Education - A gateway to well-being for all children: How the school community can (re)build social & emotional well-being

Eurochild webinar: 18 November 2021, 14.30-16.00 CET

Last updated October 20, 2021

Addressing the impact of Covid-19 and strengthening well-being for children through education

Across Europe, school closures owing to the pandemic, disruptions to learning, loss of social contact, fractured relationships and a wide digital divide are massively impacting children's life chances and physical and mental health (Eurochild's 2020 Growing up in Lockdown report).

The educational divide has had far-reaching consequences for children living in poverty and social exclusion (which accounted for more than one in four children in the EU in 2019). Before the pandemic, many children felt that the **education system was not meeting many of their real-life needs** and expectations (Our Europe, Our Rights, Our Future – a survey of more than 10,000 children aged between 11-17).

November 20 2021, marks World Children's Day and the 32nd anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) by the UN General Assembly. This year, Eurochild, Europe's largest children's rights network, will mark this important milestone with a critical discussion on how the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted children's rights to education and their right to be informed about their rights (Article 28 & 42 of the UNCRC respectively). Particularly, this discussion will consider the impact on children in vulnerable situations, such as children living in poverty, children from the Roma community, children in alternative care, children with disabilities, children with a migration background, and children living in precarious family situations.

In this webinar, Eurochild and its partners in the Including Children Affected by Migration (ICAM) Programme will bring together European policy and political decision-makers, and share innovative education practices that examine how to overcome the devastating impact of COVID-19 on children's rights to education and fair access to learning. Perspectives from four countries – Italy, Romania, Spain and the UK – will be featured.

Invited speakers include members of the European Parliament's Intergroup on Children's Rights, such as MEP Laurence Farreng (France - the Renew Group); MEP Antonio López-Istúriz White (Spain – the European People's Party); and MEP Victor Negrescu (Romania – the Socialists & Democrats).

With the EU prioritising 'school success' and catalysing investment in early childhood education and school (through the Child Guarantee Initiative and the European Education Area), this webinar will be a timely discussion to shine a spotlight on innovative solutions that can help children in the most vulnerable situations and put a brake on the education inequalities exacerbated by the pandemic.

What role does the EU have regarding inclusive education?

The European Union (EU) has an important role to play in the fulfilment of children's rights to education.[1] The EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child, released earlier this year, emphasises the need to promote inclusive and child-friendly societies, health and education systems, and that each child has the right to the highest attainable standard of quality education irrespective of their background.

Member States unanimously adopted the Council Recommendation establishing the European Child Guarantee on June 14, 2021. This Recommendation aims to prevent and combat social exclusion by 'guaranteeing' access to a set of key services for children in need. These key services include effective and free access to high-quality early childhood education and care, education and school-based activities.

Principle 1 of the European Pillar of Social Rights states that "everyone has the right to quality and inclusive education… that enable them to participate fully in society…". Furthermore, the recently published Action Plan encourages Member States to develop comprehensive policies to provide access to quality education for all and provide targeted support to disadvantaged learners.

Target audience

This webinar is aimed at education professionals, including those working with children in need, policymakers at EU/international, national and local level, civil society. Children and young people are also welcome to join the webinar. Registrations are free.

Webinar logistics & format

Duration: The webinar will include a series of interventions with opportunities for Q&A over a 1.5 hour period.

Platform: The webinar will be hosted by Eurochild with Zoom Webinar, and with a moderated Q&A. Relevant resources will be shared with attendees via the chat function.

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[1] As set out in the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights (2009) Article 14 – states "1. Everyone has the right to education…"; and the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) Protocol (1950) Article 2 states "No person shall be denied the right to education".

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	Webinar Programme
14.30-14.40	1. **Welcome and introductions from Eurochild and members of the European Parliament** - **Jana Hainsworth**, Secretary General, Eurochild (chair) - **MEP Antonio López-Istúriz White**, Vice-Chair of the Intergroup on Children's Rights from European People's Party, Spain - **MEP Victor Negrescu**, the Socialists & Democrats, Romania - **MEP Ilana Cicurel**, the Renew Group, France
14.40-14.50	**2. Presenting the Including Children Affected by Migration (ICAM) Programme - How can it help?** - **Chris Gittins,** Director at the Northampton Centre for Learning Behaviour, University of Northampton & coordinator of the ICAM Programme
14.50-15.10	**3. Demonstrating the challenges around inclusion and inequalities in education – perspectives from Italy and Romania** - **Silvia Taviani**, Policy and Law Programme Coordinator & Project Coordinator of the H2020 IMMERSE Project; and **Valeria Fabretti**, Research Consultant and Principal Investigator of the H2020 IMMERSE Project for Save the Children Italy - **Laura-Sava Ghica**, Deputy Director at Terres des Hommes Romania and ICAM partner; and **Aurel Graur**, School Inspectorate Prahova and ICAM partner
15.10-15.30	**4. Presenting a solution – "Efforts to address education inequality for schools in Spain – examples from practice & children's rights advocacy"** - **Antonio Casquero**, Teacher, Colegio de San Antonio, Madrid – *How the ICAM Programme is improving well-being and inclusion in school* - **Carles López,** President of Plataforma de Infancia , Eurochild National Partner Network in Spain and member of Eurochild's Taskforce on monitoring the implementation of the Child Guarantee Initiative
15.30-15.50	**5. Reactions and Q&A discussion with speakers and participants** - Facilitated by **Ally Dunhill,** Head of Advocacy & **Ciaran O'Donnell**, Policy and Project Officer, Eurochild; and **Marius Frank** from the ICAM Partnership
15.50-15.55	**Concluding remarks and closing of proceedings** - **Ally Dunhill**, Head of Advocacy, Eurochild