



Building a child-friendly Europe: turning a vision into reality

Conference on the Council of Europe Strategy
for the Rights of the Child 2012-2015

Children's rights start at home: strong families for strong children

Workshop on parenting and family support

Monaco, 21 November 2011, 9.00-12.00

CONCEPT NOTE



Introduction:

Families, whatever their composition, are central to protecting children's rights and helping children to realise their full potential. Yet pressures on today's families are growing and many parents feel they lack support and guidance. How can we support parents in bringing up their children in a way that respects all family members' right to integrity and human dignity?

The Council of Europe has been a forerunner in furthering understanding of childhood and family life experiences. It is thus not by accident that the first legal standard on children's rights adopted by the Council of Europe after the launching of the programme "Building a Europe for and with children" in 2006 was a recommendation on policy to support positive parenting. Positive parenting refers to behaviour by parents and other caretakers that respects children's best interests and their rights, while taking account of parents' needs and resources.

In 2008, "Building a Europe for and with children" launched the campaign "Raise your hand against smacking", advocating for the ban of corporal punishment in all settings and the promotion of violence-free education, in particular through positive, non-violent parenting.

Under its 2012-15 strategy, the Council of Europe will continue to strive towards supporting positive parenting and giving all children the possibility to grow up in an empowering, nurturing and violent-free family environment.

Objective:

The conference workshop on parenting and family support is intended to prepare the ground for future Council of Europe work in this area by mapping the context in which parents are raising their children today, exchanging ideas and good practices and establishing networks and partnerships with other stakeholders.

The results of the workshop should also feed into the [First European Conference on Parenting Support](#), which the Netherlands Youth Institute is organising on 10-12 October 2012 in The Hague.

Moderator:

Mr Tony Ivens, Children in Wales, Chair of the Eurochild family and parenting working group, United Kingdom

Participants:

- Mr Jesper Juul, author and family therapist, Denmark
"The competent child. A paradigm shift?"
- Ms Maria Herczog, member of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, President of Eurochild, Hungary
"Parenting in the light of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child"
- Ms Mary Crowley OBE, President of the International Federation for Parenting Education, UK
"From theory to practice: What kind of support do parents need?"

- Ms Maria Filomena Gaspar, Professor on parenting support, University of Coimbra, Portugal
“Evidence-based parenting support programs: lessons from Portugal and other European countries”
- Ms Maria Josefa Rodrigo, Professor, Department of Developmental Psychology and Education, University of La Laguna, Spain *“Policy to support positive parenting – experiences from the local level in Spain”*
- Ms Anniki Tikerpuu, Department of Children and Families, Ministry of Social Affairs, Estonia
- Ms Marie-Hélène Murat, Child psychologist, Centre médico-psychologique, Monaco
“Parenting support in the Principality of Monaco”

Rapporteur:

Ms Mona Sandbæk, Head of Department, Oslo and Akershus University College, Norway