



European Network of Masters in Children's Rights

CRnews 9

Children's Rights Newsletter
September 2007

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

We are very happy to be able to inform you on the opening day of the European Master in Children's Rights at the Freie Universität Berlin in this Newsletter. Study Programmes have already started at other partner universities and the first cross-European encounter of students will take place in a tele-seminar at the end of this month.

We wish all students on the course a good start!

Of course you will find other interesting information on ENMCR's activities, such as the participation at a children's university.

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)



Children's University (FU)



Opening Day EMCR (FU)

In this Newsletter you will read:

General News

- Internal:**
- Report on Meeting of International Childhood and Youth Research Network (ICYRNet)
 - Opening of the European Master in Children's Rights at the Freie Universität Berlin

News from Members

- Children's Rights Day at the Children's University
- Looking for childhood book reviewers
- Making Children's Rights Constitutional in Germany (Campaign)

- External:**
- Looking for young musicians with socio-critical lyrics
 - New Master study programme: Pedagogy for children and young people on the street (street child pedagogy)
 - Participation Modules of the Deutsches Kinderhilfswerk go online
 - Seminar: Children and Media- Equal chances through participation of children in socially disadvantaged families
 - BLOG on Children's participation
 - Update on EU Strategy and Forum on Children's Rights

- Publications**
- "El protagonismo del estudiante en la educación a distancia" (students' protagonism in distance learning) (Spanish)

Upcoming Dates

General News Internal

First meeting of the International Childhood and Youth Research Network (ICYRNet)

On September 14 and 15, 2007 a group of about 25 childhood and youth researchers as well as practitioners met in Nicosia, Cyprus on invitation of Spyros Spyrou and Christos Chrysanthou at the Cyprus College, which has very recently obtained the status of a European University.

The aim of the international meeting, participants came from all over Europe (e.g. Germany, UK, Malta, Slovenia, Netherlands, Russia) and beyond (Palestine, USA), was to establish an international network to engage in cooperation mainly in research and in bringing research and practice together.

Background to the invitation was a perceived need for cooperation in childhood research issues especially on a regional, Mediterranean level but also beyond.

Even though at times it was not entirely clear, why another network of researchers in childhood studies is needed, as there are various different groups that are already working together, such as the European Network of Masters in Children's Rights. However, it became clear during the meeting, that the strong inclusion of practitioners in the same network forms an innovation compared to other groupings, as well as the objectives and activities aimed at.

The Network's Mission is to promote, internationally, the inter-disciplinary study of children and young people in order to further awareness and understanding of issues that affect their well being.

The aims of the Network are:

- a) To bring together organizations which produce research on children and childhood as well as organizations which utilize (or would like to utilize) research findings in order to benefit and improve outcomes for children and young people
- b) To foster collaboration between stakeholders in order to produce better ways to address issues affecting the well-being of children and young people
- c) To encourage organizations to maximize the involvement of children and young people in their work
- d) To encourage the production and dissemination of research and the creation of research environments that allow the voices of children and young people to be clearly heard and understood
- e) To promote greater collaboration between practitioners, researchers, policy-makers and funders, and to improve linkages between practice, research and policy.

Membership of the Network

- Organizations which work with children as research institutions
- Organizations which provide services to children but utilize or would like to utilize research in their work

Individuals who work with children as researchers, practitioners, or in another capacity and who are interested in belonging to a Network that can facilitate their work and networking needs

Activities of the Network

- Carry out joint research programs; have common publications, etc,
- Organize the exchange of researchers, teaching staff, students, and other resources among member organizations,
- Organise annual seminars
- Disseminate and share information and knowledge (e.g., calls for proposals, calls for collaborations, conference announcements, research results/reports, research methodologies, good

- practice, etc),
- Create a *Virtual Resource Center* (i.e., be an electronic data bank for: child research projects/activities; researcher expertise; publications; country-specific data on children and families, etc),

The virtual resource centre on the network's website will contain also "grey" literature of the members, which is not easily accessible. Also, reports on workshops, trainings and conferences implemented by member organisations are to be posted here. In order to facilitate access to special expertise when preparing e.g. a research project, categories should be created according to themes on childhood and youth. The idea to include short CV's and major publications of the members was widely accepted and will further enhance this particular section of the website.

ENMCR had applied for membership previous to the meeting and was accepted.

It will be seen what role ENMCR can play in the ICYRNet in future. Most certainly members will be able to up- and download resources and possibly, joint research project with other ICYRNet members will be developed and conferences organized and implemented.

For further information on ICYRNet, please contact Christos Chrysanthou at: christos@cycollege.ac.cy

Opening of the European Master in Children's Rights at the Freie Universität Berlin

On Friday, 28 September the first group of students of the European Master in Children's Rights at the Freie Universität Berlin enrolled in the programme and attended an opening and information day.

The dean of the Faculty of Education and Psychology, Prof. Gerd Hoff and the vice president of the Freie Universität Berlin, Dr. Rolf Schiller, welcomed the students to the FU and gave them an introduction to the structure and size of the university as well as the opportunities they will have in the course of their studies.

The scientific leader of the programme, Prof. Dr. Manfred Liebel, informed the students how the programme has been developed jointly with all partner universities involved and gave his appreciation to the European Commission, who co-financed the development process.

Karin Fagerholm, representative of the programmes and network's supporter Save the Children Sweden introduced the organisation's work and the aims to mainstream children's rights in academia and the possibility for them to engage in research on certain children's rights topics that Save the Children are currently working on.

The students, coming from different backgrounds, partly working with children and young people, partly recent graduates and partly working for children and young people had time to raise questions and get to know each other and the lecturers of the course.

To round off the info day, a pupils' catering company of a Berlin school had provided delicious snacks and drinks.

We wish the students a good start!!

News from members and associated members

Children's Rights Day at the Children's University

The Freie Universität Berlin organised and implemented a children's university in the week from Monday, 24. September- Friday 28 September, in which all elementary schools (grades 1-6) in Berlin were invited to participate and attend seminars and lectures in a variety of disciplines ranging from chemistry to psychology, economics to law.

ENMCR members based in Berlin offered a child rights day on Wednesday, September 26 in which they explained fourth graders their rights, presented them possibilities how they can stand up for their rights through journalistic activities and assess what was learned in a child rights bingo game.

About 350 pupils of different schools all over Berlin had shown interest in the day, yet it was only

possible to offer the course to two school classes with 54 children.

After getting to know each other, the children were asked what rights and more specifically children's rights are- the course leaders were more than impressed at how well the children were informed already before the course. After the first block and a well-earned break, two representatives of a child and youth radio (radijojo- www.radijojo.de) presented different reports and interviews on children's rights, with experts and amateurs as well as documentaries children and young people had produced in radio working groups and the children attending the seminar were invited to come and attend such a working group in the future.

Even though it was a long university day for the children with two sessions of 90 minutes, the bingo game helped them to concentrate to the end and all said they liked the day at university, whereas due to their good knowledge on rights and children's rights the first part seemed a bit too long for them.

Looking for childhood book reviewers

Childhood. A journal of global child research is looking for reviewers for a variety of books. Please contact Prof. Dr. Leena Alanen and ask for a list if you are interested in reviewing books. You are also invited to recommend other books of interest for reviewing in the journal – she'd be happy to contact their publishers and ask for copies to be added to the list.

Books published in the Anglophone academic world practically make 100 % of books sent by publishers to the journal for reviewing. This is fairly obvious for a number of reasons: the language of the journal is English and publishers of books in other languages can hardly count on a big enough clientele for their publications in the English-language countries, and therefore do not offer their publications for reviewing.

It would however be important also to make the non-English section of childhood studies available to the international readership of Childhood; otherwise it is the English-language research literature that unfortunately has to represent what is done in the field. Prof. Alanen would therefore especially like to encourage you who are readers of non-English childhood research as well as know of books on childhood published in other languages to come forward with suggestions of books for reviewing in Childhood.

Source: e-mail message from: Leena Alanen, Professor (Early Childhood Education), Department of Educational Sciences, P.O.Box 35, FIN-40014 University of Jyväskylä, Finland, e-mail: lalanen@edu.jyu.fi

Making Children's Rights Constitutional in Germany (Campaign)

UNICEF, Deutscher Kinderschutzbund (German child protection association) and Deutschem Kinderhilfswerk (German children's welfare organisation) have taken measures to make children's rights constitutional in Germany. Over the passed years, activities of organisations to include children's rights in the German Grund Gesetz had been decreasing. Since about 1 year and in particular after the release of a paper on the issue by the Children's Commission of the German Parliament (Kinderkommission) and the start of a campaign, 36 organisations and more than 3000 individuals have signed onto the appeal. Many of the organisations have started own PR activities, e.g. the service trade union ver.di and many school children demonstrated in front of the Reichstag on September 20, international children's day to raise awareness on the importance of making children's rights constitutional. A parliamentary evening has taken place to discuss the issue and several individual interviews and talks have taken place, in order to convince the members of parliament of the importance of the endeavour. ENMCR has signed onto the campaign.

For further information please visit the following link: www.kinderrechte-ins-grundgesetz.de.

General News External

Looking for young musicians with socio- critical lyrics

The team of EPIZ e.V. (Education and information centre for international development policies) is looking for young, motivated musicians; whose lyrics are socio-critical lyrics to play at their opening concert of the project "Dagestan- Young people argue for Human Rights!" in December in Berlin. The Motto of the evening is "Stand up for your rights". The music can be of any kind: Rap, HipHop, Rock, Jazz, solo songs, audio poems, etc. The evening will be Live Cast and you will receive a copy of the concert on a CD.

The project aims at 16-22 year olds, so you shouldn't be older than 25.

More information: <http://epizberlin.de/?Projekte/Dialogestan>

Source: e-mail from: Silvana Kröhn, Entwicklungspolitisches Bildungs- und Informationszentrum e.V. - EPIZ; kroehn@epiz-berlin.de, www.epiz-berlin.de

Seminar of the Deutsches Kinderhilfswerk: Children and Media- Equal chances through participation of children in socially disadvantaged families (German)

Thursday 18.10.2007 10:00-18:00h and Friday 19.10.2007 09:00-16:00 Uhr

Speakers/lecturers: Sabine Eder, Dipl. Pädagogin and Susanne Roboom, Dipl. Pädagogin, Blickwechsel e.V. – Verein für Medien- und Kulturpädagogik (www.blickwechsel.org)

Seminarblocks:

Joint Start: Digital divide- digital inclusion

- * Computer- & Internet use
- * Needs & particularities
- * Orientation to situations & Project work
- * Media competence & Youth media protection
- * Exchange of experiences

Workshop 1: „We do our own TV ! Basics in video work and video cutting“

Workshop 2: “The digital dark room: digital photography and possibilities of digital image editing and presentation”

More information and registration: Deutsches Kinderhilfswerk e.V., Werkstatt für Demokratie, Leipziger Str. 116 – 118, 10117 Berlin Internet: www.kinderpolitik.de, Contact person: Henrike Weßeler Tel: +49-(0)30 - 30 86 93 32, E-mail: werkstatt@dkhw.de

New Master study programme: Pedagogy for children and young people on the street (street child pedagogy)

Starting in Autumn 2007, the Pedagogical University Heidelberg, the University Heidelberg, the University Freiburg and the Pedagogical University Freiburg are offering a new MA programme: Pedagogy for children and young people on the street (street child pedagogy) The programme lasts two years of which one will be studied in Freiburg, one in Heidelberg.

The interdisciplinary, international and inter-confessional programmes aims at understanding and recognizing as problem of social responsibility the situation of children and young people in difficult living situations, children with an ethnic minority background and especially children living on the street in the poor but also rich nations of the world.

It aims at qualifying experts to impart educational training to children and young people to improve their living situations and future perspectives. The programme targets graduates of relevant BA, diploma and applied science degrees, as well as practitioners and apprentices in social, charitable, and development cooperation institutions.

Source and further information: <http://www.patio13.com/studg/home.html>

Participation Modules of the Deutsches Kinderhilfswerk go online (German)

Since recently, the first 17 modules for participation are online at the info service of the Deutsches Kinderhilfswerk: <http://www.kinderpolitik.de/beteiligungsbausteine/uebersicht.php> and available for download.

The modules are based on results of a project supported by the family ministry. The lead was taken by the University of Lüneburg. Many experts contributed to the project. The objective was to develop material and methodical assistance for more child friendliness and every day democracy through an extensive participation of children and young people.

The three sections: „Basics“, „Strategies“ and „Action Fields“ lead you to the results of the project. The first section gives you an overview on central terms of participation, the legal foundations as well as possibilities of implementation. The second section shows different ways in which children and young people can participate politically and socially. Different methods of participation are shown as well. The third section shows concrete field of action of child and youth participation.

Further Information: <http://www.kinderpolitik.de/beteiligungsbausteine/uebersicht.php>

BLOG on Children's participation

It has been a bit quiet from my side in the last months in terms of sharing information on children's participation related issues. Deciding what information may be relevant to who has been quite time consuming. I have therefore decided to start a [blog](http://childrensparticipation.blogspot.com/) where I can post information that I find particular useful, especially in relation to children's participation. Rather than sending out messages to selected people I invite you to visit my blog and see whether there is anything that may be of interest to you. The messages are labelled to facilitate easy navigating. It will be a no frills blog with basic information and references only that will be updated regularly. I will continue with the approach I have used thus far, i.e. briefly explain why the link or information may be useful. New posts will always describe what the reference is about and why it may be of interest. The blog is a work in progress and I will continue trying to make it more user friendly.

<http://childrensparticipation.blogspot.com/>

Source: e-mail from Henk van Beers, Henkv@seap.savethechildren.se

Update on EU Strategy and Forum on Children's Rights

I'm sure many are wondering what happened after the Forum steering group meeting of 12th July. Unfortunately the reason for the silence is because we have no news from the European Commission, despite our follow-up on the Forum Terms of Reference & ad-hoc working group on child participation. The 2nd steering group meeting was due to take place today (27th September) but has been postponed – no new date has yet been proposed. We have heard (informally) that the Forum should take place on 19th December – not 27-28th November as originally mentioned in the previous mail. However this has not been confirmed by the EC. Just to keep you updated on what CRAG (Child Rights Action Group) is doing to try to keep up the momentum...

(1) We are sending a letter to Fonseca to complain about the lack of follow-up & ask for clarification of the situation & the current planning schedule for the next Forum. We are seeking support from other steering group members on this letter & hope to follow the letter with a meeting with Fonseca.

(2) We are working on a document on civil society participation in the (1) steering group, (2) ad-hoc working group on participation & (3) the Forum itself. This will be distributed to the wider Platform of NGOs working on the issue of children's rights when the CRAG has reached a consensus.

Source : e-mail from Jana Hainsworth, Secretary General Eurochild. www.eurochild.org

Publications

"El protagonismo del estudiante en la educación a distancia" (students' protagonism in distance learning) (Spanish)

On the website of the Latin American network of Masters in Childhood Studies and Children's Rights, the above text has been published. The author, Juan Enrique Bazán is the founder of the Latin

American network and one of the initiators of ENMCR. It is available for download on:
<http://www.redmaestriasinfancia.net/portal/html/index.php>

Upcoming Dates

October 9th, 2007: Conference "Mainstreaming Children's Rights in EU Policy" (Brussels)

October 10th -11th, 2007: Intl. Conference: The migration of unaccompanied minors in Europe

October 18th -19th, 2007: Seminar: Children and Media- Equal chances through participation of children in socially disadvantaged families

November 6-7, 2007: Congress on 'Phenomena in Juvenile Delinquency: new penal forms'

November 14-19, 2007: Third world congress o the rights of the child and young people, Barcelona

November 17-19, 2007: Kick-off meeting CREDMOS (Berlin)

November 20-21, 2007: General Meeting ENMCR (Berlin)

November 22nd-23rd, 2007: Eurochild Annual Conference

November 26th -30th, 2007: International meeting "Articulate knowledge: challenges for professionalizing street work"

December, 1st,2007: Final Conference of project: Living democracy in Kindergarten and school

December 13th -14th, 2007: Seminar on child labour, education and youth employment