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Children's Rights Newsletter May/June 2008

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Dear Network Members and Network Interested,

As usual we are providing you with information on procedures within ENMCR and its members. For comments and feedback on CRnews, please write to info@enmcr.net. If you would like us to include information on activities in your surroundings, please send an e-mail to info@enmcr.net.



Rebecca Budde (Editor)



ICYRnet Conference Cyprus

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Project Meeting and Awareness Raising event in Belgrade

On 8 and 9 April 2008 the Child Rights Education Development: Moldova and Serbia (CREDMOS) project partners met in Belgrade, Serbia. The meeting started out with a dissemination event during which the Master Programs were presented to the interested public. Approximately 40 people were present at the event. On the second day of the meeting the partners assessed and decided upon the obligatory and elective modules to be offered in Serbia and Moldova. The University of Novi Sad will be included into the dual degree scheme already implemented by Free University Berlin and University Babes-Bolyai Cluj. If you would like to receive more detailed information on the project and events, please contact the coordinator Daphne Gross at: d.gross@fu-berlin.de

General Assembly ENMCR

Date: June 18, 2008 (Afternoon); Location: Freie Universität Berlin

On June 18, ENMCR will hold its annual General Assembly. Besides voting on new membership applications and discussion of procedures in the past year, we will be discussing how to proceed with the Network as legal entity (AISBL) under Belgian law. If anyone would yet like to join the meeting, please contact Rebecca Budde: r.budde@fu-berlin.de

News from members, associated members and Networks of which ENMCR is a member

First International Conference of the International Childhood and Youth Research Network (ICYRNet): Childhood & Youth Research in the 21st Century: A Critical Appraisal.

On 28 and 29 May 2008, the International Childhood and Youth Research Network held its first international conference: Child & Youth Research in the 21st Century: A Critical Appraisal, hosted by the Centre for the Study of Childhood and Adolescence, European University Cyprus, Nicosia. Approximately 150-200 childhood and youth researchers from all over the world participated in the conference. The workshops and sessions were manifold, themes varying from child-led research, children as social actors (in school, communities etc.), working methods of large child organisations, child rights, children in foster care to children dropping out of school were discussed and participants engaged in a very lively and enhancing exchange of their projects and work.

The keynote speech by Judith Ennew was true to the title of the conference: "A Critical Appraisal" of the 21st Century Childhood and Youth research practices. She appraised the work of many actors in promoting childhood and in particular child rights studies, yet also highly criticized the goal-oriented approaches of large child organisations, such as UNICEF and Save the Children, instead of taking more culturally and region sensitive approaches in their working. Several members of ENMCR attended conference: Representatives from INA-FU Berlin, Germany; UvA, The Netherlands; University of Minho and University of Beira, Portugal; University of South Bohemia, Czech Republic participated and presented papers.

For further information on the conference, please consult ICYRnet's website: www.icyrnet.net or contact the coordinator Christos Chrysanthou directly at: C.Chrysanthou@euc.ac.cy

General Assembly of ICYRnet

Following the conference, on May 30, 2008, ICYRnet held its first General Assembly, in which details on registration as private limited company and the composition of the board were discussed. Ideas for future collaboration and activities of the network were discussed as well. For further more detailed information, you may contact the coordinator: Christos Chrysanthou: C.Chrysanthou@euc.ac.cy

News from Eurochild and EURONET

Eurochild's General Assembly and Policy Forum on Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion among Children: Partnership for change will take place on 18-19 June 2008 in Brussels. From ENMCR, Daphne Gross will be attending. For further information, please contact Eurochild at: contact@eurochild.org

EURONET call to cooperate and support CoE campaign against smacking

The European Children's Network (EURONET) is supporting the Council of Europe campaign "Raise your hand against smacking" which will be launched in Zagreb on June 15th! As part of this campaign, the Council of Europe has now issued an online call for support to ban all corporal punishment against children, available at:

http://www.coe.int/t/transversalprojects/children/SignatureOnline/form_en.asp

We recommend you to sign it and to pass it on within your network and to as many as people as possible to make this call a reality for all children in Europe! It will take two minutes of your time!

General News External

International Workshop: Impact of Poverty and Social Exclusion on Children's Lives and their Well-being (ANNOUNCEMENT and CALL FOR PAPERS)

Date: 8-9 September 2008 (til noon), Location: Bratislava

The workshop is a follow-up event of the international workshop "Children's Experiences with Poverty and Social Exclusion "Challenges for Research and Policies", which was held in Vienna in June 2007. Its aim is to strengthen the established platform for theoretical-methodological discussions concerning child poverty and social exclusion of children. The workshop will mainly focus on identifying the ways in which poverty and social exclusion affect children's lives and their well-being, with particular reference to children's health. The lives of children and their well-being from different perspectives, including their own perceptions and feelings, will be the focus of discussion. The general framework of the workshop is rooted in child-centred research and part of the agenda of children's rights.

<u>Terms of Reference:</u> The workshop is limited to 25 participants. All participants will be expected to take part in the proceedings by either presenting or discussing papers. Accommodation for two nights (single room, 7th – 9th September 2008) and meals during the workshop will be covered for all participants; a limited number of travel grants are available. Details on these issues will be provided to those who will be accepted by the organising committee. <u>If you are interested to attend this workshop</u>, please send a brief abstract of your contribution (which should not exceed one A4 page), including your ideas as to how you could contribute to this workshop to: Daniel Gerbery (gerbery@sspr.gov.sk) and Renate Kraenzl-Nagl (<u>kraenzl@aon.at</u>). Please state clearly your name, title, nationality, full postal and email address, telephone and fax numbers. A brief CV incl. a list of most recent publications should accompany the abstract.

DEADLINE: 25th May 2008

Meeting of the Childwatch International Regional Network of Central and Eastern European Countries

Date: 9 September 2008 (afternoon), Location: Bratislava

The Meeting of the CWI Regional Network of CEE countries is scheduled immediately after the international workshop to take place in the afternoon of 9th September 2008 and is open to all participants of the workshop who are interested in future activities in the CEE region and collaborations between experts from CEE countries and other regions (e.g. Southern Europe, the Middle East). The **objectives** of this meeting are: To collect ideas for future activities in the CEE region based on a

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discussion of priority areas and in accordance with the Childwatch International Strategy 2007-2009 To discuss linkages between the CEE Regional Network and other (regional) networks, thematic groups, study groups etc of the Childwatch International Research Network

To collect ideas how to contribute to the planned global conference at the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child, jointly organised by Childwatch International and UNICEF (scheduled for November 2009)

<u>Terms of Reference:</u> The participation in this meeting is neither restricted to members of the Childwatch International Network nor to experts from CEE countries but limited to the workshop participants. Accommodation costs for an additional night will be covered for a limited number of participants. If you are interested to attend the CEE Regional Network meeting, please inform Daniel Gerbery (gerbery@sspr.gov.sk) and Renate Kraenzl-Nagl (kraenzl@aon.at) when applying for the international workshop. DEADLINE: **25th May 2008**

If you are interested in activities of Childwatch International, please visit: http://www.childwatch.uio.no/

Sponsored walk along the River Thames for Migrants Rights

Migrants Rights Network is organising a fun sponsored walk along the River Thames in London, in order to raise money for the Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM). PICUM works to promote respect for, and raise awareness of the issues faced by, undocumented migrants across Europe. The walk will take place on **Saturday 5th July 2008** and will take us from Greenwich to the London Eye, along the River Thames. It promises to be an enjoyable and worthwhile event, so please come and join us, and bring friends and family!

More details can be found on the MRN website at http://www.migrantsrights.org.uk/, including a downloadable registration form. If you'd like to come along, please contact Cristina Andreatta (c.andreatta@migrantsrights.org.uk) by the **20th June.**

Website: http://www.migrantsrights.org.uk

19th WorldForum of the International Forum for Child Welfare: "Early Intervention and Prevention"

Date: 28 September - 1 October 2008; Location: City Hall, Cardiff, Wales, United Kingdom Each year the International Forum for Child Welfare (IFCW) holds an international conference known as the WorldForum, which is co-hosted by one of its member organisations. The 19th WorldForum is being held in Cardiff, Wales and is being co-hosted by Children in Wales. The broad theme of the WorldForum 2008 is 'Early Intervention and Prevention'. For more information see below or simply visit the following website: www.worldforum2008.org !Book before 30 June to make a substantial saving!

Second World Championship for Children, young people and adults to create a better future Date: 3-6 June 2008; Location: Kampala

About 1000 children, youth and adults are coming together these days to create their vision for a better future. On 3June all participants got together in a joyful Meet and Greet. On 4 June the Uniting Water Ceremony was held at the Opening Ceremony of the WorldCiC and the children engaged in building bridges for the Future Vessel. Adults joined and supported the children's creation in the evening. On 5 June a Parade through Kampala City announces the World Environment Day. A Tree Planting will take place in an area which will become a park commemorating the Second World Championship in Cooperation. 6 June is the Closing Ceremony. The Uniting Water Trophy will be presented from Kampala to Kuala Lumpur. The Mayors will present The Promise for the Future to the children. All young participants will get a Gold Medal – when we cooperate we are all winners! During all days there will be seminars and workshops. Adults, children and youth will learn from children who experienced the post election crisis in Kenya and from girls in Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda who are in the LVRLAC Girl Child Program. Children with disabilities will convey their visions and work. At the centre of the WorldCiC are the 10 cities/municipalities in Sweden, Uganda and Kenya

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who are now in partnership. All partnerships rest on the foundation of the United Nations documents: The Rights of the Child and Agenda 21/ Sustainable Development. The Partnership projects will have their common kick off at the Second World Championship in Cooperation. It's not only 10 cities/municipalities in partnership; it's also two regions; Lake Victoria Region Local Authorities Cooperation and the Swedish Association of Local Authorities with financial support from SALA IDA/Sida. For further information, please visit: http://www.globetree.org/

Human Rights and Legal Empowerment of the Poor: Theory and Practice (doctoral course)

Date: 2 - 4 October 2008; Location: Randsvangen Hotel, Norway

Organised by: Centre for Development and the Environment (SUM), University of Oslo

Principal objectives

- a) To review and evaluate human rights and legal empowerment-based approaches to the study of poverty reduction, which will enable doctoral students to understand key poverty-related concepts and approaches that are currently widespread and influential among major international and national development agencies.
- b) To provide an arena for critical and constructive feedback to written material submitted by doctoral students.

Who may apply? The interdisciplinary nature of the course will appeal to students with a background in political science, economics, anthropology, geography, sociology, philosophy, development studies and law. The main target group is doctoral students at Norwegian and Nordic universities. In addition, the course will appeal to doctoral students in other European countries. We are particularly interested in the participation of doctoral students from developing countries.

<u>Funding</u> The organisers will cover the costs of accommodation and meals at Randsvangen hotel, and will arrange for transportation from Oslo airport to the hotel and back. Participants must cover their own travel costs to and from Oslo, but we hope to obtain funding for some modest travel grants for selected students from the South.

For further information on the course and details on application, please visit the course website: http://www.sum.uio.no/research/poverty/phd 2008.html .

All queries should be sent to: <u>pad-course@sum.uio.no</u>

Application deadline is 1 July 2008. Successful applicants will be contacted by 15 July 2008.

Working Meeting on "Sharing Responsibilities and Networking through the School Process"

Date: 8-11 September, 2008; Location: Sevilla, Spain

Within the framework of ENERCE (<u>www.enerce.org</u>) a team of professors from universities of Granada and Seville (Andalusia, Spain), are preparing a working meeting on the following theme: "Sharing Responsibilities and Networking through the School Process "(SRNSP), to be held from 8 to 11 September this year. To get more information about the event, please consult: <u>www.congreso.us.es/srnsp</u> If you want to realize some consultation, you can contact with us in the following email address: <u>info@enerce.org</u>

EU-Commission to promote better conditions for researchers in Europe ("fifth freedom")

The EC has proposed the member states a European partnership for researchers under the motto: "Better career opportunities and increased mobility" strategies are presented to facilitate hiring and exchange of researchers across Europe. The EU Commissioner for Research, Janez Potocnik said: Too many researchers have to wait too long for their chance to really work independently because of old regulations and procedures. Therefore our aim is to create "the fifth freedom"- the free knowledge exchange- so that students, researchers and academics can become active and work in many EU member states. The proposed partnership aims at producing fast measurable changes by 2010. The initiative is one of five political initiatives that the EC had envisioned in the aftermath of the 2007 green paper: "The European Research Area: New Perspectives".

Remembrance of happenings in 2000, in view of rumours about planned raids against children in Asunción Paraguay:

The coordination for the rights of the child and young people has issued a communication stating that there are several rumours about planned raids against poor children and young people in Paraguay. In order to raise awareness, the office is reminding the public of similar actions which occurred in 2000: During the state led raids, children were separated violently and abruptly from their parents and placed into institutions. E.g. a 6 month old boy was "deposited" in care centre led by the municipality, where he was kept until he reached the age of 6 years. The boy was left abandoned by the institutions. This is just one of various cases and the aim at the moment is to make these happenings known to as many people as possible in order to prevent similar things from happening again now.

For further information, please contact: comunicacion@cdia.org.py / cdia@cdia.org.py or visit: www.cdia.org.py

European Parliament is taking a political stand against child trafficking

On June 4, MEP Marusya Lyubcheva pleaded for the European Parliament to recognize the fight against child trafficking as a priority for the EU and to enhance transnational cooperation, to support authorities and NGOs to shape adequate responses to prevent, protect and provide adequate treatment to victims by launching of the EP "Written Declaration (n. 50) on combating the trafficking of children". To become official, this Declaration must get 400 signatures out of the 785 MEPs by October 2008. Benefiting from the know-how of expert NGOs is key to shape adequate policy at EU level, continued Lyubcheva that is why she invited Terre des Hommes to support the EP in this. The Declaration is calling on the EU Council and Parliament to provide the necessary resources to fight child trafficking in the framework of the Commission's strategy on the rights of the child.

For the first time, the EP is clearly focusing on the very issue of child trafficking as a priority in the perspective of a future EU strategy on the rights of the child. This shows that the EU is progressively addressing child trafficking as a specific policy area, and not only as a sub-category of trafficking in persons, stated Salvatore Parata, from TDHIF Brussels office. The challenge for the EU is still to shape specific anti-child-trafficking programs and allocate respective resources. The Declaration launched by MEP Lyubcheva is an important step towards that target.

ENMCR welcomes the activity, would nonetheless also point out, that it is important not to lose out of sight other child rights violations and breaches by concentrating on sexual exploitation and trafficking.

Publications

Iván Rodríguez Pascual (2008): Para una sociología de la infancia: aspectos teóricos y metodológicos

The study of children and the socio-cultural aspects involved in what we call "childhood" is on the rise. In this book ("For a sociology of childhood: theoretical and methodological aspects") the constitutional aspects of the sociology of childhood are described and explained, comparing them with the theoretical focus of classical sociology and taking into account the theoretical development of its main authors and schools. Equal attention is given to the methodological aspects of childhood studies, which promotes a change of view form an adult-centric approach to that of giving children's voices the fundamental importance they deserve, in order to understand their life worlds and views. The book closes with a reflection upon the status of children in modern societies and names some social indicators to make this nearly invisible population more visible.

Plan's annual report on the State of the World's Girls.

Please find following the link to Plan's annual "State of the World's Girls" Report. This is the second in a series of 7 annual reports on the situation of girls around the world that will take us up to the deadline of the MDGs. This series of reports is also accompanied by a cohort study, in which we will

follow the lives of 70 girls and see what issues they face, and how their lives change over the next 7 years. 1 in 5 countries have used girls as child soldiers, and 100,000 are currently fighting in conflicts around the world, reveals a new report by Plan. Conflict can also force girls from their homes, leave them caring for younger siblings or at risk from rape, beatings and abduction. These shocking revelations are included in Plan's annual 'Because I am a Girl' report, which this year focuses on girls and conflict. Plan is now calling on the United Nations to allow girls to bring complaints against their leaders if their lives have been damaged by war. Please find following the link to the Report and Executive Summary: http://www.plan-international.org/news/girls_war_report/ Please find as well as link to a recent Plan report on the economic cost of failing to education girls: http://www.plan-international.org/news/girlseducation/

Child Soldiers Global Report 2008 published

The Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers has released its third edition of the global report on Child Soldiers. It demonstrates the near global consensus that children should not be used as soldiers and how strenuous international efforts have failed to protect tens of thousands of children from war. When armed conflict exists, children will almost inevitably become involved as soldiers. According to the report, worldwide there are about 250.000 children involved in armed conflict and war, the most child soldiers are recruited in Burma/Myanmar, other countries with alarmingly high numbers of child soldiers are the Democratic Republic of Congo and Colombia. The report draws a dark picture for these children the situation has hardly improved over the past 4 years. Even though there has been slight progress in combating the use of child soldiers (the conflicts in which children are involved has decreased from 27 to 17 worldwide, mainly due to conflicts ending in Africa). The report covers the period April 2004 to October 2007. To read the complete report, visit:

www.childsoldiersglobalreport.org/. Further information on the Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers: www.child-soldiers.org

No One to Turn To- The under-reporting of child sexual exploitation and abuse by aid workers and peacekeepers- Report by Save the Children UK

Despite recent political commitments by governments and international organisations to tackle this problem, the report exposes the chronic under-reporting of such abuse, which leaves many children around the world suffering in silence. Children told Save the Children UK that they were too afraid to report the abuse, frightened that if they did the abuser might come back and hurt them, that aid agencies might stop helping them, or that they might be stigmatised by their family and community, or even punished by them. This suggests that for every case of abuse that is identified, there are likely to be many more that go unreported. Save the Children UK's research in Ivory Coast, Southern Sudan and Haiti shows that children as young as six are being abused by adults working for the international community. The children interviewed highlighted many different types of abuse, including trading food for sex, rape, child prostitution, pornography, indecent sexual assault and trafficking of children for sex. Recommendations for combating the problems are also put forward.

For the full report, visit: http://www.savethechildren.org.uk/en/54 5706.htm

News from CRIN

PARTICIPATION: Council of Europe Call for expressions of interest

Call for Expressions of Interest: Presentation of successful children's participation projects at the Seminar on "Meaningful and sustainable children's participation" which will take place in Stockholm, Sweden, on 8 September 2008.

Background and Objectives: The Council of Europe Programme "Building a Europe for and with children", a cross-cutting priority in the organisation, has been running since 2006. The Programme focuses on two closely linked strands: the promotion of children's rights and the eradication of violence against children. In order to share and assess results achieved during this period and to identify future elements of the Programme, a high level conference, "Building a Europe for and with Children - Towards a strategy for 2009-2011" will be held in Stockholm, on September 8-10th 2008.

The Conference will begin with three simultaneous thematic Seminars on 8 September:

- Seminar on violence against children: supporting national strategies through international cooperation
- Seminar on meaningful and sustainable child participation
- Seminar on child friendly justice

The High level plenary sessions will follow on the 9th and 10th which will include panels presenting the Seminar conclusions.

The Seminar on "Meaningful and sustainable child participation" objectives:

- Share the results of successful and sustainable initiatives encouraging children's participation at regional, national and local level.
- Discuss the recent work of the Council of Europe in this area and identify ways in which it could promote child participation in all member states.
- Discuss the outline of a future Council of Europe-led pilot scheme on children and eparticipation.

Call for Expressions of Interest

The organisers of the Conference are looking for successful and sustainable projects on child participation in two areas:

- General child participation
- Child participation through electronic resources: "e-participation"

Four-six projects will be selected from various European countries representing different settings. Chosen projects would be presented in an innovative, exciting and interesting way in English. This opportunity is open to international organisations, national and regional institutions and networks, government agencies, children's NGOs, local municipalities, institutes of research or other parties. *Children's participation in the presentation would be welcomed.*

Deadline: please send the your expression of interest by email to yulia.dynges@coe.int by 28 May.

Job Postings

Volunteer Internships at PICUM

The Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants is currently inviting applications for their fall volunteer internship program. The deadline for applications is **July 18th.**

Interns play an important role in projects and ongoing work of PICUM. They are offered an opportunity to gain hands-on experience with the different facets of promoting social and policy change in the area of human rights for undocumented migrants.

For further information, please consult: www.picum.org

International Social Service: Inter-country casework officer

International Social Service (ISS) is looking for a full time inter-country casework officer to handle complex individual cases and to provide support to the network.

Duties and responsibilities include:

- Handle inter-country cases as per ISS principles and methodologies
- Assist in identifying country correspondents as required
- Contribute to the monitoring and evaluation of ISS casework
- Undertake research and analysis of countries' geopolitical and social situations/structures
- Any other related task in support of the ISS Casework Division

Please send your application, including detailed CV and motivation letter, accompanied with the mention 'VA' for the attention of Christine Lambert at: christine.lambert@iss-ssi.org.

Application deadline: 15 June 2008

Funding

Open Call for Tenders VT/2008/046- Deadline 24 June 2008, 16.00h (Brussels time) Study on Child Poverty (Progress programme)

Children growing up in poverty and exclusion are likely to become entangled in a "cycle" which is tr5ansmitted from generation to generation. Child Poverty is a denial of children's rights, entailing inequality of access to resources and opportunities and is often linked to discrimination. It has severe long-term consequences, preventing children from achieving their full potential, adversely affecting their health, and inhibiting their personal development, education and general well-being. Tackling child poverty and breaking the spiral of poverty and exclusion from one generation to the next features high on the European Union's political agenda. Child poverty is recognised as a multi-

dimensional problem which requires urgent, integrated actions across a wide range of social, economic and cultural policies. Further information may be obtained from:

Ms I. Engsted-Maquet - Telephone no. 32-2-296.05.34 or fax 32-2-299.09.05.

For all documents please consult:

http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/emplweb/tenders/tenders_en.cfm?id=3165

Project data base of the 7th RFP on CORDIS available

The CORDIS-Information service of the European Commission now offers the possibility to search for projects of the 7th Research Framework Programme. A free text search as well as a search machine with predefined criteria is available. All projects that have been selected for funding and have signed the grant contract are listed: http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/projects_en.html

Upcoming Dates

11-13 June: "Better Future for Children Today" FICE 2008 Congress – 60 years of international cooperation for children in care, Helsinki, Finland.

16-18 June: ESF- Exploratory Workshop on Children's Participation in Public Decision making (Berlin); info: rbudde@ina-fu.org

18 June: General Assembly ENMCR (Berlin)

19 June: Final project meeting ENMCR-CD (Berlin)

24 June: Deadline Tenders for study on Child Poverty

30 June: Deadline application to DAAD for HEI partnerships between Germany and developing countries.

30 June - 4 July: 33rd global conference of the International Council on Social Welfare (ICSW), Tours, France.

1 July: Children's rights and participation conference (York, UK)

13-15 August: World Conference of Children's Playtowns (Berlin, Germany)

19 August: Deadline submission applications Marie Curie Fellowships (Specific Programme: People)

2 September: Deadline applications for Initial Training Networks (FRP 7)

8-10 September: "Building a Europe for and with Children - Towards a strategy for 2009-2011", Stockholm

15 September: Deadline ESF conferences 2010

17 September - 16 December: Course monitoring Children's Rights

19 September: Day of General Discussion (Geneva, committee on the Rights of the Child)

19 September: Swansea Conference

19-22 September: The Social Capital Foundation – Malta Conference

24-25 September: Educational Dilemmas in Culturally Diversified Societies (Conference in Warsaw)

29 September – 1 October: IFCW World Forum 2008 "Early Intervention and Prevention", Cardiff, Wales, UK (co-hosted by Children in Wales).

2 October: Eurochild Members' Exchange Seminar on "Child and Youth Participation", Cardiff, Wales, UK.

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5-7 November: Eurochild annual conference (Budapest)17-18 November: final colloquium of the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue19 November: World Day for the Prevention of Child Abuse