EUROCHILD CONFERENCE 2016

CHILDREN’S RIGHTS MATTER
Why Europe needs to invest in children
5-7 July, Brussels

PROGRAMME
(Under constant development)

Under the Patronage of Her Majesty the Queen of the Belgians

Follow the discussion on Twitter: #EurochildConf
Across Europe enormous progress has been made in recognising children's rights since adoption of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, but significant challenges remain.

More than 1 in 4 children are growing up in poverty and exclusion; there are unprecedented numbers of migrant and refugee children entering Europe – many of them unaccompanied; and still over half a million children are placed in institutional care, in contradiction to all human rights standards.

The Eurochild conference Children's Rights Matter: Why Europe needs to invest in children, aims to take stock of progress, address on-going challenges, share good practice, and bring together different perspectives.

To answer this question, conference participants, both young and old, will learn and reflect on how policies and services promote the rights of all children in the five sub-themes: education, early years, health promotion, family strengthening, social protection and welfare support. For each of these themes we will focus on three target groups of children: children in poverty, children on the move or affected by migration, and children in care or in risk of going into care.

What's unique about this conference?

Children, ages 12+, are involved both in the design, organisation and implementation of the conference. Children and adults will jointly work together during this conference as chairs, speakers, facilitators and rapporteurs.

Why should you attend?

• 3 days of interactive learning opportunities and discussions with politicians, policy makers, practitioners and children and young people
• 3 target groups in focus: Children in poverty; Children on the move or affected by migration; Children in care or at risk of going into care
• 5 sub-themes: Education; Early years policies; Health promotion; Family strengthening; Social protection and welfare support
• 14+ Belgian services for children and families open their doors to participants
• 13+ workshops to discover promising practices in education, health, family support and social protection
• Be part of a unique experience of reflecting on children’s rights, with children.

Join us at Palace of Academies, Brussels on 5-7 July 2016.

Get latest updates on the programme here online.

Artwork by Electra Sarantinou (11)
Day 1: Tuesday 5 July 2016

12:00-18:00  Registration

15:00-18:00  Conference Opening – Collective reflections on why Europe needs to invest in children

Welcome and setting the scene: an introduction to the conference

Norah Gibbons, Eurochild President

Address from Her Majesty the Queen of the Belgians - Patron of Eurochild Conference 2016

Katrien Verhegge, General Administrator, Kind en Gezin

Benoit Parmentier, General Administrator, Office de la Naissance et de l'Enfance

Cath Larkins, Co-Director, Centre for Children's and Young People's Participation, University of Central Lancashire

Members of the Children's Advisory Group

From personal to political: children & adults share personal experiences of poverty & social exclusion, being affected by migration and living in alternative care

Valeriu Nicolae, children's rights and Roma activist

Abbee McLatchie, Education, Participation and Achievement Manager, By the Bridge Therapeutic Fostering & Vika Tchibor, care experienced young person from the UK

Stefan Bauer, Bundesverband Therapeutische Gemeinschaften - Head of a residential care for unaccompanied minors with mental health problems", FICE Austria - Project Manager and board member", ISS Austria –Director, Austria

Viola Gjoka, Programmes Coordinator, Network for Children's Rights, Greece

Co-moderators: Ross Ashcroft independent filmmaker and Managing Director at Motherlode Studio & Yasmine Naciri, Young Ambassador (17), Youth Concil of Brussels, Belgium

18:30-22:00  Welcome reception and dinner at Palace of Academies

Artwork by Roko Lovric (13)
Day 2: Wednesday 6 July 2016

08:00-13:00  Study Visits

Participants will discover and learn about one of 14 services offered to children and families in and around Brussels, while some of them will have the opportunity to visit EU Institutions. See more details in Annex I.

- **Ateliers du soleil**: centre for lifelong learning, collective and individual homework support, creativity and expression
- **Youth Parliament of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation**
- **CEMôme**: extracurricular activities for children in Saint-Gilles’ city hall
- **TCC Accueil AMO**: aid service for youth in Anderlecht
- **Youplaboum ASBL**: Center for expression and creativity for children from 18 months to 12 years of age
- **SOS Jeunes - Quartier Libre AMO**: an open social service for youth 18 years or younger
- **Folon & La Porte Ouverte**: a foundation developing its activities for so called “vulnerable” public & the foster families association of Wallonia Brussels
- **Huis van het Kind Genk**: preventive services for children and their families
- **EU Institutions**: visit to the European Commission and the European Parliament
- **Aquarelle**: non-profit organisation offering services to undocumented pregnant women
- **Elmer**: a community-based preschool for children between 0 and 3.5 years old
- **Huis der Gezinnen**: a small scale organization specialized in parenting support, child development and social integration
- **Klein Kasteeltje**: The first and largest reception centre for asylum seekers which hosts 40 unaccompanied children in Brussels
- **Vrienden van ‘t Huizeken**: an association of people in poverty for people in poverty
- **CKG De Stap Genk**: organisation offering voluntary assistance, customised to families with young children from 0 to 12 years

13:00-14:30  Lunch break

14:30-16:00  Workshops - Session I

Promising practices will be presented in the varied fields of Education; Early years policies; Health promotion; Family strengthening; Social protection and welfare support, with a focus on one of the three target groups: Children in poverty; Children on the move or affected by migration; Children in care or in risk of going into care. See more details in Annex II.

- **Youth clubs: Empowering disadvantaged young people**, Igor Nosach, Project Manager & Kateryna Snisarenko, Project Assistant, Partnership for Every Child, Ukraine.
- **The right to education for children who are being evicted**, Bruno Vanobbergen, Flemish Children’s Rights Commissioner, Belgium.
- **Resilience and Social Capital: The Voices of Care Leavers from one London Borough**, Lucille Allain & Dr. Helen Hingley-Jones, Assistant Professors, Social Work, Middlesex University, UK.
- **Promoting Health in children's intimate relationships online and offline: an app available in 5 languages**, Cath Larkins, Co-Director, Centre for Children's and Young People's Participation, University of Central Lancashire. Christine Barter, Reader, Connect Centre, University of Central Lancashire. Charity Anderton and Emily Holt and Bradley Baker, Ucan Young Researchers, Lancashire County Council, UK.
• The Voice of Children in Foster Care, Heidi Marchal and Ward Campo, Coaches, Pleegzorg Vlaanderen, Belgium.


• School based food aid programs – an investment in children's future, Afroditi Veloudaki, Director of Programs & Dina Zota, Head of National Projects, Institute of Preventive Medicine Environmental and Occupational Health, Greece.

16:00-16:30    Coffee Break

16:30-18:00    Workshops - Session II

• How will we leave the world for children - the time capsule, Irena Petković and Karlo Škorić, Members of Children's Forum, Society “Our children” Opatija, Croatia.

• Foster Care – A Place of Sanctuary for Children, Gabrielle Jerome, Head of International Social Work at Core Asset and Richard Jadesten, Social Worker, Familjehem i Fokus, Sweden.

• Children first: local consultation platforms for prevention and identification of child poverty, Julien Van Geertsom, President, Federal Public Planning Service for Social Integration, Belgium. Hilde Genetello, Psychological Department of the Public Social Welfare Center of Ghent; Simon Hupkens, Public Social Welfare Center of Liège, Belgium.

• Children's participation in daily life: How protection can liberate participation, Jonathan Levy, Initiatives et Changement France. Pascale Camus, ONE and University of Liège and Paris 13. Kassandra Beltran, Cyprus Children's Parliament and Member of the Children & Young People’s Advisory Group to the Eurochild Conference


• Child Protection benefitting from new technologies, Judit Nemeth-Almasi and Evgenia Generalova and Arina Cretu, Terre des hommes.

• Family Centres in Flanders: partnerships towards better services for children and their families, Leentje De Schuymer, staff member Kind en Gezin. Nele Travers, coordinator EXPOO, expert center on parenting and family support.

19:00-22:00    Conference dinner
09:00-11:00 Human Library

A unique experience of “reading” stories based on experiences of children and adults. The “books” will feature stories from inspiring EU decision-makers, civil society leaders and active young people. Adapted from ‘Children as Actors for Transforming Society’.

- “What is a big European institution doing to protect children in migration?” Margaret Tuite, Coordinator for the rights of the child, European Commission
- “The Youth Taskforce on Violence Against Children: what it is and why it works”, Fahima Elmi, Member of the Youth TaskForce (on violence against children) established by Augeo foundation, The Netherlands
- “Is it possible to be successful despite childhood tragedy and disadvantage?”, Sir Al Aynsley Green, President of the British Medical Association, UK and Former Children's Commissioner for England
- “From Afghanistan to Sweden – Children in foster care”, Donya Azimi, Young Advocate, Member of Children's Advisory Group, Sweden
- “Who will take care of the difficult children?”, Bruno Vanobbergen, Flemish Children's Rights Commissioner, Belgium
- “Fighting against educational inequalities: A top educational priority”, Bernard de Vos, Wallonian Children's Ombudsperson, Belgium
- “The transition of institutional to community based care”, Susanne Bosman, Regional Representation for Europe of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, UN
- “Children’s Rights are basic for human rights, to be respected everywhere and always” Luc Van den Brande, Former President, Vice-President of the EU Committee of the Regions, Belgium
- “Milan-Brussels, Thumbelina running against child poverty” Ivana Di Martino, Marathon Runner and advocate against child poverty, Italy
- “My Normal Gay Family”, Darragh Tibbs, Young delegate, Northern Ireland
- “Alternative ways of living”, Sean Downey, Youtuber, Member of Children's Advisory Group, Ireland
- “Exploratory Analysis of child-budgeting”, Pierre-Yves Rosset, Observatory on Childhood, Youth and Youth Assistance (OEJAJ) – Ministry of the Federation Wallonia-Brussels, Belgium
- “Give a voice to children: Campaigning for the climate, that is respecting my rights!”, Florine Pruchon, Solidarite Laique, France
- “From a refugee baby to a child’s rights activist?” Zgjim Gashi, Young delegate, representing the Council of Europe, Kosovo
- “Facing the Future – presenting outcomes of Council of Europe Strategy on Children’s Rights”, Nermina Delic, Young delegate, representing the Council of Europe, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- “How is the European Commission supporting investment in children?”, Emmanuuelle Grange, Head of Unit Disability and Inclusion at the European Commission, DG Employment, Directorate Social Affairs
11:00-11:30 Coffee Break

11:30-11:45 Conference Declaration

Children’s Advisory Group and adults to present the conference declaration.

11:45-12:45 Conference Closing: Reflections on how to invest in children with European leaders

Under the auspices of the Slovak Presidency in the Council of the European Union

**Marianne Thyssen**, Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility, European Commission

**Elke Sleurs**, State Secretary for Combating Poverty, for Equal Opportunities, for Disabled People and for Science Policy, Belgium

**Ioannis N. Dimitrakopoulos**, Head of Equality and Citizens’ Rights Department, European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights

**Gianluca Esposito**, Head of Equality and Human Dignity Department, Council of Europe

**Andrea Cisárová**, Director of Center for International Legal Protection of Children and Youth, Slovak Republic

**Unicef Representative**

**Co-moderators: Ross Ashcroft**, independent filmmaker and Managing Director at Motherlode Studio and **Emily Holt**, Ucan Young Researcher, Lancashire County Council

12:45-13:00 Closing words: **Norah Gibbons**, Eurochild President.
ANNEX I - STUDY VISITS

Child Poverty and Social exclusion

**Ateliers du Soleil ASBL**  [www.ateliersdusoleil.be](http://www.ateliersdusoleil.be)

The Ateliers du Soleil is recognised as a lifelong learning centre; a collective and individual homework support centre; a centre for creativity and expression, as well as the centre for social cohesion and the provider of social and occupational integration services. In existence for 40 years, this association arose from a citizen’s initiative and has a social aim: to fight for a society in which human beings are equal, to fight against multiple exclusion affecting people from disadvantaged backgrounds and in particular gender-based discrimination. Participants will meet some activity leaders who will present their working methods and a global project which aims to fight against social exclusion of persons from disadvantaged backgrounds.

**Huis der Gezinnen**  [www.huisdergezinnen.be](http://www.huisdergezinnen.be)

Huis der Gezinnen is a small scale organisation specialised in parenting support, child development and social integration. They work exclusively with disadvantaged, immigrant families and offer them a place where they can meet, where their children can play and where they can exchange ideas on rearing and educating their children with other parents and professionals. The objective is to show how and through which means we offer parental support to families in poverty and moreover to create a deeper awareness of child poverty in the capital of Europe. Participants will meet families, the team and other partner organisations.

**SOS Jeunes – Quartier Libre AMO**  [www.sosjeunes.be](http://www.sosjeunes.be)

SOS Jeunes-Quartier Libre is an open social service for youth aged 18 years or younger. It is open 24 hours, 7 days a week, and is located in Ixelles, Brussels. They also offer the possibility of overnight shelter. The organisation intervenes without charge for youth who face various difficulties (e.g. family-based, educational, social) in relation to any challenge they face in their lives (e.g. running away, vagrancy, early school leaving). Participants will engage in a friendly, dynamic, and interactive exchange on the topic of youth support; what adolescence represents; and situations of rupture that are experienced by certain youth.

**TCC Accueil AMO**  [www.tccaccueil.be](http://www.tccaccueil.be)

TCC Accueil AMO is an aid service for youth in Anderlecht, Brussels under regional government authority, to address youth from 0-18 years of age and their families in the interest of the adolescent child. Anderlecht is a commune where diverse nationalities and socioeconomic groups meet. The objective of the study visit is to understand l’Aide en Milieu Ouvert (“open support”) which is the prevention component of youth support and one of the rare services that can support an entire family for the benefit of one or more children.

**Vrienden van ’t Huizeken vzw**  [www.vriendenvanhethuizeke.be](http://www.vriendenvanhethuizeke.be)

Vrienden van ’t Huizeken is an association of people in poverty for people in poverty. Their activities are easily accessible. People can visit their centre, sit down, relax, and are left at ease until they ask for help. The organisation has many projects, such as ‘child poverty and education’ coaching parents who never received education, to support their children to do their homework. Participants will learn about the mental care projects for adults, often parents in poverty, but also homeless people, and the inner side of poverty through testimonials of children and parents in poverty.

**Child and Youth Participation**


What is democracy? Is it possible to learn how it works? The youth parliament organises sessions where young people have the opportunity to bring ideas, to develop projects, to debate and try to convince the assembly and finally to vote a decree! Learning democracy through real action is a way to promote engagement.
Children in Care

Folon Foundation and La Porte Ouverte www.fondationfolon.be - www.laporteouverte.eu
La Fondation Folon, a museum dedicated to Jean-Michel Folon's art gathers 800 artworks in an environment imagined by the Belgian artist. The foundation's mission is to develop activities for so called “vulnerable” people. All benefits of the Foundation are allocated to support people in need. La Porte Ouverte is the foster families association of Wallonia-Brussels and is composed of foster families who organise community-based support, exchange, information and access to best practices as well as advocacy services. The visit is meant to raise awareness on children's rights exploring themes of family, needing care, but also a discovery of children's needs through the poetic artistic lens of the Folon universe.

Early Years and Family Support

Aquarelle vzw www.aquarelle-bru.be
Aquarelle is a non-profit organisation supporting undocumented pregnant women with comprehensive socio-medical-psychological care during pregnancy. They address the entire context the mother-to-be is living in. Aquarelle aims to empower pregnant women and to strengthen them to handle the birth of the baby and take good care of the child afterwards. Participants will learn about the services to undocumented pregnant women, one of the most disadvantaged and vulnerable groups in Brussels.

CKG De Stap, Genk www.ckg.be
The organisation offers voluntary assistance, customised to families with young children, from 0 to 12 years. They target families in their full diversity, where there is a risk of a discord between parents and children. This is done by careful assessment of the demand for assistance and by reinforcing the strengths of a family. Their services are temporary, voluntary, easily accessible and aimed at prevention of prolongation of the educational problems. Residential stay of children in this centre is only organised as a last resort and as short as possible, limited to a maximum of 6 weeks. The aim is to guide the parents so that the child can return home again as soon as possible. Participants will learn about the different preventive means for family assistance of children and families at home and in this centre and introduced to various evidence-based methods, games for informing on children's rights, educational tools for encouraging children to talk about their feelings, and other initiatives.

Elmer www.elmer.be/node/4
Elmer is a community-based preschool for children between 0 -3.5 years, with locations in 4 regions in Brussels. Since the start Elmer has been characterized by a participatory approach engaging children, parents, and the staff trained in early childhood education and care. Elmer reaches a social mix of families in the services and additionally offers employment opportunities for low-qualified people, often recruited out of the group of parents. Participants will learn about the organisation, its mission, goals and target groups. Participants will also pay a visit to the groups to see their daily life in the day care centre.

Huis van het Kind (Family Centres), Genk www.campuso3.be
Discover a family centre offering unique preventive services for children and their families, focusing on positive parenting and local partnerships. These centres bring together all local initiatives in preventive care for children. This family centre is a central meeting place, where information and support are offered to (future) parents and teachers with children and adolescents up to 24 years. Citizens and volunteers share responsibility of teaching children and young people about growing up.

Youplaboum ASBL www.youplaboum.be
Youplaboum is a Center of Expression and Creativity for children from 18 months to 12 years. Recognized by the regional government of Wallonia-Brussels, it is a day-care centre, a vacation centre and a training centre. Their objective is to contribute to the development of the child, and to each one, in complete autonomy and liberty. The layout of the space is thought to leave a liberty of movements permitting the discovery of his/her body, objects, and others. The visits aims at sharing the organisation's philosophy, their tools, partnerships, and experience in developing creative, interdisciplinary workshops as well as the integration of all children.
EU Institutions

Study visit to the European Commission and the European Parliament
This study visit will provide insight on how EU institutions in Brussels work to support children’s rights and wellbeing, and particularly their commitments to support the participation of young people in decision-making at the European level. The visit will offer opportunity for dialogue and interaction between participants and those who support the formulation of policy and influence spending decisions. There will first be a visit to the Directorate-General for Education and Culture at the European Commission to hear from and interact with their Youth Policy team. Participants will then visit the European Parliament to meet with those who support the Intergroup on Children’s Rights.

Education

CEMôme [www.cemome.be](http://www.cemome.be)
The NGO CEMôme organizes extracurricular activities for children in the Saint-Gilles commune, including school activities, during and after school hours, a homework school, internships and holiday camps. Owing to their collaboration with schools, they facilitate a connection between, during and after school hours. They aim to respond to the needs of the population, to offer a quality host environment and a service adapted to parents. Participants will be guided by the person responsible for pedagogy through the numerous activities.

Migrant and Refugee Children

Klein Kasteeltje/Petit Chateau (Fedasil, Center for asylum seekers) [fedasil.be/en](http://fedasil.be/en)
This is the first and largest reception centre for asylum seekers in Belgium and it is run by Fedasil, the Federal Agency for Reception of Asylum Seekers. The reception centre receives 40 unaccompanied children who are hosted in a special unit with a team of guides and teachers. Learn about the asylum procedure in Belgium and how unaccompanied children are cared for at this centre.

Artwork by Dominik Ziganto (13)
Children in Care

Realizing children's rights in alternative care
Kršimir Makvić & Radostina Paneva & Ronan Mangan, SOS Children's Villages International.
Léo M. & Artūrs Pokšāns, young persons/presenters.

SOS Children's Villages and partners believe more investment in capacity building of care professionals and in informing children in care about their rights are needed in order to really embed child rights into practice at places and in processes of alternative care thereby raising its quality. The first outcomes of the project “Training Care Professionals working with Children in Care”, currently being implemented in 8 EU countries in partnership with Eurochild and the Council of Europe and with support of the European Commission, will be presented together with the project training tools, materials and lessons learned. Young experts participating in the project activities will share their experiences and discuss the importance of training and mentoring children on their rights to enable children in alternative care to develop to their full potential.

Resilience and Social Capital: The Voices of Care Leavers from one London Borough
Lucille Allain & Dr. Helen Hingley-Jones, Assistant Professors, Social Work, Middlesex University, UK.

The workshop will specifically discuss outcomes for young people who have left care and how services can promote and build their social capital through participatory activities. It will present findings from an action research project where young care leavers developed and delivered training to social work students and social workers about their experiences of care focused on how particular approaches to communicating with young people were the most effective. The young people also developed and made a short film and key extracts will be shown as part of the presentation.

Child Poverty and Social Exclusion

Children first: local consultation platforms for prevention and identification of child poverty
Julien Van Geertsom, President, Federal Public Planning Service for Social Integration, Belgium. Hilde Genetello, Psychological Department of the Public Social Welfare Center of Ghent; Simon Hupkens, Public Social Welfare Center of Liège, Belgium.

The workshop will present two inspiring examples of a local consultation platform ‘Children First’. One example will focus on a consultation platform where the public social welfare centre partnered up with local organisations and citizen groups. The second example will focus on a local consultation platform of a large city which has faced tough challenges in addressing the diversity and gravity of situations.

Child Participation and Early Years

Children's participation in daily life: How protection can liberate participation

Participation is a building block of democracy. It creates active citizens and thriving civil societies. It can hold governments to account and challenge disregard and undemocratic practices. Where and how do we learn that our input is a valuable resource? Young children are agents of their own lives. Using a short film, interactive exercise and discussions, the presenters will explain the meaning of participation and protection or good early childhood policy. Participants will address conditions for children's participation and explore ideas through practical examples.
Child Participation, Education and Health

Promoting Health in children's intimate relationships online and offline: an app available in 5 languages
Cath Larkins, Co-Director, Centre for Children's and Young People's Participation, University of Central Lancashire. Christine Barter, Reader, Connect Centre, University of Central Lancashire. Charity Anderton & Emily Holt & Bradley Baker, Ucan Young Researchers, Lancashire County Council, UK.

This workshop focuses on health promotion in the area of children's intimate personal relationships, looking at the links between online and offline environments and the solutions that can be achieved by enabling children and young people to create resources and lead health promotion campaigns. Young people will present the findings of The Safeguarding Teenager’s Intimate Relationships study, an online App providing young people with information and games through which they can reflect on their own behaviour and experience.

How will we leave the world for children - The time capsule

The aim of the workshop is to raise awareness of children and adults about the impact of poor resources management and environmental pollution on children health and future. It will be divided into two parts, each part containing a lecture through a presentation and an interactive activity. Participants will be included in imaginative journey through storytelling, discussion, questionnaire fulfilment and writing opinions and advices which will be stored in a time capsule for 10 years.

School based food aid programs – an investment in children's future
Afroditi Veloudaki, Director of Programs & Dina Zota, Head of National Projects, Institute of Preventive Medicine Environmental and Occupational Health, Greece.

The workshop aims at raising awareness about the importance of school food programs and will demonstrate through concrete evidence impact on several levels including food insecurity, health related outcomes, quality of life and school performance. Participants will have the opportunity to learn how large scale school food aid programs are planned, delivered and evaluated.

Child Protection and Foster Care

The Voice of Children in Foster Care
Heidi Marchal & Ward Campo, Coaches, Pleegzorg Vlaanderen, Belgium.

A collaborative workshop created with foster children in Flanders, this workshop focuses on the specific rights of children in foster care: the right to have a good standard of living, the right to have a proper development, the right to have an opinion, the right to have care and loving. Participants will develop an understanding of the emotional world and position of children in foster care. By listening to their needs and giving them a voice we can improve the quality of foster care for children not only in Flanders, but everywhere around the world.
Child Protection benefiting from new technologies
Judit Nemeth-Almasi & Evgenia Generalova & Arina Cretu, Terre des hommes

The workshop will present the Child Protection Hub for South East Europe which strives to equip professionals, academics and policy makers in child protection with good practices and new technologies to have a positive impact on the lives of children. The initiative runs in eight countries of the region and articulates 3 types of interventions: knowledge management, capacity building and advocacy, supported by an online platform. The online platform focuses on providing learning opportunities for practitioners and build their skills to better protect children from abuse and violence. It also creates a virtual space for professional networking, peer-to-peer exchange, forum discussions, or getting their professional dilemmas answered by regional experts.

Foster Care – A Place of Sanctuary for Children

The workshop will address the theme of social protection for children in foster care. Presenters will explore how we can ensure that foster care is a ‘safe’ option, proving physical and emotional safety for the child. We look at what the concept of safety may mean to the child, the foster family, the parents and the agency providing foster care. We will also discuss challenges for states in providing sanctuary for refugee children, arriving in a new country without their parents, and bringing with them additional needs for protection. The workshop will include a 10 minute film screening of 10 Care Leavers from the UK, talking about what safety meant to them when they were in foster care.

Participation in child protection: Essential for sustainable safety for children and families with disabilities

The William Schrikker Group is a national organization for child protection, youth probation and foster care in The Netherlands to provide specialized support to children (of parents) with disabilities. It will look at the legal frame of child protection in the Netherlands, and present the vision ‘Er zijn als het moet’ (Being there when necessary), which is implemented in the work with families and in parallel throughout the organisation. The case plan is used as a tool to maximize the participation of the child, his family and their network in order to create long-lasting safety for the child and to minimize the time the protection order is needed.

Family Support

Family Centres in Flanders: partnerships towards better services for children and their families
Leentje De Schuymer, staff member Kind en Gezin. Nele Travers, coordinator EXPOO, expert center on parenting and family support, Belgium.

A family center (Huis van het Kind) is a network of local services providing preventive family and parenting support and preventive health care for parents with children of all ages. The idea emerged from the conviction and the experience that strong cooperation between services will enhance the possibilities to meet the needs of parents and children, will lead to lower thresholds for families and a greater accessibility, will improve the quality and the effectiveness and will lower the costs. The workshop aims to exchange and learn from each other to enrich the concept and organization of family centres and to identify and think together about the main challenges.
**Youth clubs: empowering disadvantaged young people**
Igor Nosach, Project Manager & Kateryna Snisarenko, Project Assistant, Partnership for Every Child, Ukraine.

Participants will learn the model of youth clubs as a tool of social inclusion for disadvantaged children and young people. We will discuss ways of engaging young people and creating interest, ideas for training and other activities. The workshop is suited for young people willing to create positive social impact for their peers and become agents of social change and both professionals working directly with youth living in vulnerable circumstances.

**Migrant and Refugee Children**

**The right to education for migrant/refugee children who are being forcibly evicted**
Bruno Vanobbergen, Flemish Children's Rights Commissioner, Belgium.

For nearly two years the Flemish Children's Commissioners' Office has worked with teachers, foster parents and other professionals, to understand the situation of children forcibly returned from Belgium and the legal consequences, to start open communication channels with policy makers. In the workshop you will be invited to discuss difficulties and key factors of success in reaching agreement among stakeholders and policy makers.
The artwork in this programme is created by children who entered the “Sketch my rights” contest.