

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



EUROCHILD CONFERENCE 2018 HUMAN LIBRARY

Dear Participants of the 2018 Eurochild Conference,

The Human Library takes place on Wednesday 31st October morning 09:00-10:45.

You have more than 20 books to choose from. You will be able to listen and have discussion with three of them. You will do it by going to the library tables and rent a book. You will then look for your book and have a 20 minutes listening and discussion. After that you will have 10 minutes to go back to the library tables to choose another book and find your way to the next book.

Below you can find more information about the authors and their stories, so you will be ready to choose your books and won't miss the stories you want to hear!

Title: “European evidence-based platform: European Platform for Investing in Children”

Author: Barbara Janta, Senior Analyst/RAND Europe



Barbara Janta is a senior analyst at RAND Europe. Her expertise and interests span across child and family policy, employment and demography studies. For the last 6 years she has been involved in the project European Platform for Investing in Children (DG EMPL), a platform for the exchange of practices on child- and family-friendly policies across the EU.

The book takes place on an online platform hosted by the European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion.

The aim of this talk is to provide an overview on the research and evaluation activities undertaken by RAND Europe for the European Platform for Investing in Children (EPIC). The EPIC project, funded by the European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, is an online platform that explores and assesses evidence on child and family policies and practice in Europe, and disseminates information on the effectiveness of these interventions. They discuss what constitutes an evidence-based practice in social policy, and how policy makers, academics and practitioners can engage with EPIC practices and the evaluation process.



Title: “Child Participation in alternative care: Young people lead the way!”

Author: Florine Pruchon, Advocacy Officer/SOS Children’s Villages, France



For 5 years, Florine has been engaged on the protection and defence on child rights. She has done some awareness actions to sensibelize children on their rights and she has also coordinate a national advocacy coalition on children’s rights in France.

Now, since last May, she has joined SOS Children’s France as an advocacy officer because she would like to develop advocacy actions, especially for children in alternative care and promote their rights. She is very interested in co-building actions in partnership with children and youth.

The book takes place in France.

This book gathers 4 stories on child participation in alternative care (participants can choose 1 or 2 each round).

1/ National Youth Councils in SOS Children’s village France: SOS CV France has put in place since 2009 a national space on child participation: how it works, what are its missions and what are its projects.

2/ Participation of children and youth in training sessions: SOS CV has been a part of European project which promote the children’s rights approach into the practices of professionals in alternative care. Child participation are at the heart of the project and child and Youth will become the trainers.

3/ Child participation in sport program: how child participation in sport could help children and youth to develop self-esteem.

4/ Child participation in advocacy: how can children and youth could be a resource in advocacy area and how SOS Children Villages in France would like to develop it?



Title: “The voice under the war”

Author: Andreea Dana Osman, Young Student and Assistant-Teacher, Romania

Andreea was born in the capital of Romania, Bucharest on 1.8.1997. From 2010 she was in the foundation Princess Margaret of Romania, where she spent time after school where students from different backgrounds came to help kids with their homework and teaching them karate, playing football and doing many other activities with them. When she had the contact with this foundation she has been transformed in something new. From here she learned to be near the people in need and to hear the voice of each person around her, and to work in a team with people from different ages.

The book takes place in the south of Turkey near to the border with Syria. The action of the book takes place in one of the famous cities in Turkey, Gaziantep, a big producer of pistachios.

During her activities Andreea worked in teams organizing discussion club and participating in relaxation activities for children and young people. They are involved in the public action team, who informs the children, uses role-playing games, uses English language and plays games together, having the principle of inclusion as a basis.



Title: “Voices and Policies”

Author: Caroline Vink, The Netherlands Youth Institute/The Netherlands

Caroline is 52 years old and working as a Policymaker/Adviser in the Netherlands Youth Institute. She works on many issues related to children and young people and families, both local, national and international. She loves sharing ideas.

The book takes place wherever you want it to be.

Caroline works at the Netherlands youth Institute on many issues related to children, young people and families. She likes sharing ideas on including voices of everyone, but especially children in all the work and policies that concern them. She is also a parent with teenagers, and on that she could get a lot of advice from experienced experts.



Title: “Implementation of the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (Sofia Strategy) in Germany”

Authors: Linda Zaiane, Child Rights Advocacy Advisor and Britta Kaufhold, Participation Advisor/German Children’s Fund, Germany

Linda was born in 1982, and she has studies in Law and Human Rights and Democratisation. She has worked on the fellowships at the European Parliament (DROI/Subcommittee of Human Rights) and the EU Delegation to the UN in Geneva (human rights team). She also worked four years as Child Rights Advocacy Advisor with Plan International to support country offices planning their rights based advocacy for children’s rights. Since 2017 she has worked as a Child Rights Advisor of the German Children’s Fund. With her team she is part of the coordination office for children’s rights. With projects and advocacy work they support the implementation of the Sofia Strategy in Germany.

Britta was born in 1987, and she has studied Children’s Rights as well as Culture and Media Education. For 2,5 years she worked as a Managing Director in a youth led organisation in Germany, working with and for youth interested in journalism and media (German Youth Press). Since 2017 she has been working at the German Children’s Fund (Deutsches Kinderhilfswerk) in the field of children’s right and especially children and youth participation with focus on Germany. They are implementing the right to participate through projects, advocacy work and project funding.

The book takes place on the implementation of the Sofia Strategy in Germany, but at the same time on exchange, cooperation and things learned from actors at the European level (such as through EU for a, the EU Fundamental Rights Agency, the Council of Europe and other NGOs).

Their work areas are defined by the Council of Europe’s “Strategy for the Rights of the Child” (2016-21)”. They monitor the level of implementation of the strategy in Germany, implement projects to strengthen its implementation and at the same time accompany it with advocacy work to inform politicians about gaps and hold them accountable for a better implementation.

Their areas are:

- Child-friendly justice/access to justice (e.g. advocacy work for child rights in the German constitution, conference on child-friendly judicial and administrative proceedings)
- Child participation in line with the Child participation assessment tool (e.g. child participation in the state report on the implementation of the CRC, analysis of children’s parliaments at municipal level, new project for 2019 analysis of existing institutions where children can bring complaints)
- Non-discrimination/Equal opportunities with a focus on migrant and refugee children.
- Child rights in the digital environment. (e.g. Personal rights of children in social media – Study and survey as well as awareness campaign, in 2019 a focus will be on the EU-General Data Protection Regulation).



Title: “Empowering children through play - Rights Respecting Leisure Center in Reykjavik, Iceland”

Author: Ingunn Fjóla Brynjólfsdóttir, Assistant Manager/Dalheimar leisure center, Iceland



Ingunn has an anthropological background with a focus on the charity complex. She has worked with children in leisure centers since 2015, the past two years as Assistant Manager.

The book takes place in Reykjavik, Iceland.

The leisure center Dalheimar has for the past two and a half years worked closely with UNICEF in Iceland, the neighboring school and teen club, parents, children and employees towards empowering children and youth. They have incorporated the United Nations Convention on the Right of the Child into almost all aspects of their work. The project is international and managed by UNICEF. They have now been recognized by UNICEF in Iceland as a Rights Respecting leisure center - the first in the world!



Title: “Convention on the Rights of the Child; a big task in implementation”

Author: J.P. van der Vlugt, Manager in the public and private domain of correctional and non-correctional intensive youth care, The Netherlands



Equipped with a degree in Management and Psychology, a strong academic orientation and significant management and leadership experience. Over the last fifteen years J.P. have been an effective manager in the public and private domain of correctional and non-correctional intensive youth care. He was senior auditor assessing the Youth care projects in Netherlands and also in Greece and Macedonia. He took part in projects improving the legal position of children in Netherlands according the Convention on the Rights of the Child. He is convinced that formal children’s rights are an important cornerstone for the position of children in the so-

ciety of today.

The book takes place in the Charter of the United Nations as a specification of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Every child has the right to survival, protection and education. The United Nation Convention on the Rights of the Child is a legally-binding International agreement setting out the civil, political, economic and cultural rights of every child, regardless of their race, religion or abilities. The Convention consists of 54 articles that set out children’s rights and how governments should work together to make them available to all children. Under the terms of the convention, governments are required to meet children’s basis needs and help them reach their full potential. Central to this acknowledgement that every child has basis fundamental rights. These include the right to:

- Life, survival and development.
- Protection from violence, abuse or neglect.
- An education that enables children to fulfil their potential.
- Be raised by, or have a relationship with, their parents.
- Express their opinions and be listened to.

Since it was adopted by the United Nations in November1989, 200 + countries have signed up to the Convention. All countries that sign up to the Convention are bound by international law to ensure it is implemented. This is monitored by the Committee on the Rights of the Child.



Title: “Parents’ House civil franchise”

Author: Judit Regős, President/Parents’ House Foundation, Hungary



Judit Regős is a social politician, social worker and active-analytic therapist. For more than 20 years she has been helping families as a counsellor. For nearly 10 years she has developed a Regős method, which has become the Parents’ House network and the Foundation with the same name. For her work she received several awards (e.g. Family Friendly Media, Pro Familias) and foreign recognition (Eurofound Best Practice). Publications appear regularly, recently released her first book, and she often works as an expert in various TV shows. In addition, she is raising four children.

The book takes place in Budapest, Hungary.

At Parents’ Houses, pedagogues of special psychological and sociological education are employed. With this expertise they are able to build trust relationships with families; recognize and handle upcoming problems and issues in parenting and family relationships; facilitate a community and help to keep connection to make sure real integration actually happens.

The business model is a special cooperation including the venture (70-80% of revenues), the local government, the state (support and tenders) and the business sector (CSR-based cooperation).

The model is based on the above mentioned logic that ensures long-term sustainability. This makes it possible for Parents’ House to become a national civil franchise network and to provide support and cost-saving for its partners. The business model provides opportunity for small entrepreneurs to operate according to a viable, proven economic model while taking local opportunities and needs into consideration as well.



Title: “Life with spina bifida”

Author: Mirela Bukovac, Secretary/Croatian Association for spina bifida and hydrocephalus, bac.

Mirela was born on 16.1.1993, and within 2 days of birth she had her first operation, and was in hospital for 2 weeks. At age of five there was a big chance of getting hydrocephalus and the doctors embed the shunt (tube that drains the excess accumulation of cerebrospinal fluid from the brains ventricles to another part of the body). At age of seventeen she had her third operation which helped her walk easier. In 2012 she enrolled in the Faculty of Special Education and Rehabilitation in Zagreb, which was a big change in her life because she needed to separate from her parents and move to a new town. She has lived independently since then. For the past four years she has been active in Croatian association for spina bifida and hydrocephalus as a Secretary. They support parents of children with SB and children with SB as well. Their association is part of International association for SBH and she is a representative for her country. With few exams left before the final exam, she will become a Master of Special Education and Rehabilitation, trying to contribute to her profession as ever she can.

The book is about growing up with disabilities in small village in north of Croatia, where people never face the young people with her disability, and fighting against prejudice to people with disabilities. It’s all time struggle with people’s point of view that they feel sorry for her parents to have her, and their way of thinking that she won’t succeed and become independent. Now the pages in her book has merrier connotation than in the past, and she is looking forward to write out the best pages in her book.



Title: “Given the Space, Using my Voice: A Child’s Journey”

Author: Sharon, Young writer and Eurochild Children’s Council Member/The President’s Foundation for the Wellbeing of Society (PFWS), Malta

Sharon is a passionate 14-year-old girl from Malta who loves writing, and standing up for what’s right. Child Participation changed her life.

The book takes place in a creative space; the space which started it all. A garden in which the voice of a child is given appropriate significance.

The book is about the journey of a shy 11-year-old who found her voice and was taught to use it. It is the story of a supportive group of people who helped this girl flourish and blossom into the person she really is. It is a reminder to the world that making a difference is not impossible.



Title: “The Youth Experts Team – how children and youth (age 14-21) enhance the work of our project “Family and Education””

Author: Sarah Menne, Project Manager/Bertelsmann Foundation, Germany



Sarah holds a Master’s Degree in International Economics. She specialized in economics of education, before joining the Bertelsmann Foundation in 2010. Her work at the foundation concentrates on the dimensions of child poverty and on inclusive policies to enhance equal opportunities for all children.

The book takes place mainly in North Rhine-Westfalia, the most populated German state – and parts of it in Berlin.

As many other organizations, the Bertelsmann Foundation engages in projects to combat child poverty – and demands more “child-oriented” policies. However, as they all are adults, they cannot really know what “child-oriented” means if they don’t include young people as experts in our work. This is why they established a Youth Experts Team. These 18 young people (age 14-21) from different social backgrounds have become a real asset in designing policy recommendations and bringing them to the attention of other young people but also the public at large.



Title: “Embarking on a reflective journey – Strengthening children and youth participation for policy makers”

Author: Ellen Van Vooren, Researcher and Policy Advisor/ Children’s Rights Knowledge Centre (KeKi), Belgium



Ellen studied Criminology at Ghent University and International Development at Katho-Howest. In the context of the latter she did an internship at the NGO 'Otra Cosa' in Peru with the aim of supporting various projects concerning children's and women's rights. She worked for two years in the mental health sector as a prevention worker. In this context she followed a continuing training in forensic behavioural sciences at the UGent. Afterwards, Ellen worked at the Study and Policy Service of Fedasil, the federal agency for the reception of asylum seekers. She worked under the AMIF-project international and national partnerships, and on topics such as activation and integration of residents, training and education for asylum seekers, mental

health care, migration flows and vulnerable persons with specific reception needs. Ellen joined KeKi in January 2018.

The book takes place in Flanders, Belgium.

The Children’s Rights Knowledge Centre is developing a reflection tool on participation of children and young people. The tool is a working instrument for policymakers and offers them a starting point to design, run through or evaluate a participatory process. It encourages and guides them in evaluating the implicit assumptions (‘childhood images’) about youth and children that govern their actions for involving this group in decision-making processes. Based on the content of the reflection tool they will explore the possibilities, pitfalls and boundaries in creating a strategy for (effective) participation.



Title: “Ombudsman for Children – Protector of Children’s Rights”

Author: Helenca Pirnat Dragičević, Ombudsperson for Children, Croatia



Helenca graduated from the Faculty of Law, University of Zagreb, with a Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.) degree. She was appointed Ombudsperson for Children in November 2017. Before this appointment, she worked as a prosecutor in the State Attorney's Office in all instances for 28 years, where she mostly worked with children as offenders and victims. She also worked in the field of alternative dispute resolution involving children (out-of-court settlement).

As an expert in the field of juvenile justice, she participated in the UNICEF project in cooperation with the Judicial Academy, and worked as an active lecturer at the Judicial and Police Academy. She participated at numerous international and national conferences as a speaker. She is a co-author of several published expert and scientific papers.

The book takes place in the offices of the Ombudsman for Children in Zagreb, Osijek, Rijeka, and Split and in the Little House of Children's Rights in Zagreb. It also takes place in many other places throughout Croatia where the Ombudsman for Children and her staff meet with children.

This book is not about a magic wand that can remove all injustices and afflictions that happen to children and make all wishes come true with one move by achieving children's rights. It tells us that we have to go for without a magic wand and that adults have to invest a lot of efforts and will to improve children's rights.

This is where the character from this book comes in - the Ombudsman for Children, who monitors the realization of children's rights and proposes what to do to improve the situation of children's rights: in families, in educational, health, social welfare, and judiciary system and other areas of life. In this monitoring process, she is assisted with information, complaints and proposals sent by parents and from children, people who work with children, experts, and others. Based on this information, the Ombudsman for Children proposes to the competent governmental representatives how to improve laws and other regulations, protection, conditions and treatment of children. That is why it is very important for the Ombudsman for Children to keep in touch with children and to hear their opinions.

How does the Ombudsman help children? Most often by talking to them and their parents or carers about their problems and situations when someone has violated their rights. She also tries to find out from other institutions or experts more about the problems and the possibilities to help the child. The Ombudsman for Children cannot solve all these problems alone, but can ask those who have been obliged to protect the child what they have done to help the child, encourage them and suggest what else they can do to protect the child's rights.

She often manages to initiate or speed up the work of institutions responsible for the protection of children's rights and helps to solve many individual cases. This book wants to convey several important messages to children:

- Become acquainted with your rights and seek help from adults in exercising your rights!
- Don't forget that one of your important rights is the right to express your opinion in all situations related to you, and adults are required to consider your opinion seriously and take it into account when deciding. This doesn't mean that it will always be the way children want it, because adults are responsible for children, and when making decisions they must protect their best interests, but children have the right to say what they think about it.
- Ask the adults you trust to help you learn how to clearly say your opinion and stand for your rights and the rights of all children.



Title: “Child for Child”

Authors: Edvina and Anna, Eurochild Children’s Council Members, Greece and Slovenia

Anna is 16 years old and from the Proplesis Institute Organisation in Greece. Edvina is 16 years old and from the Slovenian Association of Friends of Youth in Slovenia.

The book takes place in Brussels and in Anna’s and Edvina’s home countries (Greece and Slovenia).

The book is about their journeys on how they became activists on children’s rights, how they became Eurochild Children’s Council members and a part of Eurochild. In order for every child’s voice to be heard, they collaborated with UNICEF and created the Europe Kids Want survey, which they are going to talk about as well.



Title: “Unaccompanied 11-year-old girl from Afghanistan to Sweden – A happy story”

Author: Donya Azimi Gailani, Children’s rights activist and law student, Sweden

Donya is a 23-year-old girl currently living in Uppsala in Sweden. She has been actively working for children's rights for seven years, specifically for children with disabilities and unaccompanied children to Sweden. She is also the president of FEMJUR (feminist law-students), she dances and has a black belt in karate. She also loves books, psychology, people, yoga and tea. After her secondary school, she moved to Oxford, England to study International Affairs and Human for a year, and did an internship at the European Parliament last year. Her big goal is to help people in poor countries.

The book takes place in Afghanistan and Sweden.

The book is about two siblings, one 10-year-old and one 11-year-old coming as unaccompanied children to Sweden. The foster cares, learning the language, getting friends, being bullied etc. with an enormous drive and big ambitions.



Title: “Toma Las Rriendas – Hold the Reins”

Author: “Mery” Maria Jose Bielo Bits, Former participant and active volunteer in the project Toma Las Rriendas/Don Bosco Social Platforms, Spain

Mery is 19 years old and was born in Madrid, Spain, but her parents are from Equatorial Guinea. She is studying to become a Nursing Assistant. She is very happy to help people, and she believes and fights for young empowerment. She is a volunteer in a project called Toma Las Rriendas. The project changed her life and gave her the change she needed.

The book takes place in Naranjoven Youth Centre – a social project of Don Bosco Social Platforms (Plataformas Sociales Salesianas – Pindari). This centre is located in Fuenlabrada, a city in the outskirts of Madrid.

The project, Toma Las Rriendas, focuses on promoting empowerment and participation in young people who come from very disadvantaged background or processes. In the project the process is carried out so that they acquire competences as agents of change between equals. It is carried out in teams of one educator and two young people, through on-line training, several face-to-face meetings and the sharing of action experiences in their local environments. All along the project puts at the centre young people and emotional educational and intelligence.



Title: "Comhairle na nÓg Maigh Eo"

Author: Grazvydas and Charlie/Foróige, Ireland

The book takes place in County Mayo, Ireland.

Comhairle na nÓg are child and youth councils in the 31 local authorities of the country, which give children and young people the opportunity to be involved in the development of local services and policies.

In light of the fact that Comhairle na nÓg is for young people under the age of 18 and who therefore have no other voting mechanism to have their voice heard, Comhairle na nÓg is designed to enable young people to have a voice on the services, policies and issues that affect them in their local area.

Comhairle na nÓg Maigh Eo is currently one of the biggest Comhairle in Ireland with over 40 representatives from all around the county and different backgrounds.



Title: "This is his story..."

Author: Author: Meri, Student/NGO „KHAM" Delcevo and OSF

Meri is 16 years old and from Vinica, Macedonia. She is at the 2nd class of Vanco Prke high school, which is located in Vinica. It is a small town in the eastern region of Macedonia.

She is always thinking positive, and have a will for learning new things. She is a communicative person, who wants to meet new people, and increase her friend circle. She is good with languages; she knows English, German and Turkish. What she wants to do with her life in the future after she finish high school, is to enrol in a university, that would fit to her skills. That is why she is thinking about enrolling to the Faculty of Philology.

The book takes place in Macedonia and in Germany.

The book is about a young guy who is forced to leave his homeland with his family in order to seek a better life in Germany. After a period of time he returns back to his homeland, this time with a different perspective and priorities. He wants to continue with his education, but the country doesn't allow him due to its procedures. The book describes the hard times that the boy encounters and how education is necessary for a young boy like him. It also demonstrates how the challenges of a system and lack of opportunities in a country can impact children from developing their skills and achieving their dreams.



Title: "The Augeo Youth Taskforce on Violence Against Children: what it is and why it works"

Authors: Fahima, Member of Augeo Youth Taskforce (during first session) and Desiree de Jongh, Manager/Augeo Youth Taskforce, The Netherlands

The book is about the taskforce consisting about 50 young people who have suffered from adverse childhood experiences first hand. These young people organize special workshops (e.g. for divorce counsellors), share their experiences at conferences, advise policymakers and politicians and conduct youth surveys. As a result, the Augeo Youth Taskforce ensures that young people with hands-on experience are increasingly seen and heard in initiatives to address violence against children by Augeo in 2013. The Youth Taskforce provides a platform for children and adolescents to join in the discussion on effective ways of tackling child abuse and neglect, chronic bullying and high conflict divorces. All members of the Youth Taskforce have a connection with violence against children. This can either be from personal experiences during childhood, from having come into contact with the issues at school or within their circle of friends, or from their field of study or profession. Examples are a

young police officer who responds to emergency calls, and a young pediatrician-in-training. The Youth Taskforce works together with representatives from other youth-initiatives and platforms in the youth welfare sector, to give young people a voice in the tackling of violence against children.

The Taskforce is also active in different countries in Europe. For example, a ‘Hear and See Me’ training course was organized in the Czech Republic. The young people told their audience how they approach the training courses in the Netherlands in the hope that this information will be used to set up a similar initiative in the Czech Republic.



Title: “How to become a human rights defender: A practical guide”

Author: Konstantinos, Teens4greece Founder, Member of Eurochild Children’s Council and Human rights defender, Greece.

Konstantinos is 16 years old and from Greece. He is really passionate about children rights and more specifically children participation. He is the founder of Teens4greece.com and has been selected as a child advisor for the UN to represent Eurochild.

Defending human rights should not be restricted to location or time.

This book describes the steps someone should follow to become a human rights defender. From Konstantinos’s experience in the UN he realized that many people feel scared to express their ideas and thoughts. In a world where human rights are constantly violated it is now the time to raise our voice. He hears stories about two different worlds. A western world in which we discuss involving children in decision making and a world in which children were denied their basic rights such as education. To solve these problems, we need contributions from everyone and more specifically young people. At the end, either we will heal now as humanity or we will die as individuals in silence.



Title: “My Journey Through the Life”

Author: Sedin, Hope and Homes for Children, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Sedin was born in 1999 in a small city in Bosnia called Visoko. He lived there with his family for four years before he got sent to an orphanage in Zenica. He finished elementary school as an excellent student, and is now in the fourth year of high school of economy. And he is still excellent.

The book takes place mostly in Zenica.

The book is about the challenge Sedin went through as an orphan. It’s about friendships he made, memories he collected and things he learned about life.



Title: *“Child rights 101 for politicians and organisers of political campaigns”*

Author: Botond, Child Rights Ambassador & Barbara Nemeth, Head of Child Participation Programme/Hintalovon Child Rights Foundation, Hungary

Barbara Németh is responsible for the Child Participation Programme of Hintalovon Foundation. She has an academic background in psychology and human rights, and has 6 years of experience in child rights advocacy, including research and training. Botond is a child rights ambassador, a 16-year-old volunteer. In the last 15 months, he participated in various campaigns to raise awareness of children’s rights.

The book takes place in Hungary.

The child rights 101 for politicians and organisers of political campaigns was released in February 2018, prior to the general election campaign in Hungary. The publication of the Hintalovon Child Rights Foundation draws attention to the forms of child participation in political campaigns and events that violate children’s rights and makes recommendations for promoting real child participation. As the child rights ambassadors pointed out: “If not the children’s opinion and experience matters, it is nothing but exploitation.”

