

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

(To be filled in and uploaded as deliverable in the Portal Grant Management System, at the due date foreseen in the system.

⚠ Please provide one sheet per event (one event = one workpackage = one lump sum).)

PROJECT	
Participant:	7 - PIC PRAVNI CENTER ZA VARSTVO CLOVEKOVIH PRAVIC IN OKOLJA (PIC)
PIC number:	931013082
Project name and acronym:	Environment, Rights, Children — ENRICH

EVENT DESCRIPTION			
Event number:	D21.1		
Event name:	Training for official bodies dealing with children on children's participation rights		
Type:	In situ training		
In situ/online:	<i>In situ</i>		
Location:	Slovenia, Ljubljana		
Date(s):	22.10.2025		
Website(s) (if any):	https://pic.si/vloga-prihodnjih-generacij-v-okoljskih-zadevah-objava-gradiv/		
Participants			
Female:	18		
Male:	9		
Non-binary:	0		
From country 1 [Slovenia]:	27		
Total number of participants:	27	From total number of countries:	1
Description			
Provide a short description of the event and its activities.			
<h3>1. Introduction</h3> <p>This report presents the implementation of the event “Iz krize z upanjem: Vloga prihodnjih generacij v okoljskih zadevah” (English: “From Crisis with Hope: The Role of Future Generations in Environmental Matters”, which is the last of the three national trainings conducted by PIC within the ENRICH project. Differently than in</p>			

the case of the first training, which introduced concepts in protection of child rights and the environment, useful for the work of environmental and child protection NGOs, and the second training, which sought to improve the knowledge and skills of educators in how to educate children about their rights regarding environmental protection, the last training targeted official bodies that work with children and the environment. The training facilitated understanding about obligations of states and local authorities towards future generations in environmental matters and sharing best practices of decision-makers that are already active in this field. Furthermore, the training facilitated discussions between representatives of official bodies on challenges that they are facing when seeking to support child and youth participation and possible solutions.

The event was implemented on the 22nd of October 2025, in the “Narodni Muzej Slovenije - Metelkova” (English: “National Museum of Slovenia - Metelkova”) in Ljubljana, Slovenia. The event was held after a detailed mapping of stakeholders and identifying speakers that could transfer required knowledge and best practices at the intersection of environmental and climate protection and children’s rights. The event lasted for approximately 4 hours, between 12:20 and 16:20 CEST. The participants and all the speakers were photographed during their presentation, for which they gave their express permission.

Representatives of official bodies consisted most of the participants but some other stakeholders such as representatives of NGOs and individuals were present too, as the event was public.

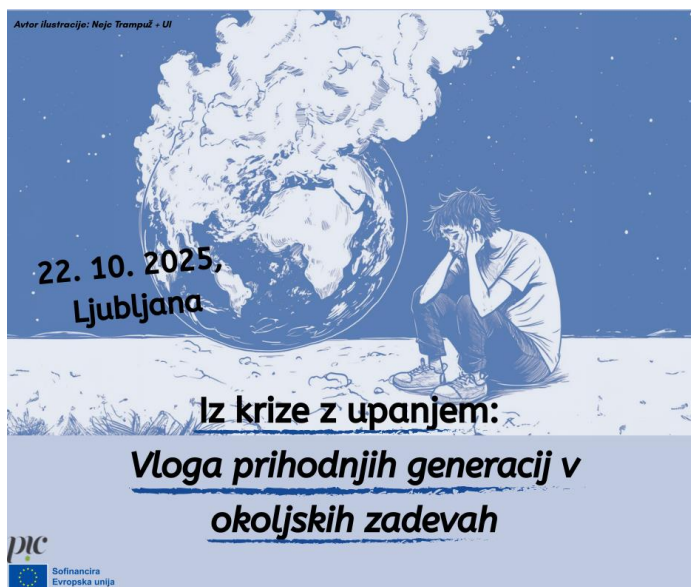
The main objectives of the training for official bodies within the ENRICH project were:

- (1) Build the understanding on the international legal framework, legal obligations, and experiences from other jurisdictions regarding the protection of future generations in environmental matters and facilitate knowledge on the role of children’s rights;
- (2) Inform and inspire about existing best practices of local and national decision-makers on the field of active inclusion of children and youth in decision-making, including in climate matters;
- (3) Present the current developments of a cross-sectoral approach on the national level to children’s rights in environmental matters (National Programme for Children);
- (4) Present the legal landscape in Republic of Slovenia for participation of children and youth in environmental matters and main challenges from the legal standpoint;
- (5) Identify needs of decision-makers in improving effectiveness of children’s participatory rights in environmental and climate matters. Discuss challenges and propose solutions where possible.

This report includes:

- The (translated) programme of the event,
- The substance of each contribution,
- An overview of the participants and outcomes,
- Outreach, webpage and social media posts.

2. The programme



Banner graphic of the event

12:20 - Opening words, **Luka Štrubelj**, PIC – Legal Center for the Protection of Human Rights and the Environment;

12:30 – Children’s Rights and the Rights of Future Generations, **doc. dr. Maša Kovič Dine**, Chair of International Law Department, Faculty of Law, University of Ljubljana;

13:00 – Participation Opportunities for Children and Youth in the Local Community, **Martina Ivanović**, Expert in Community Affairs, Municipality of Postojna;

13:30 – The Role of Children and Youth in Climate Policy-making, **Tina Kobilšek**, Lead climate negotiator for the Republic of Slovenia, Ministry for the Environment, Climate and Energy;

14:00 – Environmental Protection in the policy “National Programme for Children,” **dr. Nataša Demšar Pečak**, Chair of the Cross-sectoral Working Group, Ministry for Employment, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities;

14:30 – Break with a snack;

14:40 – Challenges and Solutions to Effective Participation of Children in Environmental Matters, **Luka Štrubelj**, PIC - Legal Center for the Protection of Human Rights and the Environment;

15:00 – A Panel for Decision-makers: Facing Challenges but Seeking Solutions for Including Children and Young in Climate Matters;

- **Anita Bregar**, Directress General, Directorate for Family, Ministry for employment, family, social affairs and equal opportunities;
- **mag. Mateja Pitako**, Head of the Climate Policy Sector, Ministry for the Environment, Climate and Energy;
- **Barbara Radovan**, Spatial Planning Specialist, Directorate for Spatial Planning and Building, Ministry for Natural Resources and Spatial Planning;
- **Robert Bolješić**, Directorate for Nature, Ministry for Natural Resources and Spatial Planning.

The full invitation includes the programme in Slovene and is available → [here](#).

3. Contributions

Photos of the event can be found on PIC website → [here](#).

In the opening statement, the structure and the goals of the event were introduced, including the project ENRICH and its underlining purpose. It emphasized the need to consider the interests of future generations in environmental and climate protection and the role of official state and local bodies in supporting child and youth participation.

The first part of the training outlined obligations of national and local authorities toward future generations and presented good practices in child and youth participation in both the national as well as on the local level. The second part of the event was conceived in a discursive way: It presented an opportunity for decision-makers to share and discuss challenges in ensuring effective participation of children and youth in environmental and climate matters and propose solutions.

In the first contribution, **doc. dr. Maša Kovič Dine** presented the legal framework for the protection of the rights of children, young people, and future generations arising from international and European documents (Paris Agreement, Aarhus Convention, European Convention on the Exercise of Children's Rights, EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, which highlights the protection of future generations in the preamble, etc.). She emphasized General Comment No. 26, issued by the Committee on the Rights of the Child, which addresses the intersection of children's rights and climate and environmental change.

She stressed the importance of the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on state obligations regarding climate change, which clarified that climate protection is not a separate field of international law but is linked with other areas such as the protection of human and children's rights. She presented fundamental environmental principles, such as the prohibition of causing harm and the

precautionary principle (the state must not refrain from preventive action when there is a risk of serious environmental damage), and highlighted the importance of intergenerational justice—managing resources in a way that ensures future generations can also use them.

She also discussed landmark climate cases in which children and youth acted as plaintiffs, emphasizing how crucial it is to use an approach that places the rights of children and future generations at the forefront (e.g., *Neubauer v. Germany*). To improve the protection of future generations, Dr. Kovič Dine proposed introducing various legal mechanisms that would integrate long-term thinking into policies and measures. She mentioned establishing national mechanisms and institutions for protecting their rights, such as an Ombudsman for Future Generations, and requiring assessments of impacts on future generations within regulatory impact assessments where policies may affect them.

The next speaker, **Martina Ivanović**, presented her experience with involving children in policy-making at the local level. The Municipality of Postojna systematically includes children and youth in decision-making processes because it wants young people to be actively involved in changes they see as important. The municipality has adopted a Youth Ordinance, is preparing a new Local Youth Programme, has established a Youth Affairs Commission and a Youth Council, and offers various subsidies, scholarships, and support for employment and entrepreneurship. Postojna is also a UNICEF Child-Friendly City, devoting special attention to the health and well-being of young people, including through the Centre for Child and Adolescent Mental Health.

One of the key projects in this field is the Children's Municipal Council, active since 2016 and involving children from three primary schools. Children elect their own mayor and deputy mayors, gain democratic experience, and provide very concrete and mature proposals—from safe routes to school, recreational infrastructure, to peer violence issues. Sessions are attended by professional staff, the mayor or deputy mayor, and the director of municipal administration, who discuss the children's ideas directly with them. The municipality works actively with youth organizations and plans to continue these efforts to build a youth-friendly community. A key recommendation for other municipalities is establishing a Children's Municipal Council and regular meetings between decision-makers and young people at least once or twice a year.

The following presentation focused on national-level activities, specifically the Ministry of Environment, Climate and Energy (MOPE) and its work on involving children and youth in climate policy. **Tina Kobilšek** emphasized that it is important for young people to have a say in climate policymaking, as climate issues rank high among their priorities. MOPE organizes the Youth Climate Delegate Program in cooperation with the National Youth Council of Slovenia. Each year, a delegate aged 18 to 29 is selected to engage with youth and the Slovenian delegation, organize consultations, collect the views of young people, and present them at international events, including COP climate conferences.

The programme focuses on empowering young people, strengthening their skills, building networks, and spreading climate knowledge. Delegates organize at least one public consultation and a simulation of international negotiations, participate in events, and communicate results, while abroad they attend COP. The benefits are mutual: young people influence policymaking and state authorities receive consolidated ideas and concrete proposals in a written document that supports decision-making.

In line with the Climate Act, young people and vulnerable groups must be included in the climate dialogue. The first dialogue was held in October 2025, involving the youth climate delegate. Focus groups discussed sustainable food production, mobility, and a just transition. In the future, MOPE will seek stronger connections with schools and local communities.

Dr. Nataša Demšar Pečak presented the development of the National Programme for Children in the Republic of Slovenia and progress on the 2026–2031 programme. Current priority areas include equal opportunities, participation of all children, life without violence, and safety in the digital environment. The new programme is being prepared by an Interdepartmental Working Group with representatives of ministries, NGOs, and educational institutions. Children and young people were included in the process, for example through the “Say what matters to you” event, where they called for more practical skills such as financial literacy and crisis response.

The new programme will include seven priority areas and will aim to improve child well-being, including environmental goals. Special emphasis will be placed on children’s right to express their views in environmental matters and on creating a supportive environment. Specific measures will be included in later action plans, which will define responsibilities and monitoring indicators. The importance of transferring these findings into practice was highlighted, with an emphasis that the needs of children should be reflected particularly in the school system.

After a short break, **Luka Štrubelj** presented the protection of future generations through participation of children and youth in environmental and climate matters. He highlighted three main systemic challenges faced by those trying to involve children in environmental and climate procedures:

- Limited resources, capacities, and expertise to involve children in environmental matters;
- Although children and youth are formally allowed to participate in public consultations on environmental regulations and policies, participation is ineffective due to the way information is presented;
- There are challenges in involving minors in civil initiatives, as the Environmental Protection Act allows participation of adults only.

He proposed several solutions:

- Address resource challenges through training, better communication between competent bodies, and a stronger role for civil society with hands-on experience working with children;
- Improve the effectiveness of participation through clearer communication of policy changes, dedicated consultations for children and youth, and clearer procedures for their involvement;
- Enable participation of minors in civil initiatives through legislative changes, and in legal proceedings more generally by interpreting legal standing more broadly to ensure direct participation.

In the second part, we held a roundtable with decision-makers on opportunities for involving children and young people in environmental and climate matters. Participants included:

- **Anita Bregar**, Directress General, Directorate for Family, Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities;
- **Mag. Mateja Pitako**, Head of the Climate Policy Sector, Ministry of Environment, Climate and Energy;
- **Barbara Radovan**, Spatial Planning Specialist, Directorate for Spatial Planning and Building, Ministry for Natural Resources and Spatial Planning;
- **Robert Bolješić**, Directorate for Nature, Ministry of Natural Resources and Spatial Planning.

The roundtable was moderated by **Luka Štrubelj**.

The participants emphasized the importance of raising awareness among decision-makers about the needs of vulnerable groups, especially children, and involving them in policy design. It is crucial to empower children, help them understand processes, and verify whether they truly understand the content they are being asked to comment on.

They pointed out that public consultations are held for policies and regulations, where children and youth may also participate. In spatial planning, it is vital to build knowledge about space and the consequences of interventions, and to involve young people in a clear and accessible way. Ministries are trying to include youth organizations in environmental and nature protection procedures, but challenges remain in finding effective channels and formal representation of young people.

Systemic gaps were also highlighted—there is often an expectation that the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities alone should cover children's issues, which makes it difficult to create targeted policies that recognize children as holders of rights. Therefore, efforts are underway to strengthen cooperation between sectors, prepare guidelines for decision-makers, and involve children through the National Programme for Children and the Children's Council.

A strong emphasis was placed on the role of individuals—decision-makers themselves. Participants agreed that children and young people can strongly

influence adults, but real participation requires feedback, respect for their proposals, and opportunities for gaining knowledge.

In conclusion, participants stressed the importance of better communication, institutionalizing mechanisms for future generations, conducting generational impact assessments of regulations, and continuously seeking new ways to co-create policies with young people.

4. Participants and outcomes

There were 27 participants at the event, of which:

- 18 were female,
- 9 were male and
- 0 person was non-binary.

The majority of participants were representatives from national (Ministry for the Environment, Climate and Energy, Ministry for Natural Resources and Spatial Planning, Ministry of Health, etc.) and local authorities and other official bodies including managers of nature conservation parks. There were also representatives from the civil society and research institutes, particularly from the ones working with children, youth and education as the event was public.

The training built skills and knowledge of decision-makers on the legal obligations pertaining to future generation and through that on effective participation of children in environmental and climate matters. Representatives of official bodies heard about good practices already existing in this space in Slovenia and abroad, stimulating ideas for their own work. On this basis, a rich and fruitful discussion was held on challenges and potential solutions in their own work. Important conclusions were made, including challenges of official bodies to reach children and young with their communications, lack of communication channels between ministries, and lack of institutionalised mechanisms that would safeguard interests of future generations. Finally, the event stimulated relationship-building and further collaboration, including regarding the development of the next National Programme for Children.

5. Outreach, webpage and social media posts

We undertook several promotional activities of the event in order to widen the reach of the event.

We sent the following invitation directly via e-mail to more than 500 recipients, targeting particularly official bodies on the national and local levels:

https://pic.si/wp-content/uploads/Iz-krize-z-upanjem_Vloga-prihodnjih-generacij-v-okoljskih-zadevah.pdf

PIC sent two further reminders for the event.

We reached out to specific groups and networks that offered access to best target groups for our event, including the members of the Cross-sectoral Working Group and the Ombudsman which leads a network of Children's Rights Advocates.

We disseminated and promoted the event and its contents on social media before and after the event on all our social media channels (Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn). The posts included a general post regarding the event and its topic. We utilised paid promotion to increase its reach. Furthermore, we also promoted all the speakers and the panel with decision-makers in order to stimulate interest for the event.

FACEBOOK (+Instagram stories):

<https://www.facebook.com/PICPravnicenter/posts/pfbid0FaGyBMKYmoGGwj3FPEFyFuXdNjesDJyvn7uoj5NXFWx9r6BBieo3Kh5Vgx3uU7I>

<https://www.facebook.com/PICPravnicenter/posts/pfbid02NcJ2JwTot34NdFDdBHnH5HNNH1Widz6fUJvo6cPRR6dr5RbxscMubPaCk1ESQPY1nI>

<https://www.facebook.com/PICPravnicenter/posts/pfbid0QPGmw3Zdeg3Kw3DcHPFdyXJGx9dF97TUKkkhDVTQoiFhWUjyLvD9Rnm5onK6MgSFI>

<https://www.facebook.com/PICPravnicenter/posts/pfbid0wb6umf2kbFdb6dk4HEFefrY9vE6h9NnEa73REEd4771sDkAWHL8zEKB6WkitWhVZI>

<https://www.facebook.com/PICPravnicenter/posts/pfbid02QZyZidBnZJw2kzEvLcSFhJFK5z5VdrQP3yFNUCNgphPiXsndWsZFKQMxoWokXs6BI>

<https://www.facebook.com/PICPravnicenter/posts/pfbid02DMXBAmD2ZBTsDYyQtBsSoEfChJxWtUCLbzF2zqPVucPXKqiZ848McFeSMcAFuPvI>

LINKEDIN:

<https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7378785884223004672>

<https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7381657233073364992>

<https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7382340858420826112>

<https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7383758521630183424>

<https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7384471976549027840>

<https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7384869014403092555>

We had one full publication of the event on pic.si in English and Slovenian, including the presentations of all speakers and main points of the panellists:

<https://pic.si/iz-krize-z-upanjem-vloga-prihodnjih-generacij-v-okoljskih-zadevah-program-prijava/>

We also prepared a publication on the event for our social media channels:

<https://www.facebook.com/PICPravnicenter/posts/pfbid0NFLSRWk7u3NhyJYWdWfFfuwKJch9xGXTeKsLGzEY4Yt8kMUaFinVvU3CinqY1Wfrl>

We prepared the following graphic in various formats:



We will continue to promote the content of the event via our social accounts, both of the general topic as well as specific contributions of speakers and panellists.

We published this report on www.pic.si -> [here](#)

HISTORY OF CHANGES

VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
1.0	01.04.2022	Initial version (new MFF).