



Bambini in Europa  
Barn i Europa  
Børn i Europa  
Children in Europe  
Copii în Europa  
Dzieci w Europie  
Enfants d'Europe  
Infância a Europa  
Infância en Europa  
Infância na Europa  
Kinder in Europa  
Kinderen in Europa  
Παιδιά στην Ευρώπη

**Children in Scotland**  
every child - every childhood

## Media Release

1/9/2011

### As Children in Europe celebrates, Scotland has a long way to go

Scotland still has a long way to go to match the best children's services in Europe – as promised by the Scottish Government after the election – with strong legislation the way to keep progress towards integrated children's services on course.

This month the cross-European network Children in Europe celebrates 10 years of influencing policy and practice to improve children's lives, in which early years services have become a priority for the European Commission and a comprehensive vision for early years has been agreed by EU member states.

Over the same period Scotland has made limited progress towards establishing fully integrated children's services and still struggles to provide childcare entitlements that fall well short of the Barcelona targets of good quality, full time places for 90% of children over 3 and 33% of children under 3.

By comparison, since 2001 both Slovenia and Norway have established fully integrated early years systems with legal entitlements to subsidised full day childcare for all children from the age of 12 months.

In the new issue of Children in Europe magazine published this week, Adam Pokorny of the European Commission's Lifelong Learning Directorate highlights the benefits of affordable Early Childhood Education and Care services, not only for learning and future outcomes, but for employment and social integration here and now.

Bronwen Cohen, chief executive of Children in Scotland, said:

"Slovenia and Norway are at opposite ends of the scale when it comes to national wealth, but their examples show what can be achieved. We hope in drawing up its plans for legislation the Scottish Government will take account of the EU policy framework which Children in Europe has highlighted over the last decade."

To order a copy of Children in Europe telephone 0131 222 2400 or visit [www.childreninscotland.org.uk/publications](http://www.childreninscotland.org.uk/publications)

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## **Notes for Editors**

1. Children in Europe's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary magazine is published on Wednesday 7 September. ***Empowering children, parents and the workforce? The competency debate*** brings together authors from across the world, including the UK, the Netherlands, Croatia and Australia, to explain how everyone involved in early years – staff, parents and children themselves – can develop skills that give every child a better chance to realise their potential.
2. The Children in Europe 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary conference will take place in Stirling on **Tuesday 11 October** exploring themes raised over the past decade, including how best to support children, families and communities; how the arts connect people, families and places; and what qualities make a difference in early childhood education and care.
3. In February the European Commission published its first Communication on Early Childhood Education and Care, extending its guidance down the age range to birth for the first time and clarifying that the so-called Barcelona targets agreed by member states in 2002 refer to full day provision for at least 90% of children over 3 and 33% of those under 3. On this basis the UK currently only meets these targets for 5% of children under 3 and 24% of those over 3. The Conclusions put forward from the Communication were accepted by EU education ministers, including the UK, in May.
4. Children in Scotland is publishing a series of briefings looking at the systemic division between education and care for young children in Scotland, and how this can be changed – through legislation, cross learning and integration – to improve outcomes for all Scotland's young children. For more details contact Tracey Francis on 0131 222 2419 or visit [www.childreninscotland.org.uk/html/ScotlandsChildrensSectorForum.htm](http://www.childreninscotland.org.uk/html/ScotlandsChildrensSectorForum.htm).
5. **Children in Europe:** Children in Europe is a magazine for everyone working with and for children from 0 to 10 and those interested in children's issues. It aims to provide a forum for ideas, practice and information and to contribute to the development of policy and practice at European and national levels. It is published in the UK and Ireland by Children in Scotland. For more information visit [www.childrenineurope.org](http://www.childrenineurope.org)
6. **Children in Scotland** is the national agency for voluntary, statutory and professional organisations and individuals working with children and their families in Scotland. It exists to identify and promote the interests of children and their families and to ensure that relevant policies, services and provision are of the best possible quality and able to meet the demands of a diverse society. For further information visit [www.childreninscotland.org.uk](http://www.childreninscotland.org.uk)