



European Network of Masters in Children's Rights

CRnews 08

Children's Rights Newsletter
August 2009

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

Summer... recreation... We hope that all of you had or are still having warm and relaxing holidays. Awaiting the celebrations of the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child we will have an autumn and winter full of interesting and exciting events. 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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Thank you for reading this newsletter.

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Save the Children
Sweden

General News Internal

End of Tempus Project - Child Rights Education Development - Moldova and Serbia (CREDMOS)

Our international cooperation project is officially closing at the 31st of August. Thanks to the great effort of all partners, master programmes in children's rights could be established at the Union University Belgrade and University of Novi Sad in the Republic of Serbia and at the State University of Moldova. Student and teacher exchanges took place and activities such as the "Intensive Summer School Programme on Children's Citizenship and Participation Rights" were carried out in the context of the project. We are hoping for further fruitful, joint activities in the future!

General News External

CRIN News: Launch of CAMPAIGN - The future of children's rights – in whose hands?

They wield considerable power and influence, and can change the lives of thousands, maybe millions of children. Those nominated to exalted positions within the world of child rights can make a massive difference. But who are they? How are they chosen? And, most importantly, are they the best people for the job?

Aim of the campaign is To stimulate open and transparent appointment processes in order to identify leaders with the appropriate commitment, skills and experience to work effectively for children's rights.

WHO?

CRIN has identified the following initial list of key global child rights positions, listed in order of their due date for renewal or reappointment. The appointment process for these positions varies considerably. To find out more about each, click on the relevant role:

- *The Executive Director of UNICEF* (term expires early 2010)
- *Members of the African Committee on the Rights and Welfare of the Child* (elections Jul. 2010)
- *Members of the Committee on the Rights of the Child* (next elections Dec. 2010)
- *Rapporteur on Child Rights at the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights* (term expires Dec. 2011)
- *Special Representative to the Secretary General on Children and Armed Conflict* (term expires 2012)
- *Special Representative to the Secretary General on Violence Against Children* (term expires 2012)

Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council including Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially in women and children, and Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (various)

The following international and regional appointments may also have huge implications for the rights of children, and so should reflect appropriate commitment, skills and experience:

- *UN Secretary General* (term expires 2012)
- *UN High Commissioner for Human Rights* (term expires 2012)
- *Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights* (term expires 2011)

WHY?

CRIN has become increasingly involved in child rights governance issues and played an integral part in the recent campaign for the appointment of a Special Representative to the Secretary General on Violence Against Children. Together with the NGO Group for the CRC, CRIN closely monitors, and reports on, elections to the Committee on the Rights of the Child. CRIN also maintains close contact with other key child rights positions. They are aware of the critical importance of these roles, and the need to ensure that appointment procedures are open, rigorously scrutinised and focused on promoting and safeguarding children's rights.

WHAT?

As the list above demonstrates, the first role up for renewal or reelection is that of Executive Director of UNICEF. We intend to issue calls to action as further roles become vacant. The different roles, and actions to be taken, are further explained below in chronological order.

Visit: <http://www.crin.org/resources/infodetail.asp?id=20623>

Sign petition: <http://www.crin.org/petitions/petition.asp?petID=1014>

UNCRC: General Comment on the Right of the Child to be Heard

The Committee on the Rights of the Child's General Comment 12 on the "Right of the Child to be Heard" was formally adopted during the 51st session in June. The fully edited version will come out in the coming weeks, but the editing should not affect the content of the General Comment.

Participation or the right of all children to be heard and taken seriously constitutes one of the fundamental values of the Convention as is of outmost importance for Plan's activities. This new general comment brings further light to what participation really means.

The Committee on the Rights of the Child has identified article 12 as one of the four general principles of the Convention, the others being the right to non-discrimination, the right to life and development, and the primary consideration of the child's best interests, which highlights the fact that this article establishes not only a right in itself, but should also be considered in the interpretation and implementation of all other rights.

52nd session of the Committee on the Rights of the Child

The 52nd Session of the Committee on the Rights of the Child will take place from 14 September to 2 October at the Palais Wilson in Geneva, Switzerland.

The Committee will examine reports from Bolivia, Mozambique, Pakistan, Philippines, and Qatar on their implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

In addition, the Committee will review reports on the implementation of the Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography (OPSC) for Poland and Yemen and reports on the Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict (OPAC) for Poland and Turkey. A special CRC news page devoted to the activities of the Committee on the Rights of the Child has been set up on the CRIN website in partnership with the NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The page provides summaries of the Committee sessions by country, UN press releases, NGO press releases, information about the Day of General Discussion, Decisions, General Comments and other activities of the Committee.

States Parties reports submitted by governments to the Committee on the Rights of the Child are available in English, French and Spanish on the website of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in Word and PDF formats. Alternative Reports submitted by NGOs to the Committee on the Rights of the Child are made available on the CRIN website in partnership with the NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Eurochild News: Eurochild's General Assembly & Policy Forum in June 2009

34 Member organisations gathered for our General Assembly and Policy Forum on 17/18 June in Brussels.

Topics of the General Assembly were Eurochild's financial and activity reports as well as the welcoming of new members. During the main session of the following Policy Forum we discussed the —vision for children and young people in Europe with guest speakers Isabelle Maquet (Secretariat of the Indicators Sub-Group of the Social Protection Committee, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities), Ilona Negro (Policy Officer – European Social Fund and Cohesion policy development, analysis and coordination), Artur Payer (Youth Policy Unit, DG Education and Culture) and Margaret Wachenfeld (Senior Policy Advisory, Unicef Brussels Office).

In parallel workshops the members discussed and agreed upon the Terms of Reference for the Thematic Working Groups (TWG), which are:

- Early years' education and care
- Child and youth participation
- Family & parenting support
- Children without parental care

Finally, the Eurochild Secretariat held workshops covering the fields of Membership benefits, Policy Working Group and the EY2010 and the E-community.

4th European Forum on the rights of the child

The Directorate-Generals for External Relations and Justice Freedom and Security jointly hosted the 4th European Forum on the rights of the child on the theme of child labour on Thursday 18th June 2009. In the morning, the discussion focused on social protection and child labour, with speakers from Unicef and ILO's international programme on the elimination of child labour. The following discussion gave due emphasis to prevention through adequate social protection and investment in education. Whilst most participants came from a background of external relations and development, the relevance to Europe was clear. Child labour exists in all its forms within the borders of the European Union, with clear links to poverty, migration, trafficking and exploitation.

In the afternoon the discussion focused on corporate social responsibility with speakers from the International Trade Union Confederation and Corporate Social Responsibility Europe. The responsibility of

businesses in eradicating child labour is clear, and participants cautioned against spin and emphasized the need for clear monitoring and evaluation.

Representatives from the Italian and Swedish governments – members of the L'Europe de l'enfance network – brought their experience to the discussion. Sweden holds the EU Presidency and it was encouraging to hear them talk about the mainstreaming of children's rights across all areas of national policy and their encouragement to the EU to move ahead on the EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child.

See website: www.childforum.eu

Belgium: Child rights approach to child poverty

The Unicef Chair in Children's Rights in Belgium, member of the ENMCR, organized an expert meeting on poverty and children's rights on the 26th of June. The event included both conceptual academic frameworks for thinking about poverty from a rights based perspective and active policy debates, involving representatives from Belgian federal and community level government. Much discussion focused on how the forthcoming Belgian Presidency of the European Union (July-December 2010) can help put this more centrally onto the EU's agenda.

'Be Healthy, be yourself' – Commission launches youth health initiative

Involving young people more actively in developing EU health policies is the aim of an initiative launched on Thursday 9 July by the European Commissioner for Health, Androulla Vassiliou. The initiative kicks off with a conference on Youth Health in Brussels on 9 and 10 July 2009. Over 200 young people, from across Europe, aged 18-25 years will meet with policymakers and health organisations to debate key health issues, such as the consumption of alcohol, tobacco and drugs, or physical activity and mental health. Cross cutting issues, including the financial crisis, inequalities in health, education and the role of the media will also be addressed. The conference is organised jointly with the European Youth Forum and accompanied by a multi-lingual website on the EU health portal which includes a blog where young people can have their say on health.

11th Annual EU-NGOs Forum on Human Rights focuses on Violence against Children

This year the international community celebrates the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. In Sweden, people also commemorate the 30th anniversary of the enactment of a law banning corporal punishment of children.

Holding the presidency of the EU for the period July-December 2009, Sweden has decided to dedicate the 11th Annual EU-NGO Forum to perspectives and efforts related to combating violence against children. The EU-NGO Forums are organised annually by the European Commission and the EU member state holding the presidency in the second half of the year. The forums usually gather around 150 delegates, mainly from non-governmental organisations in EU member states and developing countries, as well as international experts and members of the EU Working Party on Human Rights (COHOM). The purpose of the EU-NGO Forum is to provide opportunities for civil society representatives from the global South to meet and exchange experiences with EU representatives and international human rights experts.

The conclusions and recommendations from the forum will be presented at the COHOM and assembled in a report. This year, EU-NGO Forum took place in Stockholm on 6-7 July. Eurochild was represented by Gudrun Hubendick of SOS-Barnbyar.

SOS Children's Villages Leaving Care workshop: Young People to apply

Prior to the conference on Leaving Care, SOS Children's Villages is also organizing a youth workshop which will take place from 4-6 October in Vilnius. Young people between 16-25 years who have some care experience are invited to apply for this workshop. Participants of this pre-event workshop will also take part in the conference itself.

Information: <http://www.sos-childrensvillages.org/Focus-areas/Child-rights/Advocacy-in-action/Pages/Conference-Keeping-the-door-open.aspx>

Amici dei Bambini and others: Research about support for care leavers

Partners from Italy, Romania, Bulgaria, Latvia and France have carried out research and interviewed experts and young people themselves on how it works – or doesn't work – in each of their countries. The initial results were presented in Brussels on 9 July in a round table organized by project leaders, Amici dei Bambini. They have also developed a list of provisional indicators on how to measure quality services and support for young people leaving the care system. The work is expected to help regional and local authorities improve standards of provision and feed into the EU's agenda on fighting social inclusion and poverty. The event follows a meeting in Bucharest in April 2009 where young people with experience of care shared their experiences. A video of young people's photography taken during the event has now been launched.

For further details see: www.childout.org

More Bulgarian children claim to have witnessed violence

The Sofia Echo, 15 July 2009:

Reports about violence in Bulgarian schools are not new, but a report presented by Vitosha Research on July 15 showed the number of schoolchildren who have witnessed violence has increased in recent years. A research that involved 350 schoolchildren from the Bulgarian capital showed that, in 2009, 80.4 per cent said they had witnessed violence at school within the last four months before the research. A year earlier, that number stood at just over 75 per cent.

Similarly, more schoolchildren have witnessed violence in the street in 2009, compared to the year before, 75 versus 73 per cent respectively.

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

Book: Infancia y Derechos Humanos. Hacia una ciudadanía participante y protagonista

Manfred Liebel y Marta Martínez. Coordinadores IFEJANT. Lima. 2009.

ISBN: 978-9972-9291-6-8. Pps: 483

"Este libro, producto de un esfuerzo de mujeres y hombres de gran talla, moral e intelectual, se instala en la necesaria reflexión regional respecto de los 20 años de vigencia de la Convención de los Derechos del Niño. Sus datos, insumos e iniciativas dan cuenta del camino recorrido durante estas dos décadas y fundamentalmente sobre los retos y desafíos situados en el horizonte cercano.

Las voces de los niños, niñas y adolescentes no sólo como registro de sus vivencias anhelos y expectativas, sino también como ciudadanos plenos, es la piedra angular del nuevo contrato social entre los Estados, los niños, sus organizaciones, familias y comunidad. El eje del protagonismo nos impulsa a una reafirmación de esperanza para la construcción de sociedades más justas, integradas y respetuosas de los derechos humanos en general y de los niños en particular." Norberto Liwski

Book: Bildung für junge Flüchtlinge - ein Menschenrecht. Erfahrungen, Grundlagen und Perspektiven

Lothar Krappmann, Andreas Lob-Hüdepohl, Axel Bohmeyer, Stefan Kurzke-Maasmeier (ed.)

Im Fokus dieses Buches stehen die Grundlagen und Perspektiven der Umsetzung des Menschenrechts auf Bildung für junge Flüchtlinge in Deutschland. Nach den OECD-Bildungsstudien der vergangenen Jahre ist Deutschland aber noch weit von dem Ziel entfernt, benachteiligte Schülerinnen und Schüler in Deutschland ausreichend zu fördern und allen Kindern und Jugendlichen gleiche Bildungschancen zu bieten. Wissenschaftler und Praktiker plädieren in diesem Buch für eine Verbesserung der Situation von Kinderflüchtlingen im Bildungssystem und in anderen Le-

bensbereichen. Um die unterschiedlichen Implikationen des Rechts auf Bildung junger Flüchtlinge zu verdeutlichen, werden biografische, sozialwissenschaftliche, ethische und rechtliche Facetten beleuchtet und anhand von Praxisbeispielen veranschaulicht.
ISBN 978-3-7639-3547-5

Book: Teenage Tata. Voices of young fathers in South Africa

Sharlene Swartz, Arvin Bhana

Free download: <http://www.hsrcpress.ac.za/product.php?productid=2268&freedownload=1>

UNESCO: International Guidelines on Sexuality Education: An evidence informed approach to effective sex, relationships and HIV/STI education (June 2009)

http://www.crin.org/docs/082509_unesco.pdf

Eurochild publication: Children Without Parental Care - National Surveys

The latest Eurochild publication is a compilation of national surveys on the situation of children without parental care across the European Union. Undertaken through Eurochild's member organisations during April - May 2009, it represents a snapshot of the situation in 19 of the 27 EU member states plus Moldova. The survey is intended to assess what information and data is available, how the gaps can be filled, and, importantly, how this information can contribute to Eurochild's campaign to eradicate child poverty and social exclusion.

Download here:

http://www.eurochild.org/fileadmin/user_upload/Members_exchange_seminars/Prague_09/CWPC_national_surveys_1st%20edition%20v3%20FINAL.pdf

Latest Human Rights Watch Reports on Children's Rights:

Impairing Education

Corporal Punishment of Students with Disabilities in US Public Schools (HRW, August 2009)

Download here : <http://www.hrw.org/en/reports/2009/08/11/impairing-education-0>

Soldiers Who Rape, Commanders Who Condone

Sexual Violence and Military Reform in the Democratic Republic of Congo (HRW, July 2009)

Download here: <http://www.hrw.org/en/reports/2009/07/16/soldiers-who-rape-commanders-who-condone-0>

Report International Juvenile Justice Observatory: Children - Innocent until proven guilty

A report on the overuse of remand for children in England and Wales and how it can be addressed.

Download here:

http://www.oijj.org/documental_ficha.php?rel=SI&cod=2494&pag=030200pags=0&idioma=en

Plan: Hard work, long hours and little pay. Research with children working on tobacco farms in Malawi

This research on tobacco farms in Malawi reveals that child labourers, some as young as 5, are suffering severe physical symptoms from absorbing up to the equivalent of 50 cigarettes a day through their skin. As the tobacco industry continues to shift its production to developing countries, more vulnerable children are being exposed to these hazardous working conditions.

Download here: <http://www.crin.org/docs/Plantobacco2009.pdf>

ECPAT International: Their Protection is in Our Hands – The State of Global Child Trafficking for Sexual Purposes

Download here: http://www.crin.org/docs/FINAL_Summary_Embargo.pdf

Newsletter of Bristly - First Children's Embassy in the World Megjashi, Republic of MACEDONIA

Visit: <http://www.childrensembassy.org.mk/default-en.asp>

C o E

Violence reduction in schools training pack

The *Violence reduction in schools training pack*, developed by the Council of Europe programme "Building a Europe for and with children", is designed to support existing violence prevention schemes in Council of Europe member states. It trains facilitators in whole-school approaches to violence reduction and targets senior staff in schools and other child services.

Download here: http://www.coe.int/t/transversalprojects/children/pdf/ViolenceHandbook_en.pdf

Kit - Raise your hand against smacking

"Raise your hand against smacking!" is a Council of Europe campaign launched in June 2008 to eliminate corporal punishment of children. This kit will facilitate campaign activities throughout Europe. It contains a mix of publications addressed to different target audiences. These shed light on the thorny issue of corporal punishment by defining it, provide a historical overview Council of Europe and United Nations efforts to eradicate it and debunk some of the myths that have sustained the existence and "legitimacy" of violent discipline. They also offer parents alternatives to violence in the form of positive parenting and outline the three approaches needed to successfully challenge corporal punishment - awareness raising, legal reform and policy reform.

The kit also contains examples of some of our promotional material - postcards, posters, calendars and a handy e-card, with audio-visual material, including a slide-show presentation and Handscape, a television spot by Saatchi & Saatchi-London, in both a Mac and PC version.

The kit will be particularly useful for those wanting to start awareness-raising action at national, regional or local level. It can be used by governments, parliaments, NGOs, ombudspersons, social workers, trainers and teachers throughout Europe.

Order here: http://book.coe.int/EN/ficheouvrage.php?PAGEID=36&lang=EN&produit_aliasid=2426

Funding/Prizes/Research Opportunities

Call for Entries: UNICEF video contest on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child - We want to see what you think about children's rights!

Deadline extended to 30 August 2009.

It's the 20th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. In 1989, world leaders decided that children needed a special convention just for them because people under 18 years old are often neglected in the human rights debate. The leaders wanted to make sure that the world recognized that children have human rights too. As a result, the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) was developed. It is the world's most widely ratified human rights treaty. It spells out the basic human rights that children everywhere have: the right to survival; to develop to the fullest; to protection from harmful influences, abuse and exploitation; and to participate fully in family, cultural and social life.

Make a video showing what child rights mean to you, whether it be in the world at large, your country or your community. Maybe there is an example of how children's rights are not being fulfilled. Or maybe you want to show a situation where children are getting the rights they deserve. Tell us what you think. The winning video will be used in the CRC's 20th anniversary celebration and made available for broadcast around the world for the 2010 The International Children's Day of Broadcasting.

Video content must be related to children's rights, either by illustrating one of the rights or referencing children's rights as a whole. Videos must capture the mission of Voices of Youth - to promote and protect every child's right to know more, say more and do more about the world they live in.

Eligibility

- We welcome videos in all languages; however, for videos not in English, please provide an English language transcript of the script or summary
- All videos must be 1 minute in length
- Participants must be below 25 years of age

Read the full eligibility criteria and submission guidelines at:

http://www.unicef.org/voy/takeaction/takeaction_4440.html

Upcoming Dates

- **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