



European Network of Masters in Children's Rights

CRnews 11

Children's Rights Newsletter
November 2007

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

We report on the last general meeting of ENMCR held in Berlin, on the events, press releases and action on the 18th anniversary of the UNCRC and we provide you with a summary of Child Rights news from leading Child Rights Networks and Organisation. For comments and feedback on our newsletter, suggestions for improvement, or news you would like us to include in the next edition, please write to info@enmcr.net

Sincerely,
Rebecca Budde (Editor)

Kick-off Meeting CREDMOS (November 17-19)



Partners from Serbia and Romania



e-learning Workshop

18th anniversary UNCRC



Kindergarten Children in Cluj-Napoca, Romania with a self-made birthday banner

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Kick-Off meeting CREDMOS

ENMCR's newest Project: Child Rights Education Development: Moldova and Serbia (CREDMOS) which aims at establishing Master Study programmes in 3 Serbian and one Moldovan University leading to dual degrees with the recently launched European Master in Children's Rights at the Freie Universität Berlin and the Universitatea Babeş-Bolyai in Cluj (see: www.fu-berlin.de/emcr) celebrated its kick-off meeting in Berlin on November 17-19, 2007.

Representatives of all partners in the project were present and first consultation on the development of core and elective modules were held. The MA programmes are to include 2 core modules dealing with Childhood Studies and Children's Rights and will have a specific focus in the remaining 3 modules at each partner university. The cooperating partners are situated in different disciplines, ranging from social work and education to legal studies and sociology. By this it is expected to reach a wide audience and bring a child rights focus into various professions in the long run.

Besides discussing technical issues such as overlapping of lecture periods in the different countries and exchanging materials and information on the status quo at all partner universities, the participants were trained in an e-learning workshop to include virtual, web-based tools in the development and later in the implementation of the study programmes.

The project envisages establishing the programmes during this academic year, in order to offer them starting in 2008/2009.

CREDMOS, being co-financed under Tempus by the European Commission will enable a student and teacher exchange between the partner universities in the first year of the programme by providing scholarships and mobility grants.

More information on the projects progress will be available soon on www.enmcr.net. If you wish to learn more about the project now, you may contact the project coordinator Daphne Gross at:

d.gross@fu-berlin.de

General Assembly ENMCR (20-21 November 2007)

Following the kick-off meeting to CREDMOS, ENMCR held a General Assembly on November 20 and 21, 2007. The coordinators were very pleased to be able to welcome new ENMCR members from Swedish Academy on the Rights of the Child as well as newly interested parties from Latvia.

During a brainstorming session possibilities to establish a Nordic Master Programme in Children's Rights (including Scandinavian and Baltic Sea Region institutions) were elaborated, taking into account different funding schemes for such an endeavour. We will keep you updated on the progress in following newsletters and on our website, which is to be restructured in the next weeks.

The new website will include more detailed information on ENMCR's various projects and will contain a "members only" section with internal documents. Also, it will include profiles of childhood and children's rights researchers affiliated with ENMCR in order to facilitate contacts between experts, especially in view of research projects and exchange of teachers in the frame of the study programmes linked to ENMCR. We are aiming at launching the new website by the end of 2007. The address will remain the same.

Karin Fagerholm (Save the Children, Sweden) introduced different activities that have been launched (or not) in the frame of the envisaged EU strategy on the Rights of the Child and possibilities for ENMCR to contribute to the development of such a strategy were discussed. It was decided that members of ENMCR address the EU Commission with the aim to integrate Child Rights training on a higher Education level firmly in the strategy.

Participation and links to other Networks dealing with Children's Rights, such as EURONET, Eurochild and ICYRnet were discussed as well as the actual added value of the various existing networks. Even though one aim of ENMCR is to engage more strongly in cooperative research, the special focus of ENMCR is to offer higher education programmes in Childhood and Children's Rights. By this no conflict of interest is seen with engaging in other networks which focus more strongly on research (ICYRnet.net) or advocacy work on the European level (EURONET and Eurochild).

18th anniversary UNCRC 20 November 2007

On November 20, 2007, the 18th anniversary of the UNCRC, ENMCR had planned to discuss with representatives of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child and the National Coalition Germany as well as Save the Children., Sweden and the Deutsche Kinderhilfswerk where the UNCRC stands at the time of "coming of age" and also the procedures within the European Union in view of the Communication: "Towards an EU Strategy on Children's Rights". On short notice, unfortunately two key note speakers were unable to travel to Berlin on the day, so that ENMCR decided to celebrate the anniversary a bit more informal, discussing strategies on how to bring children's rights into the constitution in Germany, in view of engaging in such an endeavour also in other European countries.

The school pupil's catering company of the Hans-Fallada-School provided the guests with a delicious self-made buffet and students of the EMCR at the FU Berlin came to join.

Of course many organisations have commemorated the special day on November 20. The Save the Children Alliance set up a photo essay on its homepage looking at their work, underpinned by the UNCRC, is making children's rights a reality for millions. See:

http://www.savethechildren.net/alliance/media/photoessay/2007_uncrc/

The Palestinian Section of Defence for Children International has made a press release on the day:

<http://www.mecaforpeace.org/article.php?id=268>

Unicef's commemoration and recommendations for the future of the UNCRC can be read on:

<http://www.unicef.org.uk/pages.asp?page=117&nodeid=crc18§ion=2>

The NGO Action Group on the Rights of the Child, issued a press release, which can be downloaded here: http://www.eurochild.org/fileadmin/user_upload/files/20_Nov_PR_-_final_draft.pdf

Selection European Science Foundation

The proposed Exploratory Workshop: Children's Participation In Decision-Making: Exploring Theory, Policy And Practice Across Europe has been selected for implementation. It is planned to hold the three day workshop in Berlin, with 25-30 young and experienced researchers from across Europe.

Abstract: Despite the political popularity of children's participation and the accompanying growth of participation activities, children's participation remains considerably under-theorised. This fails to challenge and assist policy and practice. The workshop will address these gaps, by bringing together 25-30 interdisciplinary experts from across Europe for exchange and development.

The proposed participants will be informed on further proceedings shortly and we will inform the wider audience in future CRnewsletters.

If you wish to learn more about the planned workshop immediately, you may contact Rebecca Budde at: rbudde@ina-fu.org.

Call of Communication

ENMCR has been invited to participate to a Call of Communication on the topic of "Child participation in the daily life" organized by ChildONEurope.

The Call of Communication is finalised to select the most interesting experiences to be presented to a European Seminar that will take place the **30th of January 2008** in Florence, that will provide an opportunity to share and discuss information on the basis of the experiences realised in the EU by the competent Ministries, International Organisations, NGOs and Universities, on policies, programmes, researches and best practices on child participation in the daily life, in particular in family, school, sport, culture and leisure, local community life).

We remind you that the deadline of the submission of the Communication is the **30th of November 2007**.

You can download the call from www.enmcr.net (news)

Further Information: ChildONEurope Secretariat; European Network of National Observatories on Childhood National Childhood and Adolescence Documentation and Analysis Centre Istituto degli Innocenti 12, P.zza SS Annunziata; 50122 Firenze; Tel. +39 055 2037305-342-206; Fax +39 055 2037344; E-mail childoneurope@minori.it; Web site www.childoneurope.org

News from members and associated members

Audio Report on Round Table discussion about Childhood and Work (in Spanish)

You can listen to the thematic session held during the 3rd World Congress on Children and Adolescents' Rights in Barcelona on: <http://www.callejeros.org/multimedia/audio/una-reflexion-colectiva-desde-la-realidad-de-los-ninos-ninas-y-adolescentes-trabajadores-del.html>

A collective reflection on the reality of working children and adolescents worldwide.

Speakers:

- Jorge Vila, president of Defence for Children International- Bolivia
- Fabrizio Terenzio, Enda Tercer Mundo - Dakar. Senegal
- Yoshie Nagushi, senior legal officer International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) International Labour Organization, Geneva -Switzerland
- Honor de Almeida, professor of the Universidad Luterana of Brasil
- Marta Martínez Muñoz, sociologist and international on children's rights, Madrid, Spain

Chair: Manfred Liebel, coordinator and head of directive committee of the European Network of Masters in Children's Rights (ENMCR), Berlin, Germany.

On the same website you can download and listen to the **Children's Declaration of Barcelona** (Audio and Print- in Spanish): <http://www.callejeros.org/content/view/467/58/>

International Conference: Child and Youth Research in the 21st Century: A Critical Appraisal- Call for Papers

Location: Nicosia, Cyprus; Date: 28-29 May, 2008

First international conference organized by the *International Childhood and Youth Research Network*. (www.icyrnet.net). The Network's mission is to promote, internationally, the inter-disciplinary study of children and young people in order to further raise awareness and understanding of issues that affect their well-being. ENMCR has recently become a member of ICYRNet.

Description: Though child and youth research which is squarely centered on children and youth is fairly new and much more work is needed to assess its impact, a critical look back and into the future can help us appraise its role in the contemporary world. One of the main aims of the conference is to critically explore the intersection between research, policy, and practice by facilitating a dialogue between the different perspectives. In that sense, the conference envisions a productive, interdisciplinary dialogue among the various stakeholders who are, in different ways, implicated in the lives and welfare of children and youth.

The conference organizers welcome proposals from academics/researchers, policy makers, practitioners, as well as others who work on childhood and youth from all parts of the world and from all disciplines.

Deadlines: Abstracts and panel proposals should not exceed 250 words and be submitted using the provided form by January 31st, 2008.

The [complete call for papers, abstract submission and conference registration form](#) and further information about the conference is available at the website of the International Childhood and Youth Research Network: www.icyrmnet.net

For any questions, please contact Christos Chrysanthou at christos@cycollege.ac.cy

Publications

You can download an edition of “Utopía y Libertad” with a focus on Childhood, Youth and Society, from ENMCR’s homepage at www.enmcr.net (section: news). The review is edited by the network for the inclusion of childhood and youth.

Willems, J.C.M. (ed.): Developmental and Autonomy Rights of Children; Empowering Children, Caregivers and Communities, Second revised edition, Maastricht Series in Human Rights, Vol. 6, Antwerp–Oxford: Intersentia, 2007; www.intersentia.be (www.intersentia.be/zoekdetail.asp?pid=1468).

Description: On November 20, 1989, the United Nations unanimously adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child. November 20 has become a date which signals the recognition by the international community that children have developmental and autonomy rights as essential benchmarks for children themselves and for those responsible for their wellbeing and their healthy physical, emotional, social, moral and intellectual development. However, as long as early child development, psychological recovery and social reintegration of traumatised and marginalised children and caregivers, preparation for parenthood, parenting education and parenting support, child-friendly community building, as well as international cooperation in all these fields are seriously lacking investment by society and the state, the developmental and autonomy rights of all children, and especially the rights of young children and children living in exceptionally difficult conditions, are soft rights only. The emancipation of the young child and the rehabilitation and emancipation of the deprived, exploited, abused and neglected child remain in a legal shadow land. This book intends to explore this shadow land. It introduces the concepts of the Trias pedagogica and Transism in order to shed light on the obligations and responsibilities of states and other actors in the empowerment of children, caregivers and communities. Its authors hope to serve the field of human rights and family and child studies, and all related fields.

The editor is professor of Children’s Rights, VU University Amsterdam Faculty of Law; Department of International and European Law and Maastricht Centre for Human Rights, Maastricht University Faculty of Law, The Netherlands

Viewpoint and Speech

The Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, Mr Thomas Hammarberg, has recently issued a viewpoint on the child’s right to be heard. He also delivered a speech on this subject on 20 November in Warsaw in the memory of Janusz Korczak, the founder of the concept that children also have rights.

Viewpoint: http://www.coe.int/t/commissioner/Viewpoints/Default_en.asp
Speech: [https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?Ref=CommDH/Speech\(2007\)18&Language=lanEnglish&Ver=original&Site=CommDH&BackColorInternet=FEC65B&BackColorIntranet=FEC65B&BackColorLogged=FFC679](https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?Ref=CommDH/Speech(2007)18&Language=lanEnglish&Ver=original&Site=CommDH&BackColorInternet=FEC65B&BackColorIntranet=FEC65B&BackColorLogged=FFC679)

Publications of the National Coalition Germany

The NC for the implementation of the CRC in Germany of which ENMCR is a member has recently published a list of publications on CR on their website: <http://www.national-coalition.de/>

General News External

Finland: FICE Congress 2008

Location: Helsinki, Finland, Date: 11 to 13 June 2007

The FICE (Federation of Educative Communities) International 2008 Congress organisers are calling for extracts for the upcoming FICE congress entitled "Better Future for Children – Today – 60 years of International Cooperation for Children in Care." Submit your abstract online at www.FICEcongress2008.fi Deadline for submission: **14 December 2007**

The Congress is organised by FICE-International and Central Union for Child Welfare (the Finnish FICE-Member) in collaboration with the Faculty of Social Policy at the University of Helsinki, the City of Helsinki and its Department of Social Services, and the National Research and Development Center for Welfare and Health (Stakes). The plenary presentations of the FICE 2008 Congress will built around the following themes: Protecting the World's Children; Child, Family and Close Relations; Child's Experiences, Right to Participate and to be Heard, Quality of Care. Authors are invited to submit proposals for mini-seminars, interactive presentations and workshops on the following themes: Family and Close Relations; Society as a Protector of the Child & Policy Issues & Legislation; Community Based Work and Services; Extrafamilial/Substitute Care; Child and Child's Point of View & Working with Children; Special Child Protection Issues; Quality in Child Protection Work; Other. See a more detailed description of the above mentioned themes:

<http://www.congreszon.fi/@Bin/1644574/FICE+Teemataulukko+final.pdf>

For a background paper on ideas behind the themes of the FICE 2008 Congress, visit:

<http://www.congreszon.fi/@Bin/1644577/FICE+Teemojen+yhteyteen+tuleva+background+teksti+final.pdf>

Human Rights Maps

On the World Freedom Atlas there is a wide range of data you can visualize, from Freedom House's indicators on civil and political rights, to the Human Development Index, to Transparency International's corruption data, to Reporters without Borders' Press Freedom Index.

You can view the map at: <http://www.freedom.indiemaps.com>

Source: Newsletter Human Rights Tools

The European Qualifications Framework

The European Parliament has made way for the European Qualifications Framework on October 27. It is supposed to be a translation aid between the different national educational systems. By this, degrees should be made more comparable for employers and EU citizens. As it is supposed to be a tool that can be applied in all 27 member states, it remains to be seen in how far it can be helpful in implementation processes, as it is very abstract by nature. If you would like to learn more about the EQF, please visit: http://ec.europa.eu/education/policies/educ/eqf/index_en.html

News from CRIN

CRIN REVIEW 21: A Generation On – Enforcing children's rights [publication]

The Child Rights Information Network (CRIN) has launched its latest review [A Generation On: Enforcing children's rights](#). Children constitute half the population in many developing countries. Six hundred million children live in absolute poverty, on less than one US dollar a day. Over one billion children experience severe deprivation of the basic necessities of life. Many other children cannot access or complete schooling, are exposed to debilitating or life-threatening diseases, exploitation and violence in the home, school or workplace.

There is some cause for celebration. Marta Santos Pais quite rightly showcases positive improvements in legislation and policies as well as resource allocation, data collection and mechanism creation.

Ragne Birte Lund speaks of Norway's recent CRC inspired child rights based international development cooperation. There are stories of creative campaigns in Mongolia that have protected thousands of children from violence, of effective child rights lobbying in Central America and the UK, and of a model constitution which has strengthened court rulings on children's rights in South Africa.

However, the general tone of this publication is clear; more needs to be done and we may need to think of new ways of doing it.

You can download the review at:

<http://www.crin.org/resources/infoDetail.asp?ID=7009&flag=report>

CHILD RIGHTS PROGRAMMING: A practitioners' guide [book]

Getting it Right for Children - a practitioners' guide to child rights programming is a new child rights programming (CRP) practitioners' guide launched by Save the Children. It aims to help readers apply child rights principles and values at every stage of programming. It answers many of the "how to" questions that staff and organisations using a CRP approach have raised.

CRP puts children at the centre of programming. It recognises children as rights-holders and helps practitioners to engage them as actors in their own development. It recognises governments as the main duty-bearers in fulfilling children's rights, and promotes accountability to their citizens. It will ensure plans and activities are based on four fundamental principles relating to children's rights: survival and development; non-discrimination; child participation and the best interests of the child.

For enquiries, contact publications@savethechildren.org.uk

CHILD INDICATORS: Launch of new journal [call for articles]

The International Society for Child Indicators (ISCI) and Springer publishing House have launched a new journal – Child Indicators Research (CIR). They would like to invite your contributions to the field of child indicators by submitting your work for publishing in the new CIR, a leading academic journal.

The Journal will welcome contributions from a wide variety of substantive areas, including: Economic well-being; Psychological well-being; Physical health and safety; Civic life skills; Religion and environmental issues; Education; Social Behavior; Child welfare and vulnerable children; Time use and activities; Social work and Social policy.

For more details, visit: <http://www.springer.com/12187>

CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD: Guidelines for Child Participation in CRC Reporting [guide]

The [Guidelines for Child Participation in CRC Reporting](#), launched by World Vision, analyse alternative reports that have included children. They respond to the gap in information concerning children's involvement in the reporting process, and hope to promote and strengthen children's meaningful participation within this area. For further information consult the CRIN website or world vision directly:

World Vision – Canada; 1 World Drive, Mississauga, Ontario, L5T 2Y4, Canada

Tel: + 1 905 565 6200; Email: sara_austin@worldvision.ca; Website: <http://www.worldvision.ca>

UN: New post to combat violence against children [news]

Rights Groups Welcome Establishment of New Representative to Secretary-General.

The decision to create the new position was made under the General Assembly's annual resolution on the Rights of the Child, adopted in the Third Committee [by a vote of 176 to 1]. The only country voting against was the United States. The appointment follows the release last year of the UN Secretary-General's Study on Violence Against Children. This study exposed the shocking scope of violence against children worldwide and its devastating effects on children, their families, their communities and broader society.

More than 1,000 non-governmental organisations from 134 countries around the world signed a petition launched by the NGO Advisory Council calling for the appointment of the Special Representative. The mandate for the new Special Representative includes enhancing the visibility of all forms of violence against children, advocating for the elimination of this violence, and supporting the implementation of the Violence Study's recommendations. Other aspects of the mandate include identifying and sharing good practices and enhancing coordination and communication among key actors (including the UN system, member states, NGOs, children and youth). The NGO Advisory Council expressed deep regret that the General Assembly's annual resolution had once again failed to explicitly identify corporal punishment among the many forms of violence that states are urged to prohibit and eliminate. This is a key recommendation made both by UN Secretary-General's Study on Violence Against Children and the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

OMBUDSPERSONS FOR CHILDREN: First Ibero-American network created [news]

The first Ibero-American network of ombudspersons for children was created at a meeting at the end of November in Lima, Peru. Eleven ombudspersons from Central and South American countries attended the meeting, as well as one representative from Spain.

The meeting, which brought together regional ombudspersons for children for the first time, aimed to promote information sharing about their mandate and efforts to promote, protect and monitor child rights in their country; learn from the experience of the European Network of Ombudspersons for Children (ENOC); and create an Ibero-American Network of ombudspersons for children.

Other areas of cooperation will be to strengthen children's participation and the effective implementation of Article 12 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, and to improve knowledge of how ombudspersons can work more closely with the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child and the inter-American system of human rights.

For more information, contact the Peruvian Ombudsperson's office at prensa@defensoria.gob.pe

Job Postings

Programme Development Manager (interim), (Afghanistan, Herat&Kabul)

The interim Programme Development Manager (PDM) will be responsible for maintaining the programme's quality during the absence of the permanent PDM while away on study leave. The programme is partly implemented by War Child staff and partly implemented by local partners. The PDM builds the capacity of local staff and local partners to ensure the programme's sustainability. The PDM is the technical/content advisor to the Country Director (CD) and Field Location Managers (FLMs) and with the Programme Development Advisor, oversees the work of the national Assistant Programme Development Advisors.

Programme Development Advisor (female),Afghanistan, (Herat&Kabul)

The Programme Development Advisor will primarily be responsible for ensuring the quality of training activities undertaken in all girls' schools, in some boy's schools and in communities in Herat and Kabul. She will work closely with the Assistant Programme Development Advisors (APDAs) who are all Afghan nationals. The Programme Development Advisor will not be responsible for the direct training of teachers. Instead, she will develop the capacity of War Child's national staff and Ministry of Education staff to train, monitor and evaluate Physical Education teachers.

Stapel (mention "CRIN/PDM or PDA Afghanistan" in the subject line), e-mail: recruitment@warchild.nl (not more than 5 pages)

Human Rights Watch - Researcher on Children's Rights in Asia

The Researcher in the Children's Rights Division will be responsible for developing and implementing a research and advocacy agenda focusing on children's rights in Asia. A primary objective of the research and advocacy will be to curb violations through, among other things, conducting fact-finding missions; writing and publicising reports, briefing papers, letters, press releases, op-eds, and submissions to international bodies based on the findings; developing and implementing local, regional, and international strategies to change abusive laws, policies, and practices; presenting human rights concerns to government officials, opinion leaders, inter-governmental agencies, and the press; and other tasks as may be assigned.

Apply immediately by emailing in a single submission: a letter of interest describing your experience, your resume, names or letters of reference, and a brief writing sample (unedited by others) to crd@hrw.org.

Deadline: **20 December 2007**

Upcoming Dates

December 13th -14th, 2007: Seminar on child labour, education and youth employment

January 30, 2008: European Seminar in Florence (Innocenti Research Centre)

May 28-29, 2008: International Conference: Child and Youth Research in the 21st Century: A Critical Appraisal (Nicosia, Cyprus- ICYRNet)

June 11-13 2008: FICE Congress 2008 (Helsinki, Finland)