



CRnews 06-07

Children's Rights Newsletter
June-July 2009

European Network of Masters in Children's Rights
c/o Internationale Akademie an der Freien Universität Berlin
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Dear Network Members and Network Interested,

The Newsletter has a new editor! As announced in the last edition, Ms. Rebecca Budde is on maternity leave and Ms. Lea Fenner has taken over the responsibility of editing the CRnews.

We will keep you informed on proceedings of the possible projects here in CRnews. Please feel free to contact us with comments, news, 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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Save the Children
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General News Internal

New staff at the Free University Berlin

Since June 2009 Ms. Noemi Fivat has taken over the coordination of the ENMCR at the Free University Berlin for the period of Rebecca Budde's maternity leave.

Noëmi Fivat hails from the Free University of Berlin's Children's Rights Master Program (in Germany). She also holds a Masters degree in International Relations from the Graduate Institute of International Studies in Geneva, Switzerland. Born in Switzerland, Noëmi was raised in Indonesia, Germany and Belgium and spent some time in the United States as well as in Spain. She has worked as an intern for UNICEF and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in Geneva, for Human Rights Watch in Berlin as well as for the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) in Frankfurt. Her main areas of interest include international law (especially human and children's rights), history, politics and philosophy.

Ms. Lea Fenner has taken over the coordination of the Tempus project Child Rights Education Development – Moldova and Serbia (CREDMOS) and Public Relations of the ENMCR (Homepage and Newsletter) since July 2009.

Lea Fenner completed the "European Master in Children's Rights" at the Free University Berlin. She also holds a Bachelors degree in Cultural Studies from the European-University Viadrina in Frankfurt/Oder. For school, studies and research, she spent several months in Australia, Chile and Spain. During her studies in Frankfurt, Lea has worked as an academic assistant and gained practical experience at the Kreuzberg Children's Foundation, Human Rights Watch and the National Network for Civil Society. In her free time she volunteers for terre des hommes and emyb - european-mediterranean youth bridge. Her main areas of interest include sociology (migration, integration and participation), international politics, children's rights, history, philosophy and linguistics.

General News External

“Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children” edge towards New York

The Human Rights Council has also taken a major step towards protecting the rights of children who are either taken into alternative care, or are at risk of being separated from their families. On 17 June, the Council adopted a resolution which means that the 'Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children' can now be brought before the New York-based UN General Assembly – the last hurdle on the road to official endorsement by UN Member States. If adopted at the General Assembly later in the year, the move would coincide with celebrations for the 20th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Alan Kikuchi-White, of SOS-Kinderdorf International, who has been working tirelessly to advance the guidelines, said: “This really is a significant step, and it would be a great way to celebrate the 20th anniversary were they to be adopted. “Long journey” “The Committee on the Rights of the Child called for the guidelines in 2005, so its been a long process of consultation. There were nine days of talks between governments over the last three months on the wording of the document – it's a really long time for this sort of thing.” For further information, contact the co-covenors of the Human Rights Council working group spearheading the initiative: Mia Dambach, Children's Rights Specialist, International Social Service, E-mail: mia.dambach@iss-ssi.org Alan Kikuchi-White, Geneva Representative, SOS-Kinderdorf International, Liaison & Advocacy Office, KikuchiA@sos-kd.org, www.sos-childrensvillages.org

Council takes first step to establish complaints mechanism

The campaign to establish a complaints mechanism for children received a huge boost after members of the Human Rights Council agreed to set up a 'working group' to look at the issue. At the 11th session of the Council, which concluded this week, member countries agreed by consensus to set up the group, after lobbying from NGOs, child rights advocates, and supportive States. Anita Goh, who is leading the advocacy campaign pressing for the mechanism, said: “This is a very positive message. At the UN level, especially, this is a really great achievement as it often takes a lot longer for this kind of thing to be passed.” The group, made up of State representatives, “will explore the possibility of elaborating an optional protocol (*what is this?*) to the Convention on the Rights of the Child.” An optional protocol is needed to establish the mechanism. The mandate is weaker than initially hoped. Campaign supporters wanted a working group that would actually begin drafting the optional protocol. During the day on the rights of the child, on 11 March 2009, a number of States declared their support for the optional protocol initiative. The Committee on the Rights of the Child is also supportive, and a number of NGOs have been spearheading a campaign to encourage the establishment of the mechanism.

<http://www.un.org/webcast/unhrc/archive.asp?go=090617#pm> Link to text of the resolution in six UN languages: http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/dpage_e.aspx?si=A/HRC/11/L3

Utrecht Summer School – INTERNATIONAL JUVENILE JUSTICE – 17-27 August 2009

Last call: there still are a few places available!

What is the course about?

This course offers an international comparative perspective on juvenile justice, bringing together a group of international experts. It will focus on trends in juvenile justice in Europe and the US, on institutions and procedures, on sanctions and practices of diversion in Europe and the US, on juvenile penitentiary law in Europe and the US and on children's rights in the context of juvenile justice.

Who are involved?

Various international juvenile justice experts: Prof. J. Doek (former chair UN Committee on the Rights of the Child), Prof. B. Dohrn (Northwestern University, Chicago, US), Prof. G. de Jonge (Maastricht University) Prof. J. Junger-Tas (Utrecht University, Criminology), Dr. T. Liefwaard (Utrecht University), Prof. I. Weijers (Utrecht University).

For more information: <http://www.utrechtsummerschool.nl/index.php?type=courses&code=E11>

Renewed commitment to the Children's Right Strategy in Commission Communication

On 10 June DG JLS put forward a communication outlining the Stockholm programme in view of its adoption at the December European Council. This programme will define the Commission's work in the field of liberty, security and justice for the next 5 years.

The overall aim of the future programme is to create an area of freedom, security and justice serving the citizen and has as first political priority the objective of Promoting citizens' rights in an Europe of rights, where fundamental rights are protected, and in which respect for the human person and human dignity, and for the other rights enshrined in the Charter of Fundamental Rights, is a core value.

The Communication calls for the development of an ambitious EU strategy on the rights of the child and states that the rights of the child as proclaimed in the UNCRC, potentially concern all EU polices and must be systematically taken into account, and measures therefore need to be identified to which the Union can contribute added value.

Children are furthermore mentioned in regard to particular actions – e.g., the fight against sexual exploitation of children and child pornography, unaccompanied minors and Roma children.

The International Juvenile Justice Observatory obtained operational relations with the UNESCO

The United Nations Organization for Education, Science and Culture (UNESCO) has recently recognized the International Juvenile Justice Observatory (IJJO) by establishing operational relations between both organizations.

Through the development of this institutional cooperation and relation between both entities, both regulated and non-regulated education will be promoted for children in social exclusion and in conflict with the law as well as specialised training for the practitioners involved in juvenile justice.

The International Juvenile Justice Observatory presents the campaign: Legal Assistance for Children in Conflict with the Law: Link: <http://www.oijj.org/legal/mision.html>

NGOs welcome proposal for the European Year of Volunteering 2011

The European Commission has adopted today the official proposal for a decision on the European Year of Volunteering (EYV) 2011. This decision is the result of a civil society initiative led by European networks of organisations active in volunteering. This "European Year of Volunteering 2011 Alliance", welcome this decision as a further step towards a better recognition of the contribution that more than 100 million European volunteers make to our societies day after day. We now call on the Council of the European Union and the European Parliament to adopt the decision and to ensure an appropriate budget for the Year.

The objectives of the Year have been carefully chosen and reflect our ambition for the volunteering landscape in Europe: Rewarding and recognising voluntary activities; Empowering volunteer organisations; and Raising awareness about the value of volunteering in our societies. We see these as the main elements to ensure an enabling environment for volunteering in the EU.

For further information, see www.eyv2011.eu

Geneva: Complaints Mechanism - Next Steps

On 17 June 2009, the Human Rights Council adopted by consensus a resolution establishing an Open-ended Working Group to «explore the possibility of elaborating an optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child to provide a communications procedure complementary to the reporting procedure under the Convention » (Resolution A/HRC/11/L.3).

Although the final mandate of the Working Group is weaker than what we originally hoped for, it is a great achievement at the UN level as it launches the process and provides a formal platform for States to discuss a communications procedure under the CRC.

Co-sponsors of this resolution are: Austria, Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Guatemala, Honduras, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Malta, Mexico, Montenegro, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine, Uruguay

An Africa worthy of children: a call for an accelerated action for their survival

The 'Day of the African Child' was established by the African Union (AU) in July 1991. This year the chosen topic 'An Africa worthy of children: a call for an accelerated action for their survival', pretends to show the need of taking care urgently of children's primary needs to obtain their welfare, according to what is written in the 1990 African Charter on the children's rights and welfare as well as in the international regulations on the Rights of the Child.

In order to accompany the African States in the effective execution of these international texts, the International Juvenile Justice Observatory, through the African Juvenile Justice Observatory (AJJO) pretends to create an transnational space of reflection, analysis and elaboration of proposals on the situation of minors at risk of exclusion and in conflict with the law to contribute to the definition of good practices as a base for the development of juvenile justice in Africa.

The IJJO wishes to join forces with the African governments during the commemoration of the 'Day of the African Child' to attract the attention to the problems that threaten the child's survival and the need for national initiatives in the fight against violent acts committed against children.

Integration into the EU and the influence of immigration on the exploitation of Romanian children

In 2007, with Romania's integration into the EU, new European trading regulations have made it impossible for the typical agricultural family unit to trade within the food and agricultural industries. Consequently this otherwise unskilled sector of the population must seek out new methods of sustainability. In addition they must cope with a state that provides insufficient social cover. Without any public subsidies or social cover to speak of, and with most of their existing qualifications now obsolete, earning enough money to live has become more and more difficult. Immigration, far easier to undertake after the removal of frontiers within the EU, has become one of the leading solutions to this problem. This new situation has become an opportunity for the already established and less well-intentioned of these immigrants who now impose their services as intermediaries at every stage of the immigration process in return for payment. Amongst those parts of the population who decide to immigrate as a family or send their children to earn money abroad, the absence of a network of reliable contacts already in place at the destination will often lead directly to the exploitation of children. (Terre des Hommes, July 2009)

Publications

New Book: A Handbook of Children and Young People's Participation. Perspectives from Theory and Practice

By Barry Percy-Smith and Nigel Thomas

A Handbook of Children's Participation brings together key thinkers and practitioners from diverse contexts across the globe to provide an authoritative overview of contemporary theory and practice around children's participation. This book presents the most useful recent work in children's participation as a resource for academics, students and practitioners in childhood studies, children's rights and welfare, child and family social work, youth and community work, governance, aid and development programmes. The book introduces key concepts and debates, and presents a rich collection of accounts of the diverse ways in which children's participation is understood and enacted around the world, interspersed with reflective commentaries from adults and young people.

For more information and online ordering visit: www.routledge.com

Report: Child Trafficking in the EU – Challenges. perspectives and good practices (July 2009)

Trafficking in human beings is a major problem both in the EU and worldwide. Every year a substantial number of children fall victim to trafficking for sexual exploitation or other purposes. There are extremely low numbers of convictions in child trafficking cases. Overall, the report finds that the EU must do more to address the issue. The FRA calls for better legislation to combat child trafficking. The protection and care for victims, in particular, must be improved.

Report: “Children on the Frontline” Children and Young People in Disaster Risk Reduction

Millions of children threatened by major disasters are still being ignored, despite promises to address their needs, according to a new report released by Plan International and World Vision. The report, 'Children on the Frontline' reveals that many commitments made by governments in the wake of the 2004 Tsunami via the Hyogo Framework (HFA) have not yet been met. It says that disaster risk reduction knowledge and awareness is a top priority for children and communities but finds they are not receiving the support they need to put them into action.

The survey of over 800 young people from 17 countries found that the overwhelming message is that they are dissatisfied with what is being done by governments to prevent or mitigate disaster risks.

Download report under: <http://www.plan-uk.org/newsroom/publications/>

Summary Report: Children's Rights in a Globalized World: From Principles to Practice

International Interdisciplinary Course 7-19 September 2008, Gent-Antwerp, Belgium

Article: “Kinderarbeid en Handelsmaatregelen”

written by Kristoffel Lieten en Anna Ensing.

For those of you who do not read Dutch, the full research report on the Bangladesh leather sector can be found on the IREWOC site (www.irewoc.nl)

Direct link to report: http://www.childlabour.net/docs/Ensing_Leather_Bangladesh_2009.pdf

India Human Rights Report 2009

In its report, the Asian Centre for Human Rights (ACHR) has carried out an exhaustive analysis of the human rights situation in India.

Download:

http://www.oijj.org/documental_ficha.php?rel=SI&cod=2487&pag=030200&pags=0&idioma=en

Report: Early Childhood Education and Care: lessons from research for policy makers

The report highlights key findings from European and international research on ECEC and their implications for policy development and implementation. It is written primarily for policy-makers and other actors in the fields of early childhood and education. It will also be useful to a large number of policy makers in related fields of public policy (such as health, employment, family, gender and migration) as well as to researchers, practitioners, parents, students and journalists.

Press Release Eurochild: Don't fail our children – we will need them!

An effective response to the crisis needs to consider children's rights and welfare (Message to the European Council by Eurochild and its 92 national members)

OECD publication: "Towards a Framework for Assessing Family Policies in the EU"

This report presents the results of a first attempt to create a framework for assessing the performance of national family policies. The report is part of a joint EU and OECD project, which aims to help the EU Government Expert Group on Demographic Issues in evaluating national family policies. The idea behind the framework is that it allows individual countries to compare their overall performance in the area of family policies with the performance of other countries. The main focus of the report is policies for families with smaller children.

Lohmann, H. et al. (2009), "Towards a Framework for Assessing Family Policies in the EU", OECD Social Employment and Migration Working Papers, No. 88, OECD publishing.

VIOLENCE: A Study on Violence Against Girls

23 July 2009, UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre

This publication was jointly developed by the UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre and the Government of the Netherlands. It includes a background document prepared by the UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre (IRC), and summarizes the discussions and outcomes of the International Conference on Violence against the Girl Child held in The Hague from 9-10 March 2009. The conference addressed gaps in knowledge, research and responses to violence against girls in the home and family, and was a follow-up to the United Nations Secretary-General's Study on Violence against Children.

Document: http://www.unicef-irc.org/publications/pdf/violence_girls_eng.pdf

FRA Publication: Paper on the Rights of Asylum seeking Children

On Friday 3 July 2009, the European Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) released a thematic discussion paper on "the protection of the rights and special needs of irregular immigrant minors and asylum seeking children" produced by Eurasyllum. This paper aims at identifying policy interventions, legal measures and administrative procedures at EU level to protect the rights and special needs of irregular immigrant minors and asylum seeking children.

RADIJOJO Newsletter

Subscribe under: http://www.radijojo.de/WCN_neu/

Newsletter: „jungbewegt“ – Bertelsmann Foundation

The first edition of the Newsletter can be found under the following link: <http://www.bertelsmann-stiftung.de/cps/rde/xchg/SID-63CA7637-C8B5234B/bst/hs.xsl/95559.html>

Subscribe here: <http://www.bertelsmann-stiftung.de/cps/rde/xchg/SID-4A5D8091-0AB99CF8/bst/hs.xsl/newsletter.htm>

C o E P u b l i c a t i o n s

Launch of the Council of Europe Platform on Children's Rights

A first outcome of the Platform's work will be the adoption of Guidelines on national integrated strategies for the protection of children against violence. They provide a holistic perspective on protecting children from all forms of violence, building on the recommendations from the UN study on violence against children.

Full details of the programme are posted on the Council of Europe's website:
<http://www.coe.int/DefaultEN.asp>

F u n d i n g P o s s i b i l i t i e s / R e s e a r c h O p p o r t u n i t i e s

Call for Proposals: Safer Internet

Call for proposals for indirect actions under the multi-annual Community Programme on protecting children using the Internet and other communication technologies (Safer Internet) - SAFER INTERNET.

Deadline: 19 November 2009.

Concurso Ensayos de Investigacion Social 2009: "Participación de los Niños y Adolescentes"

Save the Children Canada (SCC) calls for papers for the "Concurso Ensayos de Investigación Social 2009 sobre la Participación de los niños y adolescentes".

For detailed information: <http://www.sccsur.org>

Deadline to submit the electronic version of the paper: 13-18 September 2009 to

jbazan@sccsur.org / sccbo@sccsur.org

Call for Abstracts: First international conference in Africa on Family Based Care for Children

The African Network for the Prevention and Protection Against Child Abuse and Neglect (ANPPCAN) is organizing the First International Conference in Africa on Family Based Care for Children. "Promoting Family-Based Care for Children in Africa" will be held on 28 - 30 September 2009 in Nairobi, Kenya.

The Conference is calling for abstracts and poster presentations. Papers that address innovative interventions and practices in the area of alternative care for children, networking or collaborative efforts, as well as research studies on the topic are being invited. All papers will be peer-reviewed by a Scientific Committee and will be expected to address applicability to children in Africa.

Deadline: 7 August 2009.

For further information visit: <http://www.anppcan.org/node/45>

Upcoming Dates

- **July 19–23, 2009:** International Society for Quality-of-Life Studies Conference Florence
- **August 17-27, 2009:** Utrecht Summer School: INTERNATIONAL JUVENILE JUSTICE
- **August 31– September 1, 2009:** Child Poverty - A European Challenge, Berlin
- **August 31 to October 22, 2009:** International exchange seminars in Germany, Berlin
- **September 2-5, 2009:** 9th European Sociological Association Conference (Lisbon, Portugal)
- **September 21, 2009:** 9th Forum on Perspectives of European Youth Policy - Investments and Empowerment, Berlin, (only in German; non-public event)
- **September 28-29, 2009:** Annual Conference on European Family Law - Focus on children's rights , Trier, Germany
- **September 28-30, 2009:** Promoting Family-Based Care for Children in Africa, Nairobi, Kenya
- **October 9-10, 2009:** International Conference and Annual Meeting of the
- "Sociology of Childhood" Section of the German Sociological Association: European Childhood – Childhoods in Europe, Munich, Germany
- **October 15-16, 2009:** Seminar: Child Labour and Youth Employment, Istanbul, Turkey
- **October 21-24, 2009:** 20th WorldForum 2009 on child welfare, Jakarta, Indonesia
- **October 22-23 2009:** International interdisciplinary conference: Rehabilitation and Reintegration of War-Affected Children (RRWAC), Brussels, Belgium
- **November 4-5, 2009:** ISCI (International Society for Child Indicators) Conference
- **November 6, 2009:** International Conference – The Right to be a Child, Tallinn, Estonia
- **November 10-11, 2009:** ENMCR General Assembly
- **November 11-13, 2009:** Eurochild Annual Conference: From policy to practice - monitoring child well-being, Cyprus
- **November 18 - 21, 2009:** International Congress Architecture and Children, Ankara, Turkey
- **November 19, 2009:** World Day for Prevention of Child Abuse
- **November 30 –December 2, 2009:** Global Conference on Child Rights and Research 2009 www.childwatch.uio.no; info: info@crcanniversary.org
- **June 14-18, 2010:** World Summit on Media for Children and Youth, Karlstad, Sweden
- **July 2-7, 2010:** Euroscience Open Forum (ESOF) 2010