

2025

PARENTS
INTERNATIONAL



EDITORIAL

ESZTER SALAMON, DIRECTOR

It is a privilege to work with talented and inspiring people, all striving towards the same goal: making the world better for children and their families. The team I work with is exactly like that, and we are also supported by fantastic members and partners in our journey. I know how lucky I am, and I know I cannot take it for granted.

Parents International will celebrate its 10th anniversary at the beginning of May 2026. We have gone a long way over the past decade, from an informal network to being legally recognised as an organisation fully serving the public interest. We have been linking parents, professionals, researchers, and policymakers. We have developed and delivered supportive material and training for parents and the professionals they trust to be their co-pilots in raising their children, mostly teachers and school leaders. Over time, we realised that it is not enough to advocate and train; we also need to create a robust body of evidence for the core topics we work on, even if the results are often uncomfortable.

In 2025, my team has travelled around the world to educate parent leaders and teachers, contributed to research on core topics that shape the lives of children and their families, and advocated for more appropriate state and international provisions to ensure a peaceful childhood with children's and parents' rights fully considered and fulfilled. We have an unprecedented number of publications, both research and practical. Some of the journals and books we contributed to will only be published in 2026, so we will have plenty of content to share with the regular readers of our newsletter and those who follow us on social media.

2025

AT A GLANCE

| **17** COUNTRIES
REACHED

| **8** EU-FUNDED
PROJECTS

| **32** ENGAGEMENTS

| **3** HANDBOOKS

| **6** RESEARCH
PAPERS

| CLICK ON THE IMAGES NEXT TO THE ORANGE LINES TO ACCESS
LINKED CONTENT

WHERE THE YEAR TOOK

US

BELGIUM

BioBeo final event (Brussels)
eTwinning Annual Conference (Brussels)
ESEP Annual Conference (Brussels)
SILENT final event (Brussels)
EFFEct workshop (Leuven)

CYPRUS

DRONE workshop with stakeholders (Nicosia)

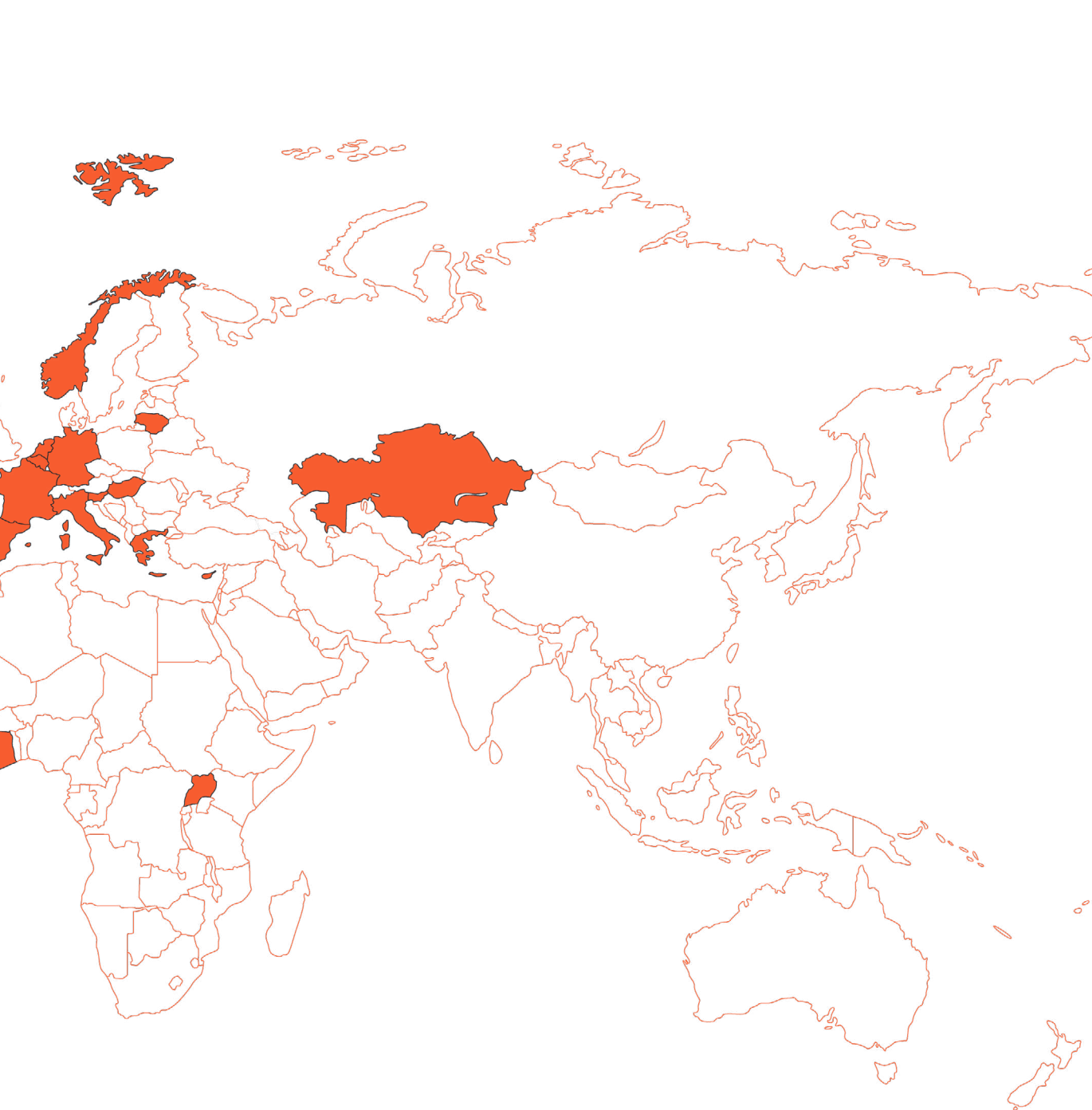
FRANCE

International Symposium on the Future of the Right to Education (Paris)
Artificial Intelligence and Education (Council of Europe Strasbourg)
Digital Citizenship Education Forum (Strasbourg)
eTwinning Annual Conference (Strasbourg)
INGO Conference Autumn Session (Strasbourg)
INGO Conference Spring Session and Youth Event (Strasbourg)
Year of Digital Citizenship Education - Opening Conference (Strasbourg)

GERMANY

DEMOCRAT Tpm (Düsseldorf)
GeNeMe (Dresden)



**GHANA**

Training with Parenting Education Network (Accra)

GREECE

DRONE workshop (Athens)

HUNGARY

Conference at Intelligent Robotics FAIR (Budapest)

EFFEct Tpm (Budapest)

IRELAND

ATEE Conference (Dublin)

Participate Summer School (Dublin)

ITALY

DRONE Meeting (Turin)

ERNAPE Conference (Verona)

ESHA Biennial Conference (Rome)

KAZAKHSTAN

Teacher Summit & Training with Bi Group (Atyrau)

LITHUANIA

Life Skills Teacher Training (Vilnius)

NETHERLANDS

DRONE handbook validation workshop (Horfdoorp)

NORWAY

World Anti-Bullying Forum (Stavanger)

SLOVENIA

Digital Citizenship Education Final Conference (Ljubljana)

SPAIN

DEMOCRAT Final Conference (Barcelona)

Kitchen Adventure Tpm (Malaga)

UGANDA

Training with Project Princess Initiative (Kampala)

PROJECTS

Part of what we do becomes possible through collaborative, publicly funded projects that let us test our ideas at scale and then share what works. The eight projects listed on the opposite page are a selection of the initiatives that we participated in, or brought to completion, in 2025. These projects connect us with universities, schools, civil society and decision makers, so the parental voice is present where evidence is produced and where policies are shaped. Through this work we connect parent leaders across countries, strengthen parental engagement and child participation, and turn lived experience into research questions that can be answered rigorously.

Projects like these also allow us to develop practical tools, training and good practice examples for parents and the professionals they trust, especially teachers and school leaders. They help us address urgent areas such as digital literacy and disinformation resilience, bullying and online harms, inclusion and equal opportunities, reading and the fight against illiteracy, and the protection of language and culture for migrant families. Finally, they make our advocacy more credible, because it is grounded in data, pilots and evaluation, even when the results are uncomfortable. This is how we keep building trust, competence and solutions together.



BIOBEE

Horizon Europe project developing a society-wide education programme on lifestyle, circularity and bioeconomy.



DEMOCRAT

Horizon Europe project strengthening education for democracy by co-designing curricula, practices, and a toolbox for schools



DRONE

Builds digital literacy training against disinformation, researching ecosystems, piloting materials, training teachers and parents



EFFECT

Improves EU education quality by rigorously evaluating systems and policies on teaching, adult learning, and digital transition



FOODITY

Tackles declining home cooking by recommending healthy, sustainable, affordable recipes



KITCHEN ADVENTURE

Turns cooking into family adventure, combining culinary learning and bonding to promote healthier diets and sustainability



PARTICIPATE

Trains doctoral researchers in multidisciplinary skills to advance parent-focused cyberbullying prevention, policy, and practice across Europe



PERFECT

Develops transversal competences through local history projects, as students create cultural products linking arts and digital skills

HANDBOOKS

AND RESOURCES

In 2025, as part of our activities in EU-funded projects, we developed 3 key resources: *Biobee Guide*, *The Missing Link*, and *A Guide to Introducing Potentially Traumatic Topics*. This is just a small part of the materials available in our Parent Library.

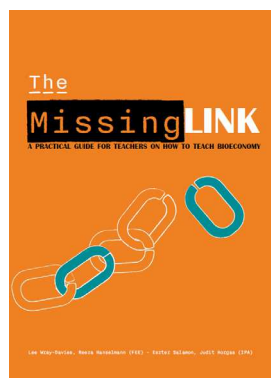
Our handbooks are not opinion pieces or generic tips. They are research-based, validated resources produced within EU-funded projects, designed to translate evidence into practice. Each handbook is built through international collaboration, piloting, and evaluation, then shaped into clear guidance, tools, and training-ready materials. They are written to be used: by professional educators in classrooms, by school leaders in whole-school policies, and by families at home, with adaptations that respect local realities, languages, and regulations. Together, they support a shared approach to children's wellbeing, learning, rights, and safety, while strengthening trust and cooperation between parents and the professionals who work with them. In short, these handbooks help communities move from good intentions to tested, practical action.

| ACCESS THE PARENT HELP LIBRARY



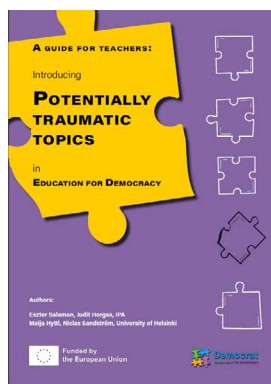
BIOBEE GUIDE

A practical teacher guide for introducing potentially traumatic topics in civic and democratic education. It explains how to prepare, assess readiness, set respectful classroom norms, and coordinate with counsellors and families. It recommends content warnings, gradual exposure, and hope focused framing, plus strategies to recognise distress, support self care, and channel learning into constructive civic action for all.



THE MISSING LINK

A BioBee manual helping teachers explain bioeconomy and circular economy through five themes: interconnectedness, outdoor learning, forestry, life below water, and the food loop. It offers lesson plans, classroom activities, and project ideas, plus checklists, SMARTER goals, and resource mapping. It also shows how to involve parents, colleagues, and local experts, and evaluate impact in everyday teaching practice.



INTRODUCING POTENTIALLY TRAUMATIC TOPICS

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PAPERS

As a research institution, we are actively participating in studies and research on our core topics: parental engagement, inclusion, bullying and cyberbullying prevention, effective approaches to education. These are some of the papers we submitted for publication in 2025.

THE ROLE OF COMMUNITY LEARNING IN DEVELOPING DIGITAL LITERACY

Data from a number of EU-funded projects show digital literacy grows mainly through families, peers and community organisations. Parents act as first teachers and support while schools lag. Calls to rebuild learning ecosystems via partnerships, inclusive programmes and teacher training. *(Scheduled for publication in a monograph by Educar)*

PARENTHOOD IN PERSPECTIVE: EXPLORING SOCIAL DIMENSIONS ACROSS CULTURES

This paper explores parenthood as culturally shaped, from traditions and roles to globalisation, digital parenting and child rights. It blends research and narratives, with chapters on migrant-parent empowerment, families guiding digital life, and parents as advocates. *(Part of the IPCN upcoming volume)*

SAILING MASTERS IN THE DIGITAL AGE: SUPPORTING FAMILIES AND SCHOOLS IN NAVIGATING ONLINE SAFETY AND AI CHALLENGES

Multiple project results show families guide children through AI, online safety and cyberbullying, while teachers often lack preparation for critical thinking. This paper urges recognising parents as co-educators, confronting teacher bullying, and building family-school partnerships for digital citizenship. *(Part of the IPCN upcoming volume)*

PARENTS AS GUARDIANS AND ADVOCATES OF CHILD RIGHTS AND AGENCY

This paper discusses parents' role in protecting children's rights and agency, balancing rights and state intervention. Building on Korczak, Spock and Juul, it frames parents as advocates at home and in society and recommends policies empowering families while preventing overreach. *(Part of the IPCN upcoming volume)*

HOW AND WHERE TO HELP MIGRANT PARENTS?

Results from project Parents Engage show schools often move from enrolment to inclusion; language barriers, bias and teacher preparation limit migrant parents' participation. Case studies in Frankfurt, Thessaloniki and Malmö highlight language classes, parent ambassadors and councils. Identified solutions include training and establishing partnerships. *(Part of the IPCN upcoming volume)*

BROKEN EDUCATION ECOSYSTEMS: LESSONS FROM HUNGARY AND THE NETHERLANDS

This paper compares data from Hungary and the Netherlands and finds ecosystems fracturing: parents, teachers and students disagree on school's purpose; mistrust and exclusion persist; parental-involvement laws remain superficial. Part of the solution lies in rethinking leadership, adopting effective measures, and undertaking reform. *(Submitted to the International Journal about Parents in Education)*

HIGHLIGHTS

Our experts are regularly featured in a wide range of in-person and online events, where they share evidence, practical experience, and lessons learnt from working with families, schools, researchers, and policy actors across Europe. These invitations reflect the interdisciplinary nature of our team: we combine educational practice, communication, research, advocacy, and project leadership to address complex challenges from multiple angles. Whether speaking at conferences, contributing to panels, or delivering targeted workshops, we aim to translate research into usable guidance for parents and professionals, and to bring real parental perspectives into spaces where decisions are made. Each event is also a chance to build partnerships, test ideas, and strengthen shared standards for child wellbeing and participation.

WORLD ANTI-BULLYING FORUM

At the World Anti-Bullying Forum in Stavanger, a doctoral candidate presented a scoping review on whether children who experience or witness adults' violence or bullying are more likely to become peer-bullying perpetrators. The review mapped existing evidence across settings, highlighted gaps in measurement and causal inference, and suggested prevention must address adult behaviour alongside peer dynamics.

VII GLOBAL STOP CYBERBULLYING TELESUMMIT

Two online sessions examined adults' roles in cyberbullying. One explored how parents and teachers can act as both protectors and perpetrators, outlining challenges families face and practical safeguarding solutions. The other focused on teacher bullying, why it often remains hidden, how it harms children's trust, and how schools and families can recognise warning signs, document concerns, and respond effectively.

WEBINAR ON WELL-BEING ONLINE: AMPLIFYING THE VOICES OF YOUNG PEOPLE

Co-organised by the Council of Europe and European Schoolnet, the webinar explored digital wellbeing in and outside schools within the European Year of Digital Citizenship Education 2025. Parents International highlighted parents as key drivers of children's digital wellbeing, sharing difficulties, best practices, and concrete solutions.

PROJECT

PARTNERS





MESSAGES FROM THE CORE

TEAM

JUDIT

How do you keep your sanity in a world that gets crazier every day? How do you keep believing that what you do and what you teach makes sense? How do you keep working when you are dead tired and disillusioned? You turn to your colleagues, you hold hands, you have a good laugh. That is the IPA spirit.

LUCA

I feel deeply privileged to work for an organisation that supported me so generously as a new mother. Colleagues stepped in without hesitation, entertaining my daughter, babysitting when needed, and sharing thoughtful advice. Their kindness, flexibility, and genuine care made balancing work and motherhood possible, and showed what it means to support parents in the ways they truly need.

EMILIA

I didn't want to write anything at first. Still carrying the weight of my reality, and sometimes that makes it hard to notice the blessings quietly holding us up. 2025 has moved in fast-forward mode, shaped by change and moments of uncertainty. Through it all, I've been met with wholehearted and unconditional support from the entire IPA family. It is a true privilege to be part of this team and to work alongside such brilliant minds. I can't wait to see what more amazing achievements we will have at IPA in 2026! My wish to everyone is simple...Count your blessings not your misfortunes.

ARISTOS

At first, I wondered what I could possibly add beyond meetings, panels, research and policy words. But I was reminded that a personal message can be more memorable and effective. Having said that, the real meaning of our work at Parents International lives in the people behind it. Representing IPA was meaningful, but what sustains me is the IPA family itself, colleagues whose trust, warmth, and shared belief in learners and parents make even the hardest days worthwhile. I am grateful for the trust, solidarity, and encouragement that define the IPA family.

MANU

There is no knowing what a kind word, a new perspective, or an unexpected idea can achieve for someone else. We may never see the full reach of our actions. Sometimes the challenges are so extraordinary that what we do may look like a drop in the ocean. But I've learnt it's a drop that the ocean would miss.

LET'S KEEP IN

TOUCH



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