

The logo for ENYA FORUMS is positioned at the top center of the page. It features the words "ENYA" and "FORUMS" stacked vertically in a stylized, bubbly font. The letters are filled with a gradient of yellow and orange, and have a white outline that gives them a 3D, glowing appearance. The background behind the logo consists of a series of curved, overlapping bands in shades of light pink and pale red, radiating from a central point, creating a sunburst or fan-like effect.

ENYA  
FORUMS

**ENYA**

**E-PLAN**

*Ideas for a better education  
in Europe*

# ENYA E-PLAN

This publication is the result of the work of the European network of youth advisers. It is meant as a toolkit, of our ideas, for the Ombudspersons to improve education.

It is difficult to create idea tools for anybody's needs. There are varieties of needs from children to ombudspersons all around Europe and some of our proposals won't suit all of you. But, there is the fact that children all over the world have to be treated the same because they are all smiling and crying at the same way.

Thanks to the work ENYA has done on the e-forum since it's start in 2010, the first get-together in Strasbourg and the following meeting in Belfast 2011 we gather ideas how to improve the educational system and what the children needs these days are in terms of school and growing up.

We discussed topics that matter when it comes to education and children. Somehow, in these discussions we always focused in the following issues:

1. Relationship between students and teachers
2. Teacher evaluation and retraining
3. Participation and equal opportunities
4. Our rights and child protection

This publication is right about these topics with ideas how to improve the educational system and providing a better growing-up environment for children.

Enjoy reading,  
ENYA Education team

## Relationship between students and teachers:

### Mediate:

Most of the conflicts between students and teachers can be solved with a good mediation. Because the teacher refers to all the children, there has to be mediation facilitated with whole classes, not individual students.

**We propose:** Group mediated sessions with children and teachers at school level.

### Make complainants easy:

For a good evaluation and constantly improving system of education there is need for complain mechanisms at school level, that should be available as most as it's possible to the children. If the complaints should be anonymous or not is up to the ombudsman and school authorities to decide (but don't forget to ask the children for their opinion).

**We propose:** Create an efficient complain mechanism that suits your criteria and needs

### Becoming teacher should be something special:

Since the school is our second home and the teacher becomes a role model like our parents - you should be demanding the same responsibility from our teachers as from our parents. When a teacher finishes school he/she should be ready for the task to shape young minds , that demands more social skills than knowledge about maths, geography, art etc.

**We propose:** Teach the teacher for the job of an ombudsperson! Integrate social and communication skills into their curriculum. That is, by our opinion, more important then the knowledge what they teaches about.

### Make the teachers use games:

Games are natural to us children, if a teacher starts a class with a game he is automatically on our level of perception and we can accept him better.

**We propose:** Integrate games into school classes!

## **Teacher evaluation and retraining:**

### **Make the students grade the teachers:**

To have a good evaluation mechanism you have to ask the children directly for their opinion on the teacher, skills being used, knowledge shared etc. We even propose to award the teacher who scores best in the evaluation.

**We propose:** Let children evaluate their teachers anonymous via intranet surveys, at least once a year.

### **Re - train teachers**

After the fresh teaching skills learned and used for a while the teachers tend to “forget how to teach”. To prevent this process we think that teachers need constant re-training and learning of new teaching methods. When we say they need training we don’t mean knowledge from the school curriculum but skills to communicate with us. It seems that it is especially hard for teachers to “go in their knees and speak to us at eye level”. This issue is probably the cause of a lot conflicts in the school, unfortunately, those conflicts are all disrupting the children’s education process.

**We propose:** Refresh and develop the teachers social and communication skills frequently. Teach them how to communicate easily with children.

### **Try out new things:**

When it is possible for students/children to grade and evaluate their teachers it should be possible for them to teach. Let’s say that trained pupils teach their teachers social skills by giving them the chance to be in their place, the place of a children in the education system.

**We propose:** Try changing roles of the students and teachers, that should bring more understanding and tolerance for both sides.

## Participation and equal opportunities:

### Equal say:

Sometimes it is better for the teacher and parents to decide for us children, but giving us the feeling that we are participating in the process of decision-making is much more effective to teach us democratic values and participation. So, even for the smallest decision about our education/school, try to find a mechanism to integrate us in the process of bringing the decisions. You would wonder how likely we are to help you.

**We propose:** Make school policies respecting the children's right to participate in the decisions that matter for them.

### Help the student councils:

Student councils are the little ombudsperson offices for the students. They should bring the voice of the children to the adult structure of the school and education system. It should be facilitated by law that any school must have their student council which is formed by the students and is working for them.

**We propose:** Assist the student councils. Opening small project funds for their ideas is a good opportunity for them. Help them when they can't get their say or if they can't do their work.

### Form student council networks:

Giving children the opportunity to cooperate is important for their own development of education. They can provide a lot of resources when they work together.

**We propose:** Form student council networks on city, entity and country level.

### Let their voice being heard:

Decision-making like in the government is maybe difficult, but it still needs creativity - something the children have!

**We propose:** Give presidents of student council networks the chance to work on education policies together with the government.

## **Our rights and child protection:**

### **Teach us our rights:**

The basic concept of a good citizen is an educated citizen, so we think that education in terms of human rights and the rights of the child is necessary for us.

**We propose:** Integrate Human rights and the rights of the child in the curriculum.

### **Teach us taboos:**

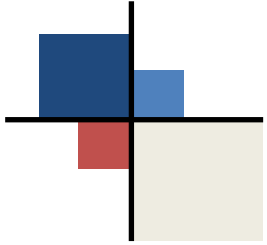
Sexual-health education is, unfortunately very undeveloped in some parts of Europe. That issue has to be solved. Our proposal is to make it easy for us and let us learn from trained peer educators about taboo topics.

**We propose:** Use peer education to teach children topics that are harder to access by adults. For example: sexual-health, mediating conflicts etc.

### **If prevention fails...:**

When you can't prevent a situation where children are victims of bullying or other forms of ignoring their rights, make "fixing the damage" as easy as possible.

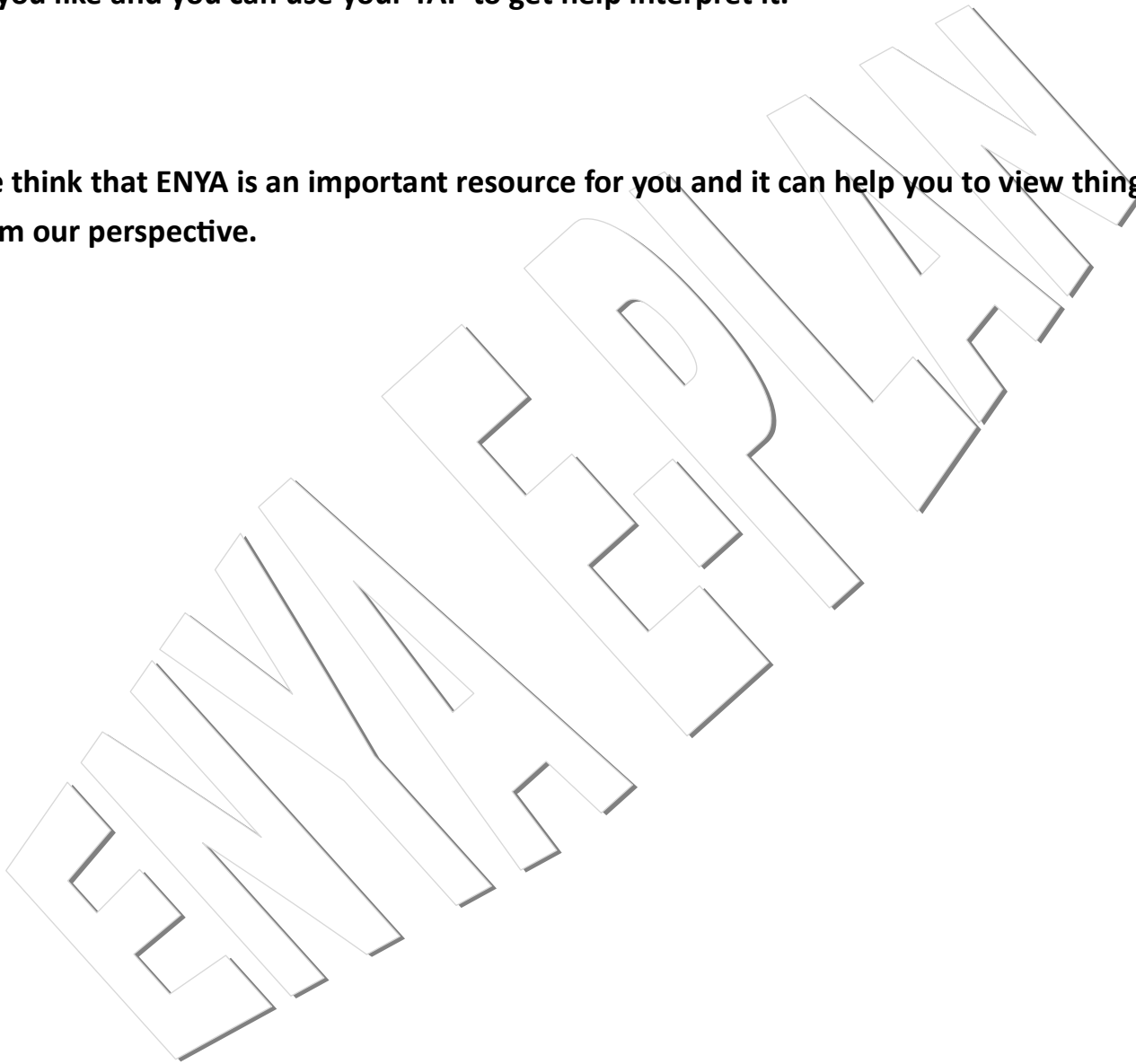
**We propose:** Create safer environment in cases where our rights are broken.



**With this publication we tried to express our proposals in precise suggestions and useful advices for you, the ombudspersons.**

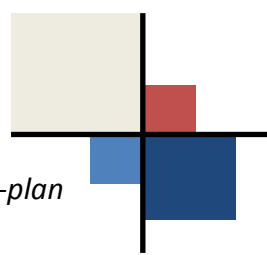
**Keep in mind that all of our proposals are universal suggestions which you can expand as you like and you can use your YAP to get help interpret it.**

**We think that ENYA is an important resource for you and it can help you to view things from our perspective.**



**We hope that our ideas helped you to get the right view on education...**

**...from our perspective**





***ENYA works wonders***

# ENYA E-PLAN

**Special thanks goes to the European Network of Ombudspersons for Children...**

**...our moderators, the ENYA Education team from Strasbourg and Belfast meeting...**

***No written word, no spoken plea,  
can teach our youth what they should be,***

***Nor all the books on all the shelves  
It's what the teachers are themselves.***