Call to Members: Stop Violence against Children
EURONET General Assembly Day of Discussion

This year’s EURONET General Assembly, to be held on October 10th, will be a key opportunity for members to provide active input and discussion on the theme “Stop Violence against Children”.

We are aware that many of you already carry out activities and campaigns to combat violence against children and/or plan to do so and we would like to hear about it! You may also have general knowledge on what is happening in EU member states on this topic; these details would also be valuable to us.

As promised, the secretariat has collected information provided by EURONET members in preparation for the General Assembly Day of Discussion in order to make the discussion and workshops as productive as possible. There will also be opportunities to discuss these points and briefly present your activities in the meeting.
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1. Netzwerk Kinderrechte Österreich/
National Coalition for the Implementation of the CRC in Austria (NC)

Country:
Austria

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1010 Vienna, Freyung 6/2
www.kinderhabenrechte.at

Contact person name and email:
Helmut Sax, helmut.sax@univie.ac.at

In detail, describe your organisation’s activities on the theme of combating violence against children:
- Participation in shadow-reporting under the CRC – NC shadow reports for the CRC Committee, including chapter on violence, in 1997 and 2004.
- Awareness-raising on prevention of violence – Child Rights Day activities of individual members.
- Victim assistance – new right to legal and psychological assistance (“Prozessbegleitung”) offered to child victims of violence under new legislation (Penal Procedures Act, revised valid as of 1/1/2006) carried out by several NC member organisations.
- The Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights completed a research study on violence in the family from a women’s rights and child rights perspective.

Describe your organisation’s planned activities on the theme of combating violence against children:
Currently preparations for lobbying event on Constitutional rights for children, including protection from violence, for the 20/1/2007.

Preparations for a networking conference of the National Coalitions of Germany, Switzerland and Austria, 24 and 25th October 2007, in Bregenz/Austria; NC Austria will moderate Working Group on Violence

Describe any other activities you know of which combats violence against children in EU member states: DAPHNE online database.

Describe your organisation’s experience of/activities on the theme of banning corporal punishment in EU member states:
Germany is a good practice example. A ban was introduced around 2002, accompanied by research and evaluation study, including assessment of parental education services. But a ban alone will not work.

Lack of prevalence of study/empirical data on violence against children in Austria.

Austria has special law on protection from violence in the family (including right of police to refuse perpetrator entry into his house/send him away in case of danger of violence, emergency procedures for initiating divorce proceedings), but is working mainly for women/adults, not for children. Youth welfare is reluctant on applying emergency measures.
Describe your organisation’s activities regarding the UN Study on Violence against Children:
No specific activities planned, except distribution of material (incl. e.g. press release of world vision Austria)

If you know of examples of good practice or useful publications please give details here:
http://www.plattformgegendiegewalt.at/

ENDS

2. European Foundation for Street Children (EFSC)

Country:
Belgium

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B-1030 Brussels
Belgium
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Website: www.enscw.org

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Mrs. Claudia Sassi (Advocacy, Lobbying and Fundraising Officer)
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In detail, describe your organisation’s activities on the theme of combating violence against children:


The project will develop a methodology to systematically conduct research and detect violence on street children including more significant indicators for violence to be used in other EU regional contexts as well as analyse the causes and consequences of violence as part of their social exclusion. It will create sustainable cross-border co-operation through the establishment of a solid network between actors, social NGOs and local authorities fighting violence against street children. It will improve the prevention and intervention strategies towards street children and establish a permanent exchange of best practices and experiences among social workers on the phenomenon of violence. It will also encourage national and European social policy makers to better take into account the phenomenon of violence against street children.

The project will focus on detecting violence against street children in three European metropoles (Lisbon, Marseille and Naples) of Southern European EU Member States, where the phenomenon of street children and other children at high risk is of a particular gravity.

This European two-year project is coordinated by EFSC and carried out in close co-operation with three EFSC’s member organisations: Instituto de Apoio à Criança in Lisbon, Association Jeunes Errants in Marseille and Associazione Maestri di Strada ONLUS in Naples.
The project is designed to benefit children and adolescents up to the age of 18 living in the streets and exposed to violence such as ethnic discrimination, child labour, trafficking, physical and sexual abuse, and drug addiction. It will indirectly also benefit other affected children who may be at risk of violence in the future.

This project represents an important achievement as it will enable EFSC to develop a methodology on violence against street children that can be used in the future in order to find out whether most vulnerable children and in particular street children are victims of violence and what type of violence it is. This is a prerequisite for any efficient and successful intervention that treats children’s trauma and helps them integrate themselves into society. In addition to its European added value, the project will also contribute hopefully to improve an important part of the work that our local partners carry out on the field to the benefit of the most excluded children.

Describe your organisation’s planned activities on the theme of combating violence against children:

The project will be developed according to the following four main phases:

First phase: critical analysis of the current situation: list of all public and private organisations working with street children in three urban areas (Lisbon, Marseille and Naples) and a collection of existing data and indicators (months 1-4).

Second phase: development of an innovative, transferable and more efficient methodology for the assessment of violence to enhance indicators and improve data which are currently lacking at EU level (months 5-11).

Third phase: test and evaluation of the methodology in the three pilot centres to improve the quality of the final product (months 12-19).

Fourth phase: the results will be published, distributed and discussed at the local level by the implementing partners to encourage cross-sectoral partnerships. Training sessions of key multipliers at local and national level will be organised. Wider campaign aimed at EU institutions, universities and regional networks foreseen to recommend the urgent measures to be taken (months 20-24).

An innovative and assessed methodology will be applied and will be transferable to other European urban contexts, to systematically conduct research in order to supply relevant data and indicators. The process will include:

- direct involvement of street children by taking into consideration their feedback (through interviews and games) in the analysis of the situation and the development of the methodology;
- the use of new and more significant analysis criteria taking into account the extreme situation of exclusion of street children in order to determine whether they have been subject to violence and to quantify the data regarding such violence;
- the indicators should meet basic requirements such as validity, objectivity, sensitivity, comparability, accuracy and desegregation (NGOs are particularly well placed to assist with the establishment of child specific social indicators because of their need for programme monitoring).

Main activities planned:

a) A methodology including clearer indicators for violence with a pilot character, to be used by other EU regional contexts, will be developed through:

- a questionnaire (or interviews depending on the single cases) compiled by an expert and distributed in each urban area by partner organisations within their multidisciplinary regional networks; and assessment by the expert of the information and data collected by the partners during the first phase of the project

b) Cross-border co-operation between actors, social NGOs and local authorities working for street children will include:
- network meetings with partners and the expert (one kick-off meeting, one meeting to evaluate and discuss the end of the first phase, one final workshop to present the methodology developed in the second phase, and one network meeting to finalise the product after the third testing phase);
- regional meetings with the national multidisciplinary network of partners (one regional meeting in each urban area in the initial phase and one regional seminar in each urban areas during the third testing phase of the new methodology)

c) European-wide dissemination and implementation of the new methodology through a public awareness campaign at country and EU/regional level that will include:
- a final conference to present the new methodology and the final report to be organised with all key regional, national and European actors and the media
- the participation of experts in a European-wide media campaign to raise public awareness of the existence of violence against children in the EU
- the design and production of leaflets to be distributed at local level to the targeted organisations such as public and private care services working with children at risk (teachers, local child and youth authorities) and EU networks of municipalities, regions and academics;
- the production of a long report and summary report on the methodology, translated into four languages and distributed in the three pilot regions and at European level;
- the setting up of a specific website on this project linked to EFSC website that will contain all the different phases and results of the project;
- two newsletters comprising of an editorial and information about the main European events or seminars as well as information about European and national policy-making related to measures regarding the prevention and combating of violence against children at risk. The newsletters will be translated into the languages of the different partner organisations and put on their websites. The newsletters will be sent to the EFSC mailing list including different policy actors (EU and national NGOs and networks, social ministries, EU and international institutions, research institutes, trade unions, regional and local authorities).

d) Significant and up-to-date overview on causes and consequences of violence as a part of the exclusion situation of street children. A database that will include all the data and indicators collected during the project will be installed

e) Improvement of the intervention strategies towards street children by an adequate and full consideration of violence as a main reason of this exclusion through the dissemination of the methodology among the social workers, local authorities, researchers (training sessions)

f) Improvement of national and European social policies taking into better account the phenomenon of violence against street children. Specific recommendations will be formulated and addressed to the European institutions and to the national governments in the final report and summary reports. These reports will be sent to all the competent national ministries, regional authorities, European Commissioners and Members of the European Parliament

g) Establishment of a sustainable, long-term trans-national network of European NGOs dealing with street children and violence.

- The creation of a permanent EFSC Working Group on Data and Statistics about street children in 2009. All the current and future members of EFSC will be involved in this trans-national co-operation effort.

ENDS
3. Kinderrechtencoalitie Vlaanderen vzw

Country:
Belgium

Organisation address, contact details and website:
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9000 Gent
www.kinderrechtencoalitie.be

Contact person name and email:
Nele Willems: nele.willems@kinderrechtencoalitie.be
and Jef Geboers: jef.geboers@kinderrechtencoalitie.be

In detail, describe your organisation’s activities on the theme of combating violence against children:
In 2006 violence against children and the UN-study on violence was our central working theme.
We organised ‘Open Fora’ (discussion days) on the subjects of
• sexual violence (child pornography and child prostitution)
• violence in the family
• violence at school
• violence in leisure activities (sports)
During these discussion days we invited several experts (academic, government and NGO’s)
The speakers made an article which was included in a ‘Kinderrechtenforum’ (view annex) and we also published the conclusions and recommendations of the NGO’s (Kinderrechtencoalitie) in this book. The conclusions were presented on December 6th when prof. Pinheiro was in Brussels to launch the UN-study for the Belgian public. (Report in annex).
After the launch we started the dissemination of the ‘Kinderrechtenforum’ to parliamentarians, NGO’s, governments, etc.

A few months ago the governments were invited to report on the follow-up of the UN-study. The Kinderrechtencoalitie was able to give commentary to the Flemish report.

As a follow-up of the UN-study we inventoried the activities of NGO’s in combating violence against children. The inventory was sent to the study-secretariat of UNICEF Belgium.

We also disseminated the call for action to sign the petition of the ‘NGO Advisory Council for follow up to the UN Study on Violence against Children’ (see http://www.crin.org/violence/petitions/petition.asp?petId=1004)

The Kinderrechtencoalitie has actively the General Comments of the UN-Committee. We sent the General Comment N.8 on “The right of the child to protection from corporal punishment and other cruel or degrading forms of punishment” to Parliamentarians together with the Issue Paper of Thomas Hammerberg on children and corporal punishment.

Describe your organisation’s planned activities on the theme of combating violence against children:
Since we had elections in June we plan to re-disseminate our conclusions and recommendations to the parliamentarians, together with the G.C. nr 8 and the Issue Paper of Hammerberg.
Together with UNICEF Belgium we plan to actively disseminate the ‘Handbook for parliamentarians: Eliminating violence against children’ by organising a workshop for parliamentarians.

Describe any other activities you know of which combat violence against children in EU member states:
Some of our member organisations also campaign for the banning of corporal punishment.

If you know of examples of good practice or useful publications please give details here:
- ‘Handbook for parliamentarians: Eliminating violence against children’
- In CRIN-newsletter last week: Manual on positive discipline for Asia (by Save the Children Sweden) [http://www.crin.org/docs/PositiveDisciplineManual_Final.pdf](http://www.crin.org/docs/PositiveDisciplineManual_Final.pdf)

N.B. Submission included the following documents, available on request from EURONET secretariat:
- “Eliminating Violence against Children” Inter-parliamentary union, UNICEF
- “Verslag van de conferentie over geweld tegen kinderen in België en de wereld” 6 December, 2006
- “Rapport de la conférence sur la violence à l’encontre des enfants en Belgique et dans le monde » 6 décembre 2006
- “Kinderrechtsforum: Geweld tegen kinderen nr. 3 2006” Kinderrechtoalitie Vlaanderen

ENDS

4. Save the Children Denmark (SVD)

Country:
Denmark

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[www.redbarnet.dk](http://www.redbarnet.dk)

Contact person name and email:
Vernon Jones, vj@redbarnet.dk

In detail, describe your organisation’s activities on the theme of combating violence against children:
Save the Children Denmark has been working at both national and international levels to combat all forms of violence against children.

National activities

Nationally, SCD is the most prominent player in child protection issues, both on advocacy and policy level and on a concrete implementing level. It focuses on: Sexual abuse and exploitation through a specialized team that has the responsibility over issues concerning protecting children from on-line sexual abuse. Since 1998 SCD has operated the Danish National Hotline which allows members of the public to refer potentially illegal material in relation to the new technologies such as the internet. SCD also operates the on-line child protection site [www.sikkerchat.dk](http://www.sikkerchat.dk). This website allows parents, professionals and children to gain access to relevant information on how to stay safe on social interaction-sites, mobile phones etc.
SCD works in cooperation with SC Europe Group to identify children who have been sexually abused for the production of child abuse images. This involves lobbying the EU institutions to enact legislation at member state level to improve victim identification. SCD works on issues related to the travelling of sex offenders. SCD is a member of the World Tourist Organizations. Task Group works on protecting children from sexual exploitation through tourism and we are also a member of the Danish Justice Ministry’s task group on identifying methods to protect children in relation to Danish nationals who travel abroad to sexually abuse children. SCD holds conferences on issues related to child sexual abuse and has produced literature to inform professionals and parents about child sexual abuse.

SCD has undertaken research in cooperation with the Danish Institute for Social Research on child poverty in Denmark and which helps SCD lobby and advocacy work. SCD cooperates with duty bearers in building networks for vulnerable children in Denmark. In Greenland, the Crown Prince Frederik has been very supportive of this. SCD has responsibility for coordinating a European network and running the website for unaccompanied minor asylum seekers. SCD also undertakes outdoor activities with minor asylum seekers, via qualified personnel. SCD operates a residential home for teenage girls from ethnic minority backgrounds in conflict with their families (major child protection concerns). SCD is involved in combating child trafficking in all its forms in Denmark.

In terms of neglect and emotional abuse, SCD has produced 2 books on emotional abuse and neglect for professionals. The activities that focus on building networks for especially vulnerable children in South Denmark and Greenland target children and families that are especially exposed to neglect, in some cases linked to substance abuse in the families. SCD provides safe environments and it also works with duty bearers on prevention of child neglect.

SCD recognizes that domestic and other violence against male and female children and youth is prevalent in Denmark and in the counties where SCD operates, and that in some aspects, this may be an area with taboos and gaps in knowledge. SCD is a key actor in lobbying decision makers and in the Plan of Action for 2008 SCD will seek a stronger profile on male attitudes towards violence against girls and women.

SCD has produced a report on trafficking of children to Denmark. SCD cooperates with the Danish government and other decision makers in formulating policy in this area.

International Activities

In Ethiopia, where SCD has been active since 1996, several projects focus on violence. One study is currently made on violence against girls in primary schools and its impact on girl’s education, with the objective to develop strategies and interventions to address the problem.

In Jordan, Ethiopia and Uganda, SCD engaged in Juvenile justice, working closely with police forces to protect detained children and as partners in the protection of abused and neglected children. Issues of protection against harsh or degrading punishment are embedded in the approaches used.

Internationally, protection from sexual abuse and exploitation is addressed explicitly in Uganda, Ethiopia, Bangladesh, Jordan and Uganda through prevention, advocacy and direct recovery (through psycho-social programmes, child protection networks, cooperation with law enforcement and advocacy) Experts from the National Department have been used as resources in the international programmes as trainers and consultants on issues of sexual abuse and exploitation, recently on issues of internet based exploitation.(Uganda, Jordan, Bangladesh). Recently SCD has commissioned a research project on the sexual exploitation of boys in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
Abuse and Exploitation, whether sexual, verbal or physical, is seen as both a result of poverty, and social disruption and a cause for trafficking, for children leaving home and lack of access to education. It is therefore addressed in multidisciplinary interventions. SCD works towards the long term goal of eliminating harmful and exploitative child labour. SCD works actively to promote children’s right to be protected from harmful work. Prevention of harmful traditional practices is included as a component in the programme in Ethiopia. The work involves practitioners, communities and authorities and families. SCD works with partners to address early marriage, milk teeth extraction, tonsillectomy, uvulotomy, female genital mutilation, blood letting and tattooing. The issues of HIV/AIDS prevention and support is integrated into the programme and that of early marriage and young mothers has also been addressed by SCD in Uganda and Ethiopia.

The programmes in Uganda, Ethiopia, Kyrgyzstan and Jordan address issues of neglect in multiple ways: working with authorities and police forces, schools, families, community network and direct participation of children.

Describe your organisation’s planned activities on the theme of combating violence against children:
SCD will continue its work against sexual, psychological and physical violence against children through its ongoing programmes named above. Other activities are in the development stage at the present time and it is too early to give a description of these proposed activities.

Describe any other activities you know of which combat violence against children in EU member states:
SCD is part of the Save the Children Europe Group which has a task group to lobby the EU institutions on violence against children. Save the Children Romania, Spain and UK are active in producing programmes to prevent physical abuse of children at the national level.

Describe your organisation’s experience of/activities on the theme of banning corporal punishment in EU member states:
In June this year SCD joined forces with The National Council for Children, UNICEF Denmark and other NGO’s to mark the 10th anniversary of the ban on the use of corporal punishment as a form of discipline in Denmark. Activities included research on parental views in relation to corporal punishment and the production of information on the positive aspects of the ban on corporal punishment. The Danish parliament legislation has banned corporal punishment of children by parents and professionals since June 1997. The campaign aimed at reminding the Danish public of the existence of such legislation and a website gave information on alternative methods of how to discipline children by using non-violent forms.

Describe your organisation’s activities regarding the UN Study on Violence against Children:
SCD acted as an advisor and gave input to the Save the Children Alliance task group who worked on the UN Study against violence. SCD also sent the SC documents to the Danish government and other interested bodies.

ENDS

5. Save the Children ITALY

Country:
ITALY

Organisation address, contact details and website:
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Phone N. (+39) 06.4807001
Fax (+39) 06.48070057
www.savethechildren.it
In detail, describe your organisation’s activities on the theme of combating violence against children:
Save the Children Italy is implementing middle-long term national programmes focused on the recognition and implementation of the right to protection and the right to development, which have a national and a European impact. In the field of right to protection Save the Children Italy is engaged in programmes designed for migrants children (foreign unaccompanied children, asylum seeking children, unaccompanied children with parents with no valid stay permit, children at frontiers and administrative detention, Roma children) and for child protection and prevention of abuses linked to paedo-pornography on the Internet and through New Technologies use.
For the protection and prevention of abuses linked to paedo-pornography on the Internet and through New Technologies use, Save the Children Italy is implementing the EAST project, which consists of awareness raising activities in Italy aimed at guaranteeing a relevant increase of Internet safety for children, both on the side of supporting the fight against illegal/harmful content and online crime (namely child pornography), and promoting a more responsible, positive and large use of the Web and the new ICT by minors, thus involving all relevant stakeholders and strengthening synergies with national and EU policies/initiatives. The project foresees the integration of two SIAP-funded projects which have been running for several years now in Italy: Stop-It (hotline) and EASY (Enhancing Awareness on Internet Safety for Young people).
About child trafficking, Save the Children Italy is involved in a project focused on the development of a methodology based on children rights for the identification and support of children victims of human trafficking and/or exploitation in its different forms (prostitution, begging, illegal activities) and in a National Observatory on trafficking.

Describe your organisation’s experience of/activities on the theme of banning corporal punishment in EU member states:
We have no experience/activities on this issue.

Describe your organisation’s activities regarding the UN Study on Violence against Children:
None at the moment, but we are planning activities on this issue for the next years.

ENDS

6. Save the Children Lithuania

Country:
Lithuania

Organisation address, contact details and website:
Vilnius str.22/1, Vilnius
Loreta Trakinskiene
www.gelbvaik.lt

Contact person name and email:
Reda Lileikyte
reda.lileikyte@gelbvail.lt
In detail, describe your organisation’s activities on the theme of combating violence against children:
The project implements the right of the child to physical and psychological integrity and the right to participation. The aim of the project is to make school environment save through activities of pupils’ anti-mobing groups, which are acting in 64 schools in 16 municipalities.

This project has a high potency for further development, since children are very enthusiastic about their activities and every school could have pupils’ anti-mobing groups. Our organization alone cannot coordinate the project nationally and we have done some steps involving the Ministry of Education and Science in the project. We have been cooperating in the production of the methodological book for anti-mobing groups. However the cooperation with the ministry has to be improved. Our plan is to involve the Ministry in the training program for the preparation of consultants for anti-mobing groups.

Research
In February, 2005, the CRIC researched on the issue of child abuse. It was a comparative study in order to compare survey results in 1998 and 2005. Research showed that there has been little positive improvement. This statistics was widely used during a public campaign “May – a Month without violence against children” (see “Public Awareness Campaigns”).

CRIC also participated in the joined research together with other CRICs “Children in state care”. We have gathered the information on children living in the different types of state care institutions in Lithuania.

Data from Research on child abuse:
- 50% of children are beaten by their parents;
- More than 70% of parents beat children for disobedience as their parents used to do the same.

Public awareness campaigns May – a Month without Violence
Our organization initiated in 2003 this project aimed to increase public awareness of an existing problem of violence against children and to create an atmosphere of intolerance to violence in society. One of the greatest organization’s achievements is the fact that the Anti-spanking law promoted for several years has been addressed and included into the implementation plan of the Conception for the Child Welfare in the state Policy.

After the previous year success, CRIC was in charge of coordinating one of the biggest organization’s public campaigns called “May – a Month without violence against children”. This campaign is known not only in Lithuania but in other countries as well, as the International Save the Children Alliance mentions it in its Annual report as one of the most successful and meaningful examples of the fight for child rights in the world. Thus, this year the organization of this public awareness campaign was joined by seven ministries: Ministry of Social Security and Labour, which became the partner and the main fonder of the campaign, Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Health and Ministry of National Defense; as well as Children’s Ombudsman and many NGOs working with or for children.

This public campaign had a very wide coverage in the media. Public awareness of the campaign was also strengthened by a social TV commercial against violence created by children and shown on all 4 national TV channels. Moreover, we managed to attract the attention of a business sector, which was actively participating in the dissemination of information on the campaign’s issues as well as fund raising for anti-abuse programmes carried out by our organization.

Drawing competition for children “I know how to grow up”
This year CRIC together with fundraising department followed the tradition and organized the drawing competition for children called “I know how to grow up”. The competition met a great interest from children. We received more than 1600 pictures, which were all exhibited in the hotel and conference centre “Karolina” where the award ceremony took place. This year the drawing competition was covered in the media also exposing our organization activities and promoting children rights. Children’s paintings will be used in other CRIC publications or used for fundraising purposes.

Publications
For the purposes of public awareness campaign “May – a Month without violence against children”, the following publications were issued:

- Posters informing about the campaign (together with the Ministry of Social Security and Labour);
- Stickers informing children whom to address in case of abuse (together with the Ministry of Social Security and Labour);
- Leaflets “How to become a better parent” teaching parents about positive parenting (together with the Ministry of Social Security and Labour);
- Leaflets explaining the meaning and value of the Anti-spanking law (together with the Ministry of Justice).

Training on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child
The project consists of two parts: the CRC training for children and training of trainers and members of organization in the branches.

The dialogue with children on the CRC matters is not an easy task. During the first 6 months of the year we have contacted the directors of all Vilnius schools inviting their students to our office to discuss the CRC and all topics emerging from it. However, due to the approaching exams in the spring, only a few schools answered to our invitation. We have not succeeded in organizing meetings with children in autumn.

Thus, the communication was made via posters which we have distributed not only in Vilnius but all over Lithuania. Moreover, these posters are published in Lithuanian, Russian and Polish; therefore, we are reaching the children from our biggest national minorities, too. It is worth mentioning that these posters became very popular and of a high value among educational institutions

During the first half of 2005, we have mostly entirely worked on the second area – training of trainers. For this purpose, two members of our staff participated in the training session on CRC training for trainers in Romania. However, due to the insufficient number of human recourses in our organization, the training programme is not still fully developed.

In autumn we had CRC trainings for our local branches and are planning to have them in 2006.

Describe any other activities you know of which combat violence against children in EU member states:

Save the Children Romania

Describe your organisation’s experience of/activities on the theme of banning corporal punishment in EU member states:

We promoted anti-spanking law we are now involved in the governmental plan for child welfare. Since four years our organization is running the project “May – a Month without Violence”, aimed to increase public awareness of an existing problem of violence against children and to create an atmosphere of intolerance towards violence in society.
7. Salvati Copiii Romania

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Romania

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Contact person name and email:
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gabriela_alexandrescu@salvaticopiii.ro

In detail, describe your organisation’s activities on the theme of combating violence against children:
Programs and campaigns to stop violence against children:

Save the Children Romania has been developing programs to stop the violence against children in Romania since 1997 when it organized the first national seminar on the issue. The following year, Save the Children opened the first counselling centres for abused, neglected and trafficked children.

To give substance and coherence to its campaigns and to maximize their impact, Save the Children developed national and local research studies – either independently or in association with governmental bodies – to give a better view on the extension of the phenomenon, its causes and risk factors as well as the consequences on children. Our studies in the year 2000 have revealed that 75% of Romanian children are „traditionally educated“ by their parents who beat them. The results caused a huge stir and raised suspicions among many representatives of the state authorities involved in child protection considering the study as distorted and non-realistic. The following year, in 2001, another national research study realized by ANPDC (National Authority for Child Rights Protection) and World Health Organization revealed an even more dramatic situation: 47,2% parents admitted to have beaten their children as a form of education and 84% children stated to have been beaten often and very often by their parents.

Taking into account the results of the above mentioned studies, in 2003 Save the Children has initiated the campaign „Beating is not from heaven” („Bătaia nu e ruptă din rai”) which year after year focuses on different objectives in accordance with the constant needs of our society.

The campaigns had the following objectives proposed and attained:

• Establish a legal frame to ensure the child protection and a ban on physical punishment and bad treatment against children – articles 85 and 90 of Law 272/2004 on the protection and promotion of children’s rights.
• Promote the necessary law and educate the public on non-violent education of children.
• Establish June the 5th as the National Day against violence on children. The Parliament adopted Law 497/2006 at Save the Children’s proposal on December 28, 2006 which has become effective since January 13, 2007.
• Attract and involve child protection state authorities (ANPDC, Ministry of Research and Education, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Health, Romanian Parliament and mass-
media – the National Television and Radio Broadcasters), influent politicians in key positions and celebrities.

- Create and distribute information materials for:
  - Broader public use: posters, flyers and brochures such as “You Can Do Without Beatings!” – a brochure for parents, “My Child Behavior” – a guide for parents to understand why children do what they do, a research report “Children Say NO to Violence”, TV and radio spots. In total, over 75,000 such materials have been distributed.
  - Specialist use: brochures for school counselors “My Child Behavior”, a Research Report to reveal how much people know about the legal provisions forbidding the physical punishment and humiliating treatment against children, training courses and brochures translated from English (“Let’s Work Together - Managing Children’s Behavior, a resource for everyone working with other people’s children”, “We Can Work It Out, a training pack for parenting groups”, “Ending Physical and Humiliating Punishment of Children: Making it Happen”, “Save You and Save Me”. In total, over 25,000 such materials were distributed.
- Develop a site for parents posting information on consequences that violence has on children’s development and growth, emotional intelligence and mental health, research studies and materials on non-violent education, positive discipline’s methods and techniques, child protection laws and services, direct counselling and FAQ.
- Public debates to promote positive education with the participation of local media and authorities.
- Inform target public: children (45,000), teachers (2700), parents (5458), general public (1,720,657).
- Involve volunteers in information activities (575)
- Training of professionals working with children in positive discipline (in total, 515 school counsellors and 3,500 other specialists). The courses are accredited by the Ministry of Research and Education.
- Establish 5 Centres to assist, counsel and rehabilitate children victims of abuse and negligence. Over 3,000 cases benefited from the therapy since their establishment.

Describe your organisation’s planned activities on the theme of combating violence against children:
- Promote the site we developed for parents www.educatiefaravioanta.ro.
- Organize public debates in five major towns of Romania on positive discipline and non-violent education of children with the participation of local authorities, media, specialist and celebrities.
- Organize training courses for parents in positive parenting.
- Organize training courses for professionals working with other people’s children in positive education.
- Publish the series “Guidebook for Parents”:
  - Children aged 2-7
  - Children aged 7-12
  - Children aged 12-18
- Establish 5 Centres of resources for parents to train them in communication skills and positive parenting.
- Establish 5 Clubs of children to ensure children’s participation and involvement in matters regarding their own problems, anger and stress management, communication skills and conflict management.
- Information programs for children, parents and teachers in schools.
- Raise public awareness by distributing information materials through the press and via distribution networks.
- Lobby to establish the Children Ombudsman in Romania
Describe any other activities you know of which combat violence against children in EU member states:
The members of the International Alliance Save the Children (Sweden, UK, Denmark, Finland, Spain, Italy, Holland, Germany and Romania) have constantly organized activities and designed programs to combat violence against children.

Some of the above members have contributed to writing the Manual for Action “Ending Physical and Humiliating Punishment of Children. Making It Happen” and also to the UN Study on Violence against Children. They made proposals and recommendations to their member states.

Describe your organisation’s experience of/activities on the theme of banning corporal punishment in EU member states:
Since 2003, Save the Children Romania has started the campaign to stop violence against children. In 2004, at our proposal and supported by lobby groups, the Romanian Parliament introduced in Law 272/2004 on child protection and rights the articles 85 and 90 banning any form of physical and humiliating punishment against children.

In 2006, at our proposal, the Romanian Parliament voted Law 497/2006 establishing June the 5th as The National Day against Violence on Children.

Describe your organisation’s activities regarding the UN Study on Violence against Children:
We contributed to the UN Study on Violence against Children in 2006 with:
- Research Report “Children Say No to Violence”,
- Participation to the European Conference in Ljubliana in 2006, where we presented the Desk Report on Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation with a special reference on violence against children
- A group of young volunteers from Save the children Romanian participated at the workshop “Changing Power”, Ljubliana in 2006.

If you know of examples of good practice or useful publications please give details here:
Useful publications we recommend:
- “Love, power and violence – a comparative analysis of physical and humiliating punishment patterns” by Peppa Horno Goicoechea, Save the Children Spain
- “Save You and Save Me” by Neha Bhandari et altr, published by Save the Children Sweden
- “Let’s Work Together - Managing Children’s Behavior, a resource for everyone working with other people’s children”, by Kate Harper, Tina Hyder, Elaine Johnston
- “We Can Work It Out, a training pack for parenting groups”, by Kate Harper, Tina Hyder, Elaine Johnston
- “Ending Physical and Humiliating Punishment of Children: Making it Happen”, Mali Nilsson
- “Regional Capacity Building and Advocacy Workshop on Positive Discipline Techniques to replace corporal/physical and humiliating and degrading punishment of girls and boys” reported by Neha Bhandari and Ravi Karkara

Any further relevant information/suggestions you wish to provide:
We think that there is a need for coordination of efforts and a common strategy to develop and implement action plans to stop violence against children in the EU member states and support the development of specialised services for parents and children (such as: information, protection, emergency, rehabilitation). We also think it is required to promote a common legal frame and common intervention proceedings in all of the EU member states to stop violence against children. Working visits in order to learn from each other’s good practices should be supported also by EU funds.
8. Save the Children Sweden, Europe Programme (SCS)

Country:
Sweden

Organisation address, contact details and website:
107 88 Stockholm, Sweden
Phone: +46-8 698 90 00
Fax: +46-8 698 90 10
www.rb.se

Contact person name and email:
Monika Sarajärvi
monika.sarajarvi@rb.se

In detail, describe your organisation’s activities on the theme of combating violence against children:
The SCS Europe Programme focuses on the prevention of corporal punishment and bullying of children. Corporal punishment is an area where SCS has extensive experience, whereas bullying is not sufficiently covered by NGOs at the European level. Still extensively accepted in every society, corporal punishment and bullying are considered by children as the most common forms of violence against them.
SCS programmes mainly work on the rehabilitation of sexually abused children.
SCS domestic programme contributed to the development of good practices from Sweden at a European level, particularly concerning the internet dimension of child sexual abuse (child abuse images).

Describe your organisation’s planned activities on the theme of combating violence against children:
- Continue the promotion of methods which aim at achieving a Europe-wide ban on corporal punishment.
- Increase our efforts in the area of peer violence (including the use of new technologies) by seeking partnerships for joint method development. A Study will be carried out in the Baltic Sea region (seven countries) to highlight corporal punishment and bullying (incidence and prevention measures) in their national contexts.

Describe any other activities you know of which combat violence against children in EU member states:
- Development of child friendly reporting mechanisms, enabling children to report breaches of their rights (including protection from violence) particularly in the school setting.

Describe your organisation’s activities regarding the UN Study on Violence against Children:
- SCS was a major contributor during the entire drafting process.
- Ambition to incorporate the UN Study recommendations in our programme work and we are currently promoting the establishment of recommended mechanisms (such as a Special Representative to the UNSG on violence against children)

ENDS
9. SOS-Kinderdorf International Continental Office Europe

Country:
Belgium (EU office)

Organisation address, contact details and website:
88 rue Gachard 1050, Brussels
http://www.sos-childrensvillages.org

Contact person name and email:
Kélig Puyet
kelig.puyet@sos-kd.org

In detail, describe your organisation’s activities on the theme of combating violence against children:
- Create a protective environment for children growing up in out-of-home care by developing European quality standards for out-of-home care and contributing to the UN guidelines on children without parental care.
- Family strengthening programmes aiming at preventing abandonment and violence in the family: teaching parents about parenting skills, reinforcing parents’ coping skills, ensuring their access to essential services.
- SOS-Kinderdorf International is also a member of the Keeping Children Safe Coalition and permanently tries to reinforce its child protection policy and to improve the implementation of this policy.

Describe your organisation’s activities regarding the UN Study on Violence against Children:
SOS-Kinderdorf International was invited to be one of the peer editors in the drafting process of the UN Study on Violence against Children. It gave input to the chapter on violence against children in care systems and feedback to the overall recommendations of the study. SOS Children’s villages also participated in two regional consultations for the Middle East and Europe, involving youth representatives. It also carried out a study called “Seeing beyond Violence. Children as Researchers,” which was submitted as contribution to the UN Study on Violence.

If you know of examples of good practice or useful publications please give details here:
“Seeing beyond violence. Children as researchers.”

ENDS

10. Coordination des ONG pour les droits de l’enfant (CODE)

Country:
Belgium (EU office)

Organisation address, contact details and website:
Rue Marché aux Poulets 30, 1000 Brussels
http://www.lacode.be

Contact person name and email:
Frédérique Van Houcke, info@lacode.be

In detail, describe your organisation’s activities on the theme of combating violence against children:
Concerning CODE’s actions on the theme of banning corporal punishment:
In 2005, following the condemnation of the Belgian State by the Council of Europe, we wrote an analysis paper and encourage the Belgian State to undertake legal measures to prohibit all forms of corporal punishment in Belgium. See on our website www.lacode/Dossiers, " Violence à l'égard des enfants" (in French).

Title:"Point de vue de la CODE sur la nécessité d'une législation spécifique à l'encontre des châtiments corporels, Juillet 2005."

ENDS

11. Our Child Foundation

Country:
Czech Republic

Organisation address, contact details and website:
Ústavní ul. 91, 181 00 Praha 8
www.nasedite.cz

Contact person name and email:
Ing Zuzana Baudyšová, z.baudysova@nasedite.cz

Describe your organisation’s experience of/activities on the theme of banning corporal punishment in EU member states:
Since two years, Our Child Foundation has launched a long term national campaign called Stop violence against children.

The purpose is to warn the general public about the increasing trend of violence against children in the Czech Republic, to fight apathy when violence against children occurs and ultimately to make everyone feel responsible for the protection of children against all forms of violence, so that this sense of responsibility becomes a priority value in our society. The campaign is still ongoing and has already produced positive outcomes, by increasing significantly public responsibility.

The campaign used media devices to arise public awareness, such as a TV spot, posters and advertisements realised by a professional agency. The campaign was supported by many sponsors and Medias.

Another very relevant initiative is the Legal Aid Line. Contacted by telephone or e-mails, experienced lawyers provide free legal advice for queries related to child protection in different areas such as family law, criminal law, violence against children, social exclusion...

The line operates in strict collaboration with the Czech Bar Association.

ENDS


Country: United Kingdom

Organisation address, contact details and website:
Weston House
42 Curtain Road
Describe your organisation’s planned activities on the theme of combating violence against children:
The NSPCC has made a strong commitment to the issue over the last 15 years, delivering public education campaigns and campaigning for legal reform to give children equal protection under the law on assault. We are a founder-member of the UK’s Children are Unbeatable! Alliance (http://www.childrenareunbeatable.org.uk/) and contribute to the Global Initiative to End Corporal Punishment of Children. The UK’s Children Act 2004 currently allows people to justify hitting children as “reasonable punishment”. We consider that to tackle the violence that some children experience the law must be unequivocal in the protection it affords and give them equal protection, which must be accompanied by widespread public education about positive parenting. Both these measures are needed. The NSPCC has recently responded to a Government consultation reviewing the law (click here to read: http://www.nspcc.org.uk/Inform/policyandpublicaffairs/Consultations/2007/s58_wdf49990.pdf).

This issue was part of a recent campaign to the new Prime Minister around combating violence against children: http://www.nspcc.org.uk/Inform/policyandpublicaffairs/Westminster/100DaysForChildren_wdf48556.pdf in which thousands of campaigners sent postcards to the Prime Minister asking him to act to protect children. We are also providing support for the Council of Europe’s campaign on banning physical punishment of children.

In the UK, this is a controversial issue and there is significant public resistance to making illegal the physical punishment of children by parents and carers. The NSPCC will continue to campaign along with our partners, and believes there is some opportunity under the current Labour Government to make the change. If this does not happen, we consider that growing international pressure, for example from other countries’ taking a lead and changing their laws, will contribute to this legal reform being made in future.

ENDS

13. Estonian Union for Child Welfare (EUCW)

Country: Estonia

Organisation address, contact details and website
Lastekaitse Liit
Endla 6-18
10142 Tallinn
Tel. 6311 128
Faks 6311 735
www.lastekaitseliit.ee

Contact person
Liina Kotsalainen, liit@lastekaitseliit.ee

Please describe your organization’s experience of/activities on the theme of banning corporal punishment in EU member states:
In Estonia corporal punishment is forbidden by law. In practice, however, it is still used in some extend within the family. EUCW has launched several campaigns to raise public awareness on the negative impact of physical punishment on child development. We also lobbied Ministries for including a more specific provision on banning corporal punishment in the Child Protection Act.

ENDS


*Country:* Ireland

*Organisation address, contact details and website:* Lower Baggot Street,
Dublin 2,
Ireland
http://www.ispcc.ie/

*Contact person name and email:* Lloyd Byrne
llbyrne@ispcc.ie

In detail, describe your organisation’s activities on the theme of combating violence against children:
The ISPCC carries out various activities on the theme of combating violence. Recently the ISPCC campaigned for the introduction of ten measures which it believes are essential to ensure adequate protection for children. As part of the new ISPCC “How Can We Be Sure They’re Safe?” campaign, ISPCC launched a document entitled “How Can We Be Sure They’re Safe? - An Independent Ten Point Plan for a better, safer childhood” calling for the following:

- A constitutional amendment to acknowledge and underpin the rights of children as citizens.
- Full implementation of the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- Full implementation of the National Children’s Strategy.
- Full participation and involvement of children within Irish society.
- Placing vetting of those seeking to work with children on a statutory basis and legislate to facilitate access to “soft” information. Developing cross-jurisdiction, formal protocols of information exchange between police forces and statutory child-protection services.
- Supporting the provision of a comprehensive, child-friendly range of direct-access, 24-hour services for children and young people. Developing and fully resourcing an effective, comprehensive response to “disturbed, out of control” children.
- Placing the “Children First” child protection guidelines on a statutory basis.
- Developing a national strategy to prevent child abuse.
- Introducing a comprehensive model of therapy and continuous risk assessment of sex offenders both within the prison system and when released back into the community.
- Introducing legislation to ban all physical punishment of children and implementing a state-funded, comprehensive positive parenting campaign.

The “How Can We Be Sure They’re Safe?” campaign is calling on the Government to ensure that all policy and legislative difficulties impacting on child protection are addressed as a matter of urgency. As part of the campaign, the Irish public is being asked to sign a petition, which will be presented to members of Dáil Éireann. The ISPCC asks the Government to make the protection and safety of our children a priority.
Describe your organisation’s planned activities on the theme of combating violence against children:
The ISPCC continues to provide services to ensure that children and young people can develop to the best of their abilities, in a society where they are safe from all abuses, physical, sexual, emotional and neglect. The ISPCC has an on-going campaign to have physical punishment of children banned within the state.

Describe any other activities you know of which combat violence against children in EU member states:
ISPCC is a national organisation but has a number of links with European projects such as NSPCC & Child Helpline International. As part of the ISPCC Leanbh service, the ISPCC works with both refugee and asylum seeking applicants within Ireland, many of whom will have escaped violence in the home country.

Describe your organisation’s experience of/activities on the theme of banning corporal punishment in EU member states:
ISPCC remains informed of European developments but would be interested to learn more with regard to new initiatives. Of particular interest to ISPCC are new initiatives aimed at promoting attitude change within civil society. ISPCC has an ongoing media campaign targeting both civil society and policy decision-makers and aims to encourage individuals to consider the broader benefits of a ban on corporal punishment rather than initial reactions with regard to the criminalisation of parents/guardians.

Describe your organisation’s activities regarding the UN Study on Violence against Children:
This study, though recognised, appears to have had little impact within Ireland and has not been widely debated.

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15. Plataforma de Organizaciones de Infancia

Country:
Spain

Organisation address, contact details and website:
Plataforma de Organizaciones de Infancia (Spanish Child Rights Coalition)
C/ Escosura, 3, local 2
28015 Madrid
Tel.: +34 91 447 78 53
Fax: +34 91 447 83 33
www.plataformadeinfancia.org

Contact person name and email:
Conchi Ballesteros
cballesteros@plataformadeinfancia.org

In detail, describe your organisation’s activities on the theme of combating violence against children:
- From 2000-2005 the Plataforma de Organizaciones de Infancia (Plataforma) took part in three different programmes within the Daphne Programme of the European Commission, intended to prevent violence against children, youth and women. During this period and thankful to the partnership established NGOs from 5 European countries took part. Conferences and seminars were held and several materials and tools were published.
- In its shadow report to the 2nd Report submitted by Spain to the Committee on the Rights of the Child about the implementation of the CRC in Spain (2001), the Plataforma stressed particular concerns regarding child sexual abuse and sexual exploitation, physical punishment against children and child labor.
- Considering the 2002 Concluding Observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child on the implementation of the CRC in Spain as a framework, the Plataforma held 3 annual meetings during the period 2003-2005 in which issues related to violence against children were dealt with.
- The Plataforma attends regularly seminars and conferences on the issue organized by members. The work that is being done in this field by Save the Children Spain (on the issue of violence against children in general and corporal punishment in particular) and the Spanish Committee of UNICEF (on the issue of sexual abuse and exploitation) deserve a special acknowledgement.

Describe your organisation’s planned activities on the theme of combating violence against children:
The Spanish Government has to send its next report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child on the implementation of the CRC in January 2008. Therefore the Spanish Child Rights Coalition is already under the process of preparing its next alternative report to the Committee. One of the main issues that is expected to be analyzed in the report is “violence”.

Describe your organisation’s experience of/activities on the theme of banning corporal punishment in EU member states:
One of the last Concluding Observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child from June 2002 stated in relation to corporal punishment that… “In light of previous recommendation, the Committee deeply regrets that article 154 of the Civil Code, stating that parents “may administer punishment to their children reasonably and in moderation”, has not yet been revised”. The Committee acknowledged that a draft law for the revision of article 154 was under development, but reiterated its previous recommendation to amend this article in order to delete the reference to “reasonable” chastisement.
Thanks to the work and support of different NGOs a new version of article 154 has been finally drafted and it is expected to be approved during the present year.

Describe your organisation’s activities regarding the UN Study on Violence against Children:
- The Plataforma spread information about the UN Study among its members and further allies.
- Being a member of the Subgroup on National Coalitions of the NGO Group for the CRC, the Plataforma has worked with one of the other existing Subgroups -on Children and Violence- supporting its work of drafting key guidelines for better reporting on violence in alternative reports to the Committee on the Rights of the Child.
- The Plataforma signed the petition of the NGO Advisory Council for the follow-up to the UN Study to establish a Special Representative to the UN Secretary-General on Violence against Children.

If you know of examples of good practice or useful publications please give details here:

ENDS
16. Nobody's Children Foundation

Country:
Poland

Organisation address, contact details and website:
Nobody's Children Foundation
Walecznych 59, 03-926 Warsaw, Poland
http://www.fdn.pl/

Contact person name and email:
Maria Keller-Hamela, mhamela@fdn.pl

In detail, describe your organisation’s activities on the theme of combating violence against children:
The Nobody’s Children Foundation runs two centers in Warsaw, offering assistance to abused children and their families: the “Mazowiecka” Child Advocacy Centre and the Child and Family Centre.

The Child and Family Centre was founded in 1996 thanks to the professional support and funds provided by the French organization Medecins du Monde (Doctors of the World), at premises offered by the Welfare Services Centre in Warsaw's Praga Południe district. The Centre provides specialized services for abused children and their families, and for professionals dealing with such cases. The “Mazowiecka” Child Advocacy Centre, established in March 2003, is a specialized institution pursuing the goals of applying and promoting innovative ways of dealing with cases of crimes against children (in the Polish reality). The Centre operates in collaboration with the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Administration. It offers a child-friendly place for interviewing child victims, with participation of judges and prosecutors.

Both Centres undertake crisis interventions in cases of crimes against children, particularly sexual abuse and physical violence. Children and members of their families are offered free psychological and legal assistance (consultations, therapy, and support groups). Their employees initiate, support, and consult the activities of professionals who deal with cases of child abuse. They do forensic psychological assessments for courts and prosecutors' offices across Poland; they act as court experts or witnesses in cases involving crimes against children. The “Mazowiecka” Child Advocacy Centre organizes training sessions and supervisions for professionals working with abused children. Regular meetings of the Court Expert Club are held and attended by psychologists acting as court experts in cases involving crimes against children. In 2006 six meetings were held, focusing on issues such as mediation, commercial sexual exploitation of children and youth, child sexuality, and selected aspects of psychiatric diagnosis.

Moreover, the Nobody’s Children Foundation runs the programme “Childhood without Violence: Towards Better Child Protection in Eastern Europe”. For the second consecutive year, the Foundation – in cooperation with NGOs from East European countries (Bulgaria, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Moldova, and Ukraine) – pursued the goal of improving the child protection system by strengthening capacities of the professionals in charge of assisting child victims and their families, and by activities focused on preventing child abuse. 2006 was the second year of the project implementation and was devoted to the assessment and treatment of abused children.

In 2006 the six countries participating in the programme carried out a campaign to combat violence against children: “Childhood without Violence”. This was the biggest and most significant development in the programme in 2006. The campaign used the materials presented in Poland within the “Childhood without Violence” media campaign in 2001, which was extremely successful in raising public sensitivity to the problem of physical and emotional abuse in the Polish society.
The TV spot, two radio spots and posters were translated and adapted to eight languages (the six national languages and, additionally, Russian and Albanian). The media messages were complemented with leaflets, postcards, calendars, stickers, and other types of material conveying the campaign’s communication. The campaign materials presented both information about the problem of child abuse, and messages promoting good parenting. In most of the six countries it was the first nationwide campaign concerning the problem. The campaign achieved high visibility in all six countries. Media messages were presented on non-profit terms by several TV and radio stations – in the first few weeks of the campaign there were more than 1000 spot displays (on average) in each of the participating countries. Thousands of posters and several thousand leaflets and other small publications helped the campaign to reach a significant proportion of adults in the six countries. Broad coalitions supporting the campaign were successfully built, comprising NGOs and government agencies. Furthermore, the campaign won support and active engagement of politicians, who contributed substantially to the organization of the inauguration events. In Latvia the campaign was supported by the President, who took part in the inauguration ceremony. In Macedonia and Moldova inauguration ceremonies were held in these countries’ parliamentary halls. National campaigns were launched in September 2006 and carried out into the first months of 2007.

In October 2006 an international conference was held in Druskininkai, Lithuania, attended by representatives of all the countries participating in the “Childhood without Violence” project. The conference focused on the theme of child victims of crime, with much time devoted to the assessment of sexual abuse within criminal procedures and to interviewing children. Workshop sessions were organized, presenting Polish and European experiences in this area, to facilitate the process of preparing the child for the witness’ role and interviewing children in a child-friendly manner.

www.canee.net website was developed. Furthermore, in 2006 a new version of the website serves as a platform for exchanging experiences and information among organization in Central and Eastern Europe.

In 2006 several publications related to child protection were developed and produced in seven national languages. Apart from materials published directly within the “Childhood without Violence” campaign, the Foundation’s booklet I’m going to court was adapted and published in two languages: Lithuanian and Latvian.

Describe your organisation’s planned activities on the theme of combating violence against children:

2007 is foreseen as another year for implementing the programme “Childhood without Abuse: Toward Better Child Protection in Eastern Europe.” The efforts undertaken in 2007 will focus on issues related to legal aspects of child protection. In each of the participating countries a campaign will be launched, targeted at judges and prosecutors – Your Honour, I am scared. The campaign concerns the special situation of a child in court procedures.

In 2007 the 4th National Conference on Helping Child Victims of Crime will be held, and the Coalition for Child-Friendly Interviewing will be established.

In 2007 the Foundation will carry out a national campaign against physical abuse of children: “See It, Hear It, Say It”. The campaign will be targeted at adults and will serve educational and awareness-raising purposes, informing adults about how to react when they suspect or know that a child is a victim of abuse. The goal of the campaign will be to enhance adults’ sensitivity to violence against children and to show them available ways of helping abused children. One of the 2007 efforts designed to improve child protection in the Warsaw district of Praga Południe will be a pilot programme “Good parent, good start” aimed at creating effective cooperation of health care providers, social workers, and NGOs in the area of early intervention in cases of children threatened with violence. The programme is also aimed at teaching parents not to use corporal punishment and encouraging them to employ alternative forms of sanctions.
In 2007 the Foundation will further develop the portal focusing on the problem of child abuse, www.dzieckokrzywdzone.pl, which is expected to become a platform for exchanging information, experience and good practices among professionals working with abused children. The services provided by the Child Advocacy Centre will be expanded through an extension of hours of accepting reports on child abuse.

Describe your organisation’s experience of/activities on the theme of banning corporal punishment in EU member states:
The main goal of the Nobody’s Children Foundation’s research programmes is to determine the prevalence and nature of child abuse and to examine social attitudes toward the problem. In 2006 the Nobody’s Children Foundation conducted research on social attitudes toward the problem of child abuse in Poland and 6 other countries participating in the programme Childhood without Violence: Toward Better Child Protection in Eastern Europe. Two studies were conducted: one on a representative national sample, and the other one – among primary school teachers. The findings were presented in seven national reports and a comparative report. All the reports were translated to English and to the national languages, and are available at www.canee.net.

Both studies sought answers to the following research questions:
• How do the respondents estimate the scale of a wide range of abusive behaviours towards children in the countries participating in the project?
• How do they evaluate the dynamics of various aspects of child abuse?
• What is the level of social acceptance of controlling parents’ behaviours toward their children by state and other people?
• What are the respondents’ self-reported attitudes toward parental use of corporal punishment of children?
• How do they evaluate various professional groups’ sensitivity and competence in the area of child protection?

Another research was conducted among children at the age of 12, on the subject of corporal punishment experienced by them. One dimension which was analyzed on the basis of this research project was the scope of such forms of punishment, declared by respondents.

Moreover, one issue of our quarterly “Abused Child: Theory, Research., and Practice”, published in 2003 was devoted to the problem of corporal punishment. Additionally, a book titled “Protecting Children Against Corporal Punishment – Awareness-Raising Campaigns” was written by the Nobody’s Children Foundation and published by Council of Europe in 2004. The publication describes how to raise awareness, primarily through campaigns to reduce corporal punishment, and goes on to discuss how child abuse can be prevented. Case studies of three successful awareness-raising campaigns in the United Kingdom, Poland and the United States are presented in detail and are used as a starting point to describe how best to carry out such campaigns.

Describe your organisation’s activities regarding the UN Study on Violence against Children:
We have been involved in consultation process within this study and submitted the reports based on our research.

ENDS