

Eurochild

World Children's Day 2020

Webinar 1:

Putting Children at the Heart of Europe's Recovery

What is an 'economy of well-being'?

Why and how does it prioritize children?

Wednesday – 18<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Closing Remarks

Despite all the challenges we face with the pandemic, Europe also has a unique opportunity.

Europe has the necessary resources and the ability to press the 'reset' button.

We have an opportunity to make the right and the smart choices for our future economic and societal development. We must design our choices according to where we, as a European society, want to be in 10 to 20 years' time.

Eurochild believes that investing in children is an essential foundation to build inclusive prosperity and sustainable peace for the future. We believe in safeguarding Children's Rights and empowering Children to be effective rights holders and valued contributors.

We are also optimistic that the European Union will lead the way in supporting the right choices.

Next week we expect the EU institutions to decide on the next 7-year budget. We are calling on the governments of Member States to support the European Commission and the European Parliament in their proposal to ring-fence, 5% of the **European Social Fund +** for the purpose of introducing and implementing the Child Guarantee.

The EU has also decided to inject 672.5 billion Euros into Europe's recovery through the **Recovery and Resilience Facility**.

We welcome the call by the European Parliament for 7% of these resources, to be ring-fenced for children and youth.

We subscribe to the words of one the most imminent Members of the European Parliament, **how can we call this a *Next Generation EU* initiative, without actually prioritizing investment in children and young people directly?**

Children are Europe's greatest resource.

On behalf of Eurochild, I urge all governments to invest wisely in children, so that we will reap the deserved benefits for the generations yet to come.

If Children are ignored then we and future generations will pay a hefty price.

An economy of well-being is first-and-foremost an economy that invests in its children.

We look forward to working together to build a better future for every child in Europe.

Before we finally close this webinar, I would like to remind that today, the 18<sup>th</sup> of November is also an important day. It is the day when across Europe we draw the attention to the urgency of ending child sexual abuse. This is a Council of Europe observance day. I would like to take this opportunity to convey a special acknowledgement to our friends and allies at the Council of Europe, who we are pleased to welcome their representative at our Friday's webinar.

The theme for this year's observance day, specifically focuses focusing on 'Preventing risky behaviour by children: child self-generated sexual images and/or videos'.

I would like to thank all of our imminent speakers and panelists and each and every one of you for making this webinar a most constructive and informative event.