Eurochild 10th Annual Conference

"Building an inclusive Europe – the contribution of children’s participation"

Call for contributions to workshops, forum of good practices and conference exhibition

Date: 13-15th November 2013
Location: Milan, Italy
Co-host: L’Albero della Vita Foundation
Partners: City of Milan, National Ombudsman for children, PIDIDA network
Deadline for submission: 30 June 2013

Background

The main aim of the conference "Building an inclusive Europe – the contribution of children’s participation" is to promote wide recognition of children’s agency, empowerment and influence on their own lives, their families and communities and the society as a whole. Children are fully fledged citizens with a voice of their own, not mere recipients or passive dependents of decisions made by others on their behalf.

The conference will explore how children’s and young people’s participation can contribute to positive changes in policy and practice, across different areas such as social inclusion and protection, migration, education or health. It aims to showcase practices that respect the child’s right to be heard and have had positive impact on both the children and the policies or practices to which they contributed. It will offer plenty of opportunities for networking and exchanging of experiences throughout workshops, study visits, plenary sessions, a forum of good practices and social events.

The conference is organised in the context of the 2013 European Year of Citizenship with the aim of increasing recognition of children as citizens. It will also give meaning to the ‘participation’ pillar of the 2013 European Commission’s Recommendation “Investing in Children”, which sets a policy framework based on three underlying policy pillars: access to resources, access to quality services and support for children’s participation. Finally, the conference builds on the 2012 Council of Europe Recommendation on the participation of children and young people under the age of 18.
Programme outline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13 November</td>
<td>12:00 – 18:00</td>
<td>Registration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>15:00 – 16:00</td>
<td>Opening Plenary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>16:30 – 18:00</td>
<td>Forum of Good Practices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Evening</td>
<td>Welcome reception</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 November</td>
<td>08:30 – 12:00</td>
<td>Study visits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>14:00 – 16:00</td>
<td>Workshops</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>16:30 – 18:00</td>
<td>Special session with children¹</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Evening</td>
<td>Conference dinner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 November</td>
<td>09:00 – 10:30</td>
<td>Panel debate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10:30 – 11:00</td>
<td>Coffee break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11:00 – 13:00</td>
<td>Closing session</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Call for contributions

The conference will provide participants with opportunities to present good practices in two formats: in the forum of good practices and in workshops. We invite your proposals for contributions to the following elements of the conference:

**FORUM OF GOOD PRACTICE & CONFERENCE EXHIBITION**

13 November 2013, 16:30 – 18:00

The Forum is an open space where participants can walk around different speaker’s corners and hear about practical experiences of practitioners. Participant organisations can also request for a stand where they can display their publications/ present their work. The overall aim of the Forum is to create a unique opportunity for networking and get participants interest on Eurochild and its members work.

a) Present your good practice in a **Speaker’s Corner**

Nine practices will be selected for presentation at the speaker’s corners. Each presentation should last no more than 20 minutes, and will be followed by a short time for questions & answers (approximately 10 minutes).

The good practices must be relevant to the theme of the conference. In addition to the workshop themes, we will welcome the presentation of projects in other areas.

b) Present your organisation/project/research outcomes in an **Exhibition Space**.

There will be an exhibition space available in the Forum of Good Practice for organisations and projects involving children’s and young people’s participation. Interested organisations should use the application attached to the call to express their interest.

¹ Pending approval of a proposal submitted to the Youth in Action Programme.
Workshops will follow study visits hosted by an Italian organisation on 14 November, 8:30 – 12:00. There will be two parallel study visits for each workshop.

Two presentations for each of the five parallel workshops will be selected focusing on particular themes relevant to the children’s and young people’s participation:

1. **IN EDUCATION**
   Participation in the school system geared to different themes (such as awareness on children’s rights, anti-discrimination, non-violent behaviour, environment, etc...). They could be examples of systemic changes in the school governance or education system e.g. school councils or specific time-limited projects.

2. **IN NON-FORMAL EDUCATION; PLAY, RECREATION, SPORTS AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES**
   Participation in education activities outside the framework of the formal education system, delivered through different means, including radio, television, computers or internet, and for different age ranges – from early years to 18 years old.
   Participation in extra-school activities that enable access to cultural, recreational and sporting activities, in particular those aiming to promote social inclusion.
   In both cases, the extent to which children have taken part in decision making and were consulted on the activities or took the lead on these activities should be explained.

3. **IN HEALTH, PREVENTION, EARLY INTERVENTION, FAMILY SUPPORT & WELFARE SERVICES**
   Participation in the design, delivery, evaluation or as beneficiaries of health and welfare services, including prevention services, early intervention services to address at risk situations, and a wide range of family support services such as family parent support, education, training, strengthening family and community networks, peer support, mediation services etc.

4. **IN THE CHILD PROTECTION SYSTEM**
   Participatory processes put in place to support children at risk or victims of abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence, including children at risk of separation or already separated from their biological parents, such as children in alternative care or at risk of entering the public care system. Examples can reflect initiatives at different levels (local, regional and national) and from different perspectives: to prevent, respond and resolve the abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence experienced by children in all settings.

5. **IN PUBLIC DECISION MAKING**
   Participatory examples at European, national and local level, focussing on different issues such as promoting citizenship and participation in democratic life, and at different stages of public decision making: design, implementation and/or evaluation.
Selection criteria

The presentations should be of high quality and inspirational providing examples of children’s participation and preferably where such participation has driven change in service delivery or policies. Presentations should also highlight challenges faced and lessons learned from the participatory process.

Selection criteria will include: impact and outcomes of the participatory process on the participating children and young people; on the adults involved; on service delivery; and/or on policy change. Geographical balance will be sought as well as a balance on the type of projects presented.

Specific priority will be given to examples of practice that focus on inclusion of children who might be particularly vulnerable due to their characteristics or situation: children with disabilities, children in alternative care, ethnic minorities, experiencing poverty, children of migrant background, migrant asylum seekers and unaccompanied children.

Testimonies of children and young people or service providers involved in the projects are particularly welcomed. These could be through video or other materials or project promoters could also bring up to maximum two children and young people with them. Children and young people giving testimonies, either in workshops or in the forum of good practices will have their conference fee waived but travel and accommodation costs are not covered. Adults bringing children and young people under 18 are responsible for their safety according to national protection rules of their country.

Child and youth-led projects are also particularly welcomed.

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

Submission & Timeline

- Interested contributors should submit their proposal using the application form in annex to the call.
- Deadline for submission of proposals of contributions: 30th June 2013
- Approval of workshop presentations/speakers’ corner/exhibition stands: 19th July 2013

Proposals for contributions will be reviewed by ‘scientific committee’ made up of two academics members of Eurochild’s reference group on participatory methods for the inclusion of all children, two members of the Italian conference programme advisory committee, and two staff of Eurochild’s secretariat.
Registration fees / Sponsorship policy

Contributors are asked to pay the conference registration fee at the members rate. Children and young people giving testimonies, either in workshops or in the forum of good practices will have their conference fee waived but travel and accommodation costs are not covered.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>up to 15th July 2013</th>
<th>as of 16th July 2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(‘Early bird’ fee)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eurochild members/contributors</td>
<td>200 €</td>
<td>230 €</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-members</td>
<td>220 €</td>
<td>250 €</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special rate for Italian delegates</td>
<td>100 €</td>
<td>100 €</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Registration is open from 17th June 2013. Selected contributors are required to register using the on-line form. Only named contributors agreed with the Eurochild Secretariat are entitled to the lower members fee.

Sponsorship

Travel: Eurochild will cover the travel costs up to a maximum of 300€ (including of travel to/from airport) for one person/contribution. In cases where there are co-presenters, only one will be refunded. Travel costs will be reimbursed following receipt of an expenses claim after the event. The maximum limit of 300€ is strictly applied unless written approval has been received in advance from the Secretariat. This is to ensure sponsorship of a maximum number of participants.

Accommodation: Eurochild will cover the accommodation costs for up to 2 nights for one person/contribution (1 room/contributor). Extras (phone bills, bar etc.) are not included.