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**News from Eurochild**

**Office move**

Please note that Eurochild will move office on 14 May 2007! The new offices which will be shared with Euronet and Save the Children are situated at:

1-2 Avenue des Arts  
1210 Brussels (St-Josse-ten-Noode)  
(at “Madou” Metro station)

Phone numbers and e-mail addresses will remain the same.

**Upcoming events**

**General Assembly & Policy Forum**
12-13 June 2007, Brussels, Belgium

Eurochild’s next General Assembly and Policy Forum will take place on 12-13 June 2007 in Brussels. The Policy Forum will focus on: "child well-being indicators" and "the role of the EU social inclusion agenda in promoting children’s rights & welfare in member states". More Information is available on our website: [www.eurochild.org](http://www.eurochild.org).

**Eurochild Annual Conference**
22-23 November, Malta

Eurochild’s next Annual Conference will take place from 21 to 23 November 2007 in Malta. This year’s title will be “Preventing social exclusion of children and young people in Europe: Participation & yearly intervention”.

Eurochild will use the occasion of its annual conference to highlight two core principles that we believe should underpin any strategy aimed at tackling child poverty and social exclusion:
1. Early intervention

Eurochild aims to showcase examples of good policy and practice with respect to detecting and tackling the early signs of social exclusion. The selection of presentations will focus in particular on examples of:

- Positive approaches to support families at risk
- Social integration and empowerment of immigrant parents and children
- Strengthening children’s development through pre-school care & education
- Non-formal learning to promote ‘success experiences’ of children at risk of exclusion
- Integrated community services for families and children

2. Participation

The examples of good policy and practice will be based on the principle of participation. That is they will illustrate how direct involvement and empowerment of the target groups (children and/or their families) has contributed to the success of the policy or action. It is expected that the examples selected will inspire replication of the approaches developed in other contexts or challenges.

More information as well as a draft programme will be made available soon on [www.eurochild.org](http://www.eurochild.org).

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**News from the European Institutions**

**Debates on the past & future of the EU at schools all across Europe**

For the fifth consecutive year, the network of Ministers in charge of Education (European Schoolnet) organises the "Spring Day for Europe", in collaboration with the European Commission. "The Spring Day" campaign is held in the framework of the 50th Anniversary of the Treaty of Rome. The aim of this campaign is to enable young people to gain awareness of European questions and to integrate them into their study programme.

This year’s "Spring Day in Europe" will focus on the theme of "Together since 1957", with the aim of encouraging schools in all EU member states and candidate countries to develop educational initiatives relating to European affairs. Schools are invited to organise until 30 June 2007, European days of exchange, debates and meetings with local, regional, national or international personalities, giving pupils and teachers the opportunity to learn about European integration and improve their understanding of it.

The four previous editions of Spring Day for Europe were about the European Convention (2003), the enlargement (2004), the Constitution (2005) and the debate about the future of the EU (2006).


**Safer Internet and online technologies for children**

Public consultation

The European Commission has launched a public consultation to identify the most effective ways of making the online environment and communication technologies safe for users, in particular children.

The current Safer Internet plus programme will end in 2008 and the Commission is conducting this consultation for creating a basis for deciding whether to propose a follow-up programme from 2009 to 2013 and how best to address issues relating to online technologies in the future. The public consultation was launched on 12 April 2007 and will be open until 7 June 2007. It is structured around three topics covering:

- illegal content
- harmful content
- user-generated content and on-line communication.


**Safer Internet Forum 2007**

The Safer Internet Forum 2007 will take place on 20-21 June in Luxembourg. The Forum will be composed of three workshops and a plenary session for discussing relevant issues with stakeholders which, in addition to the public consultation on Safer Internet and online technologies for children, will give input for the Commission’s decision whether to propose a follow-up programme from 2009 to 2013. The three workshops focus on: Online-related sexual abuse of children, in particular grooming; Assessing the need for awareness-raising for creating a safe online environment for children; and The impact and consequences of convergence of online technologies for online safety.

Participants will include representatives of industry, law enforcement authorities, child welfare...
organisations and policy makers. The deadline for registration is 13 June 2007.

For more information:

More education for the world's children

Rich country donors, international organisations along with civil society leaders, will appeal for concrete new aid commitments to educate all the world's children by 2015 during a High-Level Education Conference in Brussels on 2 May 2007, hosted by the European Commission and co-organised by the UK government and the World Bank. Conference participants will include Ministers of Finance and Development Cooperation of the EU member states, the OECD donor countries, emerging donors and developing countries, leaders of international organisations, foundations, civil society organisations and the private sector as well as Members of the European Parliament, individual advocates and experts.

More information on the program can be found on the website: www.promises-on-education.org.

First European Survey on Foreign Languages Skills

A Communication adopted on 13 April 2007 by the European Commission presents a framework for a Survey on foreign language skills of pupils (14-16 years old) in EU member states. The survey will test their skills in the first and second foreign languages learned.

Based on several years of cooperation between the Commission services and member states this Communication presents the European Survey on Language Competence which, in most countries, will test pupils at the end of obligatory schooling. In the first round of testing, planned to be carried out in 2009, the tests will measure three skills (reading, listening and writing) in the first and second most widely taught European languages of the EU: English, French, German, Spanish and Italian.

Data from the European survey will provide information on foreign language competence among young people in the Union, on where good practice and performance can be found. This information will help improve the teaching and learning of foreign languages in EU member states.

The Communication is expected to be adopted by the European Council on 25th May 2007, enabling the Commission to launch the European survey in all member states in early 2009.

For more information:
http://ec.europa.eu/education/policies/lang/language_s_en.html


Erasmus celebrates records of participation

The European Commission's flagship-programme in the field of education - the university exchange programme Erasmus - continued to expand in the academic year 2005/06. The overall number of students taking part on Erasmus exchanges rose by over 7% the previous year, while the number of university teachers exchanged grew by over 12%. The biggest impact of the scheme has been felt in the Central and Eastern European countries. Student exchanges rose on average by about 20% in the Member States which joined the EU 3 years ago, while growth in teacher remained high with 20%.

For further information:

Boosting EU-Australia relations in education and training

From 16-19 April, European Commissioner in charge of Education, Training, Culture and Youth Ján Figel', visited Australia to mark a new era in EU-Australia co-operation in higher education and training. He also promoted celebrations marking a decade of official co-operation between Australia and the EU as well as the 50th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome.

Commissioner Figel' particularly welcomed Australia's efforts to become "Bologna-compatible", having already a three-cycle degree system and a national qualifications framework. It is also planning to adopt a credit-transfer system and a diploma supplement that will benefit students from both the EU and Australia in helping them to get their studies recognised overseas. The ultimate goal is to make the education systems of both continents more compatible with each other.

Co-operation between the EU and Australia in the area of education and training goes back to 1997. Concrete action started in 2002 with a series of bilateral pilot projects promoting mutual understanding between the peoples of the EU and Australia. Since then, more than 50 institutions on both sides have taken part in these projects, involving more than 500 exchange students.

Minister Bishop and Commissioner Figel' will sign a joint declaration to strengthen co-operation, which shall provide for joint consortia projects and policy-oriented dialogue covering issues such as the Bologna process, quality assurance, indicators and benchmarking, efficiency and equity, and qualification frameworks.
Promoting fundamental rights and democratic participation in the EU

The financial instrument Fundamental Rights and Citizenship under new Financial Perspectives 2007-2013 has received the European Council’s final green-light. The adoption of this programme is aimed at strengthening the EU action in this field, supporting respect for fundamental rights and encouraging citizens’ participation in the democratic life of the EU. It fosters civil society and bolsters an open and transparent dialogue between stakeholders. Projects financed under this instrument will also promote tolerance and a better intercultural understanding throughout Europe, fighting racism, xenophobia and anti-Semitism. For more information: http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/funding/rights/funding_rights_en.htm

The Peer Review Agenda for 2007

Eight Peer Review seminars are scheduled for the remainder of 2007, making for a busy year of activity for the Open Method of Coordination in the field of Social Protection and Social Inclusion. They encompass a range of topics, including social services and housing, integrating groups that are often the subject of discrimination in the labour market and society, human trafficking, and involving stakeholders in policymaking. Two of the seminars will address issues related to older people, covering active ageing and ways to enable people to stay in their own homes as long as possible.

The following Peer Reviews will take place in 2007:

- April: The future of social services of general interest, Belgium
- 12-13 June: ACCESS – Cottonera Community Resource Centre, with a focus on the services offered to children and families, Malta (Eurochild will be represented at this Peer Review Seminar by Marja Valkestijn from our member the Netherlands Youth Institute)
- Freedom of choice and dignity for the elderly, Sweden
- National Action Plan against substandard housing, France
- Multi-regional operative programme to combat discrimination, Spain
- The NAPs/Incl. Social Inclusion Forum, Ireland
- Active ageing strategies, Finland
- Social aspects of human trafficking, Denmark

For more information about this year’s Peer Review Programme: http://www.peer-review-social-inclusion.net/

European Parliament

The EP commits to children’s rights

Eurochild and many members of the NGO Action Group on the EU child rights strategy have actively participated in the Hearing on 17 April on the Child
Rights Communication the European Commission has published in July 2006. All of them warmly welcomed the active and common interest of such a large number of European Parliament Committees and individual MEPs in taking part in the challenge of creating an EU Strategy on Child Rights (the Hearing was jointly organised by the following EP Committees: Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs; Women’s Rights and Gender Equality; Employment and Social Affairs; Culture and Education; Human Rights; Development; Legal Affairs).

The Joint Hearing “Towards an EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child” was attended by a number of MEPs, representatives of the European Commission, the German Presidency, the Council of Europe, UNICEF, civil society and children themselves. Save the Children and Plan International presented the results of a consultation they carried out on the child-friendly version of the Communication, to which they received over 500 replies. Two of its participants could present their views directly to the audience.

Paula Evans from Eurochild member Children in Scotland presented Eurochild’s report on its review of member states’ strategies on social inclusion and social protection, which was very positively received by the audience. The report has recently been completed with analyses of the 4 further country reports. The new full version will soon be posted on the Eurochild website www.eurochild.org. Paper copies will be available at the Policy Forum on 12-13 June.

You can find more information in all 22 official languages of the European Union at:


The different language versions are not translations, so each version is a bit different - although they are based on the same material.

There is also information about the Hearing at:


Protect children from pesticides!

Health NGOs EPHA (European Public Health Alliance) and HEAL (Health and Environment Alliance) have sent letters to Members of the European Parliament advocating for a better protection of vulnerable groups, especially children, against hazardous effects of pesticides.

MEPS from the Agriculture, ITRE and IMCO committees were asked to vote on an opinion on a regulation on the placing of plant protection products on the market as well as a Directive and a Thematic Strategy for the Sustainable Use of Pesticides.

The Health & Environment Alliance and the European Public Health Alliance are concerned that the debate and decisions taken will not adequately reflect recent scientific findings showing alarming evidence on the health effects of pesticide exposure.

For more information and to download the letters: http://www.epha.org/a/2615

General European News

Young children more vulnerable to air pollution, study shows

A study of more than 4,000 Dutch infants has concluded that young children who live close to busy roads are more at risk of developing respiratory diseases such as asthma.

The study was conducted by an international team of researchers and traces the health of 4,146 youngsters before birth to the age of four. Data for the study was compiled from blood tests and from health questionnaires completed by parents. Subjects hailed from 40 different areas in the Netherlands, and researchers measured varying levels of exposure to nitrogen dioxide, particulate matter (also known as PM 2.5) and soot from diesel emissions.

For those children living close to busy roads, the study shows an average of 20% to 30% increased likelihood of asthma, wheezing, ear, nose and throat infections, colds and flu.

Researchers also found that children with the highest levels of pollutant exposure demonstrated hypersensitivity to food allergens, although a connection with food allergies at a later age remains inconclusive. A separate study on the issue is to be conducted when the children reach the age of eight.

Hailed as a "major contribution" to research in the field by Michael Jerrett, associate professor in Public Health at the University of California, the study is to be published in forthcoming issue of the European Respiratory Journal.

In September 2005, the European Commission adopted a ‘Thematic Strategy on Air Pollution’. The strategy includes a proposal for a Directive on ambient air quality that foresees significant reductions in emissions of nitrous oxides and particulate matter by 2020. The air-quality Directive is linked to upcoming ‘Euro 5’ vehicle-emissions standards.

[Source: EurActiv.com]
Home Safety Campaign: protecting children from injuries

The European Child Safety Alliance has launched a 'Home safety campaign' throughout Europe which aims to raise awareness of the injuries occurring to children in the home and to highlight the strategies that can be used to prevent these injuries. The campaign combines actions to be taken at a national level, as well as advocacy activities at European level (e.g. on RIP cigarettes: http://www.epha.org/a/2443, or the Alcohol strategy: http://www.epha.org/a/2418).

The campaign disseminates fact-sheets ranging from improvements in home design to home safety checks, home safety product use or focus on particular home injuries such as bathtub burns, pool drownings or house fires, for various ages of children ranging from 0 to 17 years of age.

A Child Safety Product Guide has already been produced to provide information on the 25 products that child safety experts in Europe identify as posing injury risks to children. Product safety information and a European home safety report are expected to come out of the campaign.


Obese children influenced by TV adverts

University of Liverpool psychologists found that TV food adverts increase obese children's appetite and can more than double the amount that they eat. The research confirms that TV food advertising has a profound effect on all children's eating habits - doubling their consumption rate. The study is also particularly interesting in suggesting a strong connection between weight and susceptibility to over-eating when exposed to food adverts on television.

The psychologists showed a group of 60 children, aged 9-11 years and of all weights, a series of both food and toy television adverts, followed by a cartoon. After, they observed the children's food intake. They noticed that food intake following the food adverts "was significantly higher compared with the toy adverts in all weight groups". According to their observations, obese children increased their food consumption by 134%, overweight children by 101% and normal weight children by 84%. In addition, as food of differing fat contents was made available to children, the obese group consistently chose products with the highest fat content.

The UK recently decided to ban advertising of junk food around children's television programmes. However, surveys show that the junk food adverts still reach children during 'family viewing' hours in the evening when the ban does not apply.

CIAA, the Confederation of European food and drink industries, recently published a report on industry achievements in relation to fight against obesity. According to the report, "many food and beverage companies have developed their own advertising and marketing codes" which often include detailed provisions on marketing to children. Several big brands have, for example, committed to either restricting or phasing out advertising of their products high in fat, sugar and salt to children under 12 years of age.


Child Pornography: Number of serious abuse images rockets

The number of images of serious child abuse online has quadrupled over three years, according to figures from the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF: www.iwf.org.uk), who says that the most distressing grade of images account for nearly a third of all reports of child pornography it receives.

The statistics paint a disturbing picture of growth in hardcore child abuse pictures for sale online. In 2003, just 7% of the web pages investigated by the group included the highest levels of abuse. Last year the group says that 29% of all the images that its officers investigated fell under the same classification, marking a fourfold rise in the most disturbing cases.

Peter Robbins, the IWF’s chairman, said the figures demonstrated an increasing appetite among internet paedophiles for the most severe sorts of imagery, while sites selling abusive pictures and videos appeared to be turning to increasingly hardcore material in order to fend off competitors. "The images appear to be on a trend towards more severity, probably because there is greater demand", Mr Robbins told the Guardian.

Last year the IWF processed 31,776 reports of illegal images on the internet - up from 24,000 in 2005. The material was hosted on more than 3,000 websites. Less than 1% of the original material was traced back to Britain, while 82% of all the images it investigated were hosted on websites in Russia or the US, creating serious fears over the possibility of child trafficking and industrial-level abuse.

The IWF also operates a blacklist that prevents many web users from accessing known abuse sites, although problems with overcrowded jails have recently allowed some convicted of downloading child pornography to avoid a custodial sentence. One expert said greater international cooperation...
was needed to close down such websites completely. [Source: CRIN / www.guardian.co.uk]

**Children and young people experiencing homelessness**

As part of its work on social inclusion in 2007, FEANTSA, the European Federation of National Organisations working with the Homeless, is currently taking stock of the situation of children and young people experiencing homelessness in Europe, in order to feed into debates on child poverty at EU level. This exercise is divided into two parts:

1. The collection of information (feedback from members, research, press articles) on children and young people experiencing homelessness in different EU countries to add to the “Children and young people experiencing homelessness” compendium on the FEANTSA website;


You can consult the country information already available on FEANTSA’s website: http://feantsa.horus.be/code/EN/pg.asp?Page=675

Please contact liz.gosme@feantsa.org if you wish to contribute information or any reports you have produced in the past to the collection of information.

**Communicating the UN CRC**

Save the Children and the Children’s Rights Alliance for England are working with England’s Department for Education and Skills to better communicate the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

As part of this they are gathering information and examples from other countries about the ways in which they have approached Article 42.

They need information on the following:
- Strategies for education & awareness raising
- Messages and mediums used
- Who has carried out this work? eg governments / NGOs?
- How effective campaigns have been?
- Examples of specific materials used for children and other audiences

Please contact Nicola Stock, Communications Officer on +44 113 6888655 or e-mail n.stocks@savethechildren.org.uk if you have any information that would be useful.

**First Conference for Tempus students**

On 19-21 April 2007, around 150 students participated in the first-ever Tempus Student Conference. The majority of the participants were coming from Tempus partner countries and from a variety of regions and universities. They represent a wide range of fields of studies, different experiences with the Tempus programme and local student activities.

The conference focused on the dissemination of good practices, the involvement of students in higher education reforms and the students’ input towards the new Tempus IV programme.

Tempus is an EU funding programme to support the modernisation of higher education in Eastern Europe, Central Asia, the Western Balkans and the Mediterranean region.

For more information: http://ec.europa.eu/tempus

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**News from European States**

**Belgium**

**Undocumented children**

The Belgian Movement for Undocumented Children notes that an increasing number of undocumented children are locked up with their parents in detention centres in Merksplas (Antwerp) and Steenokkerzeel (both in the Flemish region of Belgium). 152 children were detained in 2004, 510 children in 2005, and 627 during the first ten months of 2006. In Vottem (close to Liège, Walloon region), undocumented children are no longer detained with their parents, because of the long-term and continued protest of action groups and large social organisations. For more information: www.kinderen zonder papieren.be

**Study on prostitution of minors**

The study *Jeunes prostitué-es et réponses sociales* has been published about the prostitution of minors in Belgium, commissioned by Belgian Youth Minister Catherine Fonck. According to this study, 60% of minor prostitutes are of foreign origin, mainly from Eastern Europe or Africa. The author of the study, sociologist Myriam Dieleman, stresses the fact that these minors are often detained with juvenile defenders, “even though they are really to be seen as victims”. For more information: http://www.demorgen.be/dm/nl/nieuws/belgie/357864

**Czech Republic**

Undocumented children could soon have a chance to attend Czech schools without problems, according to a prepared amendment to the schooling law, said Pavla Burdova-Hradcna from an advisory centre for refugees on 5 March. Under the current law, schools are obliged to demand children to submit evidence about their legal stay in the Czech Republic. For more information:
**Denmark**

Social workers state that families with children risk evictions

*(Translation of article published in Politiken, 3 March 2007)*

Calculations from the Ministry of Employment show that 1,200 married couples on social welfare could lose half their income when a new ruling comes into effect in one month's time. But the Minister of Employment points out that this is the way to get more people into the job market.

Droves of families with children risk ending up without a roof over their heads if the government does nothing to change the so-called '300-hour rule' that will become effective on 1 April. This is the claim made by the vice-chairman of the Danish Social Workers' Union, Bettina Post, who is working on a report which will explain the extent of the problem.

"It will be a problem especially for families with children. We have based our calculations on the Ministry of Employment's own figures, and if we add ordinary things such as TV-licenses, telephone, transport, clothing and food, our assessment leaves a couple with two children about 118 crowns (16 euros) for their own use per day – and under those circumstances it does not take much to topple the whole thing," says Bettina Post.

The Ministry's calculations were presented in response to a Parliamentary question from the Radical Party on how the 300-hour rule will affect the economic situation of families. The rule states that a married couple in which both parts are on social welfare will lose one income if one of the two has not been employed for at least 150 hours in a regular job during the past year – next year the demand will be for 300 hours of work over two years. According to calculations from the Ministry, a family with two children and a rent of 4770 crowns (640 euros) per month will have 225 crowns (30 euros) per day left for clothing, food, TV licenses, diapers, telephone and other daily necessities; which, according to the estimate made by the Danish Social Workers Union, leaves them 118 crowns (16 euros) after they have paid for the most basic things.

For the full article (translation by FEANTSA):
[http://www.feantsa.org/files/Articles_and_documents_related_to_the_Flash/07_03_flash/translation_politikenarticle_March.pdf](http://www.feantsa.org/files/Articles_and_documents_related_to_the_Flash/07_03_flash/translation_politikenarticle_March.pdf)

**France**

Determining the age of young migrants

The French National Academy of Medicine *(Académie nationale de médecine)* issued a report on 2 February 2007 on the relatively restricted reliability of medical examinations used to determine the age of young migrants. Nonetheless, they are not calling for an end to this frequently used practice but for a refinement of the techniques used. For more information: [www.france-terre-asile.org](http://www.france-terre-asile.org)

**Ireland**

60% of pregnant women drink alcohol

More than 60% of women continue to drink alcohol while pregnant, according to a new survey. The survey is the largest study of its kind ever conducted in Ireland. It examines trends in the consumption of alcohol, tobacco and drugs by over 120,000 pregnant women during the past two decades.

Irish and UK-born mothers were more likely to report themselves as consuming more than six units of alcohol a week compared with EU and non-EU nationals. A total of 7.1% of those surveyed admitted to drinking more than six units of alcohol per week. The highest percentage category reporting drinking over 10 units per week was the 18-24 year-olds, while more than two-thirds of all pregnant under-18 year olds reported drinking alcohol during pregnancy.

[Source: Eurocare Newsletter January-April]

**UK**

Home Alone - Housing and support for young people leaving care

Gaps in local authority planning mean that almost one in six young people leaving care are placed in unsuitable - sometimes unsafe - accommodation, according to a report released this week by young people's charity Rainer. In some of the worst cases vulnerable young people were placed in housing that was physically unsecured and where they were subjected to harassment and discrimination by other tenants and staff. They could find themselves miles away from work or training and effectively cut off from friends and other support. One in three care leavers did not feel safe where they were living.

Legislation clearly states that local authorities have a duty to provide 'suitable accommodation' for young people leaving care and that care leavers are a priority group for housing services. However, a lack of coordination between leaving care and housing departments can mean that this is not carried out in practice. There is also evidence that young people feel they have no choice but to accept unsuitable accommodation because failure to do so would result in them being declared 'intentionally homeless' and receiving no further help. This is caused in part by the approach of some housing staff.

Bad housing is immensely distressing for young people in the short term, but it is the long-term consequences that Rainer is most concerned about. Placing already vulnerable young people in unsafe or unsuitable accommodation can have a devastating impact on their wellbeing and future
Mental health bill neglects needs of children, say critics

Controversial plans to reform mental health services in the UK, which some argue snub the needs of children, are to be discussed by MPs. The Mental Health Bill, rejected by the Lords in February, which allows mentally ill people to be detained against their will, is expected to face heavy criticism in the Commons. Amendments proposed by the Lords included the demand that children be treated in wards suitable for their age, not with adults, and be assessed by specially trained professionals.

The charity Young Minds say children as young as 12 are incarcerated with often extremely disturbed adults and end up more traumatised than when they went in for treatment. A study by Young Minds found that one child every day is admitted to an adult mental health ward; that more than three-quarters of girls are detained on mixed-sex wards; that the average stay is at least one month; and that children face a postcode lottery over beds.

The government says the laws will help keep the public safe, however. The bill would allow people with severe or violent personality disorders to be confined if they were judged to be a threat to themselves or others. In February the Lords said treatment should be given only if it was likely to help the patient. Previous attempts to change the laws have been abandoned in the face of opposition.

Campaigners and doctors have frequently voiced concerns that government plans are too occupied with public safety, rather than the needs of patients. But it is understood that the government is not prepared to make any concessions and has put Labour MPs on a three-line whip in an attempt to bulldoze the Bill through.

For more information: www.raineronline.org

Bid to end smacking in shops

The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) is planning to stem smacking in UK shops by encouraging businesses to help parents take the stress out of shopping. The move follows a survey showing that 86% of adults would like to shop in a smack-free shop - with 40% actively preferring to shop where smacking is not allowed.

The survey of more than 1000 adults, by ICM for the NSPCC, reveals that 77% of adults believe smacking is becoming less acceptable, with less than half (41%) having seen a child smacked in public within the last six months. Nearly all (93%) respondents would like shops to take action to help parents avoid losing their cool with children.

Many retailers have introduced family-friendly measures in recent years - such as parent and child parking, double seated shopping trolleys and nappy changing facilities. The adults in the survey also recommended crèches, toys, and advice leaflets as ways of keeping shopping with children calm and stress-free.

When asked how they felt about seeing a child being smacked, a majority of adults in the survey said they felt concerned for the child (65%) and upset (51%). Just over half (51%) said they would like to do something to stop a child being smacked, with most of those wanting to comfort the child (42%) and help the parent (47%).

For more information: www.nspcc.org.uk

Helping young people who are homeless

The British government has launched a new homelessness initiative for young people who are forced to leave the family home and end up staying with a succession of friends or relatives. Young people who have to leave home and move from place to place have become one of the biggest causes of homelessness.

The government measures to tackle youth homelessness include a new partnership with YMCA England and Centrepoint, to create a national youth homelessness scheme. Within this scheme a network of supported lodgings will be developed. The government also announced to open “centres of excellence” in every region for councils & agencies to share expertise and to set up a committee of formerly homeless young people to advice ministers on policy. Over more, a new national homelessness advice service is being launched in partnership with Shelter and the Citizens Advice Bureau.

Statistics from the Department of Communities and Local Government show that more than one third of new cases of homelessness include a new partnership with YMCA England and Centrepoint. Within this scheme a network of supported lodgings will be developed. The government also announced to open “centres of excellence” in every region for councils & agencies to share expertise and to set up a committee of formerly homeless young people to advice ministers on policy. Over more, a new national homelessness advice service is being launched in partnership with Shelter and the Citizens Advice Bureau.

Statistics from the Department of Communities and Local Government show that more than one third of new cases of homelessness were under 25 years old. There were 23,490 new cases of homelessness in England last year because parents were unwilling to provide accommodation and additional 15,080 cases where relatives and friends did not want to provide accommodation.

For more information: Young Minds: http://www.youngminds.org.uk/mentalhealthbill/

[Sources: CRIN / The Independent on Sunday, BBC]

[Sources: FEANTSA Newsflash March 2007]
Council of Europe News

No escape for child abusers

That is the message Maud de Boer-Buquicchio outlined in her address to the INGO conference on 17 April. "Violence against children cuts across geography, race, class, religion, economic condition and culture," the Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe declared. "A society which allows criminals to go unpunished is an accomplice to the offence." For the speech by Ms de Boer-Buquicchio: http://www.coe.int/t/dc/press/News/20070419_disc_sga_en.asp

How can education help integrate people into society?

Education ministers from the 49 signatory states of the European Cultural Convention of the Council of Europe are gathering in Istanbul (Turkey) on 4 and 5 May 2007 to map out education policies that allow everyone, from the earliest age, to become better integrated into society, thus helping to build a more humane and inclusive Europe.

This 22nd Conference of European Ministers of Education of the CoE, which is expected to attract around 200 participants, will revolve around three main themes:

- children's rights in the field of education;
- introducing education policies that promote greater social cohesion & respect for diversity;
- lifelong learning.

Each child's right to high-quality teaching, measures to promote an inclusive education including for socially and culturally excluded people, education for democratic citizenship, and developing a better understanding of today's multicultural society are all issues that will be addressed over the two days.

The conference is a follow-up to the Action Plan adopted at the 3rd Council of Europe Summit of Heads of State and Government in Warsaw (2005), at which the programme "Building a Europe for and with children" was launched to promote children's rights and protect children from violence (www.coe.int/children).

For further details of the conference: http://istanbul2007.meb.gov.tr

United Nations News

Improving road safety for young people

The UN has marked the first Global Road Safety week with a number of events and presentations around the world including the EU road safety day on 27th April. The week had been called for by a UN General Assembly Resolution and its main theme was youth and road safety. The UN road safety week built upon the reports from the World Health Day of 2004, which focused on road safety. In addition to this, a specific publication on helmet wearing, drink driving and a road injury prevention training handbook were issued. Many contributions featured calls for better road infrastructure rather than action to reduce speed, the main cause of accidents. Calls to adequately address this most pressing road safety priority were left to the European association of traffic Police (TISPOL) who coordinated speed campaigns in 22 countries.

For more information: http://www.epha.org/a/2606

EU-UN Relations

The European Commissioner for External Relations and Neighbourhood Policy, Benita Ferrero-Waldner, visited the United Nations Headquarters in New York on 13 April and met the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and other high representatives of the UN. During her meetings, Commissioner Ferrero-Waldner discussed a range of key international issues, including the Middle East, Kosovo, Sudan and DRC, as well as a number of situations in Asia. She also had an exchange of views with her interlocutors on the state of the UN reform process.

This is the first time that Commissioner Ferrero-Waldner has visited the UN since Ban Ki-moon was appointed its Secretary General last December.

For more information about EU-UN relations: http://www.europa.eu-un.org

Further Reading

Children’s rights an integral EU value:
EU 2006 Human Rights report

The EU Annual Report on Human Rights discusses its policies and actions regarding human rights, both internally and externally. The most recent report covers July 2005 to June 2006 and includes references to children's rights in several sections, stating that “children's rights form part of the human rights that the EU and the Member States are bound
to respect under international and European treaties...”. Section 4.3 of the report discusses the Commission's recent Communication. It also discusses issues of child poverty, social exclusion, migration, safety, trafficking, family law & children's rights in the context of enlargement. For the full report:

Report on Women in Prison & Children of Imprisoned Mothers

Report from the Quaker United Nations Office “Women in Prison & Children of Imprisoned Mothers: Recent Developments in the United Nations Human Rights System” aims to gain a clearer understanding of the particular problems faced by women prisoners and children of imprisoned mothers, and how these problems can be better addressed. To download the report: http://www.whrnet.org/docs/WiP-Recent-UN-developments-200603.pdf

The small hands of slavery

On the 200th anniversary of the Slave Trade Act, a new report by Save the Children reveals millions of children are still living as child slaves. The report exposes the eight most prevalent forms of child slavery that are still forcing children to live in appalling conditions, to work long hours for little or nothing in return, and to be subjected to extreme harm, violence and rape. For more information: www.savethechildren.org.uk

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

Children should know what rights they have, but they should also learn how to appreciate and to use them. To encourage children to do so, the challenge for the teacher is to create a setting that is governed by the spirit of democracy and human rights. This manual has been designed for teachers who are looking for tools to teach children's rights to students at primary schools. Author(s): Rolf Gollob / Peter Krapf. Council of Europe Publishing. Price: 15 €/ 23 $ + 10% postage. To place an order directly: http://book.coe.int/sysmodules/RBS_page/admin/redirect.php?id=36&lang=EN&produit_aliasid=2194

Child Malnutrition: 'Everybody's business, nobody's responsibility'

A report released by Save the Children UK reveals that the UK Department for International Development and the EC are neglecting millions of chronically malnourished children. It shows that tackling chronic child malnutrition is not a big enough priority for the UK government or the EU and that their response does not match the scale of the problem. To download the report: http://www.crin.org/docs/Everybody'sBizBriefingFinal.pdf

Report on undocumented children in Europe

“They Are Children Too”, a new report by the Institute of Race Relations (IRR), analyses 150 cases from across Europe and shows how unaccompanied minors, children in families of asylum seekers and children whose parents are undocumented, are being damaged by the harsh, target-driven deportation systems which now prevail across the continent. For more information: http://www.irit.org.uk/2007/march/ak000019.html

UNICEF Paper on Children Affected by AIDS

With support from the Canadian International Development Agency, UNICEF has published the first companion paper to “The Framework for the Protection, Care and Support of Orphans and Vulnerable Children Living in a World with HIV and AIDS”. The companion paper, entitled “Enhanced Protection for Children Affected by AIDS”, demonstrates that children affected by AIDS, like other vulnerable children, are likely to experience poverty, loss of parental care, lack of access to basic services, and stigma and discrimination. This document will help provide guidance at national and regional level on how to best structure interventions for children. For more information: http://www.bettercarenetwork.org

Stocktaking Report on Children and AIDS

"Children and AIDS: A Stocktaking Report" was recently published by the Unite for Children. Unite Against AIDS campaign. The stocktaking report examines the global response for children around the Four Ps: 1) Prevent mother to child transmission; 2) Provide paediatric treatment; 3) Prevent infection among adolescents and young people; 4) Protect and support children affected by AIDS. To access the report: http://www.crin.org/BCN/details.asp?id=12941&them eID=1004&topicID=1025

Inexcusable Absence: Why 60 Million Girls still aren’t in School and what to do about it

This book highlights the ways in which gender inequality intersects with different types of exclusion to exacerbate disadvantage and offers concrete proposals for new policies and programs for reaching girls and their parents. To buy the book: http://www.brookings.edu/press/books/clientpr/cgd/inexcusableabsence.htm

Report on psychosocial support for children

The Better Care Network experience tells us that psychological, social and material needs of young children are best met by caregivers, a constant group of dedicated people, related to one another, in lifelong family type groups. All children must have at least one person who uniquely loves them and has a deep vested, future-oriented interest in their well-
being. Where these conditions are missing, every effort must be made to encourage, support or establish them as they are the foundations for optimal human development. "Where the Heart is" - published by the Bernard van Leer Foundation, gives guidance on psychosocial support. To download it: http://www.cnrr.org/BCN/details.asp?id=9324&themeid=1060&topicID=1064

**Risk assessment and management in relation to children and young people**

“Growing up with risk” by The Policy Press, edited by Betsy Thom, Rosemary Sales and Jenny Pearce, provides a critical analysis of ways in which risk assessment and management are defined and applied in policy, theory and practice in relation to children and young people. For more information: https://www.policypress.org.uk/catalog/product_info.php?Path=10090&products_id=937

**Penal legislation for minors in Spain**

‘Remarks on the penal legislation for minors’ is the title of a new book by Manuel Dolz Lago. The book explains all the aspects of the new Organic Law 8/2006, of 4th December, which came into force on 5th February 2007. Due to its unique temporary resolution and given the fact that the judge is the one to decide, according to the interest of the minor, if the new or old law is going to be applied, Manuel Dolz Lago revises and compares both laws. The latest publication of the Supreme Court Prosecutor addresses a specialised public and gives fundamental information on the judicial situation of minor offenders in Spain as well as the different applications. For more information: http://www.oijj.org/documental_ficha.php?rel=SI&cod=1620&page=0&idioma=en


This report provides an annual overview of the agency’s emergency assistance programmes within the context of UN-wide appeals. The report sets out UNICEF’s relief activities and its financial requirements for meeting the needs of children and women. To download the report: http://www.unicef.org/har07/files/HAR.FullReport.T2006.pdf

**Report by CoR on unaccompanied minors**

The EU must seek to promote greater awareness of the issue of unaccompanied minors (below the age of eighteen), according to a report by the Committee of the Regions (CoR), adopted at the Brussels-based assembly’s October Plenary Session. The report, an own-initiative opinion drafted by Paolo Fontanelli, Mayor of Pisa, insists that there is a regulatory grey area when it comes to the current legislation applicable to young third-country nationals arriving on the territory of EU member states.


**The complexity of the migration of children and adolescents Europe**

Les mineurs étrangers isolés en Europe (Foreign Unaccompanied Minors in Europe), n. 240 of the trimestral “Accueillir” by SSAE Service Sociale d'Aide aux Emigrants (Social Service for the Aid of Migrants). This report outlines a picture of the complexity of the migration of children and adolescents in several European countries. A second dossier deals with the reception and the integration of foreigners by territorial actors in their public communication. For more information: http://www.ssaef.net/rubrique.php3?id_rubrique=14

**Climate Change: The Impact on Children**

A new report released by Save the Children UK, *Legacy of disasters: The impact of climate change on children*, looks for the first time at how climate change will specifically affect children, who will be hit hardest by increasingly frequent and severe natural disasters. Already in any emergency, half of all those affected are children. Over the next decade, Save the Children estimates that up to 175 million children every year will be affected by climate-related natural disasters compared to 125 million a year between 1995 and 2005. Millions more children will be killed, forced to flee their homes and put at risk from hunger, disease and physical or sexual abuse. For more information: www.savethechildren.org.uk

**Risk factors in adolescent drug use: evidence from school surveys & application in policy**

What are the risk factors in adolescent drug use? Can any reply be found in the school surveys and could this evidence be applied in policy? It is to these questions that the authors attempt to reply. They first compile the needs of political decision makers and then use the ESPAD (European School Survey Project on Alcohol and Other Drugs) survey as a vehicle to conduct a more in-depth analysis of the risk factors for substance use in Iceland, France and Malta. Finally, the use of ESPAD data in science, the media and in public policy is tackled from the French experience. Council of Europe Publishing, Price: 19€/29$ + 10% postage. To place an order directly: http://book.coe.int/sysmodules/RBS_page/admin/redirect.php?id=36&lang=EN&produit_aliasid=2184

**New study on youth homelessness prevention**

"What is homelessness" is the new research report on youth homelessness that was published by Centrepoint and the London Metropolitan University. The aim of the study was to consider methods of early intervention in the lives of young people that could help prevent homelessness in the future. The
report, which used a variety of research methods including group and individual interviews, concluded that much more information at a younger age was needed as well as long term funding. The full version of the report is available on the Centrepoint website: www.centrepoint.org.uk.

Five reports looking at the relationship between poverty and ethnicity

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation (www.jrf.org.uk) has published five reports looking at the relationship between poverty and ethnicity. This research shows that minority ethnic groups are overlooked for jobs and paid lower wages, despite improvements in education and qualifications. The child poverty rate among some ethnic groups in Britain is over twice as high as for white British children. Worst hit are black children of non-Caribbean (mainly African) backgrounds and children of Pakistani and Bangladeshi backgrounds. The majority of children in each of these groups have families with incomes below the poverty line. For more details:

Poverty and ethnicity in the UK
This study summarises the findings of poverty and ethnicity research since 1991 and describes differences in poverty rates and experiences by ethnic group. For more information: http://www.jrf.org.uk/knowledge/findings/socialpolicy/2059.asp

Poverty rates among ethnic groups in Great Britain
This study analyses how the rates of income poverty differ between ethnic groups and the reasons for some of these differences. For more information: http://www.jrf.org.uk/knowledge/findings/socialpolicy/2057.asp

Ethnic minorities in the labour market: dynamics and diversity
This study looks at the labour market performance of minority ethnic groups in Britain, using Census data from 1991 and 2001, and more recent information from the Labour Force Survey. For more information: http://www.jrf.org.uk/knowledge/findings/socialpolicy/2058.asp

Long-term ill health, poverty and ethnicity
This study examines why there are links between ill health and poverty, and why the consequences appear to be worse among minority ethnic groups. For more information: http://www.jrf.org.uk/knowledge/findings/socialpolicy/2060.asp

The role of higher education in providing opportunities for South Asian women
This study explores barriers to higher education, individual and institutional strategies for higher education success and young South Asian women's experiences of going to university. For more information:

http://www.jrf.org.uk/knowledge/findings/socialpolicy/2058.asp

PICUM Policy Briefs on migration issues

PICUM, the Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants, has just completed three policy briefs on different aspects of migration issues. PICUM address some of the crucial areas of the current migration policies, including managed migration schemes, anti trafficking measures and decent work for migrants. The aim of these policy briefs is to bring a human rights perspective within a debate that seems to be characterized at the governmental level mostly by economic and security reasons. The three policy briefs are:

Undocumented Migrants – Symptom, Not the Problem, by Don Flynn, PICUM Chair and Frank Düvell, PICUM Board Member.

The authors review some of the thinking behind current policy responses to managed migration and consider what they are attempting to achieve. Specifically they ask whether the ‘enforcement agenda’ in particular is an adequate way to tackle the issues arising from this aspect of global migration trends.

Human Trafficking and Forced Labour. What Perspectives to Challenge Exploitation?, by Don Flynn, PICUM Chair.

This policy brief draws attention to positions being developed by politicians and policy makers across Europe for whom trafficking in human beings is regarded as more-or-less synonymous with irregular migration and the position of undocumented migrants.

Decent Work for Undocumented Migrants, by Luca Bicocchi, PICUM Program Officer.

This policy brief aims at identifying the pressures involved in achieving decent work for undocumented migrants, building on the ILO Decent Work Agenda. They are available on PICUM’s website www.picum.org.

Undocumented Migrants Have Rights! An Overview of the International Human Rights Framework

PICUM, the Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants, has just released a publication on the rights of undocumented migrants. The purpose of this guide is to give an overview of the human rights which do in fact apply to undocumented migrants in international human rights law. The first part of the publication presents instruments within the international human rights framework as well as those on the European level and clarifies why and how these instruments uphold the human rights of undocumented migrants. The second part enumerates more in detail all of the human rights that apply to undocumented migrants within the international and European conventions.
and relative articles therein. The publication is available on PICUM’s website in PDF format (www.picum.org) or may be ordered from the secretariat.

Guides to EU funding for NGOs

ECAS has recently published the 13th edition of its guides to EU funding for NGOs. These two volumes - on funding within and outside the EU - are an invaluable source of information on a wealth of EU funds, making it easy for you to find your way around the programmes. They have been fully updated and revised for this year, including an essential chapter on the new financial perspectives for 2007-13. For more information: www.ecas.org

New leaflet on PROGRESS

The PROGRESS Programme took over the baton from the Community Action Programme to combat discrimination at the beginning of this year. The programme also integrates four other policy strands including gender equality. A new 12-page information leaflet sets out how PROGRESS will rationalise and streamline EU funding across these policy areas over the next seven years. The aim is to support EU member states address the considerable challenges Europe faces in employment and social affairs. To download the leaflet: http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/progress/docs/brochure_en.pdf

Film about children of undocumented migrants

Let Them Grow Up Here! (Laissez-les grandir ici!) is a film about children of undocumented migrants, who voice their need for support and mobilisation and who want their families to be regularised. The French Education Without Borders Network (RESF - Réseau éducation sans frontières) and 350 professionals were involved in the making of the film. The film will serve as a support for a nationwide petition in France of the same name and can be viewed at: http://www.educationsansfrontieres.org/spip.php?article4631

SOS Children’s Villages Podcast

The SOS Children’s Villages Podcast is like a radio show you can listen to whenever/wherever you want as the episodes are stored on the internet. The podcast focuses on family-based child care, including children's needs, interests and rights. Featured are monthly reports with different themes and monthly news tickers covering the worldwide highlights of the last month. Every month SOS Children’s Villages will bring a new episode of a “15 Minutes for Children”. For more information: http://www.sos-childrensvillages.org/cgi-bin/sos/sp/retrieve.do?lang=en&site=ZZ&hNav=sh&nav=5&7&et_cid=3&et_lit=19&et_sub=podcast2

.eu one year on: over 2.5 million have taken up a European address on the web

This April, Europe’s internet domain .eu celebrates its first year of being open to the public. Over 2.5 million domain names have been registered. This enormous number of active users makes .eu Europe’s third most popular top level domain (TLD) and seventh most popular worldwide. With a 17% increase of registrations over the past five months, .eu is also one of the fastest growing TLD names on the web. For more information: http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/07/483&type=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en

Upcoming Events

6th Meeting of People Experiencing Poverty
4-5 May, Brussels, Belgium

With assistance of the European Commission and in close cooperation with the European Anti-Poverty Network, the German EU Presidency organises the 6th Meeting of People Experiencing Poverty, entitled “Tackling Poverty and Social Exclusion: Progress made, future steps”. The meeting aims at assessing the results achieved so far and elaborating strategies for the future. For more information: http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/social_inclusion/events_en.htm or: http://www.eu2007.de/en/meetings_Calendar/Events/May/0504-BSGV.html

Eurovision Song Contest sings to the tune of EYEO
5-12 May 2007, Helsinki, Finland

The European Year of Equal Opportunities for All (EYEO) has been announced as the official partner of the 2007 Eurovision Song Contest, the final of which will be held in Helsinki, Finland, on 12 May. A record of 42 countries will take part in the 2007 competition as the world waits to see who can replace the colourful winners of the 2006 prize, Finnish band Lordi. During the Eurovision Week, taking place in the centre of Helsinki from 5-12 May, the European Year campaign will promote its messages from a pavilion at the Eurovision village. The stand will provide visitors with information on equality and diversity and host a series of
entertainment activities. The European Year will also pass on its message to the 2,000 journalists expected to attend the event via a promotional stand in the Eurovision press room. The European Year’s activities at Eurovision will peak on Europe Day on Wednesday 9 May. Special attention will be paid to young people, offering them a platform to express their singing and dancing talents. For more information: www.eurovision.tv


Disabled Children - A new Priority?
21st May 2007, London, UK

Capita’s conference has been formulated in consultation with key stakeholder groups including the organisations involved in the Every Disabled Child Matters campaign. The conference aims to identify the most pressing areas of need and gaps in service provision that can contribute to poverty, poor outcomes and social exclusion for disabled children and their families. For more information and registration contact: Nick Rotsides: Tel: +44 207 808 5290, nick.rotsides@capita.co.uk

European Seminar on Homelessness
1 June 2007

EPHA member FEANTSA - the European Federation of National Organisations working with the Homeless will hold a one-day seminar on Friday 1 June 2007. The Seminar, entitled “Key elements for a successful local homeless strategy: How can Europe support local authorities to improve the fight against homelessness” will be held in Brussels at the Committee of the Regions. The President of the EU Committee of the Regions, Michel Delbarre, will speak at the event on the issue of homelessness. Tools to develop strategies to tackle homelessness will be discussed, as well as the following themes will be discussed: decentralization, right to housing, neighbourhood policy, prevention. The seminar will offer an opportunity to meet with homeless service providers, local and regional authorities, and researchers on homelessness from across Europe.

Deadline for registration was 10 April. For more information about the event please contact liz.gosme@feantsa.org.

International Conference “Happy and Healthy – emotional and physical wellbeing in children”
7-9 June, Enniskillen, Northern Ireland

Eurochild’s member organisation NIPPA in Northern Ireland is organising an international conference on emotional and physical wellbeing of children on 7-9 June in Enniskillen. The keynote speaker will be Professor Eric Deering, Assistant Professor at the Department of Counselling, Developmental and Educational Psychology of the Lynch School of Education at Boston College. Seminars during the conference will be about: Education through Movement, Arts and Emotional Well Being, The Evolution of the Environment, Listening to Children – Observation and Documentation that meets the needs of the child, Nutrition in Young Children, Physical and Emotional Well Being in 0-3 year olds and Providing a Movement Rich Curriculum and Environment Outdoors. For more information please contact agm2007@nippa.org or go to www.nippa.org.

International Conference on morning and afternoon activities of school age children
7-9 June 2007, Järvenpää, Finland

The conference is directed towards organisers of morning and afternoon activities of school age children: counsellors, coordinators, planners, and those responsible for education and research and for others already involved with existing morning and afternoon activities. The theme of the conference is Nature, Exercise and Cultural Education as a part of the child’s comprehensive well-being. For more information www.ensac.fi

Event on Improving the situation of children without parental care
13 June 2007, EP, Brussels, Belgium

The closing event of the project “Quality4Children” by SOS Kinderdorf International will take place on 13 June 2007 in the European Parliament in Brussels. It will feature speakers from the European Parliament, the Commission, the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, different NGOs and experts in the field. For more info: www.quality4children.info

SEXUAL ABUSE and New Technologies - The Future Challenges for Child Protection
14 June 2007, London, UK

The aims of the conference are to raise awareness of the new and emerging ways in which child sexual abuse may be facilitated by new technologies and to look at some of the new difficulties and challenges we face in protecting children in this context. It will offer practitioners working with children an understanding of risks and look at ways that they can help to protect and empower children and young people to keep themselves safe. For more information, call 0870 8901080 or email info@pavpub.com

15th European Social services Conference,
15-16 June 2007, Berlin, Germany

The conference “Opportunity for All: the challenge for social and health services in a diverse Europe”, is organised by the European social network in cooperation with the German Presidency of the European Union. It will bring together 400 delegates from key national and European public and private welfare organisations to learn together about maximizing potential for all, young or old, no matter their disadvantage or disability. With over 30
presentations, workshops and debates this conference will bring Europe's best practice together in one comprehensive event. For more information: contact Sarah Wellburn, Tel +44 1273 549817, e-mail: sarah.wellburn@socialeurope.com

Conference on Access to health care for undocumented migrants in Europe 28-29 June 2007, Brussels

This International conference is organised by PICUM, the Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants, in cooperation with EUROCITIES. It aims to bring together NGOs, local authorities, health care providers, policy makers, researchers and other professionals to discuss the health care challenges facing undocumented migrants. This event will provide a forum to share creative examples and strategies to address the problems associated with insufficient access to health care for undocumented migrants in Europe. Draft programs and registration forms are available on PICUM's website. Registration (€ 10) is open till 15 June 2007. For more information: www.picum.org


The Committee on the Rights of the Child has decided to devote its next day of general discussion to the theme of resources for the rights of the child - responsibility of States which will focus on investments for the implementation of economic, social and cultural rights of children (CRC article 4). The meeting will take place at the Palais Wilson in Geneva, Switzerland, on Friday, 21 September 2007 from 10:00-18:00. The meeting is open to representatives of non-governmental organisations, children and their organisations/networks, UN programmes and agencies, governments and other interested individuals, experts and organisations.

NGO contributions

NGOs and children are invited to submit written contributions on the themes mentioned above to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) as soon as possible. The Committee requests that written contributions be limited to a maximum of seven pages. Although documents may be submitted in English, French or Spanish, they will not be translated into the other languages. Oral contributions from NGOs are also welcome during the day itself but should be limited to interventions in the debate rather than formal statements. Guidelines and additional information will be available shortly on the OHCHR website at http://www.ohchr.org/english/bodies/crc/docs/day-discussion.htm.

Written contributions should be sent electronically to CRCGeneralDiscussion@ohchr.org
Submission deadline: 25 June 2007

Registration deadline: 15 August 2007. Registration forms will be available soon at http://www.ohchr.org/english/bodies/crc/docs/day-register.doc

International Conference: The migration of unaccompanied minors in Europe 10-11 October 2007, Poitiers, France

The International Conference on ‘The migration of unaccompanied minors in Europe: the contexts of origin, the migration routes and the reception systems' will take place at Poitiers (France) on 10th - 11th October 2007. This conference aims to generate a forum of exchange and discussion on this issue and pretend to establish two main objectives: on the one hand, to establish a dialogue between researchers and specialised practitioners in order to put forward a more coherent social and legal treatment that should make prevail the respect of children's rights over immigration rules. On the other hand, to integrate the research findings on this issue with the purpose of achieving a better understanding of the current migration trends and to develop a methodological thought in order to get a better knowledge of the contexts of origin and the different dimensions of this increasing depart of separated children from numerous countries.

For the call for papers: http://www.oijj.org/doc/jornadas/poitiers_2006/papers_en.doc

Congress on ‘Phenomena in Juvenile Delinquency: new penal forms’ 6-7 November 2007, Seville, Spain

On 6 - 7 November 2007, the General Direction of Juvenile Reform, Council of Justice and Public Administration of the Assembly of Andalucía has decided to organise with the help of the International Juvenile Justice Observatory, an International Congress entitled ‘Phenomena in Juvenile Delinquency: new penal forms’. This international event will bring together academic experts, researchers, policy and practice professionals from different countries in order to develop and communicate transversal strategies policy responses to juvenile delinquency according to the following axes: Identification of Recent Patterns in Juvenile Delinquency (origin, analysis and comparative trends) and Policy and Practice Interventions (New initiatives and responses to juvenile delinquency). For more information: http://www.oijj.org/plantilla.php?page=100700&idioma=a=en

Conference on Emotional Literacy 13 November, Edinburgh, UK

England’s Every Child Matters agenda and Scotland’s Curriculum for Excellence agenda share very similar goals; to create happy, healthy and achieving citizens of the future. The third national conference “Implementing and Embedding Emotional Literacy: The Key Agendas” will give a unique opportunity to learn from the practitioners
who are already succeeding. Whether you chose workshops within the 'Behaviour and Attendance', 'Teaching and Learning', 'Working with Additional Needs', 'Mental Health' or 'Leadership' strand, you'll be sure to leave with solutions and useful resources, so you can easily take things forward. Conference URL: [http://www.schoolofemotional-literacy.com/content.asp?ArticleCode=128](http://www.schoolofemotional-literacy.com/content.asp?ArticleCode=128)

**International Conference on Foster Care 18-21 November, Malta**

This conference, organised by the International Foster Care Organisation, is taking place in Malta, on 18-21 November, 2007. The conference will seek to link together all those involved in the development of family-based care in the countries of the European Union, Central and Eastern Europe (and CIS) and North Africa. For more details and information on how to register: [http://www.crin.org/bcn/details_news.asp?ID=12939&themeID=1002&topicID=1013](http://www.crin.org/bcn/details_news.asp?ID=12939&themeID=1002&topicID=1013)

**Seminar on ethics and childcare 20-21 November 2007, Paris, France**

The Association *Enfance et Partage* fights against all kinds of mistreatments and for the acknowledgement of the Rights of the Child. For the occasion if its 30th birthday, it is organising, in partnership with the *International Juvenile Justice Observatory*, the *International Seminar: Ethics and childcare: a collective engagement*. This event will take place on 20-21 November 2007 at UNESCO in Paris. The 4 following approaches will be developed: Media and Endangered childhood; Interdisciplinary communication and Professional secret; Minor offender yet victim as well and Accompanying the minor when parents fail. For more information: [http://www.oijj.org/plantilla.php?pag=100600&idioma=en](http://www.oijj.org/plantilla.php?pag=100600&idioma=en)

**Eurochild Annual Conference 21-23 November, Malta**

Eurochild's next Annual Conference will take place from 21 to 23 November 2007 in Malta. This year's title will be "Preventing social exclusion of children and young people in Europe: Participation & yearly intervention". Eurochild will use the occasion of its annual conference to highlight two core principles that we believe should underpin any strategy aimed at tackling child poverty and social exclusion:

1. **Early intervention**
   Eurochild aims to showcase examples of good policy and practice with respect to detecting and tackling the early signs of social exclusion. The selection of presentations will focus in particular on examples of:
   - Positive approaches to support families at risk
   - Social integration and empowerment of immigrant parents and children
   - Strengthening children’s development through pre-school care & education
   - Non-formal learning to promote ‘success experiences’ of children at risk of exclusion
   - Integrated community services for families and children

2. **Participation**
   The examples of good policy and practice will be based on the principle of participation. That is they will illustrate how direct involvement and empowerment of the target groups (children and/or their families) has contributed to the success of the policy or action. It is expected that the examples selected will inspire replication of the approaches developed in other contexts or challenges.

More information as well as a draft programme will be made available soon in this e-News Bulletin and/or on [www.eurochild.org](http://www.eurochild.org).

**Eurochild**

Eurochild AISBL is a network of organisations and individuals, who are working in and across Europe to contribute to the improvement of the quality of life of children and young people. Our work is based on the principles enshrined in the UN CRC.

If you would like to become a member of Eurochild AISBL, please visit our website [www.eurochild.org](http://www.eurochild.org).

**Sharing Information**

Do you wish to share information, announce something or make a contribution to the e-News Bulletin? Please send it to: info@eurochild.org.