



European Network of Masters in Children's Rights

# CRnews 12

Children's Rights Newsletter  
December 2007

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

The year is coming to an end and in this last edition of CRnews we give you a brief overview of the different activities ENMCR engaged in in 2007, as well as a short outlook to the networks activities in 2008. Of course we are also sending information from members of the network and general news on children's rights themes. We wish you all a very peaceful and relaxing holiday season and the best wishes for the new year. The next edition of CRnews will be published in late January 2008.

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](mailto:info@enmcr.net)

Sincerely,

Rebecca Budde (Editor)



## In this Newsletter you will read:

### General News

#### Internal:

Brief overview of activities ENMCR in 2007 and outlook 2008

#### News from Members:

Master of Philosophy in Childhood Studies, Norwegian Centre For Child Research, NTNU

#### Publications:

Second Edition of online journal: "Childhoods Today"

Minimum Standards for Consulting with Children and Operations Manual

#### External:

„World Day of Working Children“ 9 December 2007

International Prize (Cesena City of peace 2007) awarded to MANTHOC

Nordic Research Conference: Young People and their Social Ties

Special Representative of the UN Secretary General on Violence against Children

Debate on Children's Rights in Germany

### News from CRIN

### Job Postings

### Upcoming Dates

## General News Internal

### **Brief overview of activities ENMCR in 2007 and outlook 2008**

In the first half of 2007 most of the "core" member's energy in the network was directed to the last preparations for the new Master Programme "European Master in Children's Rights". In order to attract more persons also from Eastern Europe, ENMCR organized an "Open Day for CEE Universities" in Warsaw, which took place following the International Conference for practitioners and academics on Children in Migration, which was planned together with Save the Children Sweden and the Separated Children in Europe Programme. We would like to use this opportunity to thank Save the Children Sweden for their ongoing support of ENMCR. The Open Day attracted many conference participants and helped raise awareness on ENMCR and its main activity, the development and offer of MA study programmes.

In July 2007, several ENMCR members offered an intensive summer school programme on Children's European Citizenship: Information and Participation, which took place in Iasi, Romania. It was the first experience of actually offering a course together, with teachers and students coming from different countries and disciplines. The Summer School served as a pilot and probing for the actual MA programmes which are either being offered since some years or have just recently started. The coordinators of ENMCR are very pleased that the European Master in Children's Rights has been launched as planned this autumn. The students enrolled are highly motivated, from several different backgrounds and most have transnational biographies. Since the launch of the Programme, public awareness has risen about the programme and especially in Germany a heated discussion about children's rights (see further below) is giving rise to ever more interest in studying childhood and children's rights.

In November, ENMCR held the kick-off meeting to an EU funded project: Child Rights Education Development: Moldova and Serbia. The aim is to establish MA courses in these countries, according to the programme offered at several universities within the European Union already now. The project allows for student and teacher exchange between the universities involved starting in the academic year 2008/09. Directly linked to this project, the coordination office in Berlin was able to employ a new staff member to coordinate the project's activities, i.e. the team is growing and with the bundled energy of all, we expect to widen activities and scope in 2008 even further.

Many new university faculties have become members of ENMCR in 2007. At the moment there are 23 members united in ENMCR. Further information on how to become a member can be found on ENMCR's website.

ENMCR has also become a member of different other networks in 2007: The newly founded International Childhood and Youth Research Network (ICYRnet), Eurochild AISBL and EURONET.

ENMCR had held a founding assembly to register as an International not-for profit Association (Belgian Law) in 2006, the process of registration has just recently be completed.

In early 2008, ENMCR will set up a new website, which will be easier manageable and which will contain a members only section, in which internal documents will be available, such as protocols, presentations etc, as well as grey literature such as unpublished reports, articles etc. of members. Also, there will be expert profiles of all ENMCR members in order to get a better overview of what expertise is compiled within the network. This in view of possible exchange of lecturers, common research projects etc.

In June 2008, ENMCR will hold an ESF Exploratory Workshop on theories of children's participation in political decision making.

As mentioned above, a more intensive exchange between member universities is foreseen in 2008 and it is planned to offer the joint study programme in children's rights at more member universities starting in 2008/09. The coordinators will keep you updated on all processes via CRnews throughout 2008.

## News from members and associated members

### Master of Philosophy in Childhood Studies, Norwegian Centre For Child Research, NTNU

Are you interested in children's everyday lives and in childhood as a social and cultural phenomenon? Would you like to know about children's lives in different parts of the world? What about the changing conditions of childhood in the era of globalisation? If so, the international master's programme in Childhood Studies might be perfect for you. For more information, please visit this website:

<http://www.ntnu.no/studies/mphil-childhood-studies>

Preliminary application deadline for international applicants: 1 December 2007.

Final application deadline for international applicants: 1 February 2008.

Application deadline for Norwegian applicants: 15 April 2008.

For more information, please visit:

[http://www.ntnu.no/studies/allstudies/intmasprogs/mpchild/mpchild\\_admission](http://www.ntnu.no/studies/allstudies/intmasprogs/mpchild/mpchild_admission)

Source: e-mail from Line Hellem, Senior Executive Officer Norwegian Centre for Child Research

## Publications

### Second Edition of online journal: "Childhoods Today"

The Centre for the Study of Childhood and Youth, University of Sheffield has published the second edition of the online journal for childhood studies "Childhoods Today". The aim of the journal 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.

*Childhoods Today* is an externally reviewed journal that is unique in providing an international forum designed exclusively for the publication of articles by postgraduate students (i.e. those studying for their MA, M.Phil. or PhD, as opposed to post-doctoral students) working in the field, which can be accessed by other interested postgraduates and academics.

The journal is edited by Professor Adrian L. James, Department of Sociological Studies, University of Sheffield and Norwegian Centre for Child Research (NOSEB), University of Trondheim.

The journal can be found on the following link <http://www.childhoodstoday.org>

### Minimum Standards for Consulting with Children and Operations Manual

The Interagency Working Group on Children's Participation in Southeast Asia and the Pacific, consisting of ECPAT International, Knowing Children, Plan International, Save the Children Sweden and UK, UNICEF EAPRO and World Vision Asia Pacific has just published minimum standards for consulting with children, along with a detailed Operations Manual describing exactly how they can be implemented.

Read more about this and other issues related to children's participation rights at:

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

Source: e-mail from Henk van Beers

## General News External

### **„World Day of Working Children“ 9 December 2007**

11 years ago, at the first worldwide meeting of working children's movements from all around the world the "Ten Articles of Kundapur" were proclaimed. This proclamation is considered to be the beginning of the worldwide union of working children's movements.

This year, the Berlin based association ProNats (Pro Niños y Adolescentes Trabajadores) coordinated the activities for celebrating this anniversary. Two movies about working children, one from the global South and one from Germany were presented followed by a lively panel discussion. One of the girls who was interviewed from the Germany based documentary was present along with the director of the documentary. Even though the movement of working children was established long ago, many people are strictly against children working. This for different reasons, such as the belief that children should not work, they should enjoy their childhood; or as soon as children are paid for their work, exploitation is not far away. The evening event attempted to impart a better understanding of children's own positions, where it became quite clear, that many children have a desire to work (always under the precondition that the conditions they work in are non-exploitative).

For more information visit: <http://www.pronats.de/index.php?id=81> and <http://www.ifejants.org/>

### **International Prize (Cesena City of peace 2007) awarded to MANTHOC, movement of working children and young people**

The local government of Cesena in Italy recognizes the work of the organization of working children and youth, that unites about 3000 children and young people. (NATs)

On December 10, the municipal council of Cesena in Italy awarded the prize which is generally awarded to persons or institutions who promote and disseminate a culture of peace and social justice. MANTHOC, a Peru based organization has been promoting the participation of working children and young people since 31 years to assist in finding dignified jobs, develop alternative working forms fight against exploitation. Formerly the prize was awarded to the Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo or defenders of human rights such as Alex Zanotelli.

Source: Newsletter MANTHOC

### **Nordic Research Conference: Bonds and Communities: Young people and their social ties CALL FOR PAPERS**

Location: Lillehammer, Norway, Date:13-15 June 2008

Social bonds and social networks are important to young people – for their well being, for their development and their future trajectories. In early years, parents and extended families represent the most important social bonds and resources in the life of young people. As they grow out of their childhood and into their identity formation years, social peer networks are of growing importance. At the same time, local as well as globalized communities are contexts for family ties, friendships and other relationships. The 10th Nordic Youth Research Information Symposium wants to highlight young people's social ties – from the closest of dyads to the most distanced of the global, from the nourishing to the destructive.

In high modernity, the fear of social disintegration, breach of tradition and social cohesion is evident in social research in general and youth research in particular. Risk society and events of terror produce complex reactions, reasoning and emotions and challenge community in multicultural neighbourhoods and societies. Each individual depends on social capital in their identity development, building blocks shaped by gendered, ethnic and localized relationships as well as social class and family backgrounds. Young people's mental health, development and well being is related to the quality and nature of their relationships. A holistic approach to young people's lives includes the support, resources and potential which lie in their own social bonds.

NYRIS10 welcomes papers and presentations that can contribute to new insights, empirical evidence and critical thinking on bonds and communities of young people, as well as other topics.

Please submit your abstract no later than **February 4th** (250 words).

For more information on abstract submission, registration, etc see [www.nova.no/nyris10](http://www.nova.no/nyris10) or contact [nyris10@nova.no](mailto:nyris10@nova.no).

### **Special Representative of the UN Secretary General on Violence against Children**

On November 27<sup>th</sup>, the UN General Assembly decided to establish a Special Representative of the UN Secretary General on Violence against Children. This decision is an important step forward in the fight against all forms of violence against children. This historic opportunity is the result of years of campaigning on the part of children and young people, civil society and progressive governments worldwide and in response to the recommendations set out in the UN Study on Violence against Children. The decision forms part of new global commitments made by governments to realise the rights of children agreed each year in the Omnibus Resolution.

For more information visit: <http://www.rb.se/eng/Programme/un-child-protector.htm>

### **Debate on Children's Rights in Germany**

"Kinderrechte ins Grundgesetz". Because of reporting on incidents of child maltreatment in Germany a huge interest on Children's Rights has arisen within publicity. In the media, a heated discussion is going on about the issue. The Social Democratic Party (SPD) has taken on the topic and is pleading to make children's rights constitutional. The Christ Democratic Union (CDU) on the other hand is strictly against it. There is a fear, that processes will stagnate and that the issue may be buried again within some months. Of course different actors, especially the German Child and Youth Welfare association (Deutsches Kinderhilfswerk) in cooperation with UNICEF are investing energy to prevent the issue from disappearing. The campaign we reported on previously has in the meantime been signed by almost 10.000 individuals. The goal is to collect the missing signatures to reach the threshold by the end of the year. You can send your signature electronically on: <http://www.kinderrechte-ins-grundgesetz.de/>.

Here you can find some statements concerning the issue (in German):

[http://www.kinderrechte-ins-](http://www.kinderrechte-ins-grundgesetz.de/fileadmin/kinderrechte/beitraege/Statement_Simonis_parlAbend.pdf)

[grundgesetz.de/fileadmin/kinderrechte/beitraege/Statement\\_Simonis\\_parlAbend.pdf](http://www.kinderrechte-ins-grundgesetz.de/fileadmin/kinderrechte/beitraege/Statement_Simonis_parlAbend.pdf)

[http://www.kinderrechte-ins-grundgesetz.de/fileadmin/kinderrechte/beitraege/Heinz\\_Hilgers.pdf](http://www.kinderrechte-ins-grundgesetz.de/fileadmin/kinderrechte/beitraege/Heinz_Hilgers.pdf)

<http://www.zeit.de/online/2007/51/Kinderrechte-ins-Grundgesetz-Contra>

## **News from CRIN**

### **UN: Conference Report from Children's Forum at World Fit for Children Event**

[More than 85 children, speaking over 20 languages and representing 63 countries, gathered at the Millennium Hotel in New York, United States, at the World Fit for Children +5 Children's Forum. The Forum was organised so that children's voices could be heard at the meeting to evaluate the progress made in fulfilling the goals set out in the UN's World Fit For Children plan of action. The meeting is officially called the Commemorative High Level Plenary Meeting Devoted to the Follow-Up to the Outcome of the Special Session on Children, and took place from 11 to 12 December. In order to generate an interactive discussion, children prepared their perspectives and issues to be raised at the round-tables. The themes discussed were 'Promoting healthy lives and combating HIV and AIDS', and 'Providing universal quality education as key to achieving the MDGs and as the first line of protection against abuse, exploitation and violence against children'. Richard, 16, is a member of a child rights advocacy organisation in Ghana. He was selected by his government to attend the event. He said: "It's very important that children play their part here. In order for the problems to be solved, children have to be part of the process as they are the ones who will be affected."

Children at the Forum split into several working groups and committees, focusing on different aspects

of the event. Desired outcomes of the Forum: Children at the event agreed on a number of outcomes they hope to achieve from the discussions:

Our opinions and voices are heard but also acted on; Countries in partnership with youth commit to using all their resources to create meaningful and concrete change; We should be willing to share experiences and accept ideas from others; With the involvement of children we can benefit the society – our society; Everybody including children should work together to make a better world for children; The best world for children is one without violence where health is assured; The rights of children must be recognised and protected; Children must be aware of their rights in order to defend them; United we can make a change; Friendship does not have barriers.

For more information: <http://www.crin.org/resources/infodetail.asp?id=15785#in>

### **Interactive Dialogue between Children and Governments**

Informal dialogue with government delegations, members of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child and children and young people during the special session follow up meeting at the UN General Assembly: The interactive dialogue, chaired by children, was an opportunity for children to discuss a number of issues and ask questions to representatives of governments and the UN. The meeting was divided into four thematic discussions: participation, poverty, fighting diseases and education. Each topic was introduced by a young person, followed by questions. For more information:

<http://www.crin.org/resources/infodetail.asp?id=15800>

**UNESCO: Education for All by 2015 - Will we make it?** (Full report now available)

<http://www.crin.org/resources/infoDetail.asp?ID=15737&flag=report>

### **Job Postings**

ECLT Foundation: Director

The Eliminating Child Labour in Tobacco (ECLT) Foundation is seeking an Executive Director to manage a small Secretariat based in Geneva and reinforce and build on the Foundation's strategy. The role will involve leading and managing the Foundation; developing, adapting and directing an operational plan of action within the context of its current strategy. Other responsibilities include driving and promoting best practice in child labour issues and ensuring that it is shared with Foundation Board members and other key stakeholders; and championing and supporting the Foundation's advocacy work to key groups including governments, multilaterals, intergovernmental and development agencies, NGOs and the media.

The ECLT Foundation, which is supported by the International Labour Organisation, aims to combat child labour in tobacco growing. Its members are representatives of the trade unions, tobacco growers and corporate sector. The Foundation's work focuses on developing independent research, supporting and funding local and community-based projects, and establishing and sharing best practice.

Apply online to [20255@odgers.com](mailto:20255@odgers.com) or by post to: Odgers Ray & Berndtson, 11 Hanover Square, London W1S 1JJ, UK

**Deadline for applications: 4 January 2008**

For more information, visit: [http://www.eclt.org/filestore/ad\\_dir.pdf](http://www.eclt.org/filestore/ad_dir.pdf)

## Upcoming Dates

**January 30, 2008:** European Seminar in Florence (Innocenti Research Centre)

**May 28-29, 2008:** International Conference: Child and Youth Research in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: A Critical Appraisal (Nicosia, Cyprus- ICYRNet)

**June 11-13, 2008:** FICE Congress 2008 (Helsinki, Finland)

**June 13-15, 2008:** Nordic Research Conference: Young People and their social ties

**June 16-18, 2008:** ESF Exploratory Workshop in Berlin on Children's Participation (theorisation)