



eurochild

**ANNUAL REPORT  
2012**

## EUROCHILD'S VISION

A Europe where every child grows up in an environment that nurtures their physical, intellectual, emotional, moral, and spiritual development. A European society in which children's rights, as enshrined by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), are universally understood and respected by politicians, governments, professionals, parents and guardians, and children.

## EUROCHILD'S MISSION

To voice and promote the interests of children and young people in Europe, and organisations that work with them - in particular children and young people who are vulnerable and exposed to poverty and social exclusion.

## EUROCHILD'S OBJECTIVES

- Ensuring a voice for children and young people and the organisations that work with them, in policy debates at EU level;
- Strengthening its network of contacts within the EU institutions, in particular the European Parliament, the relevant DGs of the European Commission and the EU Presidencies, and thus contributing to furthering EU policies on children's rights in particular with regards to the fight against child poverty and the promotion of child well-being;
- Raising awareness among child and youth organisations at national and regional level of the wide ranging initiatives and policies at EU level that impact on children;
- Building a strong, influential network of organisations that can engage in civil dialogue at European, national and regional level to promote children's rights and welfare;
- Developing our capacity to respond to the growing demand for cooperation with other key stakeholders including other NGOs, regional and local authorities, researchers and academic institutions, and other inter-governmental organisations.

## EUROCHILD'S VALUES

**Partnership.** Eurochild provides a broad platform for different types of organisations with the aims of sharing of expertise and experience, and facilitating partnerships to promote the rights and welfare of children and young people.

**Participation.** Eurochild aims to give a voice to children and young people themselves by: encouraging and promoting good practice in participation within the member organisations; attracting peer-led groups of children and young people into membership; and involving children and young people from the membership in the network's events and activities.

**Ownership.** Eurochild aims to respond to members' needs and interests and to enable members to play an active role in delivery of the organisation's objectives.

## INTRODUCTION

*"The prosperity of Europe's ageing society depends crucially on its capacity to give its children the best start in life."*

**László Andor**, European Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion,  
opening speech at Eurochild's annual conference 24th November 2012

*2012 was marked by the ever deepening social crisis in Europe. With youth unemployment rising to unprecedented levels in several EU countries, there was talk of a 'lost generation'. For Eurochild, cuts in benefits and services for vulnerable families and children are particularly worrying. Placing children's rights and well-being at the heart of policy making is not a luxury in times of plenty. The experience of a joyful childhood is important for children now. It is also an investment in the future.*

*EU leaders appear to be recognizing that 'business as usual' will not lead a sustainable exit to the crisis. Austerity, without due regard to the social consequences, is acknowledged by many as failing. In 2012 we saw some positive developments which should help to put 'the social' back in the heart of Europe. For example Eurochild, together with its partners, kept a close eye on the next seven-year budget of the EU. The European Commission proposals and European Parliament positions introduce several positive changes compared to the previous funding round. Linking the budget to achieving the Europe 2020 goals of green, inclusive and smart growth, should steer more investment into more balanced, integrated strategies. There are proposals to ring-fence resources for social inclusion. Ex-ante conditionalities and the thematic priorities on deinstitutionalization should protect the rights of children and others with care needs. 2012 also ended with the promise of the Social Investment Package and the long-awaited Recommendation on child poverty and well-being. They should help create a paradigm shift and show that Europe cares.*

*Our Annual Report documents the vital work that Eurochild and its members have done throughout the year to put children on the radar of politicians and policy makers. We have had some notable success. The work on internal governance, membership and preparations of a new strategic plan has also been crucial to keep the network strong and growing. We hope that reading these pages, members will feel proud of what we have achieved and others will be inspired to join us.*

June 2013



**Dr. Maria Herczog**

Eurochild President; Chair of the Family, Child and Youth Association, Hungary & Member of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child



**Jana Hainsworth**

Eurochild Secretary General

Electronic version with hyperlinked footnotes is available for download at [www.tinyurl.com/eurochild-annual-reports](http://www.tinyurl.com/eurochild-annual-reports)

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## I. INFLUENCING EU POLICY & ACTION

The two overarching themes of our policy work are defending and mainstreaming children's rights, and fighting child poverty and promoting child well-being. Members actively contribute to this work through membership surveys and consultations. A Policy Steering Group (PSG) meets twice a year in January and September.

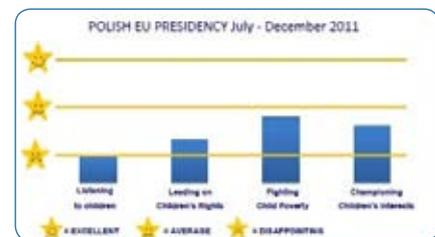
Our Thematic Working Groups (TWG) facilitate exchange of experience between members. They also ensure that our influencing work is rooted in practice and research. In 2012, three TWGs were active focusing on: Early Childhood Education and Care, Family and Parenting Support, and Children in Alternative Care.

### 1. DEFENDING AND MAINSTREAMING CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

Every 6 months **Eurochild assesses the EU presidencies (Scorecards)** according to their commitment to children's rights and well-being. Poland's Presidency (last half of 2011) showed much room for improvement, while Denmark's performance (first half of 2012) had Ups and Downs <sup>1</sup>.

In February we organised together with colleagues from Plan International, the informal training **Children's rights in EU Policy Making** for assistants, political advisors & European Parliament staff. Hosted by Slovak MEP Katarína Neved'alová (Party of European Socialists) this event explained the European Parliament's role in protecting and promoting Children's Rights<sup>2</sup>.

A new **Optional Protocol of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child** was opened for signature in February 2012. Once 10 countries have ratified, the Protocol will provide a **complaints procedure for children**, enabling them to seek redress for violations of their rights. By 31 December 2012 two countries had ratified the protocol.



Eurochild President and UNCRC Committee member **Maria Herczog** said

*"Use of this Protocol should tell us a lot about the overall quality of implementation of the UNCRC in state parties. From individual cases we can get a better understanding of how the system is really working".*

Eurochild is one of 12 organisations on the **steering committee** set up to guide the international coalition pushing for the ratification: [www.ratifyop3crc.org](http://www.ratifyop3crc.org) [<http://www.ratifyop3crc.org/>]<sup>3</sup>

1. Eurochild's Assessment of EU Presidencies: Scorecards [<http://bit.ly/11r2CnO>]

2. Eurochild Training: Child Rights in EU Policy Making - How the EP can contribute to protect and promote Children's Rights [<http://bit.ly/15QO59I>]

3. European states support UN complaints procedure on children's rights [<http://bit.ly/13RTThI>]

The European Commission published in April their second annual Report on the **application of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights**. Children's rights have a dedicated section and are also considered in other parts of the Charter.

Eurochild welcomes this Report as an important tool to monitor how the rights of the Charter are upheld by the EU and its Member States. With regards to children's rights we believe however the Report **should provide a broader picture**. Therefore we recommended:

1. To develop reporting mechanisms that are more exhaustive in monitoring children's rights in EU policy and action
2. To work towards a comprehensive EU strategy on children's rights beyond 2014
3. To improve mainstreaming tools and mechanisms within the EU institutions<sup>1</sup>

The **Annual EU Forum on the Rights of the Child** is the flagship event that supports and promotes the EU's efforts to protect the rights of the child. The 7th Annual Forum, organised in November 2012, focused on supporting child protection systems. Eurochild's assessment of the event **welcomed the many improvements compared to previous Fora, but called for more political commitment** to back up concrete actions foreseen in the EU Agenda for the Rights of the Child.

Importantly the preventative aspects of child protection systems were recognised at the highest political level. As stated by Vice-President of the European Commission **Viviane Reding** responsible for Justice, Fundamental Rights and Citizenship

*"Rising poverty levels mean that there is more demand for support services, while at the same time service providers experience cuts in staff and funding. Resources are under increasing pressure, affecting, for example, the training of specialised staff".*

## 2. FIGHTING CHILD POVERTY

In April **EU governments threatened to remove guarantees for social investments** within the European Structural Fund regulations. With 27% of children at risk of poverty, such a decision would be irresponsible and damaging for Europe's future. Eurochild called to support the European Commission's proposal **to ring-fence EU budget for social inclusion**<sup>2,3</sup>.

**Prime Ministers and Presidents of all EU Member States** met end of June to agree measures to exit the Euro crisis and discuss the EU budget 2014-2018. Eurochild told them in an **Open Letter** that long-term economic recovery and social integration is only possible if they **put the best interest of the children at the heart of all decision-making**<sup>4</sup>.

1. Assessment of the European Commission's 2011 Report on the application of the EU Charter on Fundamental Rights and its contribution to protecting children's rights in the EU [<http://bit.ly/17CAkiH>]

2. Eurochild Press Release: EU governments look set to undermine their commitments to fight poverty [<http://bit.ly/114ihOy>]

3. The European Anti-Poverty Network campaigns to support 20% ESF allocation for social inclusion [<http://bit.ly/164upiY>]

4. Open Letter to Europe's Heads of States [<http://bit.ly/11uIfXP>]



*Credit: The Council of the European Union*

In 2012 the European Commission continued developing the **Recommendation on Child Poverty and Well-being**. An advisory report was adopted in June by the Social Protection Committee (SPC), the body responsible for overseeing the implementation of the social protection and social inclusion process of the EU.

Eurochild applauded the report by the SPC. We support its vision that **tackling child poverty requires a holistic and multidimensional response** and welcomed its call for integrated policies across the sectors of health, education, social, housing, environment and employment.

The report refers to the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child, and emphasises that children's rights to be heard, to play, to relax, and to participate in a wide range of leisure, sport, cultural activities play a crucial role in children's well-being. It also gives due attention to social inclusion, equality of opportunity, and development of children's full potential.

Eurochild raised a concern that many Member States still view **parents' return to the labour market** as the main measure for tackling child poverty and promoting well-being. For many parents finding work is not an option in the short term but through interventions such as parent support, strengthening family networks, peer support, etc. it is possible to build self-esteem and skills that will improve long-term employability and improve children's outcomes and well-being<sup>1</sup>.

**More than one in four children in the European Union live at risk of poverty and social exclusion**, many of them exposed to material deprivation, low quality housing, poor nutrition, and inadequate healthcare and education. Social inclusion is not an add-on in times of plenty. It must be an integral part of the solution to lift Europe out of the current crisis.

In a Policy Statement - addressing the Cypriot Presidency Conference 'Investing in Children' in October 2012 – Eurochild called on European leaders **to put children's best interest at the heart of the strategy** against poverty. We urged governments to:

- Recognise that quality social services is an investment in the future, not a cost
- Recognise children as rights holders
- Act on EU and national commitments for 2020, by implementing a comprehensive policy mix that promotes access to adequate resources, access to quality services and children's participation<sup>2</sup>.

1. Eurochild overall assessment of the SPC advisory report to the EC on "Tackling and preventing child poverty, promoting child well-being" & suggestions for future actions [<http://bit.ly/16XbyKw>]

2. Policy Statement: Tackling child poverty and promoting child well-being in times of crisis [<http://bit.ly/ZFai9B>]





Early December, just before the 2nd **Annual Convention of the European Platform Against Poverty (EPAP)**, Eurochild asked the question: **what will be the long-term cost of Europe ignoring the rights and well-being of its children?**<sup>1</sup>

Many governments have introduced **austerity measures that scale back welfare support for families**, cut funding for basic public services, and withdrew support from the voluntary sector. These were among the latest findings of a **survey on the impact of the crisis on children and families in Europe** released by Eurochild on the eve of the EPAP convention<sup>2</sup>.

### 3. EUROPE 2020

The real form of the **Europe 2020 strategy** took shape in 2012. Adopted in 2010, Eurochild and many others welcomed its integrated approach. Two of the 5 headline targets addressed poverty and education: a quantitative target to lift 20 million people out of poverty, plus a target to reduce early school leaving to less than 10%.

But a strategy is only as good as its implementation. In July we published our synthesis of **members' analyses of the National Reform Programmes and National Social Reports**. The main finding is a **regression in Member States' commitment** to social and education inclusion. Only Greece and the UK had set targets to reduce child poverty and these were looking increasingly out of reach<sup>3</sup>.

### 4. EU BUDGET

Eurochild authored a policy position together with several other international child rights NGOs on the **EU budget 2014-2020** - the so-called Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF).

Article 3 of the Lisbon Treaty explicitly recognises the promotion of children's rights in internal and external affairs as an objective of the EU. In our joint paper we call on the European Union to reflect this commitment by allocating adequate financial means for children in the next MFF. We also state that children need to be made visible in the EU budget by securing direct and indirect allocations, which can be traced and monitored.

The paper was endorsed by the 13 child rights organisations that make up the **Child Rights Action Group (CRAG)**<sup>4</sup>.

Tuesday: 23 years of universal Children's Rights!  
Friday: all forgotten during EU budget negotiations?



1. Press Release: What future for Europe as austerity measures hit children hardest? [<http://bit.ly/105WRBP>]

2. Report: How the economic and financial crisis is affecting children & young people in Europe [<http://bit.ly/12B8p1t>]

3. Eurochild publishes its report on the National Reform Programmes: The European Union shows its true colours... [<http://bit.ly/13xKj4v>]

4. Policy position: Children need to be visible in the EU budget 2014-2020 [<http://bit.ly/11CQPXY>]

On 22 November, when Heads of state and government met to reach an agreement on the EU budget, CRAG issued another statement urging EU Member States to<sup>1,2</sup>:

- Maintain the level of expenditure for the overall budget,
- Ensure sufficient spending goes to children,
- Recognise the need for and ensure investment in children,
- Promote social inclusion and combating poverty, in particular child poverty,
- Ensure development aid levels that have a true impact on poverty eradication.

Eurochild's efforts successfully impacted upon the European Parliament's position on the **European Social Fund (ESF)**. In July the European Parliament called for **adequate funding allocation** for activities promoting social inclusion and the fight against poverty. Furthermore, MEPs voted to keep **a clause that identifies deinstitutionalisation (DI) as a priority issue** for structural funds.

Eurochild has repeatedly raised the **crucial role played by early intervention and preventative family-support services** as well as fostering and family-like settings as alternatives to institutionalisation<sup>3</sup>.

## 5. DEINSTITUTIONALISATION



In June we organised together with our partners from **Hopes & Homes for Children (HHC)** and **Absolute Return for Kids (ARK)** an exhibition with vernissage, an expert roundtable and a training for staff in the European Parliament in Brussels. Testimonies and experts in child development and fundamental rights spoke at this series of events and shared their views about the detrimental effects of institutionalisation. The event was hosted by Irish Member of the European Parliament **Mairead McGuinness** (European People's Party)<sup>4</sup>.

Together with Hopes and Homes for Children we published in October our **key documents on Deinstitutionalisation** and Quality Alternative Care. The **Working Paper** describes the issue of deinstitutionalisation and its effect on children, outlining lessons learnt and **the way forward**. Our second brochure aims to **dispel the myths** around the issue and answers Frequently Asked Questions<sup>5</sup>.

1. Call to EU politicians: Make children visible in the EU budget! [<http://bit.ly/13u2XZx>]

2. Eurochild Press Release: Children's Day & EU budget negotiations: Don't forget your glasses! [<http://bit.ly/13xKKMc>]

3. Eurochild News: European Parliament gets its mandate to negotiate structural funds regulations [<http://bit.ly/11CQOmG>]

4. Event: Children need families not institutions! Call to end the harmful institutionalisation of children in Europe [<http://bit.ly/16XcuyP>]

5. Working Paper: De-institutionalisation and quality alternative care for children in Europe – Lessons learned and the way forward [<http://bit.ly/11CR8ll>] - Myth Buster: Deinstitutionalisation [<http://bit.ly/11CRbxo>]

Eurochild is a member of the **European Expert Group** on the transition from institutional to community based care (EEG) - a broad coalition gathering stakeholders representing people with care or support needs<sup>1</sup>.

From May 2012, **Eurochild Secretary General Jana Hainsworth** co-chaired the group together with **Jan Jarab** Regional Representative for Europe Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and **Luk Zelderloo**, Secretary General of the European Association for Service Providers for People with Disabilities (EASPD).

The EEG launched in November 2012 the manual of **Common European Guidelines**<sup>2</sup> on the Transition from Institutional to Community-based Care and a **Toolkit**<sup>3</sup> on the use of Structural Funds. The two documents gather **good practice from across Europe** and provide practical advice about how to implement sustainable reforms<sup>4</sup>.



## 6. ROMA CHILDREN



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<http://schildtamas.hu>

On 23 May 2012 the European Commission launched its own **assessment of Member States integration strategies on Roma**. Eurochild looked at the strategies from the perspective of **the rights of Roma children**. Our review is a desk-based evaluation of all 24 Member States, but includes a more detailed report on Romania, Bulgaria and Hungary to which members and Roma organisations were also invited to contribute.

Unsurprisingly the report is **quite critical of Member States** first round of national integration strategies stating that many, especially in Western Europe, **don't seem to have taken seriously**. A **child-centred approach is missing** from virtually all reports and although early childhood and education are given considerable attention it is not addressed from a child rights perspective<sup>5</sup>.

1. Website of European Expert Group on the transition from institutional to community based care (EEG): [www.deinstitutionalisationguide.eu](http://www.deinstitutionalisationguide.eu)

2. Common European Guidelines on the Transition from Institutional to Community-based Care [<http://bit.ly/11aYEAL>] - -

3. Toolkit on the Use of European Union Funds for the Transition from Institutional to Community-based Care [<http://bit.ly/14sugWX>]

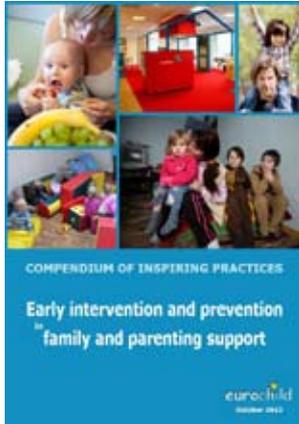
4. Eurochild News: European Expert Group Launches Common European Guidelines on Deinstitutionalisation [<http://bit.ly/13xL39L>]

5. Eurochild launches assessment of Roma integration strategies from a children's perspective [<http://bit.ly/11uJ7fb>]

## II. ENABLING EXCHANGE AND LEARNING AMONG MEMBERS

### 1. FAMILY AND PARENTING SUPPORT

Leading children's experts from across Europe met in Belfast to participate in our high level mutual learning seminar ('peer review') on **improving outcomes for children through investment in family and parenting support**<sup>1</sup>.



One key message is the call for a balanced perspective in evidence-based approaches which are capable of reflecting critically on quantitative and qualitative data and analysis. All presented case studies included innovative aspects, and have the potential to be repeated within their country or across Europe. The Eurochild network has the potential to respond to proposals within the EU to embrace social innovation and replication<sup>2</sup>.

Building on 5 years of mutual learning and exchange within its Thematic Working Group on Family and Parenting Support (FPS), we published in October our **Compendium of Inspiring Practices on Early Intervention and Prevention in Family and Parenting Support**.

The 12 case studies in this Compendium offer a sample of services that have had a demonstrable positive impact on the children and families they aim to serve<sup>3</sup>.

### 2. CHILDREN IN ALTERNATIVE CARE

Eurochild organized a workshop in Tallinn in June 2012 in the context of Eurochild's thematic working group on Children in Alternative Care. It built on previous work done by Eurochild **to support national de-institutionalisation reforms** and to promote smart allocation of EU funds. There were presentations on the situation in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Finland outlining the main challenges in reforming the alternative care system and reflecting on the use of EU Structural Funds.

Eurochild's annual conference (Sofia, November 2012) looked at **how the rights of children in alternative care can be best protected and promoted**. It provided a platform to share experience of what is working



1. Eurochild News: European Children's Experts gather to discuss Early Intervention and Prevention in Family Support [<http://bit.ly/11RnbK4>]
2. Eurochild Peer Review 2012: Early Intervention and Prevention in Family Support, Synthesis Report [<http://bit.ly/114jV2s>]
3. Eurochild publishes Inspiring Practices on Early Intervention and Prevention [<http://bit.ly/11aZ1eG>]

across Europe through plenary sessions, workshops, study visits and exchange of good practice. More than 200 leading European experts on children's rights, people working for non-governmental organisations, researchers, and political actors took part, as well as a group of children and young people with experience in the care system who brought their unique perspective to the debate.

### 3. EARLY YEARS EDUCATION AND CARE



*Policy Round Table on Early Childhood Education and Care, November 2012*

Eurochild organised a Policy Round Table **to promote a European framework for quality in Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC)**. It brought together Eurochild members and national policy experts to discuss the follow-up to the European Commission Communication and Council Conclusions on "Early childhood education and care: providing all our children with the best start for the world of tomorrow"<sup>1</sup>.

1. Event: Policy Round Table on Early Childhood Education and Care - Developing Early Childhood Education and Care in challenging times: towards a European ECEC Quality Framework [<http://bit.ly/105YLCx>]

### III. SUPPORTING CHILDREN'S PARTICIPATION

#### 1. END CHILD POVERTY MEETING IN CYPRUS

The “**European Children against Poverty**” project involved 20 children from 5 different European Countries (Cyprus, Croatia, Ireland, Portugal and The Netherlands). It created an exchange between children and provided an environment for them to express, discuss and learn about child poverty and social exclusion.

The children created **a magazine** to bring their key messages to politicians and decision makers. These messages were transmitted on 19 October during the **Cypriot EU presidency conference**.



The project highlights the importance of meaningful child participation and is a recognition of the valuable contribution that children, if given the chance to exercise fully all their rights, can contribute to every level of society<sup>1</sup>.

#### 2. SPEAK UP! - GIVING A VOICE TO CHILDREN FROM VULNERABLE BACKGROUNDS



Speak up! is a 2-year Eurochild-led project on children's rights run with a grant from the Fundamental Rights & Citizenship Programme of the European Commission. It addressed **children's own views of their rights**, the protection of those rights and their opinions on necessary national and European policy actions.

Some of the children involved were **particularly vulnerable** due to their situation. These children most frequently experience **rights violations** and are **less likely to be heard**.

**Empowering children and ensuring that their views are heard** by policy

makers were the main objectives of this project.

The final report and a triptych version were presented at the final conference in September in Brussels<sup>2</sup>.



1. “European Children Against Poverty” - A Youth in Action project for children to discuss and learn about child poverty [<http://bit.ly/190rVU9>]

2. Speak up! project on children's right [<http://bit.ly/190rUj0>]

### 3. EUROCHILD'S ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2012

*"The feeling of being among (professional) friends hearing testimony of care leavers and a foster parent and the views of the young people: it takes enormous courage for people to be so honest and I think many of us were very touched..."*

(an AC2012 participant from the UK<sup>1</sup>)

**Involving children and young people** in our activities is of utmost importance for Eurochild. Our annual conferences are always flanked by a parallel youth meeting or seminar.



*Performance by young people at Annual Conference in Sofia, October 2012*



*President of Bulgaria **Rosen Plevniev** (middle) at reception of Annual Conference in Sofia, October 2012*

Our Annual Conference 2012 in Sofia (Bulgaria) focussed on the rights of children in institutional care. Some of the young participants had care experience. They discussed the issue among themselves and shared their experiences and opinions with the 'adult' conference. Like every year, these are special highlight moments: the young people illustrated the severity and urgency to act. Their key messages are guidelines for the adult conference.

*"We are committed in Bulgaria to closing our institutions for children"*

(President of Bulgaria **Rosen Plevniev**)

1. Eurochild's Annual Conference 2012 in Sofia – Promoting the Rights of children in alternative care across Europe [<http://bit.ly/18o25MJ>]

## IV. STRENGTHENING THE EUROCHILD NETWORK

### 1. EUROCHILD MEMBERSHIP

Our membership increased by 16 full members and 3 associate members<sup>1</sup>. On 31 December 2012 118 full members, 37 associate members and 1 honorary member were part of the network, across 35 European countries.

### 2. EUROCHILD WORKING STRUCTURES

Following an extensive membership review, members agreed a new membership typology at the 2012 General Assembly. The new membership typology aims to improve transparency, accountability and representivity. It was agreed to move forward with the nomination and appointment of **national partner networks**, representative networks of the children's sector operating at national and sub-national level.

A **structures working group** comprising a management board member and two members reviewed Eurochild's working structures and reflected on outcomes of the 2011 external evaluation. The conclusions were presented to the co-chairs of the thematic working groups (TWGs) and members at the General Assembly. As a result:

- New common Terms of Reference were adopted for all TWGs;
- Terms of reference for the Policy Steering Group were revised to strengthen coordination between national and EU policy making and ensure a link with the TWGs.

The **Policy Steering Group** (PSG) met twice in 2012 (January and September) to review and input to Eurochild's influencing strategy. In particular it focused on our efforts to mainstream children's rights, our inputs to the Europe 2020 strategy and our response to how the crisis is impacting on children and young people.

Two expert groups were set up in 2012 on the request of the Eurochild management board.

The **expert group on the impact of the Lisbon Treaty on Children's Rights** combines the expertise and advocacy experience of member organisations with that of recognized academic experts in the field to support Eurochild's advocacy for children's rights both at EU and at national level.



*Eurochild General Assembly, June 2012*

A reference group on **participatory methods for the inclusion of all children** brings together Eurochild members and academic experts with long-standing experience and knowledge on child participation. Its activities include: building a stronger knowledge base and collecting good practice; developing common principles and guidance to support participation of children and young people from particularly vulnerable or marginalised groups; and advising the secretariat and management board on future project bids and the strategic orientation of Eurochild's work in this area.

1. Number reflecting withdrawals, new members endorsed by the GA in 2012 as well as new members still to be endorsed by 2013 GA

### 3. EUROCHILD INFORMATION SERVICES

Eurochild's website ([www.eurochild.org](http://www.eurochild.org)) is our main channel of communication. In 2012, we saw a 5% increase in page visitors, spending 8% more time on our website.

On Facebook and Twitter we are followed by some 2,900 people in total, which means 1,000 new fans in one year. Our YouTube channel has 48 subscribers and more than 121,000 views.<sup>1</sup>



In 2012 we produced 41 of our members-only weekly newsletters and 11 public monthly "eNews Bulletins". Our e-mailing list grew to 4,330 recipients.

We produced 26 publications and printed & distributed approximately 7,000 copies. Eleven press releases were published in 2012 distributed to 428 contacts including media, networks, partner NGOs and MEPs.

### 4. DIVERSIFYING EUROCHILD'S INCOME SOURCES

Eurochild gratefully acknowledges the financial support offered by our partners in 2012.

Eurochild has a strategic partnership with **DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion** from January 2011-December 2013, within the framework of the **Progress programme** [<http://bit.ly/108yh3s>]. Thanks to this support we are able to:

- Bring the concerns of members and of children and young people themselves into the EU level policy debate;
- Support our members advocacy at national and regional level, through information sharing and capacity building;
- Strengthen the network by broadening the membership and improving working methods to ensure members participation and ownership of our activities.

**Hope and Homes for Children** [<http://www.hopeandhomes.org/>] co-funded the work of the Eurochild secretariat on **deinstitutionalisation** and helped with the design of our publications in this area. We also worked together on the design of a **pan-European campaign** launched in 2013.

From June 2012, Eurochild signed a 3-year grant agreement with the **OAK Foundation** [<http://www.oakfnd.org/>] to support "**Strengthening child rights advocacy and networks**". This grant co-funds our work programme with the European Commission in relation to developing national partner networks and coordinating EU and national advocacy.

The **Bernard Van Leer Foundation** [<http://www.bernardvanleer.org/>] gave additional financial support to the Policy Round Table on "Developing Early Childhood Education and Care in challenging times: towards a European ECEC Quality Framework", November 2012.

1. Eurochild on Facebook [<http://on.fb.me/13zsWjN>], Twitter [<http://bit.ly/12jfIh>] and YouTube [<http://bit.ly/11whxC>]



The **Universal Education Foundation** [<http://www.learningforwellbeing.org/>] supported a scoping exercise exploring the most promising EU policy areas to support a “**Learning for Well-being**” approach.

In 2012, Eurochild concluded its project “**Speak Up!**” funded under the **EU Fundamental Rights and Citizenship Programme** [<http://bit.ly/11sK2eY>].

Eurochild is partner in the project **DRIVERS** for health equity which is co-ordinated by EuroHealthNet and co-funded by the **European Union’s Seventh Framework Programme** (FP7/2007-2013) [<http://bit.ly/116AMBK>]. Eurochild and four of our members are contributing to work programme on **early childhood development**. The project runs until end 2014.

## 5. STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

Eurochild intensified its cooperation with the **Universal Education Foundation** in 2012. We supported the launch of a policy glossary “**Learning for Well-being: A Policy Priority for Children and Youth in Europe. A Movement for Change**” in February 2012. The glossary is a **milestone in the development of this holistic movement** which aims to help children realize their unique and full potential. It was subject to a consultation with various experts within the European Commission, the European Parliament, the OECD, the Council of Europe and foundations, youth organisations, government and non-government organisations<sup>1</sup>.



Eurochild paved the way for a strategic partnership with **Hope and Homes for Children** in 2013 to develop and implement a pan-European campaign to support deinstitutionalisation called ‘**Opening Doors for Children**’.

<sup>1</sup>.Launch event: Learning for Well-being - A Policy Priority for Children and Youth in Europe [<http://bit.ly/14Pv9pg>]



## V. TEAM

### 1. MANAGEMENT BOARD

The 2012 Management Board comprises (from left to right):



- **Maria Herczog**, Family Child Youth Association, Hungary, President
- **Pauline Leeson**, Children in Northern Ireland, UK, Treasurer
- **Marie Gustafsson**, Örebro Regional Development Council, Sweden
- **Kelig Puyet**, SOS Children's Villages International
- **Ivano Abruzzi**, Albergo della Vita, Italy
- **George Bogdanov**, National Network for Children, Bulgaria
- **Hanna Heinonen**, Central Union for Child Welfare, Finland (from June 2012)

During our General Assembly in June 2012, Hanna Heinonen from the Central Union for Child Welfare (Finland) was elected as new board member replacing Maarit Kuikka who had left Central Union for Child Welfare.

### 2. EUROCHILD SECRETARIAT

In 2012, the Eurochild Brussels secretariat employed the following staff members:

- Secretary General: **Jana Hainsworth**
- Policy Director: **Janina Arsenjeva** (from May 2012)
- Policy Officer: **Mafalda Leal**
- Policy Officer: **Agata D'Addato**
- Policy Officer: **Michela Costa**
- Policy Assistant: **Reka Tunyogi**
- Information and Communications Officer: **Björn Becker**
- Membership and Marketing Officer: **Marie Dubit**
- Office and Events Manager: **Monique Kesteloot**

The Secretariat hosts trainees on a regular basis to support the policy and information and communication work.

- Policy Interns: **Ronan Mangan, Nicoleta Popstoeva**
- Communications Interns: **Melanie Radike, Tabitha Ettienne, Anna "Nali" Espin**

Eurochild also relies on external consultants. In particular we would like to thank:

- **Mieke Schuurman** for her valuable inputs to the Eurochild expert groups on child rights and EU law and child participation
- **Caroline Sykora** for her analysis of the Roma integration strategies
- **Ronan Mangan** for his facilitation of the child and youth meetings
- **Hugh Frazer** for preparing the synthesis report of members analysis of the NRPs and editing the Eurochild/EAPN explainer on child poverty
- **Jan Pfeiffer** for his inputs to the workshop on DI organised by the thematic working group on children in alternative care
- **Anne Williams** for coordinating the Compendium of Inspiring Practice on family and parenting support, and being rapporteur for the Peer Review and Annual Conference
- **Simone Bommelje** and her team for facilitating the children's meeting in parallel to the Cyprus Presidency conference on children
- **Juliet Ramage** for her contribution to the Peer Review on Family and Parenting Support
- **Danielle Douglas, Maria Brestnichka, Jean Anne Kennedy and Ronan Mangan**, for supporting the young people at Eurochild's annual conference
- **Sandy Ruxton** for drafting our report on the impact of the crisis on children and young people
- **John Bennett** for preparing the background paper to our policy round table on early years
- **Sally Whitaker** for supporting the membership review and assessment of national partner networks
- **Tony Ivens** and **Lucy Akhtar** for researching and authoring the report on grandparent care
- **Dominique Danau** for our external evaluation
- **Alain Hacon** our accountant, and **Nathalie Vuylsteke** our book-keeper



*The Eurochild Secretariat on an away day in November 2012*

## VI. MEMBERS

### A. FULL MEMBERS

#### Albania

The Children's Human Rights Centre of Albania - CRCA

#### Austria

Vorarlberger Kinderdorf GmbH

#### Belgium

Expoo - Flemish Expertise Centre on Parenting Support; VBJK, Ressource and Research Centre for Early Childhood Care and Education; Youth organisation Den Tube - Neighbourhood Centre 't Lampeke

#### Bulgaria

Animus Association Foundation; Karin Dom Foundation; Cedar Foundation; For our Children; Know-how Centre for Alternative Care for Children, New Bulgarian University\*; National Network for Children; Social Activities and Practices Institute;

#### Croatia

Coordination of Association for Children; Society "Our Children" Opatija; Union of Societies "Our Children" Croatia

#### Cyprus

Center for the Study of Childhood and Adolescence; Pancyprian Coordinating Committee for the Protection and Welfare of Children

#### Czech Republic

In the Interest of the Child, the Civic Association; Information Centre Nicholas

#### Denmark

Family and Evidence Center Denmark; Joint Council for Child Issues (Bornesagens Faellesrad); LOS- National Organisation of Residential Homes, Group Homes and Special Schools

#### Estonia

Estonian Union for Child Welfare; Our Own Family NGO; Tallinn Children Support Centre

#### EU wide

Child Helpline International; Diversity in Early Childhood Education and Training; Dyslexia International - Sharing expertise; EACH European Association for Children in Hospital; European Council for Steiner Waldorf Education; European Network of Masters in Children's Rights; European Non-Governmental Sports Organisation Youth; Home-Start Worldwide; International Association for Steiner/Waldorf Early Childhood Education\*; International Child Development Initiatives; International Foster Care Organisation; International Step by Step Association (ISSA); SOS Children's Villages International; Universal Education Foundation

#### Finland

Central Union for Child Welfare Finland; Mannerheim League for Child Welfare; Pesäpuu Ry - Centre of Expertise in Child Welfare; The Finnish Children's Parliament Association

#### France

Association for Equal Chances Nord Pas de Calais; Association Samuel Vincent; Comité National de Solidarité Laique;

Fondation des Orphelins Apprentis d'Auteuil; National Federation of Association for Child Protection - France

### **FYR Macedonia**

First Children's Embassy in the World - Megjashi

### **Germany**

Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Kinder- und Jugendhilfe; Journeys, distance, adventure; Youth Empowerment Partnership Programme (YEPP)

### **Greece**

European Network of Women - Greece; Iliachtida - Association for Children and Family; Roots Research Center NGO; Social and Education Action; The Smile of the Child

### **Hungary**

Family, Child, Youth Non-Profit Association; Former State Fostered Children's Association; National Association of Large Families

### **Ireland**

Arts for Peace Foundation (Ltd); Children's Rights Alliance Ireland; One Family; Start Strong

### **Italy**

Amici dei Bambini; Education, School and Family Services - Ferrara City Council - Bambini in Europa Documentation Centre; Fondazione L'Albero della Vita ONLUS; Il Grillo Parlante Sociat Cooperativa Sociale; Intermedia Consulting NGO; Patrizio Paoletti Foundation

### **Latvia**

Children's Forum of Latvia

### **Lithuania**

Human Rights monitoring institute

### **Luxemburg**

Ombuds - Comité for the Rights of the Child

### **Malta**

Foundation for Social Welfare Services; Office of the Maltese Commissioner for Children

### **Poland**

Association for Children and Youths with Special Needs "One World"; ITAKA Foundation Centre for Missing People\*; Nobody's Children Foundation

### **Portugal**

CEBI - Foundation to Communitarian Development

### **Romania**

Fara Foundation; Federation of NGOs Romania; Hope and Homes for Children Romania

### **Russia**

Charity Foundation for Support of Youth Initiatives "My Generation"\*

### **Serbia**

Association for Development of Children and Youth - OPEN CLUB; Child Rights Center; Children and Youth Support

Organisation - Pomoc Deci

### **Slovakia**

National Centre for Equal Opportunities

### **Slovenia**

Association for Children and Parents SEZAM; Social Protection Institute of the Republic of Slovenia - Child Observatory

### **Spain**

Federació d'Entitats d'Atenció a la Infància i a l'Adolescència (FEDAIA); Research Team : Intervention - Faculty of Psychology and Education - Universidad de Deusto; Vallecas Out-of-School Coordination Project

### **Sweden**

JUNIS; Örebro Regional Development Council; Swedish Remarkable Parent's NGO, Single Parents Association; The Association for Promotion of Family Centers

### **The Netherlands**

Defence for Children International - The Netherlands; Netherlands Youth Institute

### **Ukraine**

EveryChild Ukraine

### **United Kingdom**

Absolute Return for Kids; Action for Children; British Association for Adoption and Fostering; Children and Families Across Borders; Children England; Children in Northern Ireland; Children in Scotland; Children in Wales; Children's Rights Alliance for England; Core Assets Ltd; Department of Applied Social Research, University of Bedfordshire; Institute for the Study of Children Families and Social Issues; Lifestart Foundation; National Children's Bureau; Office of Scotland's Commissioner for Children and Young People; Parenting NI; The Early Years Organisation; Together (Scottish Alliance for Children's Rights)\*; UNESCO Centre

## **B. ASSOCIATE MEMBERS**

### **Albania**

Ms Suela Kusi Drita

### **Austria**

Ms Sharon Schneider

### **Belgium**

Child Rights Coalition Flanders; Kind en Gezin; Mr Fred Deven; Ms Dale Kabasinskaite

### **Czech Republic**

Ms Lucie Sanderova

### **EU wide**

Alliance for Childhood European Network Group

### **Finland**

Ms Leena Andonov; Ms Maarit Kuikka

### **France**

Association Exhalessence; Mr John Bennet; Ms Florence Grandvalet; Mr Philippe Roux; Mrs Anne Williams

### **Greece**

Freedom Gate Greece\*; Ms Gella Varnava-Skoura

### **Hungary**

Parliamentary Commissioner for Civil Rights in Hungary and Ombudsperson for Children Prof Dr Máté Szabó

### **Iceland**

Centre for Children and Family Research

### **Ireland**

Mr Hugh Frazer; Mr Seamus Mannion

### **Italy**

CIFA

### **Lithuania**

Mr Dainius Puras

### **Moldova**

EveryChild Moldova

### **Poland**

Department of Applied Sociology and Social Work - University of Lodz

### **Portugal**

Mr Sergio Araújo

### **Romania**

Ms Anna Muntean

### **Spain**

Fundación Montessori sin Fronteras

### **Sweden**

ICU- I see You Interest in Children, Youth and their Understandings

### **The Netherlands**

Eigen Kracht Centrale; Ms Mieke Schuurman; Mr John Vijghen\*

### **United Kingdom**

Mr John Fitzgerald; Mr Peter Johnstone; Mr John H. Mc Kendrick; Ms Sarah Milan\*; Mr Mathias Urban

## **C. HONORARY MEMBER**

### **Belgium**

Mr Eugene Verhellen

*\*Membership still to be endorsed by the General Assembly in June 2013*

## VII. EUROCHILD ACTIVITIES

(E) Event    (N) News    (P) Policy

### JANUARY

- (N) Launch of the European Year on Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generation - Let's all commit to an age-friendly European Union by 2020!
- (N) Polish EU Presidency Scorecard: Below average  
Children represent 20% of our present but 100% of the future. So, don't ignore them!

### FEBRUARY

- (E) Child Rights in EU Policy Making  
How the EP can contribute to protect and promote Children's Rights
- (E) Learning for Well-being: A Policy Priority for Children and Youth in Europe  
Launch conference in Brussels
- (P) Optional Protocol of the UNCRC - European states support UN complaints procedure on children's rights
- (N) Eurochild welcomes UN complaints procedure for children  
A new Optional Protocol of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child is open for signature. First countries signed already.

### APRIL

- (P) Eurochild statement on EU leaders to invest for children

### MAY

- (P) CRAG: EU budget 2014-2020 - Making Children Visible
- (N) Children's Rights Action Group (CRAG) publishes position on EU Budget 2014-2020
- (P) European Expert Group on Transition from Institutional to Community-based Care (EEG) statement to the European Council on structural funds and ex-ante conditionalities
- (E) Peer Review: Early Intervention and prevention in family support - Organised by Eurochild's "Thematic working group on family and parenting support" in Belfast - Northern Ireland, with the support of CiNi (Children in Northern Ireland)

## JUNE

- (E) Children need families not institutions!  
Exhibition, Expert Roundtable and Training on ending the harmful institutionalisation of children in Europe
- (P) Eurochild Review of National Roma Integration Strategies  
Eurochild launches assessment of Roma integration strategies from a children's perspective
- (N) On 23rd May the European Commission launched its own assessment of member states national integration strategies on Roma.
- (P) EAPN Press Release on structural funds (supported by Eurochild)
- (N) 1 budget, 7 years, 2 billion children  
Why the 2014-2020 EU budget must have children at its heart
- (N) Open Letter to Europe's Heads of States: "Dear Head of State,...."  
Urging EU leaders to put the best interest of the child at the heart of all decision-making.



*Networking event at GA2012 in June 2012*

## JULY

- (P) Eurochild Peer Review 2012: Early Intervention and Prevention in Family Support
- (P) Eurochild's analysis of the National Reform Programmes
- (P) Eurochild article - European Parliament gets its mandate to negotiate structural funds regulations
- (N) Eurochild publishes its report on the National Reform Programmes  
The European Union shows its true colours...
- (P) Eurochild Assessment: The European Commission's 2011 Report on the application of the EU Charter on Fundamental Rights and its contribution to protecting children's rights in the EU
- (P) Peer Review Seminar: Early Intervention and Prevention in Family Support (Synthesis Report)

## AUGUST

- (P) Eurochild assessment of SPC report on "Tackling and preventing child poverty, promoting child well-being"
- (N) Eurochild assessed Denmark's EU Presidency Performance...from a Child Rights perspective.

## SEPTEMBER

- (P) Speak Up Project: Triptych version (with summary recommendations & children's views)
- (P) Speak Up Project: Final Report
- (P) Eurochild's paper for EC Peer Review in Belgium: Fighting child poverty and social exclusion through promoting children's full participation in society

## OCTOBER

- (P) Compendium of Inspiring Practices on Early Intervention and Prevention in Family and Parenting Support
- (N) Joint Statement in Support of a European Commitment to Child Well-being  
ATD Quart Monde, Caritas Europa, COFACE, Eurochild, Eurodiaconia, European Anti-Poverty Network, European Social Network and PICUM welcome the EPSCO Council Conclusions on "Tackling and preventing child poverty, promoting child well-being".
- (E) Think Parents! The European conference on parenting support from 10-12 October in The Hague
- (N) Eurochild publishes Inspiring Practices on Early Intervention and Prevention  
12 good practice cases in Compendium on Family and Parenting Support
- (E) European Children Against Poverty  
A Youth in Action project for children to discuss and learn about child poverty from 14-20 October in Cyprus
- (N) European Children Against Poverty  
A project for children to discuss and learn about child poverty
- (P) De-Institutionalisation - Myth Buster
- (P) De-Institutionalisation - Working Paper - De-Institutionalisation and Quality Alternative Care
- (P) Eurochild statement on tackling child poverty & promoting child well-being in times of crisis
- (E) Eurochild's Annual Conference 2012 from 24-26 October in Sofia  
"Promoting the rights of children in alternative care across Europe"
- (N) A new momentum: Closing down institutions for children in Europe  
Eurochild's annual conference in Sofia (Bulgaria) confirms the high level of political will to end the institutionalization of children and promote the rights of the child



*AC2012 participants at study visit in Sofia*

## NOVEMBER

- P** Toolkit on the Use of European Union Funds for the Transition from Institutional to Community Based Care
- N** Can the EU Child Rights Agenda boost Child Protection?  
7th European Forum on the Rights of the Child took place this week in Brussels. Eurochild has participated at these high-level meetings since its creation in 2007.
- N** Call to EU politicians: Make children visible in the EU budget!  
Together with our members and partners from other EU and international child rights networks, Eurochild engaged in an EU-wide action to make sure that the next seven year budget secures sufficient investment in children.
- P** CRAG Statement - Making children visible in the EU Budget 2014-2020
- N** European Expert Group Launches Common European Guidelines on Deinstitutionalisation  
On 20 November 2012, the European Expert Group on the Transition from Institutional to Community-based Care launches a set of key guidelines on how to make a sustained transition from institutional care to family-based and...
- N** Children's Day & EU budget negotiations: Don't forget your glasses!  
Today, 20 November, is Universal Children's Day.
- P** Common European Guidelines on the Transition from Institutional to Community Based Care
- E** Policy Round Table on Early Childhood Education and Care  
Developing Early Childhood Education and Care in challenging times: towards a European ECEC Quality Framework

## DECEMBER

- N** What future for Europe as austerity measures hit children hardest?  
If children grow up in poverty, their well-being today, their life chances tomorrow, and society's future will be irreversibly damaged.
- P** Crisis Update 2012: How the economic and financial crisis is affecting children & young people in Europe

## VIII. ACCOUNTS AND FUNDING

INCOME STATEMENT	2011	2012
<b>INCOME</b>		
Membership fees	51.475	58.177
EC Progress grant	731.427	801.567
Co-funding for Progress Actions	140.063	164.719
Other project grants	66.482	68.147
Donation	35.500	13.000
Interests	511	1.347
<b>Income total</b>	<b>1.025.458</b>	<b>1.106.957</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Operating expenses (excluding interim)	582.921	583.145
Payroll (including interim)	404.855	530.978
Taxes	111	2.655
Financial expenses	756	840
<b>Expenditure total</b>	<b>988.644</b>	<b>1.117.618</b>
<b>OPERATING RESULT</b>	<b>36.814</b>	<b>-10.660</b>

BALANCE SHEET	2011	2012
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Fixed assets	7.793	18.758
Trade accounts receivable	9.375	5.955
Other receivables	4.231	50.078
Progress grant	150.185	158.358
Advances to partners for projects	71.470	71.470
Deferred expenses	905	0
Accrued incomes	3.216	7.000
Cash & Bank	482.870	98.375
<b>Assets total</b>	<b>730.046</b>	<b>409.994</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Equity (own funds)	53.593	42.933
EC grants	434.714	172.955
Fixed liabilities	1.200	1.200
Current Liabilities	240.540	192.906
Trade Account payables	182.366	82.348
Trade accruals	10.073	7.188
Other payables	17.323	54.152
Accrued expenses	0	0
Social liabilities	30.778	49.218
<b>Liabilities total</b>	<b>730.046</b>	<b>409.994</b>

## MEMBERSHIP

Eurochild is open to all organisations and individuals with an interest in the rights and welfare of children and young people in Europe and a commitment to the full implementation of the UNCRC. Full members can include non-governmental organisations, statutory bodies, academic and research institutions and professional associations. Associate membership is primarily targeted at individuals.

Membership benefits:

1. Representation and promotion of members' interests and experiences to the EU institutions and recognition as being part of an influential network in the field of children's rights and welfare;
2. Information and support to enable members to develop their policy capacity to strengthen their influence at national and regional levels;
3. Opportunities to share good practice on design and delivery of high quality services to children, young people and families, and to form interest groups and partnerships with other organisations across Europe working in specific fields;
4. Targeted information on policy and practice developments, funding and partnership opportunities, events and news from across Europe related to children's rights and welfare.

For more information about membership, go to the "join us" page of our website or contact our Membership Officer at [membership@eurochild.org](mailto:membership@eurochild.org).

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The views expressed by Eurochild do not necessarily reflect the position or opinion of the European Commission.



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