the Conference.

For more information including on the estimated costs of a delegation contact: [Tinna Rós Steinsdóttir](#), Eurochild's Child Participation Officer.

Date: 29-31 October 2018

Location: Opatija, Croatia

Host of the conference: Society "Our Children" Opatija

*Each application is processed within 2 weeks of submission.
Final deadline to apply is 31 July 2018 or until all places have been filled.*

About the conference

Eurochild's 2018 Conference is being organised under the high patronage of the President of the Republic of Croatia, Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović, in partnership with the City of Opatija.

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 and children. It is expected that a third of the participants at the Conference are under the age of 18. That includes our Eurochild Conference Young Advisory group which consists of 10 children aged 14-18, from 8 different countries. By involving this group in the planning, preparation and delivery of the conference, the Conference itself will be an example of participation in action.

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)
- 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 serve as a positive example of child participation in practice, by involving under 18s in the planning, preparation and delivery of the conference, 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 with UNICEF EU Office and is expected to feed into an event in the European Parliament plenary on 20th November 2018

For constantly updated **information on the conference please see [here](#)**.

Programme outline

During the conference, children and adults will work together with high-level speakers on the topic of child participation in decision making. Children have been a part of the planning of the Conference and will be taking on different roles during the Conference; as active participants and co-facilitators. Below you find the outline for the programme of the conference. A more detailed agenda is currently being developed by the organisers and the Young Advisory Group.

	Monday 29 October	Tuesday 30 October	Wednesday 31 October
Morning	<i>Arrival of participants</i>	Study visits	Human Library and Closing Session
Afternoon	Registration Opening Session	Workshops	<i>Departures</i>
Evening	Welcome Reception and Dinner	Conference Dinner and Disco	

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’.

Call for children's delegations

The Conference aims to have children and adults participating equally. The nine basic requirements for effective and ethical children's participation as laid down in the UNCRC Committee's General Comment on the Right of the Child to be Heard (Article 12) are the basis for children's participation in the Eurochild conference. These nine principles include:

1. Participation is transparent and informative
2. Participation is voluntary
3. Participation is respectful
4. Participation is relevant
5. Participation is child-friendly
6. Participation is inclusive
7. Participation is supported by trained adults
8. Participation is safe and sensitive to risk
9. Participation is accountable

Eurochild is calling on organisations, which are directly working with children according to the above principles, to bring delegations with children and young people to participate in Eurochild's conference **Building a better Europe with children: All aboard!**

Each delegation should be made up of 2-5 children and a maximum of 1 accompanying adult for every 3 children (*see more details on the size of a delegation in the section on practical information*). To ensure meaningful participation of all the children, the delegates should be aged between **10 and 17 years old**.

According to Eurochild's Child Protection Policy, accompanying adults have to be older than 21 years and able to encourage and support the children in their participation at the Conference. All accompanying adults are also expected to participate fully in the Conference.

The children and young people making up the delegations should have previous participatory experience and an interest in the themes of the Conference. **Children and young people with experience in advocating for children's rights in their countries, either at local, regional or national level are in particular encouraged to participate.**

Child Protection Policy

[Eurochild's Child Protection Policy](#) is leading for the protection and safeguarding of the children participating in the Conference. Adults bringing children and young people under 18 are responsible for their safety and well-being travelling to and from the Conference as well as during the Conference. Accompanying adults must be allocated to each child delegation (*as per maximum size of delegations, see in section on Practical information*).

The organisation supporting the children's delegation is responsible for ensuring that all mandatory and necessary insurances (health and travel insurance) are in place. The organisation will also be responsible for ensuring that the purpose of the Conference is clearly understood by the children participating and their parents/legal guardians. After confirmation of selection, parents/legal guardian of all the children in the delegation need to complete, sign and return a consent form, approving of their participation in the Conference.

Eurochild has a Child Protection Focal Person who will be in contact with the children's delegations to prepare them for the Conference and ensure that all protection measures are followed.

Selection criteria

The selection process for the children's delegations will be carried out by the Eurochild Secretariat within two weeks of submission of each application.

Selection criteria for selecting children's delegations to participate include:

- Relevant quality experience of the organisation in working with children and on child participation.
- Geographical balance
- Gender balance
- Age balance

Delegations including children from vulnerable backgrounds are especially encouraged to apply.

Please note that the conference will take place in English only, so all participants (including children) need to be able to understand and communicate in English.

Submission and timeline

Organisations planning to bring children's delegations to the Conference are encouraged to submit their application at the earliest convenience, since applications will be processed as they come in.

Final deadline for children's delegations to apply is 31 July 2018.

Organisations that are interested in bringing children's delegations but are not ready to register are encouraged to send their expression of interest to [Tinna Rós Steinsdóttir](#), Eurochild's Child Participation Officer. Please include the size of the delegation and the age of participants, if already known.

Practical information

Registration fees:

We are offering a special rate for selected children's delegations. (*The registration fee covers lunches, the welcome reception and conference dinners*). The registration fee for the whole delegation is as follows:

Small delegation (2-3 children and 1 adult) 200€	Big delegation (4-5 children and 2 adults) 300€
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Travel and accommodation:

Delegations will need to cover their own travel and accommodation costs following selection and registration. The Eurochild secretariat we will assist with bookings of accommodation in order to enable most participants to stay at the same hotel and to secure preferential rates.

Please note that registration for all participants will open in April. At that time, confirmed information about hotel rates will be shared as well. You can follow us on [Twitter](#) or sign up to our [newsletter](#) (at the bottom of the page) to stay updated.