

IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF CHILDHOOD IN EUROPE

draft
INVITATION

Working Group on the Quality of Childhood at the European Parliament (QoC)

MEP Anna Hedh
MEP Kostas Chrysogonos
MEP Deirdre Clune
MEP Arne Gericke
MEP Nathalie Griesbeck
MEP Karin Kadenbach
MEP József Nagy
MEP Evelyn Regner
MEP Julie Ward

This QoC Talk will be hosted by:

MEP Arne Gericke
European Conservatives and Reformists Group, Germany

72nd QoC Talk:

'Adolescence as a sensitive period for learning and social-emotional engagement'

The presentation will be given by **Professor Dr. Eveline Crone**, Professor of Neurocognitive Developmental Psychology and Head of the Brain Development Research Centre at Leiden University in the Netherlands. Professor Crone's research includes the psychological and neural processes involved in cognitive control, self-regulation and social-decision making. In 2017 she was awarded the Spinoza Prize, the highest scientific award granted in the Netherlands.

Location: European Parliament, Rue Wiertz 60, Brussels, Room number 128 in the Library.

Time: Tuesday 5 March 2019 from 12.30 until 14.30h.

Entrance: We will gather at the Entrance at Place Luxembourg at 12.00h. Please be in time. It is obligatory to take your passport and/or ID Card with you.

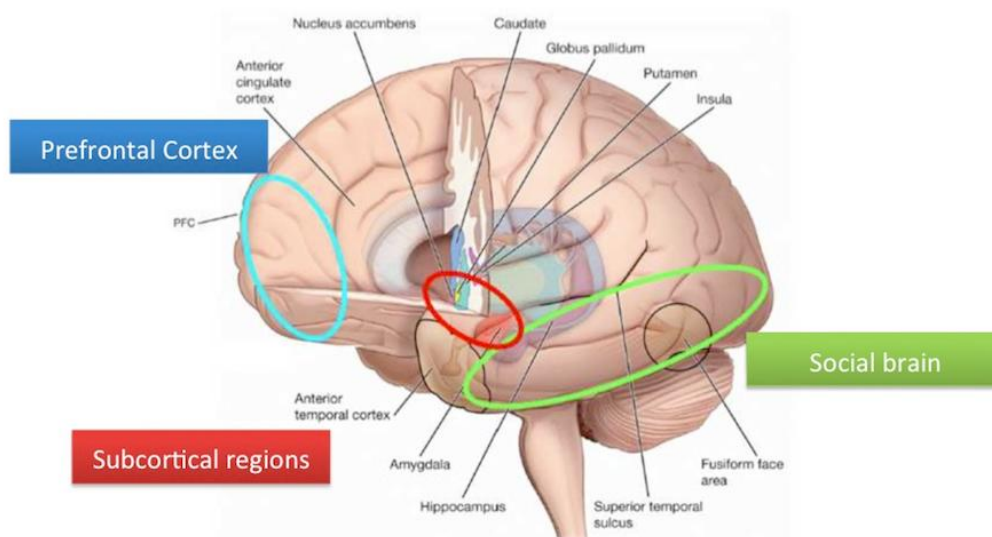
Michiel Matthes prepared this programme based on documentation provided by Professor Crone.

Adolescence is an important transition phase

Adolescence is an important transition phase between childhood and adulthood during which individuals gain independence and develop mature social goals. It is also a natural time for explorative learning, risk taking and sensation seeking. New insights in this dynamic period in development have been gained based on a relatively recent developing field: the cognitive neurosciences. In the last two or three decades, researchers have made tremendous progress in mapping cognitive functions to the brain, not only in patients, but also in healthy developing individuals by the using of functional imaging methods.

Towards a new understanding of adolescent-specific behaviors

These neuroimaging studies including children, adolescents and adults have led to a new understanding of adolescent-specific behaviors with consequences for several domains in society such as education, social involvement, and law. Studies across the world consistently reported a protracted development of cortical brain regions, which are important for cognitive control and future orientation. Yet, at the same time many studies report heightened activation in subcortical brain regions, with most emphasis on the ventral striatum as a key brain region involved in reward seeking behavior.



Results of the Braintime Study provides new insights with regards to behavior of adolescents

In this presentation Professor Crone will first present results from a large European Research Council (ERC)-funded longitudinal neuroimaging study referred to as the Braintime study, in which participants were scanned on three time points while performing a cognitive control and a gambling task in the scanner. Outside of the scanner, participants completed questionnaires for puberty, impulsivity, working memory, reading and arithmetic and performed several risk-taking tasks. This longitudinal design allows us to relate individual growth trajectories to behavioral change, but also gives the possibility to use behavioral and neuroimaging data to predict future behavioral outcomes. The neuroimaging results support the model of protracted development of the frontal-cortical network and heightened ventral striatum response in mid-adolescence. The results further show that the same neural sensitivities can be informative for multiple aspects of reward processing (self-related rewards and other-related rewards).

What factors play a role regarding the wish of adolescents to civic involvement and to give a contribution to society

Currently, Professor Crone's group is examining how social-affective engagement leads to unique opportunities for civic involvement of youth and for contributions to society (helping, sharing, collaborating). One of the main paradoxes in adolescence is the relative self-absorption, while at the same time developing increased concern for others. In this presentation professor Crone will show that brain regions that are important for thinking about self and others undergo pronounced and intertwined changes in adolescence in terms of both the structural properties of the brain as well as the way the brain functions when thinking about self and others. Together, these findings are discussed in the context of adolescent specific opportunities for social learning, such as fast adaptation to different social contexts; forming friendships, close relationships and prosocial development.

What are the implications for the following groups in society:

- Parents
- Teachers and schools
- Social and youth services
- Sports and youth clubs
- City management
- Officials of the Police and the Ministry of Justice
- Employers of adolescents

Overall objectives of the QoC Talks:

- To gain a better understanding of the Quality of Childhood in the EU Member States. This time we will focus on 'Adolescence as a sensitive period for learning and social-emotional engagement'.
- To reflect on the role that the European institutions can play to improve the situation.
- To get to grips with the values, principles and approaches that could lead to **improvements for children both in Europe and around the world.**
- To form an effective working group and to get a sense of how to move on.

I take pleasure in inviting you for the 72nd session on 5 March 2019.

With best regards,

Michiel Matthes
Chairman
Alliance for Childhood European Network Group

Programme Outline for Tuesday 5 March 2019

Time	Subject	Speaker / facilitator
12.30	Opening and giving an outline of his political programme	MEP Arne Gericke
12.40	Introductory remarks regarding the key-note speaker	Christopher Clouder, one of the founders of the Alliance for Childhood
12.45	Adolescence as a sensitive period for learning and social-emotional engagement	Professor Dr. Eveline Crone, Professor of Neurocognitive Developmental Psychology at Leiden University
13.30	Discussion	Michiel Matthes, Chairman of the Alliance for Childhood European Network Group
14.25-14.30	Closing remarks	MEP Arne Gericke

Disclaimer:

The organisers organise this session on a best effort basis. However changes in parts of the programme or in the entire programme may occur due to unforeseen circumstances and the organisers cannot be held liable for that. No rights may be derived from this programme.

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With the support of the following organisations:



For background information please visit our respective websites:

www.allianceforchildhood.eu

www.learningforwellbeing.org

This programme was developed in cooperation with the **Alliance for Childhood European Network Group**, whose members are:

Alliance ELIANT, Brussels
ARGE-Erziehungsberatung, Austria
Beweeg.nl
Christopher Clouder, UK

COPE, Children of Prisoner Europe
European Council for Steiner
Waldorf Education (ECSWE)
European Foundation for the Care of Newborn Infants
(EFCNI)
EMDR
EPA (European Parents Association)
Experiential Education Project, Belgium
Familylab International, Switzerland
Familienforum Havelhöhe GmbH
und Emmi-Pikler-Haus e.V., Germany
FEMI, The Netherlands
Foundation for Social Welfare Services, Malta
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Early Childhood Education (Switzerland)
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Björn Accoe
Vanessa Pallucchi
Daniel Kropf
Olga Middendorp and Helma Brouwers
Marie-Nicole Rubio

Petter Åkerblom and Maria Nordström
Nickel van der Vorm
Verna Kaunisto-Feodorow

Lienhard Valentin/Sabine Heggemann

QoC Talks held / to be held in the period 2006-2018:

QoC Talk in 2006	
5 December 2006	1. 'The Toxic Childhood Syndrome and the Quality of Childhood' with Christopher Clouder (UK) and Professor Hans van Crombrugge (Belgium). Host: MEP Karin Resetarits.
QoC Talks in 2007	
9 January 2007	2. 'Really Improving the Education in the European Union requires Systemic Changes' with professor Luc Stevens (Netherlands) and Professor Ferre Laevers (Belgium). Host: MEP Karin Resetarits.
6 March 2007	3. 'The Quality of Child-Adult Relationships in Families and School' with Jesper Juul (Denmark). Host: MEP Karin Resetarits.
15 May 2007	4. 'The Child: his/her Networks and Neighbourhood' with René Diekstra. Host: MEP Karin Resetarits.
September 20 2007	5. 'How can we improve in the European Union the Early Childhood Educational Systems' with John Bennett, the author of the OECD Study Starting Strong. Host: MEP Karin Resetarits.
November 6 2007	6. 'How to let children and adolescents acquire key competences for the world of the 21st century?' with Dr. Martina Leibovici-Mühlberger from Austria and Geseke Lundgren from Sweden. Host: MEP Karin Resetarits
QoC Talks in 2008	
January 8, 2008	7. 'Attachment, what it is, why it is important and what we can do about it to help young children acquire a secure attachment?' with Sir Richard Bowlby. Host: MEP Karin Resetarits.
March 4, 2008	8. 'A vision on children and childhood in the European Union' by Michiel Matthes. Host: MEP Karin Resetarits.
May 14, 2008	9. Professor René Diekstra about 'The Changing Face of Adolescence. Accounting for changes in adolescent development and their effects on education and social policies'. Host: MEP Karin Resetarits.
July 1, 2008	10. Professor Steen Hildebrandt (University of Aarhus, Denmark) about the 'Multiple intelligences in the knowledge-based society'. Host: MEP Rovana Plumb.
September 16, 2008	11. Presentation of the report of the Fundación Marcelino Botín entitled 'Social and Emotional Education, An International Analysis' by Christopher Clouder and Fátima Sánchez Santiago. Host: MEP Karin Resetarits.
November 12, 2008	12. Professor Boris Cyrulnik from France: 'What measures can we take to improve the quality of childhood in the European Union?' Host: MEP Rovana Plumb.
November 17, 2008	13. Organisation of a Symposium in Bucharest, Romania at the request of MEP Mrs Rovana Plumb: 'A European Policy Agenda for the Quality of Childhood with special emphasis on the case of the children of Romanian migrant workers'.
QoC Talks in 2009	
January 27, 2009	14. Dr. Michel Vandenbroeck (University of Ghent, Belgium) about 'Diversity and Equity in Early Childhood Services'. Host: MEP Karin Resetarits.
March 3, 2009	15. 'Taking stock of what has been achieved with the Working Group since December 2006 and looking forward' with Michiel Matthes, Secretary-General of the Alliance for Childhood European Network. Host: MEP Karin

	Resetarits.
April 28, 2009	16. Professor Peter Moss (University of London) about young children and their services: developing a European approach. Host: MEP Rovana Plumb.
September 8, 2009	17. 'Continuing to work on improving the Quality of Childhood in the European Union during the present economic downturn' with Professor Emeritus Richard Wilkinson, co-author of the book 'The Spirit Level, Why More Equal Societies Almost Always do Better'. Host: MEP Rovana Plumb.
November 17, 2009	18. The Technical University of Dortmund won the tender issued by the European Commission to execute a Research Project to identify the key research questions regarding families and family policies. The leader of this project, Professor Dr. Uwe Uhlendorff gave a briefing on this Project and spoke about 'Developing a European Research Agenda for Families and Family Policies'. Host: MEP Livia Járóka.
December 8, 2009	19. Why Love Matters: How Affection Shapes a Baby's Brain, and the policy requirements in this respect with Sue Gerhardt, author of the book with the similar title. Host: MEP Evelyn Regner.
QoC Talks in 2010	
January 12, 2010	20. The PISA Study and lessons learned regarding the Quality of Childhood with Andreas Schleicher, Head of the Indicators and Analysis Division of the OECD Directorate for Education. Host: MEP Evelyn Regner.
March 2, 2010	21. 'Improving the Quality of Childhood in the European Union: the Case of Roma Children' with Ivan Ivanov, Executive Director of the European Roma Information Office (ERIO) and Bernard Rorke, Director of the Roma Initiative Programs of the Open Society Institute (OSI). Host: MEP Gerald Häfner.
April 13, 2010	22. Improving the Quality of Childhood in the European Union: the Aspect of Parental Leave Policies by Professor Peter Moss of the Thomas Coram Research Unit, Institute of Education, University of London. Host: MEP Gerald Häfner.
June 8, 2010	23. 'The City for the Children'. Key-note speaker: Vanessa Pallucchi, Director for Education of Legambiente, Rome, Italy. Host: MEP Vittorio Prodi and MEP Karin Kadenbach.
August 31, 2010	24. 'The impact of television and screen media on the Quality of Childhood and what are good policies in this respect on the level of the family, on the level of the country and on the EU level?' with Dr. Aric Sigman, author of the book 'Remotely controlled, how television is damaging our lives'. Host: MEP Karin Kadenbach.
November 17, 2010	25. 'The proposed research agenda for the European Commission re families and family policies' with Professor Dr. Uwe Uhlendorff of the Technical University Dortmund, Germany. Host: MEP Mr Gerald Häfner
QoC Talks in 2011	
January 11, 2011	26. 'The Quality of the Physical Environment of the Child, the Current Problems in this area, and what needs to be done?' together with the Health and Environment Alliance and the INCHEs Network. Host: MEP Gerald Häfner.
March 1, 2011	27. 'Educating the Art of Life: Resilience and Creativity in Contemporary Education' with David Brierley, Associate Professor at the Rudolf Steiner University College, Oslo Norway. Host: MEP Evelyn Regner.
March 29,	28. 'A reflection on the European Commission's High Level Group on

2011	Literacy' with emeritus Professor Margaret Clark from the UK. Host: MEP Lambert van Nistelrooij.
May 31, 2011	29. 'Learning to move and moving to learn. Why physical development in the early years supports later learning, behaviour and achievement' with Sally Goddard Blythe, Director of The Institute for Neuro-Physiological Psychology in the UK. Hosted by MEP Edward McMillan-Scott.
September 6, 2011	30. Presentation of the report 'Learning for Well-being: a Policy Priority for Children and Youth in Europe, A Movement for Change' by Professor Ilona Kickbusch, Director of the Global Health Programme at the Graduate Institute of International Development Studies in Geneva. Host: MEP Karin Kadenbach.
November 8, 2011	31. Alcohol Nation, How to protect our children from today's drinking culture' with Dr. Aric Sigman. Host: MEP Gerald Häfner.
QoC Talks in 2012	
January 10, 2012	32. Presentation of a Proposal to set up a European Academy for Complementary Pedagogy by Jesper Juul. Host: MEP Judith Merkies.
March 6, 2012	33. 'What Contribution can the Digital Environment make to the Improvement of the Quality of Childhood?' with Professor Martine Delfos from the Netherlands and Thibaut Kleiner of the Cabinet of Euro-commissioner Neelie Kroes. Host: MEP Evelyn Regner.
April 11, 2012	34. 'Improving the Quality of Childhood as a challenge to European institutions: Reflections from the Ombudsmen for Children' with Maria Kaisa Aula, the Finnish Ombudsman for Children. Host: MEP Liisa Jaakonsaari.
5 June 2012	35. The State of Affairs of the Child in the City, and What Needs To Be Done? with Dr. Jan van Gils, President and founder of the European Network of Child Friendly Cities and President of the International Council for Children's Play. Host: MEP Karin Kadenbach
4 September 2012	36. '500,000 Preterm Births in Europe Each Year. What are the Dangers, and What are the Main Components of a Successful Strategy to Address this Challenge?' with Professor Luc Zimmermann (Belgium / Netherlands), Professor Dominique Haumont (Belgium) and Silke Mader (Germany), all working with the European Foundation for the Care of Newborn Infants (EFCNI). Host: MEP Peter Liese.
13 November 2012	37. 'How can we help children to reach their unique potential and how can we support the parents, caregivers and teachers in their role vis-à-vis children' with Dr. Gordon Neufeld from Vancouver, Canada. Host: MEP Gerald Häfner.
QoC Talks in 2013	
9 January 2013	38. 'Children and their connection with nature: why it is important and how can it be stimulated?' with Tim Gill from the UK. Host: MEP Judith Merkies and MEP Gerald Häfner.
5 March 2013	39. 'IFFD's Family Enrichment Courses: the Case Study Method applied to Family Settings. What it is and how to provide it to more families?' with Marina Robben, President of the International Federation For Family Development (IFFD). Host: MEP Anneli Jäätteenmäki and MEP Anna Záborská.
9 April 2013	40. Finland has the best literacy score in the European Union. What are the main elements of its strategy and to what extent can it be copied by other countries? with Professor Heikki Lyytinen. Host: MEP Liisa Jaakonsaari.

4 June 2013	41. 'The commercialisation of childhood in the USA: what is the current situation, to what extent is it harmful for children, what needs to be done and what are the lessons for the European Union?' with Susan Linn, Founder and Director of the 'Campaign for a Commercial-Free Childhood'. Host: MEP Anna Záborská.
3 September 2013	42. 'The Human Biotechnology Revolution is opening the door to the creation of genetically modified 'designer babies': what is the current situation?, what is at stake at the moment?, what needs to be done?, and what role could the European Union play in this respect?' with Enola Aird, Founder and Director of 'Mothers for a Human Future'. Host: MEP Anna Záborská.
12 November 2013	43. 'Positive human development: a spontaneous or guided process?' 45 years of experience with longitudinal research and the policy lessons that can be drawn from it' with Professor Lea Pulkkinen. Host: MEP Anneli Jäätteenmäki.
QoC Talks in 2014	
7 January 2014	44. 'Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) Systems in Europe: what are the current trends and what needs to be done?' with Professor Dr. Mathias Urban, Professor of Early Childhood and Director of the Early Childhood Research Centre, University of Roehampton, London, Great Britain. Host: MEP Gerald Häfner.
4 March 2014	45. Parents' partnership stability and quality as a context for child development. What are the challenges, and what policies and programmes are in place? Some insights from Germany' with Professor Dr. Sabine Walper, Research Director of the German Youth Institute in Munich, Germany. Host: MEP Jürgen Klute.
18 June 2014	46. 'Make the European Parliament a global Child Rights Champion'. The presentations will be given by members of the Child Rights Action Group (CRAG) a.o. Jana Hainsworth of Eurochild, Deirdre de Burca of World Vision and Lilana Keith of PICUM. Host: MEP Gerald Häfner.
8 July 2014	47. 'Youth employment in the EU member states: what is the current situation?, and what is the role of the European Commission in the domain of the Youth Initiative and the Youth Guarantee? Discussion of the Commission's Country Specific Recommendations' with Jeroen Jutte of the European Commission, Head of Unit, DG EMPL, Unit C1 European Employment Strategy and Governance. Host: MEP Julie Ward.
9 September 2014	48. 'Developing inclusive systems across Education, Health and Social sectors for early school leaving prevention' with Dr. Paul Downes of Saint Patrick's College, Dublin City University. Host: MEP Julie Ward.
18 November 2014	49. 'The Mental Health Situation of Children and Young People in the European Union: What is the Current Situation and What could be done?' with Professor Ulrike Ravens-Sieberer and Dr. Veronika Ottova-Jordan. Host: MEP Anna Hedh.
QoC Talks in 2015	
6 January 2015	50. 'The effect of the Great Recession on Southern European Children's and Adolescents' Adaptation and Wellbeing: Risks and Resilience Processes. What is necessary at this moment?' with Professor Frosso Motti-Stefanidi, PhD. Host: MEP Kostas Chrysogonos.
3 March 2015	51. '4000 City Councils for Children in France: how do they operate and what makes them successful?' with Jonathan Lévy. Host: MEP

	József Nagy.
13 May 2015	52. 'Children's Well-Being Indicators: a Powerful Tool to Improve the Well-Being of Children. Launch of the European Report of Children's Worlds' with Professor Ferran Casas, Professor Sabine Andresen and Professor Jonathan Bradshaw. Host: MEP Nathalie Griesbeck
2 June 2015	53. 'Health Assets for Young People's Health and Well-being. A New Basis for a set of Indicators for Policy and Practice?' with Dr Antony Morgan from the Glasgow Caledonian University, London Campus, UK Host: MEP Marie Arena and MEP Jana Zitnanska
1 September 2015	54. 'Elham Palestine: a multisector national partnership towards making schools more conducive to children's well-being. What is the philosophy and approach of Elham? What positive outcomes have resulted? In which way can we apply the same approach in a European context?' with Professor Dr. Marwan Awartani. Host: Julie Ward.
17 November 2015	55. 'Prosperity without growth: a vision of a lasting prosperity for all' with Professor dr. Tim Jackson from the University of Surrey, UK. Host: MEP Molly Scott Cato.
QoC Talks in 2016	
12 January 2016	56. 'Curious Minds: The English approach to offer rich educational and cultural programmes to all children and young people' with Derri Burdon. Host: MEP Julie Ward.
1 March 2016	57. 'Refugee and immigrant children and youngsters: some reflections on the successful integration of them in the receiving societies' with Professor Frosso Motti-Stefanidi, PhD and Lilana Keith. Host: MEP Caterina Chinnici.
26 April 2016	58. 'What constitutes good education and what are the roles of measurement and evaluation in it?' with Professor Dr. Gert Biesta. Host: MEP Liisa Jaakonsaari.
14 June 2016	59. What we can do to establish a good education and which new pedagogical approach we may propose? with Martine Reicherts, Director-General for Education and Culture in the European Commission. Host: MEP Julie Ward.
6 September 2016	60. 'Toward media literacy or media addiction?', contours of good governance for healthy childhood in the digital world' with Professor Dr. Paula Bleckmann. Host: MEP Julie Ward.
8 November 2016	61. 'How to empower parents for a better Quality of Childhood?' with Professor Ramón Flecha. Host: MEP István Ujhelyi
QoC Talks in 2017	
10 January 2017	62. Children with imprisoned parents: 'How to support children to cope with their parent's imprisonment and enhance their potential to lead safe, included, happy, achieving lives?' with Kate Philbrick and Hannah Lynn from 'Children of Prisoners Europe' (COPE) network. Host: MEP: Julie Ward.
7 March 2017	63. 'Innovation in Education, Improving Learning & Well-being' with Professor Dr. Els Laenens. Host: MEP József Nagy.
11 April 2017	64. 'Primary Health Care for Children in Europe. Similarities and Differences between Countries - what do they Mean? Interim findings of the Models Of Child Health Appraised (MOCHA) Horizon 2020 Project ' with Professor Michael Rigby and Dr. Denise Alexander. Host: MEP Hannu Takkula.
20 June 2017	65. The pros and cons of OECD's International Early Learning Study (IELS, or Baby PISA) with Rowena Phair and Professor Mathias Urban. Host: MEP Mary Honeyball.

5 September 2017	66. Art education promotes the development of the child and society with Dr. Eeva Anttila. Host: MEP Julie Ward.
7 November 2017	67. 'The new educational curriculum in Finland, goals, underlying values, guiding principles and how and why it was brought about' with Irmeli Halinen. Host: MEP Hannu Takkula.
QoC Talks in 2018	
6 March 2018	68. 'Well-being and involvement as key indicators for quality. Implications for educational policy' with Professor Ferre Laevers. Host: MEP Evelyn Regner.
5 June 2018	69. 'New discoveries in the field of brain science can contribute significantly to a healthy childhood and the well-being of children. Presentation of an initiative in Alberta, Canada' with Nancy Mannix. Host: MEP Henna Virkkunen.
4 September 2018	70. 'The Importance of Art in Childhood, Case Studies from the UK and Finland' with Ruth Churchill Dower and Ina Berden. Host: MEP Julie Ward.
4 December 2018	71. 'Janusz Korczak and his Lessons for the Quality of Childhood' with Theo Cappon and Helma Brouwers from the Dutch Janusz Korczak Association. Host: MEP József Nagy.
QoC Talks in 2019	
5 March 2019	72. 'Adolescence as a sensitive period for learning and social-emotional engagement' with Professor Dr. Eveline Crone. Host: MEP Arne Gericke.

Seven yearbooks published with the reports of these sessions:

session 1-16: Improving the Quality of Childhood in the European Union: Current Perspectives.

session 17-23: Improving the Quality of Childhood in Europe 2011, Volume 2.

session 24-30: Improving the Quality of Childhood in Europe 2012, Volume 3.

session 31-37: Improving the Quality of Childhood in Europe 2013, Volume 4.

session 28-44: Improving the Quality of Childhood in Europe 2014, Volume 5.

session 45-49: Improving the Quality of Childhood in Europe, Volume 6.

session 50-67: Improving the Quality of Childhood in Europe, Volume 7.

Volume 1-7 can be ordered via the website or downloaded free of charge from:
www.allianceforchildhood.eu/publications .