



European Network of Masters in Children's Rights

CRnews 3

Children's Rights Newsletter
April 2007

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

The third issue of ENMCR's electronic newsletter is dedicated almost entirely to internal issues of the network. We give a brief review report on the conference "Focus on Children in Migration" and the following Open Day for CEE universities as well as the internal meeting of ENMCR which took place the following two days. We briefly present two new member universities as well as a new publication series of one of our members.

We have omitted the usual summary of news from the CRIN newsletters due to space-you can download all the CRIN newsletters from CRIN's webpage at www.crin.org. We hope to provide you with our usual summary in our next edition.

For comments and feedback on our newsletter, suggestions for improvement, or news you would like to have included please write to info@enmcr.net

Wishing a Happy Easter season,
Sincerely,

Rebecca Budde (Editor)

ENMCR wishes



Happy Easter

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General News Internal

Bringing NGO's and Academics together

Under the title: "Focus in Migration- from a research and methods perspective" Save the Children, Sweden (SCS), the Separated Children in Europe Programme (SCEP) and the European Network of Masters in Children's Rights (ENMCR) invited over 100 practitioners, researchers, academics, activists, politicians and students to a European Conference in Warsaw on March 20 and 21, 2007.

The idea was to bring practice and theory closer together and promote an exchange and start learning more from each other. Therefore, many of the participants got the chance to present and discuss their work in a wide variety of parallel sessions, of which many were so interesting that it was not easy to decide which to attend. At the beginning and end of the two days of the conference, all participants came together in plenary sessions in which issues ranging from remembering what EU migration policy is or is not or rather wants to be but does not succeed to be (*Thomas Hammarberg, Commissioner for Human Rights, Council of Europe*) over the life of the young second generation of immigrants in France (*Catherine Wibtol de Wenden, Research Director, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique*) and detention practices against children and young people in search of a better life in the Netherlands (*Marijke Brouwer/ Zaina Karakezi, SAMAH*) were discussed. In the parallel sessions e.g. *Doina Balabur, (A.I. Cuza University, Romania)* and *Rebecca Budde, (International Academy at the Free University Berlin)* presented provocative thoughts on the term and use of "migration" and the need to find a new concept was raised: one that is perhaps not more inclusive but more exact: *Nomadism*. Whether a new introduction of an old term for people who do not settle can be the term to describe this new concept and thinking and especially representation of migration in the media was questioned, and a lively discussion arose. A new term in itself may not be the best solution for changing the mind-set of people. If this is the idea for the development and introduction of *Nomadism*, people have to be presented something else, a different idea of what migration is, means and contributes to the world and especially their country. Questions were also raised on how to deal with ethical issues in research in a session lead by *Agnes Zenaida (Psychosocial Support and Children's Rights Resource Center, Phillipines)*: e.g. is it just to pay children and young people for their time while researching with them? This would depend on what the child is doing- a school child would probably not be paid for participation in a research project. Whereas a child that is working in whatever job will see time as money, so perhaps it would be good to pay these children. A different issue is children who suffer from hunger and do not work however are in need of money for themselves and their families. If these children were to get money, there would be a need to always invest money and by this would limit the research community in their possibilities to do research. *Cezar Gavriluc, Child Rights Information Center Moldova* presented results from a participatory research with children left behind by their migrant parents in Moldova: Children whose social and emotional development clearly differs from those children, who have contact to both their parents regularly and who lack any attention from the state. The need for special care and services for these children is costly and therefore not a priority for the government. This phenomenon, that a large percentage of children are left to live with either only one parent or neither mother nor father but with other relatives or even neighbours is not only wide spread in the Republic of Moldova- Romania and other Eastern European countries faces similar challenges.

Many other sessions were held, which cannot all be described here, yet an inclusive report by Save the Children, Sweden will be made available on the web around end April/ beginning of May.

In a last plenary session the issue of "open borders" was raised by one of the participants which could have led to a whole new discussion that could not be lead during this conference due to timely constraints. As the participants felt the conference was fruitful for their future work, SCS is planning on continuing to organize such conferences to bring NGO's and Academics together and perhaps the question of open borders could be discussed in the frame of one of the next conferences.

For further information you may contact: Eva Larsson Belander, Save the Children Sweden:
eva.bellander@rb.de

Presentation of the European Master in Children's Rights at the Open Day for CEE

universities: „Thanks to theory I know, thanks to practice I feel. Theory enhances the intellect, practice deepens the feeling and trains the will.“ (Janusz Korczak)

ENMCR used the opportunity of being in Warsaw to present its largest project: the development of a joint European study programme in children's rights to practitioners and academics from all over the world.

The program will run for the first time starting in October this year and offers in-depth knowledge on theories of childhood and the development and implementation of the CRC, as well as its shortcomings and neuralgic points will be discussed in an international context.

Methods of doing research for and with children will be part of the curriculum as well as children's active and effective participation in their environments. The situation of children in socially disadvantaged situations will be reflected as well as children's situation, who confront violence in the family, school and through the structure of state systems and implementation of policies, children's rights in international development cooperation, children's rights in European law, child rights oriented practice amongst other module subjects.

At the end of the 1 year, 60 ECTS program, graduates will have the following competencies:

Applied competencies:

- Knowledge of meaning of children's rights in different disciplines
- Explain and use selected theories of children and childhood
- Ability to understand and explain children's rights and the UNCRC
- Ability to promote and defend children's rights in front of different audiences
- Ability to identify and challenge assumptions underlying examples of policy and practice, and make links to children's rights
- Ability to suggest policy recommendations

Critical competencies:

- Ability to critically analyse from different perspectives, with an emphasis on children's perspectives
- Ability to link these perspectives to wider aspects of children's rights, e.g. historical, social, cultural, political, geographic and economic aspects
- Ability to contribute to policy and practice at local, national and international levels

Transferable competencies/communication, argumentation:

- Listening and debating skills
- Problem-solving skills
- Interdisciplinary team-work
- Ability to present orally in an interesting, understandable and challenging way on the topic of children's rights
- Ability to write in a concise, well-structured and balanced way on a subject related to children's rights

For more information, application procedures, deadlines, costs, structure of the program, please consult our website or contact Rebecca Budde at rbudde@ina-fu.org

After the presentation, ENMCR invited the participants to go for a documentary walk on the path of remembrance through the parts of the former Warsaw Ghetto, where Janusz Korczak stayed with his children until they were deported to Treblinka in 1943.

On return to the venue, participants had again time to exchange their reflections on the conference and discuss issues raised.

Internal meeting:

The following two days, 22 and 23 of March, ENMCR held an internal meeting to discuss last issues on the implementation and organization of the MA at the different universities and to develop new ideas on how the network can progress. For further information on the meeting, please contact Rebecca Budde: rbudde@ina-fu.org

Inclusion of new member universities:

Two new universities were accepted by the network as members: The University of South Bohemia, Ceske Budejovice, Czech Republic which has been associated with the network almost since its beginning, as well as the University of Bologna, Italy.

The Faculty of Health and Social Services at the University of South Bohemia offers courses on child rights protection, especially for disabled children. An e-learning course in children's rights has been set up in cooperation with Clemson University, USA.

The Faculty of Education Sciences at the University of Bologna offers 3 year undergraduate and 2 year postgraduate courses in education. The curricula (from nursery school to adult education courses) are firmly connected to the theme of children's and young people's rights. The membership will contribute to an exchange in the field of children's rights and enhance the subject within the two new universities. We would like to welcome both new members to the network.

Intensive Program for students: *Children's European Citizenship: Information and Participation*

Date: 16-28 July 2007, Place: A.I. Cuza University in Iasi, Romania

A. I. Cuza University in Iasi Romania (Coordinator Doina Balahur) and its partner universities: Free University Berlin, Babes Bolyai University, University Complutense Madrid, Edinburgh University invite students to an Intensive Summer School Program: Children's European Citizenship: Information and Participation (CeCiP).

The program will address children's European citizenship, from the perspective of children's information and participation in the 'knowledge society'. When it comes to information and participation, children are all too often seen as passive recipients and objects of adults' information, rather than seeing children as people having rights and contributors of their own initiatives. Thus, education itself can contribute to the information, digital and social divide and social exclusion in the 'knowledge society'. The program aims to work with participants to investigate new educational strategies and methods that better support children's skills in pro-active citizenship in the 'knowledge society'.

Course activities include:

- Participative lectures and tutorials
- Web-based exercises
- Drafting of a web campaign for children and young people's rights
- A workshop on participatory research with children
- A cultural activity to facilitate understanding of different identities and diversity

The course is co-financed by the European Commission under Socrates for postgraduate students from the partner universities. All accommodation and meals are paid for by the program. Participants will need to arrange and pay for travel to and from the course. While it cannot be guaranteed, it is anticipated that a subsidy will be available for those travelling from Western European countries (ca. 50-70 €). At successful completion of the course work and web campaign, students will be awarded 4 ECTS. (European Credit Points). A filled out application form, to be downloaded from: <http://www.ewi-psy.fu-berlin.de/einrichtungen/wissenschaftsbereiche/weitere/enmcr/news/IP.html> should be sent to either your childhood/children's rights course leader or centrally to: European Network of Masters in Children's Rights, Habelschwerdter Allee 45, 14195 Berlin.

The deadline for application is: 15th May, 2007

Conference: Poverty and Childhood (in English)

Date: 12 April 2007, 19h, Place: Colegio de Doctores y Licenciados en Ciencia Política y sociología c/Ferraz, 100, UCM Madrid

The Working group "Sociology of Childhood" in cooperation with the Expert course in Social Politics of Childhood at the Universidad Complutense Madrid invites you to the evening conference:

Childhood and Poverty. Dr. Helmut Wintersberger is lecturer in political sciences at the University in Vienna and is one of the directors of the childhood program at the European Centre in Vienna. He played an important role in establishing the sociology of childhood. He has published various books and articles on sociology, politics and economy of childhood.

Publications

The Monographies of the „Experto en Políticas Sociales de Infancia“

The expert course on childhood social politics, which has been running since 2004/2005 at the Faculty of Political Sciences and Sociology at the Complutense University, Madrid is looking to contribute to specialized formation of public and private institution staff working in the field of childhood and children's rights.

The *Monographies of the Experto* that we want to present now aim at being an instrument for disseminating the results of specialized studies in childhood sociology and children's rights. Since the beginning of the course, we have been aware that the formation of professionals cannot be limited to imparting knowledge and skills but that the learning process has to be incorporated in informative and conceptualized contexts that help increase an exchange of knowledge. To start up with this "branch" of our work, we would like to present you the studies of Prof. **Manfred Liebel: *Entre protección y emancipación. Derechos de los Niños y políticas sociales.*** (Between protection and emancipation. Children's rights and social politics). Liebel, who has accompanied our project since its beginning, approaches in a rigorous manner a current debate: The complex issue of the equilibrium between protecting children and the different realities in which their rights are undermined and the necessity to respect and recognize children themselves as subjects of rights.

To this end, the author gives a critical run down of the history of children's rights and delves into the UN- Convention of the Rights of the Child understood as integral part of Human Rights, contributing elements to the debate between the two predominant visions of childhood.

From the existence of the CRC until today, we have witnessed an approach to incorporate a distinct view of children and young people. Nonetheless, a more critical focus, which is presented to us here makes us realize that we are still far from an adequate and more just view of childhood and what it (can) mean(s).

We would like to thank all institutions and organisations that helped make this publication possible: Save the Children Sweden and its Regional Office for Latin America, the Colegio de Sociólogos y Polítólogos de Madrid, that together with the department of Human Ecology and Population of our Faculty have supported us since the beginning of our project.

Source: Marta Martínez Muñoz (UCM). More information and order of copies of the first monography: Marta Martinez Munoz: martamartinezm@telefonica.net

General News External

Launch of „Childhoods Today“

The Centre for the Study of Childhood and Youth at the University of Sheffield has recently launched „Childhoods Today“- an e-journal that will be published bi-annually, of which first edition should be available online in early summer 2007. The aim is to publish high quality empirical and theoretical work by up. And –coming researchers in the field of childhood studies and to provide a reference for others working in this and related fields.

The journal is externally reviewed providing an international forum designed exclusively for the publication of articles by postgraduate students which can be accessed by other students working in the field to promote best practice exchange.

Childhoods today is edited by Prof. Adrian L. James, University of Sheffield and the Norwegian Centre for Child Research at the University of Trondheim.

More information: <http://www.childhoodstoday.org>. Or contact Prof. James directly at: adrian.james@sheffield.ac.uk or Dawn Lessels d.j.lessels@sheffield.ac.uk.

Thematic media week: “Children are future”

From 14.-21 April 2007 the first German public TV and radio channel (ARD) is dedicating thousands of minutes of broadcasting to children. The thematic week under the motto: *Children are future* will be opened by an Action Day on April 14. Many thousand citizens engage in voluntary work in the child and youth sector, yet there is a perceived lack of disseminating information on their work in the media. Therefore the German Channel ARD decided to give institutions, association and individuals the opportunity to present their work and to give a platform to inform the citizens on how they can engage in work for children and youth by launching the thematic week with an action day.

More than 1.600 organisations, institutions, nursery schools, educational bodies have decided to be present on April 14. More information can be found under www.aktionstag.ARD.de. The full program and final list of contributors will be made available by April 7, 2007.

Funding

Erasmus Mundus (EM)

EM is a European Union financed co-operation and mobility programme that supports European top-quality **Masters Courses**, with the aim to enhance the visibility and **attractiveness of European higher education** in third countries. With EM, European Universities can apply for (generous) **scholarships for third country nationals** participating in these Masters Courses, as well as **scholarships for EU-nationals** studying at **partner universities throughout the world**.

EM is divided into 4 programmes (actions)

1. **Erasmus Mundus Masters Courses**
2. **Scholarships**
3. **Partnerships**
4. **Enhancing Attractiveness**

The EM Masters courses are designed and offered by a **consortium of higher education institutions in at least three different European countries** and must be joint or "**integrated**" programs. I.e. "Integrated" MA courses foresee a study period in at least two of the three institutions and must lead to the award of a recognised double, multiple or joint degree., it must have joint admission criteria, joint application procedures, joint selection processes and joint exam criteria as well as equal fees at all universities. In order to apply for an EM grant under action 1 (which allows to apply for action 2, 3 and 4, the courses must be fully developed at the time of application. Selected consortia receive a lump sum of 15,000€ per year (regardless of amount of consortium members).

The deadline for application is: 30. April 2007

More information can be found on:

http://ec.europa.eu/education/programmes/mundus/index_en.html

Upcoming Dates

April 14th-21st: ARD Thematic week: Children are Future

April 30th, 2007: Deadline application Erasmus Mundus, Action 1

May 15th, 2007: Deadline application to participate in the Intensive Summer School program:
Children's European Citizenship: Information and Participation

May 21st- 24th, 2007: World Conference on Children without Parental Care

June 2nd, 2007: First world day for a responsible and respectful tourism