



Children's Rights Newsletter (crnews) 2/05

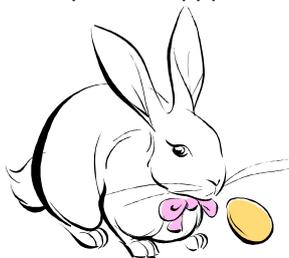
Red Europea de Maestrías en Derechos del Niño
European Network of Masters on Children's Rights- ENMCR

Dear Network Members and Network Interested,

After our meeting at the beginning of February we dived into a two week marathon to write and send off an application to Brussels for the development of a joint MA on Children's Rights at the core universities of the network. That's a reason for the delay of the second newsletter in 2005. In this Newsletter you will read:

- General News
- EU-Funding: ALFA
- News from the Members/Interested Parties
- To Do's
- Upcoming Dates

As usual, please use the e-mail address: crnews@eufund.de for feedback, criticism and comments as well as any information input. As the next crnews will be sent out only after Easter we would like to wish you already now Happy Easter Holidays.



Thank you for your attention,
Rebecca Budde/Günter Chodzinski,
Editors

General News:

- Second meeting of the Directive Committee

The second meeting of the directive committee took place in Berlin, Germany at the Technical University on February 4th and 5th, 2005.

Even though participation was rather scarce, quite a few things were achieved:

For one, a decision was made on the official name of the network (ENMCR) and the info leaflet on the network which will be printed in the next weeks and be presented at the workshop in Madrid on April 15th-17th, 2005 was revised. Concerning information flow within the network it



was confirmed that the coordinating office in Berlin should at all times be informed on proceedings in order to ensure transparency and information dissemination.

Besides these achievements it was decided to hand in a project application to the European Commission for the joint development of a masters study programme at the core member universities of ENMCR (Berlin-INA/FU, London-IoE, Madrid-UCM, Amsterdam-UvA, Stockholm) that shall be delivered by October 2007 in a pilot phase and shall lead to the award of a joint MA degree on Children's Rights.

Time was very limited from the meeting until the deadline for project applications under the Curriculum Development programme (CD- see also crnews1/05) set by the EU (March 1, 2005). Nonetheless we managed to get the application ready in time and reach the necessary agreements at the individual universities for the implementation of the project.

The European Commission will decide on the application in June/July. If ENMCR receives the grant, the project would be likely to start in October 2005, with a duration of 36 months.

▪ Children's Commission of the German Federal Parliament

As a subcommittee of the committee for family, senior citizens, women and youth, the Children's Commission of the German Federal Parliament has the objective to strengthen public and governmental perception of children's interests. It was founded in 1988 and has been working continuously as a parliamentary and extra-parliamentary lobby for children. In the frame of timely, technical and juridical possibilities, the commission also wants to act as partner and sponsor of associations and organisations as well as institutions that work for the interests of children. The commission is also in favour of establishing local and regional Children's Ombudsmen and commissions. One of the priorities within the work programme of the commission is the promotion of children's cooperative participation in political decision-making and civil society in general.

Almost all European Countries have children's ombudsmen and/or children's commissions.

The UCM has established contact with the regional children's ombudsman and cooperates with him in their expert course on Childhood.

Have a look at what your government does on behalf of children and their rights- perhaps there are possibilities to link together!

EU-Funding:

For the exchange with the Latin American Network of Masters on Childhood and Children's Rights (www.redmaestriasinfancia.net) there is the possibility to apply for funding under the European programme **ALFA**.

ALFA is divided into two sub-programmes. Sub-Programme A aims at co-operation in matters of institutional and academic management. Under sub- programme B, which would be of more interest to ENMCR, scientific and technical training is funded and post-graduate and student mobility as well as short term courses and training for research is fostered.

The objective of ALFA is the promotion of integration of existing training skills into the improved fulfilment of human resources and a better response to specialised training needs in the EU and LA, through activities of two-way mobility between network member institutions - university post-graduates and students . In 2005, project proposals that include one of the following aspects will be given priority:

- mechanisms assuring the quality of the project and/or its outcomes/results
- actions and/or activities for the dissemination of quality results or outcomes
- measures for ascertaining the impact of the project on direct and/or indirect beneficiaries
- **mechanisms enabling the transfer of credits leading to the recognition of periods of study abroad, particularly to mobility projects**

The next deadlines for Applications under ALFA are April 30th and October 30th, 2005.

News from the Members/Interested Parties:

Madrid, Spain:

The UCM will be hosting the second workshop of ENMCR that will take place from April 15th-17th, 2005 at the Faculty of Sociology and the Professional Association of Sociologists

Amsterdam, Netherlands/Fribourg, Switzerland:

As mentioned in crnews1/05, Dr. Karl Hanson from IUKB is preparing a session for the Oslo Conference on Childhoods: <http://childhoods2005.uio.no>, in collaboration with Dr. Olga Nieuwenhuijs (UvA) and Pamela Reynolds. The subject is: *Children's Rights in Development Work, a View from Anthropology. Anthropology to be understood as "the view from below"*. There will be a short introduction of the session at the workshop in Madrid.

Berlin, Germany:

Dr. Manfred Liebel (INA) will also be attending the Oslo conference. The subject of the session he is preparing will be: *International study and action group in support of working children*. The session will also be presented in Madrid.

Warsaw, Poland:

The Department of Social Pedagogy at the Maria Grzegorzewska University for Pedagogy has expressed its interest in the ENMCR and will be cooperating in the CD-project as associated partner. In collaboration with the Polish Children's Ombudsman and the Department of Sociology at the University of Warsaw, an expert course on Children's Rights could be established. We hope to welcome Dr. Barbara Smolinska-Theiss at our workshop in Madrid.

Ceske Budejovice, Czech Republic:

The Institution for Social Work at the Faculty of Health and Social Studies at the South Bohemian University has also expressed interest in the ENMCR. The faculty was included in the international research on children's rights (Legal conscience of the CRC), so it has quite a good database for international comparison. Some of their students and teachers are participants in governmental projects directed to the area of children's rights. We hope to welcome Mgr. Jitka Dvorakova and Renata Svestkova at our workshop in Madrid.

To Do's: (For all network members)

- Find out about national funding programmes (for mobility grants, scholarships, workshops/seminars)
- Contact NGOs (national and international) dealing with children's rights and governmental institutions (on local, regional and national level)

Upcoming Dates:

March 20th/21st, 2005: Meeting of the Latin American Network of Masters with new potential member universities

March 31st, 2005: Next deadline for Erasmus Mundus applications

April 15th-17th, 2005: Second Workshop ENMCR in Madrid, Spain

April 30th, 2005: Next deadline for ALFA applications (EU-exchange programme Europe-Latin America)

May 18th, 2005: Deadline for Marie Curie Conferences and Training Courses applications

June 29th - July 3rd, 2005: Childhoods 2005 Conference in Oslo, Norway.

Impressum: Coordination CR, Jean-Monnet-Haus, Bundesallee 22, D-10717 Berlin

Fon: +49-(0)30-88412-191, e-mail: crnews@eufund.de