

# Europe and Children's Rights



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## The impact of crisis in Europe on children

- Impoverishing families, vulnerable groups of the society at higher risk but only them
- Changing political, social climate concerning support
- Cut backs on services
- Impoverishing services and service providers, local authorities
- Poor children, poor families, poor professionals , poor services – poor outcomes
- Child rights at danger – easy excuses
- Eurochild report on the effects of the crisis on children, young people and families
- Eurochild 2010 campaign for an EU Recommendation on child poverty and well-being

## The Council of Europe and Child Rights

- Child Rights Strategy 2012-2015
- Building a child-friendly Europe: turning a vision into reality, Monaco 21 November, 2011
- Children's rights start at home: strong families for strong children
- Empowering children through formal and non-formal learning: democratic citizenship and human rights education
- Child Friendly Justice
- Ban on corporal punishment in Europe

## The Council of Europe and Child Rights

- Positive Parenting
- Child and Youth participation, child friendly language
- Rights of children living in alternative care
- Rights of children at risk and in care
- Sexual abuse in institutions
- Sexual exploitation, trafficking
- Rights of Roma children
- Rights of Disabled children
- Recommendations of the Council of Ministers

## The European Union and Child Rights

- Communication of the Commission on the Child Rights Agenda
- The implementation of the CRC in the European countries – is ratification an option?
- 11 points of actions
- Lisbon 2020 program
- Role of Early Childhood Education and Care
- Decreasing child poverty and exclusion
- Preventing early school leaving
- DI program in Europe – aims and realities

## The European Union and Child Rights

- **Fragmented system – lack of co-operation, co-ordination**
- **Growing interest and investment - FRA, DGs' activities, OMC, NGOs, interest groups, child and youth participation**
- **Eurofound – reconciliation of family, private and work life, social care provision, parenting support, ECEC and after school care**
- **Committee of the Regions on Child Rights**
- **EESC – Opinion on the Rights of the Child (SOC/415) – right now!**

## Children deprived of family care in Europe

- UN CRC Committee Day of General Discussion on alternative care -2005
- UN CRC Committee General Comment on children deprived of family care
- UN Guidelines on children in alternative Care – 2009
- Better Care Network
- UNICEF - At home or in a home?,
- Qualit4Care standards
- SOS Children's Villages Ass. On quality protects and child rights in care
- Rights of children in institutions, Council of Europe, 2008
- Keeping Children out of Harmful institutions, Save the Children, 2009
- Children without parental care: urgent need for action, Council of Europe report, 15 July, 2010
- Rights of children at risk and in care, Council of Europe, 2006
- Scaling down, Reducing, reshaping and improving care around the world, Every Child, 2011
- Leaving care - INTRAC group

## Children deprived of family care

- High Commissioner for Human Rights of Europe and DI
- De-institutionalisation plans and programs in Europe
- No child under 3 should be placed into institutions – efforts made, what is the alternative?
- Prevention and early intervention
- Family support, universal, targeted services
- Kinship and foster care
- Group homes for teenagers
- Preparation for leaving care and after-care

## EUROCHILD and child rights

- Over 130 member organisations and members in 35 countries
- We want to give a voice and promote the interests of children and young people in Europe, and organisations that work with them – particularly including the most vulnerable children and young people who are exposed to poverty and social exclusion
- Child rights based approach - not only investment into the future – joyful present and childhood, support to develop their evolving capacities, participation, listened to and heard

## EUROCHILD and child rights

- We aim to ensure a voice for children and young people
- Strengthen EU policies on children's rights in particular with regard to the fight against child poverty and social exclusion, while promoting the well-being and participation of all
- Share good practices
- Build influential network (e.g. CRAG)

## EUROCHILD and child rights

- 4 thematic working groups:
  - Early years,
  - Family parenting support,
  - Children in alternative care,
  - Child and youth participation
- Policies and practices, exchange of experiences, knowledge base,
- Cardiff Conference 2011, Sofia 2012 with IFCO and FGC European Network

Thank you for your attention!

