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- The European Network of Ombudspersons for Children brings together 43 Ombudspersons and Commissioners for Children's Rights within the Council of Europe member States.
- Over the years, we have come across and intervened collectively at European level - but also separately at national level- on significant child rights violations in all the areas identified by the Strategy, but we have also highlighted repeatedly the ongoing challenge and the absolute need to prioritise children's rights and their views in decision making.
- It seems that love for children is common- something we all share and express effortlessly- but in policy making love and commitment to children's rights, strategic planning, proper implementation, and the involvement of children in the public dialogue are, to date, rare.
- On top of the persistent weaknesses in legislation, as well as social and family protection systems, we are now faced with the impact of the pandemic crisis, the war, as well as what seems to be an energy crisis affecting prices and therefore impacting the most vulnerable households and children, that cannot easily recover and escape poverty and social exclusion, in the existing socio-economic conditions.
- Our synergies, common understanding and good coordination are needed now more than ever, and this is one of the many positive aspects and effects of the new Strategy. Overall, the Strategy itself is seen by ENOC in a manifold way. First of all, it is proof of the Council of Europe's consistency and its commitment to uphold children's rights, to use effective and child-friendly methodologies, to boldly identify areas of intervention and involve children in decision making.
- The Council carefully listened to children in the drafting of the Strategy and in doing so, it empowered them and helped them become multipliers of their own views and experiences.
- This is also what ENOC has been doing since 2009. We have invested in the European Network of Young Advisors (ENYA) project. In the safe space put into place, monitored and protected by our members, a circle of trust is created each year where children are provided the opportunity to fully explore the meaning of the rights they are entitled to, exchange ideas and address recommendations on ENOC's annual priority topics, which inform the ENOC policy statements.
- ENOC has undertaken a number of significant measures that fall into the scope of both the outgoing CoE Strategy for the rights of the child, as well as the new one. Particularly relevant to these are: the analysis of the impact of austerity and budget cuts on children's access to education, the increased focus in the last few years on children on the move by addressing pushbacks, the right to education of children on the move, child immigration detention etc, our recommendations calling for the introduction of compulsory and comprehensive Relationship & Sexuality Education in our schools, and our statement regarding children's rights in the digital environment.
- Furthermore, in these times of crisis ENOC has sharpened its immediate response capacities. In 2021 we conducted a research on the impact of COVID-19 measures on children's rights and produced evidence based recommendations on the matter. We also conducted a child right impact assessment and evaluation in collaboration with UNICEF in 13 states, with findings very similar to the ones mentioned in the new

Strategy, especially regarding domestic violence, mental health, impact on poverty and education.

- After the Russian invasion we issued a statement on the war calling for immediate action, we publicly addressed the need for a compulsory registration mechanism for children fleeing Ukraine, we introduced a common shared database to ensure coordination between our members and timely interventions and we set up working groups to identify additional measures required for children in these desperate times.
- In the upcoming years our objective is to invest even more in child rights mainstreaming and in raising awareness of child participation and to increase our efforts for the introduction of CRIA & CRIE in our states since it has become clear , especially after the pandemic crisis how much this amazing tool is essential for the protection of children's rights. I'm also glad to share that our new report and statement will focus on climate justice, and we can't wait to hear what children have to say about it...
- ENOC is committed to promoting the content of the Strategy and to contributing to its implementation. Alongside UNCRC, the European Convention on Human Rights, and the European Social Charter, the new Strategy is a strong tool and an important ally that can be used by all of us for our advocacy interventions and our coordination in pushing for the long-pending reforms that are required now probably more than ever.