



European Network of Masters in Children's Rights

CRnews 6

Children's Rights Newsletter
June 2007

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

In this edition we report on the *1st meeting of the European forum on the Rights of the Child*, held in Berlin on June 4, 2007 and inform you on the follow-up procedure to establish such a forum. Also, we would like to let you know that there are still some places open at the Free University to study the European Master in Children's Rights starting in October this year. Please consult the MA website at: www.fu-berlin.de/emcr. for further information. 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)



In this Newsletter you will read:

General News

- Internal:**
- Towards a European Forum on the Rights of the Child
 - Conference Report: Focus on Children in Migration
 - Call for papers and announcement: Children's Right to Education and Information in EU: Strategies for Prevention of Social and Digital Exclusion within the Knowledge Society (European Conference)
 - Research project on children in migration
 - MA course in Children's Rights (Union University, Belgrade)
- External:**
- Casa de Ninos "Generación"
 - Study programmes in Child Rights in Asia
 - Exploring Children's Rights- Nine short projects for primary level

Publications

Infos from CRIN newsletters

Job Postings

Funding:

- Launch of Lifelong Learning Programme
- Two calls under PROGRESS
- Call for mutual learning projects on social inclusion and protection
- Call for proposals for actions during the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue
- Safer Internet plus 2007 call for proposals

Upcoming Dates

General News Internal

Towards a European Forum on Children's Rights (report 4 June 07)

On invitation of the German Ministry of Justice in the frame of the German EU Presidency and the DG Justice Vice president of the EC Franco Frattini, today about 200 children's rights experts, stakeholders, promoters from the public and civil society sphere came to the *1st meeting of the European Forum on The Rights of the Child.*

As part of Civil Society and member of the National Coalition for the implementation of the CRC in Germany, ENMCR took part in the event. Everybody present welcomed the initiative of The European Commission to initiate the process of consultation and exchange on the issue of EU children's rights policy.

The recently established *NGO Action Group on the EU's Child Rights Strategy* (an informal grouping of NGOs that have committed to cooperate on the follow-up to and implementation of the European Commission Communication- *Towards an EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child*- and for the purpose of information sharing) had been quite concerned about the modalities for the agenda setting for this first meeting of a European forum for the rights of the child as foreseen in the EC Communication, which, as stated in the Communication should "*include all relevant stakeholders, incl. member states, UN agencies, the CoE, civil society and children themselves and will contribute to the design and monitoring of EU actions and act as arena for exchange of good practice*" (p. 8). There had been no structured consultation of civil society on the setting of the agenda, with the outcome that a focus was laid on child sexual exploitation and child pornography as well as child trafficking and with no spaces foreseen for discussions. The Action Group managed to raise attention to the general issue of what the functioning mechanisms of this Forum should be before the meeting so that a second parallel working group was included in the agenda on precisely this topic.

The Action group and other civil society representatives present at the meeting held a brief meeting during lunch to gather all relevant topics, demands and doubts to be presented during the working session in the afternoon.

Very much welcomed by the NGO group, Mr. Francisco Fonseca Morillo (Director, DG JLS, European Commission) gave the floor to Sabine Skutta (Speaker of the National Coalition, Germany) immediately after opening the afternoon session, which lead to a very lively discussion. Sabine Skutta stressed, that this meeting cannot establish the Forum, but must be seen as a first starting point for future cooperation. The demands she raised are:

- an increase of number of civil society representatives foreseen to participate in the Forum to balance representation between public and civil society groups (the working paper foresees 10 CS representatives, as compared to almost 60 from EU, UN and National bodies).
- Child participation (from Europe and international) in the Forum meetings to start as soon as possible
- Transparency of information on the Forum- suggestion to launch a Forum website as soon as possible
- Allocation of funds for preparatory meetings (of adult and children groups)
- Allocation of funds for the inclusion of CEE civil society representatives
- Inclusion of minorities in the Forum (here a special emphasis was laid on the Roma as biggest and most marginalized minority in Europe).

All participants had the possibility to contribute their views and there was a broad consensus that child participation should start as soon as possible but with proper preparation (dependent on funding) to make it meaningful, for which the Eurochild members prepared and presented guidelines.

Agenda setting for the next Forum assembly, which is aimed at being held in November this year under the Portuguese EU presidency, was discussed, and suggestions ranged from the issue of children and violence, children and poverty to child participation as topic.

Even though many voices were heard and the meeting was perceived as being useful to get to know each other and have an overview of differing positions, the feeling remained that it would have been useful to continue discussions in an informal setting and another half day to possibly come to some conclusions. Therefore the need to extend the next meeting to 2-3 days was stressed by various participants.

As result of the meeting it was agreed (as foreseen by the Commission) to hold a preparatory meeting for the Forum assembly in the first half of July, 2007 in Brussels, in which one representative of each stakeholder group will come together. The demand from civil society to be represented with at least two representatives was denied by the chairman. It is now up to the groups to decide within their structures by June 20th on an interim representative for this meeting.

The participants of the Berlin meeting were asked to send in practical comments by the end of this month in preparation of this small group meeting to the following address:

patrick.trousson@cec.eu.int

More information on the Forum and NGO Action group: <http://www.epha.org/a/2610>

For the Communication: http://ec.europa.eu/civiljustice/docs/com_2006_0367_en.pdf

Report from the conference 'Focus on Children in Migration'

The final report from the conference "Focus on children in migration- from a research and method perspective" which was organized jointly by Save the Children, Sweden, the Separated Children in Europe Programme and ENMCR and took place in Warsaw March 20-21, 2007 has been published on the separated for children programme's website. The report is a compilation of papers discussed at the conference as well as reports on the plenary sessions. For persons studying child migration it contains valuable information on various issues in the field.

The report can be downloaded from: http://www.separated-children-europe-programme.org/separated_children/publications/reports/index.html. It will be made available also on ENMCR's website in the following days.

Children's Right to Education and Information in EU: Strategies for Prevention of Social and Digital Exclusion within the Knowledge Society- CALL FOR PAPERS

Date: 20-21 July, 2007, Location: Alexandru Ioan Cuza University, Iasi Romania

The Centre for Social Management and Community Development at Alexandru Ioan Cuza University in cooperation with the European Network of Masters in Children's Rights and the Romanian National Authority for Scientific Research are organising the European Conference which is directed to *researchers, academics, students, practitioners, activists in the field of children's rights issues in the Knowledge Society*. The conference is embedded in the Intensive Programme for students: Children's European Citizenship: Information and Participation (July 16-28, 2007). The conference is structured around four sessions that will debate aspects related to children's rights to education and information in European Union within the Knowledge Society:

- Children's Rights to Education and Information within the Knowledge Society.
- Changes in professional education within the Knowledge Society: Digital learning and the virtual classroom.
- Non-conventional educational and motivational strategies for the stimulation of the scientific and research curiosity of children.
- Preventing social and digital exclusion within the knowledge society.

Registration form, programme and practical information: on the website of the Centre for Social Management and Community Development: www.csmcd.uaic.ro/childconference (under construction) Paper proposals (abstracts of max. 500 words) should be addressed to Doina Balahur: (dbalahur@uaic.ro; doina_balahur@yahoo.com) no later than **25 June, 2007**. The full text of the papers for the Conference book should be addressed to Doina Balahur (dbalahur@uaic.ro; doina_balahur@yahoo.com) no later than **10 July, 2007**.

News from members and associated members

Research project on children in migration (Universidad Complutense Madrid, Universidad de Quito, Ecuador)

In Madrid, the primary group of foreigners is Ecuadorians and the situation of children when they arrive in Spain for family reunification is a major concern to many people, amongst them the responsible authorities for social services. On the other hand, the effects of mass emigration from the communities in Ecuador creates distinct situations for the children left behind. The research project will investigate between September 2007 and May 2008 how children live the experience of migration in all its phases: the decision making process, separation, family reunification or remaining in the home country. The investigation will be based on children's testimonies and life stories- both of those children in Spain and those who have stayed in Ecuador. The project is being funded by the funds of UCM for development cooperation.

For more information, please contact: Lourdes Gaitán Muñoz: mlourdesgaitan@wanadoo.es

MA course in Children's Rights at Union University, Belgrade

The Faculty of Law at Union University in Belgrade is launching an MA study programme in Children's Rights in October 2007. The course is designed to match the European Master in Children's Rights, offering equal introductory modules with a special focus on legal dimensions of children's rights in the electives. The aim is to engage in a European exchange with the EMCR universities and to offer a joint degree in the future. For more information on the programme as well as application modalities, please visit: <http://www.fpp.edu.yu> or contact Prof. Dr. Zlatko Stefanovic: z_stefanovic@yahoo.com

General News External

Casa de Niños "Generación" (Children's house for street children, generación)

On May 17, to commemorate Paulo Freire, the children from Generación (Lima, Peru) and the adults who support them, organized a street rally to improve the desolate legal situation the children are confronted with.

The rally was organized in light of the teachings of Paulo Freire on the 10th anniversary of his death: Freire told us that social work cannot be implemented but has to be founded in love. The people working in Generación experience this in their everyday work. They lend the children love and companionship and assistance in their daily lives who are denied access to services and understanding etc. by society. Freire also pointed out to cultivate coherence, since, as we all know that what is said is often not what is done and to cultivate tolerance to learn how to live with differences and how to confront contradictions. Freire also talked to us about cultivating patience in our work, to learn to wait. With patience, everything can be reached.

For more information and how to support generación, please contact: Luca Borja: blborja@yahoo.com

Study programmes in Child Rights in Asia

Save the Children has been working with academia for initiating a dialogue between the academia and the practitioners of the region in order to make child rights as a subject of academic discourse. The endeavour has been in three phases:

To begin with, Save the Children has conducted an assessment of child rights courses/programme in selected institutes/universities in Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan with the aim for initiating a course on child rights. This was followed by series of consultations/ workshops with academia which culminate into the launching of child rights courses at various levels in the region for learning, training and research. This has resulted in a process for generation of a common conceptual framework for

undertaking child rights as an academic discourse.

It has been convincing to the academia that in order to make development programmes structurally sustainable, pragmatic and successful, the society has to perceive children as “being”, “social change agent” and not as ‘becoming’ future citizen. ‘Children’ as a category of population of every society needs to be accommodated with their participation as a development catalyst. Children should be put at the centre of development and recognize them as social actors, and for realizing this it is vital to strengthen partnerships between academia and development agencies. It has been emphatically recognized that programmes at two levels viz. elective /optional courses/papers as well as evolving a discourse on CR in the domain of social sciences at the university level should be programmed. The pre-condition in this initiative is also to build the capacity of the concerned academia on child rights issues as well as creating access for them to the existing resources on child rights.

Much has since then been achieved. The Department of Social Work, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi has launched the first Post Graduate Diploma in Child Rights in the region. Tata Institute Social Science Mumbai and National Law Institute, Bangalore is also launching a 1 year programme from June 2007 (in discussion). St Xavier's College of Social Work and Kadambari College of Social Work in Nepal have also integrated Child Rights at the Bachelors and Masters level.

The response is also very encouraging from Bangladesh where the Department of Anthropology Jahangirnagar University has taken the initiative of conducting research on the subject at M. Phil, PhD level and started optional course in the Masters level.

National Open University Dhaka has also integrated Child Rights course in sociology department in their Masters Programme.

Anthropology Department of Dhaka University and Sylhet Shah Jalal University is also planning to open such type of courses in their respective department. Department of Anthropology of Dhaka University is also organizing Research field work for their Masters final year students in Save the Children Sweden-Denmark Partner's field from June 01 – July 15, 2007.

Sociology Department of Rajshahi University already included Child Rights issues in the four-year BSS (Honours) program which is incorporated in the part 4 as alternative courses. The syllabus for BSS Honours Program in Sociology is attached here.

More information on the Asian network of masters in child rights can be obtained from:

Chowdhury Tayub Tazammul (Rana), Program Coordinator – Child Rights Programming (CRP)
Save the Children Sweden-Denmark, House: 9, Road: 16, Gulshan: 1, Dhaka-1212, Bangladesh
Tel: 880-2- 9861690-1, 8853994-5 Ext. 315, Cell Phone: +880 1816 736682 Fax: 880-2-8812523.

Email: tayub@scsd-bd.org

Exploring Children's Rights - Nine short projects for primary level

This manual has been designed for teachers who are looking for tools to teach children's rights to students at primary schools. The manual includes:

- Nine small projects for students in their first nine years of school.
- Detailed lesson instructions that can be followed by beginners or used in teacher training.
- A lesson plan including key questions and tasks at the beginning of each project description.
- An approach of task-based learning, focusing on problem solving and learning by example, which supports the pupils in conceptual learning, skills training and the development of values and attitudes.

To place an order directly:

http://book.coe.int/sysmodules/RBS_page/admin/redirect.php?id=36&lang=EN&produit_aliasid=2194

Publications

Ada Skyles and colleagues at Chapin Hall Center for Children at the University of Chicago did some very interesting qualitative interviews with youth in care who had run away. You can find their publications at: <http://www.chapinhall.org/>

Robbie Gilligan and his colleagues at the University of Dublin/Trinity College School of Social Work and Social Policy have done some very good qualitative work on including children's voices. I can't remember if this dealt specifically with children in care though. Here is a link his work:

http://tcdlocalportal.tcd.ie/pls/public/staff.detail?p_unit=swsp&p_name=rgillign

Here is one of their publications:

Byrne, G., Hussey, B., Kearney, S., Shannon, G., Smith, B. & Walsh, T.: *Giving Children a Voice: The case for the independent representation of children*, Dublin, Law Society, 2001

Infos from CRIN:

PARTICIPATION: Young people gather at the J8 summit [news]

Young people from Group of 8 industrialised nations and the developing world are gathering in Germany to participate in this year's Junior 8 Summit. Mirroring the G8 Summit, the J8 is aimed at empowering young people to take part and voice their opinions in global affairs. In preparation for their meeting with G8 leaders, the young people will spend a week debating four key issues:

- Prospects for economic development in Africa
- HIV and AIDS
- Climate change and energy efficiency
- New global challenges – among them intellectual property rights and corporate social responsibility.

On 7 June, eight of the juniors will have the chance to voice their concerns directly to G8 leaders when they meet them face-to-face in a live televised conference. "Issues being discussed at the G8 directly impact on the lives of children and young people," said UNICEF Executive Director Ann M. Veneman. "UNICEF applauds the G8 for taking the time to listen to the voices of youth. And we congratulate the J8 participants for giving serious thought to the kind of world they wish to inherit."

The Junior 8 Summit is a joint initiative sponsored by UNICEF and the Morgan Stanley International Foundation. J8 participants include teams of eight young people aged 13-17 from each of the G8 member countries: Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia, the UK and USA. In addition, UNICEF has selected 10 delegates from developing countries: Algeria, Brazil, Cameroon, Central African Republic, China, Ethiopia, India, Moldova, Sierra Leone and Tanzania.

Visit the website for the J8 : <http://www.j8summit.com/> For more information, contact:

UNICEF, H-9, 3 United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017, Tel: 00 1 212 824 6127; Fax: 00 1 212 326 7731, Email: netmaster@unicef.org, Website: www.unicef.org

UN- Committee on Child Rights: 45th session

The 45th Session of the Committee on the Rights of the Child is taking place from 21 May to 8 June 2007 in Geneva, Switzerland. Among others, the Committee will examine the reports from EU member Slovak Republic. It will also review reports on the implementation of the Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict (OPAC) from Monaco, Norway and Sweden.

A special CRC news page devoted to the activities of the Committee on the Rights of the Child is available 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: <http://www.crin.org/CRCnews/>

For States Parties' reports and Alternative reports:

http://www.crin.org/email/crinmail_detail.asp?crinmailID=2090

Job Postings:

Children are Unbeatable! Alliance

Part-time Children's campaign coordinator

CAU! is an alliance of more than 400 organisations and many individuals campaigning to give children equal protection under the law on assault. (see www.childrenareunbeatable.org.uk). It is looking for a part-time Coordinator of its children's campaign to: 1) identify a group of up to 20 children of varied ages and experiences who want to campaign actively for law reform, organising their training and support, and to facilitate meetings between them and parliamentarians and others. 2) To use the Internet and other communications technology to identify other children and young people who share the aim and who would like to take basic campaign actions to help achieve it. The campaign will aim to link with children and children's organisations internationally, and is linked to the Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children (www.endcorporalpunishment.org).

Deadline: **24 June 2007** For interested applicants with experience of supporting children in campaigning on human email info@endcorporalpunishment.org for more information.

Defence for Children International [internship]

Research Assistant at the Juvenile Desk

The International Secretariat is seeking one full-time intern¹ to support the work of the Juvenile Justice Programme.

Main Responsibilities include: Research and write articles relating to juvenile justice issues to be included in DCI's bimonthly juvenile justice newsletter; Assist the Juvenile Justice Programme Officer with the implementation of the daily activities of the Juvenile Justice Programme; Maintain contact, and exchange information with our national sections on juvenile justice; Monitor and analyse State Party/Alternative reports at the sessions of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, the Human Rights Council and other relevant UN Bodies; Preparing and writing information notes and reports on the meetings attended; Assist the Juvenile Justice Programme Officer in the drafting of an annual report on juvenile justice, focusing on 16 countries worldwide; Other ad-hoc administrative tasks under the supervision of the Programme staff and/or Executive Director.

Deadline: **15 June 2007** For more information, and for a full job description and details of how to apply, contact Carlos Pampín García, Juvenile Justice Programme Officer at: juvenilejustice@dci-is.org or call 00 41 (0) 22 734 05 58. Please note this position is **unpaid**.

Funding

Launch of Lifelong Learning Programme

The European launch of the Lifelong Learning (LLL) Programme, an EU funding programme in the area of education and training, took place at a two-day conference under the German Presidency of the EU on 6-7 May 2007 in Berlin. The LLL Programme will cover the period 2007-2013 and is the first European funding programme to embrace the full range of learning opportunities from childhood to old age. The Programme is the successor to the earlier Socrates, Leonardo da Vinci and eLearning initiatives of the Commission. Its legal base was adopted in November 2006 by the European Parliament and Council. It will fund projects and activities that support individuals to study, train and teach abroad, and foster interchange, cooperation and mobility between education and training institutions and systems within the EU.

For more information on LLL: http://ec.europa.eu/education/programmes/newprog/index_en.html

Two new calls for proposals under PROGRESS

As the EU's new integrated programme for employment and social solidarity – PROGRESS – gets on track, two new calls for proposals were launched. Participation in the programme is open to national, regional and local authorities, public employment services, companies and employee organisations. The first call for proposals seeks to promote the exchange of best practice and innovative approaches in the areas of social inclusion and social protection intended to encourage mutual learning amongst

the PROGRESS participating countries.

The second call for proposals will provide funding for the operating costs of European-level networks of non-governmental organisations active in promoting social inclusion, combating discrimination, promoting gender equality and the integration of disabled people in society. For more information:

http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/emplweb/tenders/index_calls_en.cfm

Call for mutual learning projects on social inclusion and social protection

Deadline 13 July

The European Commission has launched two calls for proposals to support exchanges on policies, good practice and innovative approaches and to promote mutual learning in the context of the social protection and inclusion strategy. For more information see:

http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/emplweb/tenders/tenders_en.cfm?id=1485

and

http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/emplweb/tenders/tenders_en.cfm?id=1365

European Year of Intercultural Dialogue 2008: Open call for proposals

Deadline 31 July 2007

To achieve the objectives of the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue 2008, the Commission plans to co-finance a limited number of emblematic actions on a European scale aimed at promoting intercultural dialogue. The actions should reach as many people as possible and highlight achievements and experiences on the theme of the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue 2008. The actions may consist of specific events and activities which will raise awareness of the objectives of the European Year and underline the meaning and importance of intercultural dialogue, illustrating various areas, methods and dimensions of intercultural dialogue in the European Union in a manner which is visible and attractive in particular, but not exclusively, to young people. This grant, which may cover up to 80% of total costs, will be awarded to approximately 8 to 10 projects.

For more information: http://ec.europa.eu/culture/eac/dialogue/calls_en.html

Safer Internet plus 2007 call for proposals –child protection on the Internet

Deadline: October 2007

The European Commission has in a succession of Safer Internet Programmes since 1999 been promoting a safer use of Internet and other online technologies, particularly for children, and fights against illegal and harmful content ranging from child abuse images to racism. The 2007 Work Programme and Call for Proposals of the current Safer Internet plus Programme offers possibilities for funding for a number of different organisations. However, this year, the Call for Proposals specifically opens up for the **establishment of a thematic network: "NGO network for child protection on the Internet"** with the following description:

Internet is a global network with equally global challenges. A central focal point representing civil society concerning child protection on the Internet would increase the awareness of the risks and solutions relating to children's use of online technologies internationally. The Programme invites proposals to set up a thematic network of European non-governmental organisations promoting children's rights and welfare to develop a concerted approach by sharing experience and best practices, and by developing joint strategies, in order to ensure that the needs of children are taken into account in discussions about the Internet and new media in Europe, as well as in the relevant international fora. For more information: http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/activities/sip/call/proposals/index_en.htm

Upcoming Dates

- May 21 - June 8:** 45th Session of the Committee on the Rights of the Child
- June 18th- 22nd, 2007:** Juvenile Justice and Human Rights- course Copenhagen, Denmark
- June 20-21, 2007:** The Safer Internet Forum 2007. Deadline for registration is **13 June 2007**
- June 25th, 2007:** Deadline submission abstracts for European Conference in Iasi, Romania
- June 25th, 2007:** Deadline submission written contributions General Day of Discussion
- June 30th, 2007:** Deadline applications for EMCR at Fu Berlin (EU residents)
- July 10th, 2007:** Deadline submission full papers for European Conference (Iasi, Romania) book
- July 13th, 2007:** Deadline applications for funding of projects for mutual learning and social inclusion
- July 16th-28th, 2007:** Intensive Programme: Children's European Citizenship: Information and Participation
- July 20th-21st, 2007:** European Conference: Children's Right to Education and Information in EU: Strategies for Prevention of Social and Digital Exclusion within the Knowledge Society
- July 22nd, 2007:** General Assembly ENMCR (Iasi, Romania)
- July 31st, 2007:** Deadline applications for funding of actions in the frame of the year of intercultural dialogue
- September 21st, 2007:** Day of General Discussion (UN Committee on Children's Rights)
- September 30th, 2007:** Deadline submission for Medius –new prize for final theses
- October 10th -11th, 2007:** Intl. Conference: The migration of unaccompanied minors in Europe
- November 6-7, 2007:** Congress on 'Phenomena in Juvenile Delinquency: new penal forms'
- November 22nd-23rd, 2007:** Eurochild Annual Conference
- December, 1st, 2007:** Final Conference of project: Living democracy in Kindergarten and school