

**Dublin City Childcare Focus Group**  
**Eurochild Conference**  
***Including Children: a child rights approach to child well-being***  
**5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> November 2008**

As part of their 2008 workplan, five members of the Dublin Childcare Focus Group attended the Eurochild Conference in Budapest in November. The theme of the conference was 'Including Children: a child rights approach to child well-being'.

The conference was attended by over 150 people from all over Europe with a strong representation from Hungary.

The conference opened with an overview of EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child and how it interacts with the EU social inclusion process. This was very interesting and explained how combating child poverty was a main focus of the strategy. The Hungarian Secretary of State made a presentation on the Hungarian Strategy 'Making Things Better for Children'. This gave us a background to childcare in Hungary and the plans made for children and childcare with the assistance of EU funding. The Chief Executive of the Children's Rights Alliance Ireland and other NGO's made a response to the presentations made that morning.

There were four thematic workshops which focussed on ensuring the rights of children were the driving force behind the agenda to combat poverty and social exclusion. The four workshops explored the implications for member states in the following areas:

- Early Childhood Development quality services for all
- Family and parenting support helping to deliver children's rights in deprived neighbourhoods
- Young people leaving alternative care: key challenges and framework for action
- Reconciling a child's best interest with labour market needs

The childcare focus group was represented at all four workshops. The most interesting aspect of the workshop was to see how some member states are in the process of applying for EU funds for similar initiatives that were funded in Ireland over the past ten years and it gave us the opportunity to share our experiences with other attendees.