



Eurochild

Putting children at
the heart of Europe

Championing children's rights in Europe – is the EU a help or a hindrance ?

Barnrättsdagarna, 25th April 2017

Eurochild – The Ombudsman for Children in Sweden – Central
Union for Child Welfare, Finland

Outline

1. **The EU** : Is it important for children, how & why?
2. **EU policy & legislation & Swedish law** on migrant & refugee children
3. **The children's rights network in Finland** – how does it engage with the EU
4. **Get involved** in using & influencing EU policy, funding & legislation



The EU & children

Did you know?

Promoting the Rights of the Child is an explicit objective of the European Union?

Article 3.3

*“It shall combat social exclusion and discrimination, and shall promote social justice and protection, equality between women and men, solidarity between generations and **protection of the rights of the child.**”*

The EC has a dedicated coordinator for the rights of the child – in charge ensuring children’s rights are considered across the work of the European Commission?

Thanks to the efforts of the child rights coordinator & civil society a new Communication was adopted on 12.4.2017 on the protection of children in migration



The EU & children

Did you know?

The EC has issued guidance to member states, urging them to prioritise investment in children?

COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION 20.2.2013 Investing in children: breaking the cycle of disadvantage
Calls on member states to use all relevant EU instruments e.g. Europe 2020 Strategy, European Semester – as well as EU funding to support policy priorities of adequate resources and services for families and children

The EU expects to spend 810 million Euro in Sweden to create jobs and strengthen social cohesion between 2014-2020 via the European Social Fund?

Most is spent on employment creation, particularly for young people, but the EU requires at least 20% to be spent on 'social inclusion'. Investing in children can be a priority.



Part 4: Get involved

47 European civil society networks make up Social Platform

Core group of stakeholders involved in promoting a child rights approach to migration & asylum policy:-

- European Council of Refugees & Exiles
- Missing Children Europe
- Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants
- UNICEF EU Office
- Save the Children
- Terres des Hommes



Eurochild



Who is Eurochild?

165 members



123 Full members
39 Associate members
3 Honorary members

19 NPNs
20 International Organisations
73 National Organisations
12 Public/statutory bodies
13 Academic & research institutions
3 Child-/youth- led organisations
25 Individuals

33 countries

EU28
FYR of Macedonia
Ukraine
Serbia
Switzerland
Kosovo



Our Priorities?

The EU's governance & coordination tools better support Member States to reduce child poverty & to promote children's well-being

National child protection systems, that strengthen families & ensure high-quality family & community-based alternative care for children, are developed in countries where Eurochild is active

The EU budget invests more and better in children

Children's rights are better reflected in EU policy & legislative initiatives



Our theory of change

1) We are harnessing the political and economic power of the European Union to ensure policies and public spending help to better protect children and to promote their rights.

2) Recognising the transformative power of civic engagement, we are supporting and empowering our members to more effectively influence policies. We are working to meaningfully involve children and young people in our advocacy, events and organizational development.

Childonomics

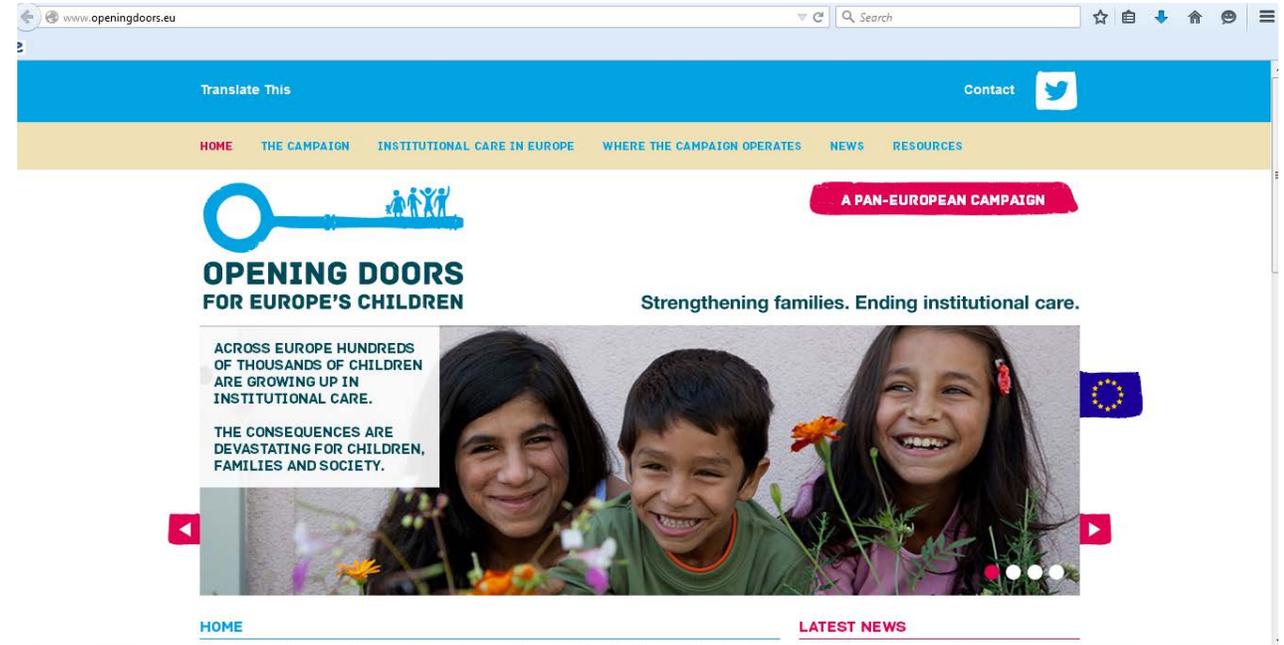


‘Measuring the long-term economic & social value of investing in children’

- Aims to **measure costs** of different child welfare & protection systems **against expected outcomes** for children, families & society as a whole
- **Focuses on prevention**, supporting reintegration & reducing reliance on institutional care
- Aims to build the argument for the **social and economic return of investing in children.**
- **Romania** and **Malta** have been selected as pilot countries to further develop, refine and test the tool
- Organisation of different focus group consultations with professionals, policy makers, children and young people themselves.

Opening Doors for Europe's Children

Supports national efforts to develop child protection systems that strengthen families and ensure high-quality family- and community-based alternative care for children, by leveraging EU funding and policy and building capacity in civil society



Eurochild



International Foster Care Organisation



Hope & Homes for Children



Eurochild



SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES INTERNATIONAL

www.openingdoors.eu

Thank you!



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