



[European Network of Masters in Children's Rights](http://www.enmcr.net)

CRnews 05

Children's Rights Newsletter May 2010

European Network of Masters in Children's Rights
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Dear Network Members and Network Interested,

Due to technical reasons we were not able to send the last CRnews via the regular mailing list. We apologize for any inconvenience. Please feel free to contact us with comments, news and ideas for improvement via the regular e-mail address: info@enmcr.net
Looking forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,
Lea Fenner (Editor)

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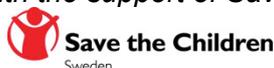
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Thank you for reading this newsletter.
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General News Internal

Follow Up: Statement Global Child Labour Conference

Regarding to the ENMCR's statement published in the last CRnews, we would like to comment on the new Roadmap which was agreed on the conference. From our point of view, this Roadmap lacks legitimacy and fails to contribute to improve the life and work conditions of the millions of working children all over the world. First, by excluding children and young people, particularly working children's and adolescents' organizations, from the consulting process and the decision-making at the conference itself, so violating the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child Article 12. Second, by ignoring social scientific research on children's work and its results in the recent years which gives a much more differentiated picture of the forms and reasons of children's work and its meanings and impacts for working children.

Reminder: Spanish Summer School on Childhood in the 21st Century

From 5 to 30 July 2010, the Spanish Fundación Complutense organises a Summer School on "Childhood in 21st century". The course, which will be held in Spanish, is targeted at 40 pupils who have studied or are studying sociology, anthropology, politic, psychology, social education, social works etc and who prove to have a strong interest in childhood and adolescence either through professional or through volunteering experiences.

The Summer school aims at:

- providing students with practical tools to stimulate and promote participation of children and young people in different contexts
- analysing the most recent studies on childhood sociology and social policies related to childhood
- deepening their knowledge on the UNCRC.

The Fundación Complutense offers reductions by 30% of the subscription costs for the Summer School to a limited number of participants. Applications can be forwarded till 11 June 2010.

Further information: http://www.ucm.es/info/fgu/formacion/escuela_verano/cursos/k04.php (Spanish only).

General News External

Press Release: Alternative Meeting of Working Children and Supporting Organizations in Europe

"Towards a world with work in dignity for working children and adolescents: steps towards 2016"
The Latin American Movement of Working Children and Adolescents (MOLACNATS) and the European supporting network EUROPANATS hold an alternative meeting to the ILO "Global Child Labour Conference 2010".

They declare the roadmap which is supposed to be adopted lacks any legitimacy because the working children as the main stakeholders have neither been consulted nor invited to this con-

ference. This constitutes a violation of the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child and its participatory provisions by the convening parties, namely the government of the Netherlands and the ILO. The same neglect of participatory rights is reflected in the Global Report, while the Best Interest of the Child, another core principle of the UN Convention, does not anyhow figure in the ILO agenda. These observations coincide with findings by renowned child work researchers, suggesting that a fundamental revision of the ILO approach to children's work is necessary.

Contacts:

MOLACNATS: molacnats@hotmail.com

EUROPANATS: info@europanats.net

Den Haag, the Netherlands, 11 May 2010

EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child:

Save the Children Statement to Europe de l'Enfance, May 2010

"Towards a comprehensive EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child"

More than 100 million children and an unknown number of undocumented children, reside within the borders of the European Union today.

A comparative analysis of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Children (UNCRC) Concluding Observations of all 27 EU Member States¹ show that levels of discrimination of children in the Member States remain high, constituting a pervasive and damaging problem in Europe, and in many countries associated with wide-ranging infringement of children's rights. The same study observed that the UNCRC has highlighted corporal punishment as a violation of children's rights in 19 EU Member States, and that 10 EU Member States apply torture, inhuman and degrading treatment to children by police or staff in detention facilities. The study noted the UNCRC's concern with the widespread use of institutional care across Europe in relation to children with disabilities. Children in institutions are a particular issue for the newer Member States of Central and Eastern Europe, affecting children without parental care more generally, and frequently applied to Roma. Furthermore, the analysis revealed that children's exposure to harm through the internet, video games, mobile technology and other media appears to be a growing issue. A substantial amount of children are affected by poverty and social exclusion in the EU, and progress towards poverty reduction is uneven.

The EU has an important role to play to ensure that all children enjoy the same rights and protection, regardless of what state they reside in. We welcome the many important steps that have been taken to protect and fulfil children's rights in Europe, including the regular Europe de l'Enfance meetings. However, a lot can still be done to ensure that children in the EU fully enjoy their rights.

Last year at the Europe de l'Enfance meeting in Stockholm, European Children's Rights NGOs presented "the Stockholm Call for Action", laying down 10 key steps which will allow the EU to make further progress towards the fulfillment of the rights of all children residing in the European Union. Save the Children would like to take this opportunity to draw your attention to the joint call for a comprehensive EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child.

Save the Children welcomed the EU Member States inclusion of the EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child in the Stockholm Programme. Member States present at the Europe de l'Enfance meeting in Madrid are presented with an important opportunity and a strategic timing to reiterate the call on the Commission to draft a comprehensive strategy. ²

The adoption of a Strategy on the Rights of the Child provides an important opportunity to establish a strategic framework which will help the EU to respect, promote, protect and work coherently towards the fulfillment of children's rights. Such a framework would ensure strategic direction, and allow for detailed analysis of the role and concrete actions of the EU, making efforts holistic and consistent.

We call on the Member States to:

- Call on the Commission to adopt an EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child which provides guidance on over-arching principles, operating guidelines and measures that will support implementation of the EU's obligations towards children's rights.
- Publicly support the 10 points Stockholm Call for Action.
- Specifically express their commitment to encouraging national legislation banning all forms of

degrading and humiliating treatment of children; ensuring that EU asylum, migration and trafficking policies and legislation are designed to take into account the best interest of the child; collaborating to eradicate poverty and social exclusion among children; combating discrimination against children, in particular Romani children and children with disabilities.

Save the Children, May 2010

See Stockholm Call for Action:

www.tfal.org/mt/.../1_The%20Stockholm%20Call%20for%20Action.pdf

6th Regional Meeting of NGOs Children's Rights Coalitions in Europe

The Italian NGO Group for the CRC is pleased to invite you to the 6th Regional Meeting of NGOs Children's Rights Coalitions in Europe, which will take place in Florence - Italy from the 20th to the 22nd of October 2010.

Started in Berlin in 1998, and followed-up in Stockholm (1999), Vilnius (2002), Brussels (2005) and Bucharest (2008) this three-day event promises to be an excellent opportunity to share successes and challenges in children's rights advocacy, monitoring and networking. We have a range of stimulating and knowledgeable speakers, and there will be plenty of opportunities to share information, ideas and experiences. The main aim is to increase knowledge to improve our effectiveness as children's rights coalitions.

The 6th Regional Meeting of NGOs will be hosted by the Istituto degli Innocenti in Florence, one of the most beautiful Italian cities. The Istituto degli Innocenti has been working for nearly six centuries on behalf of the family and the child. At the time when it was established, during the first half of the fifteenth century, it was the first institution in the world devoted exclusively to child care.

Nigel Cantwell, international consultant on child protection, will moderate the Meeting, as he did in Bucharest in 2008. We will send you the agenda of the meeting and the list of the keynote speakers soon. The Meeting will be structured in two plenary sessions and three workshops. Please note that all discussions will be held in English.

The participants are expected to arrange and pay their own international travel and accommodation. In order to facilitate your stay in Florence, we have pre-booked some rooms at a special price in 2 different hotels in the centre of the city. The organizers will cover the overall cost of the organization of the event; the provision of coffee breaks, the lunch on 20th October and 21st October; documentation and other material support.

For more information, do not hesitate to contact us at phone: +39 06 480 700 61 (Vittoria) info@gruppocrc.net or + 39 06 4807361 (Alessandra) a.capozzi@businessclass.be.

You will find all the information about the 6th Regional Meeting on the website of the Italian NGO Group for the CRC: www.gruppocrc.net/-about-us-

European Commission calls for increased protection of unaccompanied minors entering the EU

The European Commission adopted, on 6 May, an Action Plan to increase the protection of unaccompanied minors entering the EU, encompassing common standards for guardianship and legal representation. The aim of the Plan is to create a common European approach to make sure that a decision on the future of each unaccompanied minor is taken by the competent authorities as soon as possible, preferably within six months. As a priority, Member States should trace the families of the unaccompanied minors and carefully monitor their reintegration in their home society. If it is in the best interest of the child, Member States should find alternative solutions.

Crinmail Special Edition on Children's Rights and Freedom of Expression

Crinmail took the opportunity given by 3 May as Press Freedom Day, aimed at reminding people about the significance of the right to freedom of expression, to explore the meaning and relevance of this right for children.

Click here to read the special Crinmail issue:

http://www.crin.org/email/crinmail_detail.asp?crinmailID=3295

SOS Children's Villages: "I Matter" Leaving Care Campaign – 2nd Briefing Paper

The second edition of the Briefing Paper of the SOS Children's Villages' „I Matter“ Leaving Care Campaign has been published. It puts a strong focus on youth participation, and includes an article from Sonia Jackson, Professor of Education and Social Care on the relation between education and young people in care. Emmanuel Sherwin presents the benefits of youth in care networks and Almandina Guma reflects about what it means to involve young people in the “I Matter” Campaign. Additionally, you can find information on the recently founded International Youth Council of the “I Matter” Campaign.”

Click here for further information: <http://www.sos-childrensvillages.org/Focus-areas/Child-rights/Child-rights-issues/Pages/Leaving-2-nd-Briefing-Paper>

New LISTSERVE: Exploring childhood studies

The Department of Childhood Studies at Rutgers University-Camden are excited to announce a new listserve catering to the multi-disciplinary field of Childhood Studies. Those of us who study issues around children and childhood are in far flung departments and professions, separated by disciplinary boundaries. This listserve will be a vital point of connection for scholars and practitioners in the multi-disciplinary field and serve a much needed function as a central clearing-house of information for our disparate field. We welcome Calls for Papers, Announcements of conferences, events, new books, articles and other resources, requests for information, and information on new programs and departments. This list will also provide an opportunity to find people with similar interests across our broad field and open up discussion within it. To join, please go to: https://email.rutgers.edu/mailman/listinfo/exploring_childhood_studies

MEXICO: Children in the line of fire in Ciudad Juárez

CIUDAD JUÁREZ, 10 May 2010 - In Ciudad Juárez, the most violent city in Latin America, Mexico's war on drugs has left at least 110 children dead in the past three years, and over 10,000 have lost parents. Civil society organisations are urging the authorities elected in an upcoming ballot to meet the needs of this vulnerable population. An air of despair hangs over this border city. Deserted streets and empty houses -- about 100,000 of them -- testify to the defeat of a society that has gone through horror, indignation, rage and exhaustion in the past two decades. When night falls there is a kind of voluntary curfew, in contrast to the lively night life that used to animate the city centre. Few people walk the streets, even in daylight, and most people think twice before answering phone calls from numbers they do not recognise. One-third of the shops are closed in this northern Mexican city across the border from El Paso, Texas.

Verito is seven years old. In December, her school teachers were forced to hand over their extra month's salary, paid before Christmas, in "protection money" to an organised crime group so that the pupils would not be harmed."They say they threatened the head teacher with putting bombs in the school, and that's why they cancelled classes," she says. She knows that there are people in her city who kidnap and kill children. And that "all" adults "pay their dues" to drug mafias: "They have to pay money," she explains, before talking about her dream of a city "that is the same, but without violence, without the news." Her account is part of "Un, dos, tres, por mí y por todos mis amigos" (One, two three, for me and all my friends), a project that includes a book and a DVD recording voices, drawings and photographs of Ciudad Juárez four to eight-year-olds, compiled between 2008 and 2010 by civil society organisations belonging to the "Infancia en Movimiento" (Childhood in Movement) initiative.

The strategy against drug trafficking adopted by the Mexican government has in the last three years led to the deaths of at least 110 children who were caught in the crossfire between federal police, the armed forces and drug cartels in this city in the state of Chihuahua.

Non-governmental organisations estimate that about 10,000 children have lost at least one parent in the war on drugs, on the basis that each of the 5,000 murder victims of reproductive age probably had two children, in line with demographic statistics. But there are no official figures. "It's tragic that there isn't even an official estimate of the number of children who have lost a par-

ent to the violence," Lourdes Almada, the technical secretary of the Children's Board of the Citizens' Council for Social Development, told IPS. "Children who have suffered violence in their families or close circles are not receiving assistance from anyone," she added. Since 1993, when the ongoing wave of murders of factory women began in Ciudad Juárez, the city has earned a world reputation for gender violence, which has claimed over 1,000 women's lives so far, and for the entrenchment of criminal organisations.
Source: CRIN

Publications

Book: Rights and Wrongs of Children's Work

Michael Bourdillon, Deborah Levison, William Myers, and Ben White

Rights and Wrongs of Children's Work, authored by an interdisciplinary team of experts, incorporates recent research findings and experiences to explore the place of work in children's lives and development. The book considers international policies governing children's work and the complexity of assessing the various effects of their work. The authors question current child labor policies and interventions, which, even though pursued with the best intentions, too often fail to protect children against harm or promote their access to education and other opportunities for decent futures. They argue for the need to re-think the assumptions that underlie current policies on the basis of empirical evidence, and they recommend new approaches to advance working children's well-being and guarantee their human rights.

Rights and Wrongs of Children's Work condemns the exploitation and abuse of child workers and supports the right of all children to the best quality, free education that society can afford. At the same time, the authors recognize the value, and sometimes the necessity, of work in growing up, and the reality that a "workless" childhood, without responsibilities, is not good preparation for adult life in any environment.

Paper \$26.95 • 978-0-8135-4889-0

Order: www.eurospangroup/bookstore

Book: Rethinking Children and Research: Attitudes in Contemporary Society

Mary Kellett (2010) London: Continuum.

Plan International – Recommendations for Including Child Participation in European Union Decision-Making

Plan Europe published their latest report "I Have a Voice! Recommendations for Including Child Participation in European Union Decision-Making". Around the world children are participating, they are making their views and opinions heard in their families, their schools, and their communities, but also at the national and international level. By drawing on examples from Europe and beyond of child participation in government decision-making, Plan Europe's report suggests how the EU can increase its engagement with children. The report attempts to clarify the concept of child participation for European policy-makers, provide examples of best-practice, and make concrete recommendations for how they can move forward on commitments to respect the views and opinions of children in decisions that affect them.

To view the report: <http://www.ihaveavoice.eu/report.pdf>

TRAINING MATERIAL: Children's Rights Colouring Book

A children's rights colouring book has been published by Cape Breton University Children's Rights Centre. Each picture in "Color it Rights" represents an article of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC or the Convention). There are few resources suitable to teach pre-literate children about the UNCRC; "Color it Rights" is intended to help fill that gap. This resource uses fun pictures to present the UNCRC and to convey the meanings of Convention articles to children with corresponding simplified language for teachers to read aloud. A teacher's guide has also been designed to accompany the colouring book.

Download: <http://www.crin.org/resources/infodetail.asp?id=22571>

Funding/Prizes/Research Opportunities

There are no new calls.

Upcoming Dates

- **June 10, 2010:** Weltweiter Klimawandel und die Folgen für Kinder und ihre Rechte, Bonn, Germany
- **June 10-11, 2010:** Growing up in Divided Societies, Belfast
- **June 14-18, 2010:** World Summit on Media for Children and Youth, Karlstad, Sweden
- **July 2-7, 2010:** Euroscience Open Forum (ESOF) 2010
- **July 6-8, 2010:** 3rd INT. CONFERENCE- Childhood and Youth in Transition, Sheffield
- **July 11-17, 2010:** XVII ISA World Congress of Sociology, Sweden
- **July 12-22, 2010:** Utrecht Summerschool – International Juvenile Justice
- **September 6-8, 2010:** Europe at a Crossroads, Bruges, Belgium.
www.uaces.org/bruges
- **September 22-24, 2010:** Primer Congreso Nacional De Antropología Social Y Etnología, Ciudad De México
- **September 26-29, 2010:** XVIII ISPCAN International Congress on Child Abuse and Neglect, Honolulu, Hawai'i, USA
- **September 30 – October 1, 2010:** The Doors of Perception: Viewing Anthropology through the eyes of children, Amsterdam, Netherlands
- **September 30 - October 2, 2010:** International multidisciplinary conference: Children and War: Past and Present, Salzburg, Austria
- **October 20-22, 2010:** 6^o NGO Forum for National Child Rights Coalitions in Europe, Florence, Italy
- **October 27-29, 2010:** 5th Child in the City Conference, Florence, Italy
- **November 3-5, 2010:** Eurochild's 7th Annual Conference: Brighter futures - Building effective partnerships to end child poverty, Örebro, Sweden
- **November 9-10, 2010:** 4th IJJO International Conference: Building integrative juvenile justice systems: Approaches and methodologies regarding mental disorders and drugs misuse, Rome, Italy
- **November 15-18, 2010:** IV World Congress on Child and Adolescent Rights - The best interest of children and adolescents: Well-being and development in the new world economic order, Puerto Rico
- **December 2-4, 2010:** International Conference: Children and Youth in Changing Societies, Thessaloniki, Greece