News from Eurochild

Upcoming Events

3rd Annual Conference of Eurochild AISBL
14-16 November 2006, Berlin, Germany

As previously announced, the Child and Youth Welfare Association (Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Kinder- und Jugendhilfe – AGJ, www.agj.de) in Germany and Eurochild AISBL (www.eurochild.org) are organising a European conference on "Policy and Practice for Social Inclusion of Children and Young People - the Role of Non-formal and Informal Learning", which will take place on 14-16 November 2006 in Berlin, Germany.

The main objectives of the conference are to exchange ideas, experience and best practice between practitioners, and develop and discuss possible recommendations for national and European policy development. The conference is open to practitioners, academic experts and specialists in non-formal education and combating child poverty and social exclusion, government representatives and policy makers at regional, national and EU level.

Among the confirmed speakers are: Cristina Dolores, Minister for Family and Social Solidarity, Malta, Ursula Haubner, Federal Minister for Social Security, Generations and Consumer Protection, Austria and Beverley Hughes, Minister of State for
Children, Young People and Families, UK. On the other hand representatives of NGOs and the grass roots sector are going to be present, in order to present good practice examples and exchange views with the participants.

The following workshops on Good Practice of “Social Integration through Education and Participation” will take place during the conference:

- Early intervention
- School and pre-school age children’s care
- Co-operation with school
- Youth and community work
- Support for children and youth at risk
- Support after leaving school

Each of the 6 workshops will include presentations from 3 projects from 3 different countries.

For registration (deadline: 10th October 2006) and the full conference programme, please go to the Eurochild website: www.eurochild.org.


Publications

Summer Newsletter

The summer edition of Eurochild’s bi-annual Newsletter has now been published. It can be accessed, together with former editions of Eurochild publications, on Eurochild’s website: http://www.eurochild.org/index.php?id=41

The Newsletter has been issued in English and French. Please contact Eurochild at contact@eurochild.org in case you would like to receive a printed copy of the Newsletter (indicating the language choice).

Annual Report 2005


Green light for Structural Funds

The main aim of the Structural Funds is to reduce the gaps in development between regions of the EU and to reduce economic and social disparities in the standard of living of their inhabitants. With this contribution, it provides a means to realise the European policy of economic and social cohesion. The last programming period was 2000-2006.

Two years of intensive negotiations after the Commission tabled proposals for a more Lisbon-oriented Cohesion policy for the next programming period 2007-2013, a political agreement on the EU Structural Funds package was finally reached in May by the European Council. The legislation that conditions the allocation of Structural and Cohesion Funds in the EU has also been backed by the European Parliament, with added focus on environment, growth and job creation. The European Commission on 13 July adopted two key proposals in order to help national and regional authorities make the most efficient use of the money that was allocated to Cohesion policy.

The final compromise includes five Regulations constituting the cohesion policy legislative package. The package comprises one general and four specific regulations; the former lays out the common rules in programming, managing, controlling and evaluating the new Cohesion policy, whereas the other four determine specific rules that govern the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the European Social Fund (ESF), the Cohesion Fund and the new European Grouping of Territorial Co-operation (EGTC). This simplifies the former Funds from 6 to 4 funding instruments.

January 2007 is the starting date for using the new Funds. In the meantime, EU institutions will have to agree on the Community Strategic Guidelines by October, on the basis of which member states will draft their National Strategic Reference Frameworks and the Operational Programmes.

Issues such as the fight against social exclusion, non-discrimination and gender equality, the integration of disadvantaged people, including people with disabilities, inactive people and minorities, are top priorities in the ESF regulation. However, the only place where children are mentioned in the General Regulations is in the framework of improving access to education and the participation of women in employment, for which among others facilitated child care is needed.

On 4th July 2006 the European Commission launched its first ever official Communication on child rights in EU internal and external policies. “Towards an EU strategy on the rights of the child” was launched by Commission President José Manuel Barroso and Vice-President and Commissioner for Justice, Freedom and Security Franco Frattini in the European Parliament in Strasbourg. One week later, the Commission organised a personal audience between Barroso, Frattini and children’s rights organisations, giving us a first-hand opportunity to find out more about how the EC plans to follow-up the document, and to ask further questions. This is a glimpse of the event.

Involving stakeholders
Already in autumn 2006 the EC will appoint an administrator and set up an inter-service group on the rights of the child. Also in the short term, the EU plans to establish a European Forum for the Rights of the Child involving all key stakeholders – NGOs, the Council of Europe, UNICEF, the network of children’s Ombudsmen, EC services and others. They plan not only meetings, but a virtual platform to exchange ideas and best practice. In 2007 the EC will develop an EU website dedicated to children’s rights – with a child friendly version to inform children of their rights – and they will commission a study on the impact of EC instruments on children’s rights. The conclusions of this study will feed into a Green Paper in late 2007/early 2008, which will launch a wide public consultation on an EU strategy on the rights of the child.

New Commission Unit on Child Rights
Responding to questions from the child rights organisations, Barroso was very clear on the need to ensure wider ownership of the strategy – crucially involving member states and EU delegations in third countries. But he also confirmed that child rights will remain under the responsibility of Justice, Freedom and Security, who have the mandate on fundamental rights. He and Frattini both indicated that other DGs had agreed to work with the new Commission Unit on Child Rights – with a child friendly version. Frattini even indicated that a new Unit specialised on children’s rights will be set up. However, the response to the question of funding was not clear, as it seems no new funding is available, rather it will be linked to increased budgets for the DAPHNE programme and the fundamental rights agenda.

Both Frattini and Barroso were well briefed and the political attention they are giving to children’s rights can only be encouraging. However, within Eurochild we are still concerned that too little attention is paid to the link between the child rights agenda and the fight against poverty and social exclusion. For us this is absolutely key to the long-term prevention strategy towards child protection, as inevitably it is always those in precarious living situations or those facing poverty and social exclusion who are the most vulnerable.

Press Release of the Group of Child Rights NGOs:

Press Release of the European Commission:

Press Release of UNICEF:

The final version of the Communication is available on the Eurochild website www.eurochild.org.

[source: Eurochild Newsletter, Jana Hainsworth]

Promise of EU-wide child helpline

EU member states should have a common child helpline number dedicated to missing and sexually-exploited children, the European Commission has proposed among others while launching its Communication on child rights on 4th July.

At the moment all EU Member States have their own children helplines but the chosen number should, according to the Commission plan, be the same throughout the 25 countries, which should then chose and appoint an organisation that will be responsible to manage the line. Current helpline numbers in member states would remain but every member state would be encouraged to implement the new six digit number which will start with 116.

The EC also intends to encourage the banking sector and credit card companies to fight the use of credit cards when purchasing sexual images of children on-line. It will appoint a “Commission coordinator of the rights of the child” and prepare a Green Paper on children’s rights in the EU, which will be followed up by a public consultation.

The Commission said it will also draw up a preliminary inventory of the EU instruments affecting children’s rights including legislative, non-legislative and financial measures.

[source: EU Observer]

A new indicator at EU level to measure children’s well-being

The EU is promoting closer co-operation among Member States on the modernisation of social protection systems, which face similar challenges across the EU. This cooperation takes place mainly within the Social Protection Committee (SPC)
In March 2006, the European Council adopted a new framework for the social protection and social inclusion process. There is a new set of Common Objectives: 3 overarching objectives and objectives for each of the three policy areas of social inclusion, pensions and health and long-term care.

The OMC also involves the agreement of Common indicators. Indicators to be used for monitoring the social inclusion strand of the Social Protection and Social Inclusion Strategy largely draw from the existing set of "Laeken indicators" in its present form. That is, it is proposed to maintain the distinction between primary and secondary indicators. Accordingly, primary indicators are a restricted number of "lead indicators which cover the broad fields that have been considered the most important elements in leading to social exclusion"; whereas secondary indicators would support these lead indicators by describing in greater detail the nature or other dimensions of the problem.

A report from the European Commission lists the revised indicators to be adopted from 2006. It includes proposals to develop new indicators on material deprivation and housing, broken down by age category. They also propose an indicator on child well-being. It has yet to be developed but is likely to draw upon the results of a research study by Jonathan Bradshaw et al on child well-being indicators (see our section Further Reading on p.13).


Eurochild e-News Bulletin July-August 2006

Protection of children using mobile phones

On 25 July 2006 the European Commission launched a public consultation on the potential risks for children using mobile phones.

With the high level of popularity that mobile phone use enjoys among young people and with new features such as video cameras, file transfer and downloadable games, the question of trust arises. Youngsters are exposed to an un-quantified number of potentially harmful influences transmitted over mobile phones.

The new consultation addresses issues linked to content and behaviour, such as access to harmful or illegal content, bullying (e.g. distribution of abusive or compromising messages and photos amongst children), grooming (e.g. strangers “making friends” with children with a view to meeting them), risks to the privacy of children, and the risk of unexpectedly high expense.

The consultation aims to gather factual information and views from different stakeholders on the types of risks faced by children in their use of mobile content services, the technical and regulatory solutions that exist and the scope for further action, in particular at European level.

Input is invited from any stakeholder, including child safety, parent and consumer organisations, mobile network operators, content providers, handset and network manufacturers, and regulators. The consultation will run until 16 October 2006.

For more info: http://ec.europa.eu/saferinternet

Report on Fundamental Rights and Rights of the Child in the EU

The EU Network of Independent Experts on Fundamental Rights has presented its report 2005 to Mr Frattini, Vice-President of the European Commission, responsible for the European area of freedom, security and justice. It also includes a thematic comment on the Rights of the Child.

The network examines a number of general questions on main areas of fundamental rights protection. For each Article of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, it points out the areas of concern as well as the positive points and good practices, both at Union and Member State level.

For the report:

At the same time the network also published its thematic comment on “Implementing the Rights of the Child in the European Union”:
http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/cfr_cdf/doc/thematic_comments_2006_en.pdf. This subject was chosen in agreement between the European Parliament and Council. It illustrates the emphasis the institutions wish to place on the protection of children in Europe. It is therefore a particularly rich source of information and thought-provoking material. It gives an overall view of the current status of the rights of the child as referred to in Article 24 UN CRC. The prevention of violence towards children, trafficking in children and education issues are all tackled. The rights of immigrant children are also examined.

For more information on the Network of Independent Experts on Fundamental Rights:

---

Eurochild is about to put together a list of existing resources on indicators of child poverty and well-being, which will soon be published on its website www.eurochild.org.
Reduced VAT rates for nappies

The European Commission has started legal action against five member states for charging a sales tax of less than 15% on babies' diapers. Under current rules, member states must apply a minimum of 15% value-added tax (VAT) on wares sold, except in sectors that have applied for exemption such as medical goods and pharmaceuticals.

Several Commissioners were against the legal action which comes at a time when the Commission is trying to improve its image with citizens by cutting mobile phone roaming charges and seeking more transparency on air ticket prices across the bloc.

As the Commission fully supports social and family friendly policies as part of the EU's response to the pressing challenge of demographic ageing, it will in parallel take the necessary steps in order to create a legal basis for the application of reduced VAT rates to children's diapers. It will consider proposing EU-wide diaper tax relief as part of next year's review of the VAT system and will therefore take the 5 member states' replies "into account positively".

For more information:

€10 million for Niger's children

The European Commission has allocated an extra €10 million in humanitarian aid for vulnerable children in Niger. The aim is to reduce child malnutrition and mortality.

Since the beginning of this year, more than 150,000 children in Niger have been admitted to nutritional centres, many of which are supported by the Commission's aid. The aid is also being used to improve access to primary health care for young children and their mothers, and to help the poorest families regain their food self-sufficiency, for example through distributing seeds to families who visit nutrition centres.

The €10 million in aid comes on top of €8.3 million of humanitarian assistance the EC has granted to Niger since the start of the food crisis in 2005.

For more information:
http://ec.europa.eu/echo/index_en.htm

In some places, the working poor are even poorer

The purchasing power of workers with the minimum wage varies 1 - 7.5 throughout the EU-28, according to the most recent Eurostat figures. Seven member states still do not have a minimum wage.

Luxembourg, which has by far the highest per capita income in the EU, also has the highest minimum wage. But the country also has the highest percentage of workers having to live on that minimum wage. In some other countries which do have minimum wages, they mark little more than a lower ceiling of workers' payment, with just around 1% of the workforce being on minimum wage.

Workers on minimum-wage jobs in Bulgaria and Romania are poorest - in Romania this concerns one out of every eight workers. The two accession candidates are being followed by the Baltic States and by Slovakia. Austria, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Italy and Sweden have not fixed a statutory minimum wage.

For the Eurostat Press Release:

For more information:

In some places, the working poor are even poorer

The purchasing power of workers with the minimum wage varies 1 - 7.5 throughout the EU-28, according to the most recent Eurostat figures. Seven member states still do not have a minimum wage.

Luxembourg, which has by far the highest per capita income in the EU, also has the highest minimum wage. But the country also has the highest percentage of workers having to live on that minimum wage. In some other countries which do have minimum wages, they mark little more than a lower ceiling of workers' payment, with just around 1% of the workforce being on minimum wage.

Workers on minimum-wage jobs in Bulgaria and Romania are poorest - in Romania this concerns one out of every eight workers. The two accession candidates are being followed by the Baltic States and by Slovakia. Austria, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Italy and Sweden have not fixed a statutory minimum wage.

For the Eurostat Press Release:

Petition against the use of children for begging

Trafficking in children is on the increase and is touching the heart of humanity. In Europe many criminals are using poverty to their advantage to traffic human beings in the same way as arms or drugs. According to the NGO Terre des Hommes every year over 1 million children are victims of trafficking all over the world. They are exploited for
Eurochild e-News Bulletin July-August 2006

sexuality, violence, and mental health, and addresses the need for a peaceful and inclusive society.

In Belgium a group of individuals have launched a petition to sensitise both government and citizens to the need of countering this form of organised crime and to help all victims, with special attention to children. All children need and have the right to total protection by the law, without discrimination and independently of their family or legal situation. They are particularly highlighting the complex issue of child begging.

For more information (in French), see: http://www.stop-mendicite-enfance.org/index.htm.
To sign the petition: http://www.stop-mendicite-enfance.be/

Breastfeeding week
This year’s breastfeeding week (1-7 August) marks the 25th anniversary of the International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes. Improving breastfeeding rates globally could save the lives of 3,900 a day. However companies continue to promote artificial feeding in ways that undermine breastfeeding - putting profits before children’s health. Breastmilk provides all the energy and nutrients an infant needs, stimulates immune systems and protects them from disease.

Breastmilk substitutes, on the other hand, carry a high risk of infection and can be fatal in infants, particularly in places with limited access to sanitation. Even in the UK, a bottle-fed baby is far more likely to be hospitalised with stomach illness than a breastfed one. They are also at higher risk of respiratory and ear infections. Studies show that breastfed babies are less likely to die of cot death or suffer from allergies or obesity in later life (more on the benefits of breastfeeding).

So why do few of the 129 million babies born each year receive optimal breastfeeding and many are not breastfed at all? One of the reasons is that companies continue to promote artificial feeding in ways that undermine breastfeeding - putting profits before children’s health in violation of the International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes. During this world breastfeeding week, Save the Children UK has asked people around the world to spot companies breaking the code and report them. The Code states there should be no advertising or any other form of promotion of infant formulas, follow-on milks, feeding bottles or teats.

For more information, see: http://www.savethechildren.org.uk/scuk/jsp/resources/details.jsp?id=4302&group-resources&section=news&subsection=details

Campaign on Care by EWL
The European Women’s Lobby has launched a campaign on care issues “Advancing equality between women and men through the better provision of care services in European Union” that will be available for signing until International Women’s Day (8th March) 2007. The aim is to ask decision-makers to advance equality between women and men through the provision of affordable, accessible and high quality care services in the EU. The signatures will then be forwarded to European Commission President Barroso and to all of the EU Heads of State and Governments for the European Spring Council 2007.

In a recent position paper on Employment and the currently much-debated issue of “Flexicurity”, besides a healthy work-life balance, Eurochild has mentioned the access to adequate services, including child and health care, as an important factor of improving children’s wellbeing. They are mentioned respectively in Articles 18 and 24 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Care services should give both mothers and fathers the possibility to work whilst having a family and facilitate the life of lone parents. The people working in the service and care sector, including those working on a voluntary or informal basis, should be adequately trained for this activity and recognised for the work they are doing.


Current trends in obesity research
The burden of obesity threatens the health and quality of life of an increasing number of Europeans. For this reason national governments and the European Commission have allocated substantial resources to find out how to reverse this trend. Although we now know a great deal about body weight control systems and that these are influenced by genetic traits, the current increase in obesity in Europe is greatly influenced by lifestyle, diet and physical activity. There is a need for more information on the precise factors that promote obesity and this will in turn provide the basis for preventive public health measures. Here is an overview of some of the current EU funded research projects in this area referred to by their acronyms.

Early nutrition
It is believed that nutrition in the womb and in infancy influences the later health and development of the child. Three projects are examining maternal and infant nutrition to find out how early diet influences later risk of obesity and/or developing life limiting conditions such as diabetes, cardiovascular disease, cancer and mental illness. The EARNEST project (www.metabolic-programming.org) examines the mechanism behind the early programming of adult health and if such programming can be altered or even reversed. The NUTRIX project (www.nutrix.be) has examined how foetal growth in adverse prenatal and postnatal conditions (related to nutrition) lead to the programming of obesity in
adulthood, and the EU Childhood Obesity Group (www.childhood-obesity.org) is looking at how the protein content of infant diets might be linked to early determinants of obesity.

Adolescence

The teenage years are a time of change and many life-long habits, both healthy and unhealthy, develop at this time. This is why adolescence is an important time to develop and support positive health behaviour and healthy lifestyles. Project HELENA (www.helenastudy.com) is a 3 year study designed to understand and enhance the nutritional and lifestyle habits of European adolescents. Increased knowledge about physical activity patterns, food choices and food preferences will enable the development of computer-based more effective education tools for this population.

Diet composition and behaviour

The macronutrient composition of the diet, its impact on weight control and the interaction with our genes, continues to be a hot topic. A number of projects are currently underway in this area, such as DIOGENES (www.diogenes-eu.org) and LIPGENE (www.lipgene.tcd.ie). Many of the studies have included psychological and/or behavioural aspects to help identify those at particular risk of weight gain. The Factors in Healthy Eating study is devoted to understanding the social, psychological and genetic characteristics that predispose an individual towards eating disorders.

Future policy

Future public health measures will be influenced by the outcome of these studies. The research outcome will among others help us understand how best to feed mothers and infants so that children do not develop phenotypes that predispose them towards overeating and obesity and give us a better insight into how to motivate adolescents to make healthy lifestyle choices.

[Source: FOOD TODAY – European Food Information Council Newsletter N°53/2006]

“Eurochild” Anthology of Poetry and Art

The “Eurochild” International Festival is an annual arts festival that celebrates children’s creativity and imagination through the arts. Through workshops, performances and creative events, the festival nurtures the collective voices of the children. The project that began in 1995 includes the publication of the “Eurochild” Anthology, the “Eurochild” International Festival, a schools exchange and a poetry outreach programme throughout Ireland and Europe.

“Eurochild” is an annual anthology of poetry and artwork written and illustrated entirely by children up to twelve from all over Europe. It is unique as it is completely child centred and allows children to write on topics that inspire them rather than those chosen by adults. It brings together the work of children from all over Europe.

This year's book which is the 11th edition of the “Eurochild” publication includes a wide and varied selection of work of young artists and poets. This year the project received over 8,000 entries of poetry and art from 14 European countries.

In the last number of years the book has become an important documentation of issues that directly affect children in today’s world with bullying, global warming, aids, education, growing up, loss and love being just some of the themes in this year’s anthology.


* There are no links with Eurochild AISBL.

News from Member & Candidate States

CROSS-BORDER PROJECTS

Healthy Schools and Communities Project

The first phase of a two-year healthy schools and communities project between partners in Kent, UK, and Pas-de-Calais, France, has received its official launch. Titled bien-être (wellbeing), its aim is to create cross-border and local learning networks comprised of those who are involved with the health and education of children and the well-being of communities. By focusing on food, the project aims at stimulating interest in healthier lifestyles through professional, social and cultural exchanges and increased community involvement in local projects, furthering community development and improving the lives of children and parents in local areas.

[Source: KENT Magazine, spring 2006]

FRANCE

Bill on Delinquency Prevention

The French Minister of Internal Affairs Nicolas Sarkozy, presented a bill on Delinquency Prevention on 28th June 2006. More specifically, as far as the fight against juvenile delinquency is concerned (juvenile delinquency has raised 80% in 10 years),
the bill adapts the Order of 2nd February 1945, which gives an individual and rapid reply to each reprehensible act. The bill foresees a diversification of measures taken by the judge (placement in a school far from their home, execution of schoolwork, placement in a boarding school, daily activity measures, reprimand, ...).

The recidivist minor between 16 and 18 years can be brought immediately before a judge and the judgment can intervene during the first hearing that follows, with his agreement and that of his lawyer and parents. The bill will allow placing minors under judicial control with the only condition that the penalty is 7 years or more. The bill adds new diversion measures, which is vital for minor delinquents. Positive measures like orientation towards an adapted scholar structure or parental obligation to send their child to a psychologist or psychiatrist have been included.

[source: IJJO News N°27/2006]

LATVIA

Promotion of healthy snacks in schools

As a response to concerns over children's consumption of "unhealthy foods", Latvia will ban their sale in schools later this year. The Latvian government voted on 23 August 2006 to ban the sale in kindergartens and schools of food, drinks and snacks containing artificial additives such as colouring and flavouring agents, preservatives, amino-acids and caffeine. The country's Health Ministry is concerned about the health implications of children's regular consumption of food with artificial additives, as they can result in allergic reactions, and young children are more sensitive to chemicals. Food containing excessive levels of salt will also be banned. The prohibited products will be replaced with "healthy alternatives" such as dried fruit, unsalted nuts, unsweetened fruit juice, wholegrain snacks, mineral water and milk. The ban will come into force on 1 November 2006. For more information: http://www.euractiv.com/en/food/latvia-promote-healthy-snacks-schools/article-157196

THE NETHERLANDS

Dutch Government Allows Establishment of Paedophile Political Party

In May 2006 a new political party was formed in the Netherlands: the PNVD (Party for Neighbourly Love, Freedom and Diversity). The founders of this party are paedophiles, and as such they are well known to the police and the authorities. They are members of Martijn, an organisation for paedophiles, which was recently reported to the police by the National Reporting Point for Child Pornography, for grooming children for sex on internet sites.

The PNVD party programme includes the following:

- legalisation of child pornography with quality control;
- allowing children to smoke, drink and gamble from age 12.

The party programme lends an air of legality to its activities and by cloaking their agenda in the language of children's 'right to sex', there is a very real danger that they could convince outsiders to vote for them. By giving sex with children an air of normality, the PNVD creates a climate that leads to abuse of children.

The PNVD appeals to the right to freedom of speech. But Article 10 of the European Treaty for Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms emphatically states that freedom of speech can be made subject to conditions, limitations or sanctions, in order to protect the rights of others, public health and morals. Freedom of speech and freedom of sexual orientation are rights of a different order. Paedophilia has only to do with abuse of children.

According to several law experts, the Dutch government could ban and dissolve the PNVD, based on Article 20, Book II of Civil Law, defining it as being against the public order.

But the Dutch government refuses to interfere, stating that democracy is more important than protecting children, and that he will only interfere if and when the members of the PNVD commit illegal acts. There is currently no investigation into the party or the founding members.

The Foundation Profit for the World's Children is a children's rights organisation in the Netherlands which objects to the intended formation of the PNVD and requests that the Dutch government take appropriate measures against this party of paedophiles. It urges the international community to sign a petition, react and send their statements to the Dutch government and press. For more information: www.p-w-c.org

Another petition has been launched by APSEC: http://www.cdp.hrc.uottawa.ca/conferences/index.html (in French).

[Source: www.CRIN.org]

ROMANIA

Thousands of Romanian children and youth living with HIV face widespread discrimination that keeps many of them from attending school, obtaining necessary medical care, working, or even learning about their medical condition. Human Rights Watch said in a report released on 2 August 2006.

The government's failure to combat discrimination and promote integration has left many of these children vulnerable to abuse and neglect, ill-informed about sexuality, and unprepared for adult life, Human Rights Watch has found.
More than 7,200 Romanian children and youth aged 15 to 19 are living with HIV. The vast majority were infected with HIV between 1986 and 1991 as a direct result of government policies that exposed them to contaminated needles and “micro-transfusions” in which small children were injected with unscreened blood in the mistaken belief that this would improve their immunological status.

The 104-page report, Life Doesn’t Wait: Romania’s Failure to Protect and Support Children and Youth Living with HIV, documents violations of the rights of these children and youth to education, health, privacy and information. It also shows how the authorities fail to protect these children and youth from discrimination, abuse and neglect.

For the full report: http://hnw.org/reports/2006/romania0806/
For more information: http://www.crin.org/resources/infoDetail.asp?ID=9590

**London children deprived of outdoor play**

London Play, a charity working for a capital where all children can play, welcomed the announcement by Transport for London on 17 July 2006, that the number of children killed or seriously injured on London’s roads has fallen by 62% since the 1990s.

This means that London shows that by investing heavily in road safety children’s lives can be saved. The Mayor has rightly set even tougher targets to bring down further the number of children killed or seriously injured in London where the percentage of children who play outdoors most often is the lowest.

A survey has found that children in London say they play outdoors more than outdoors, despite most of them preferring to play outside. The national survey, published for Playday 2006, found that only 48% of 7-14 year olds in London said they played mostly outdoors - compared to 65% on average around the UK - despite 86% of children in London saying they prefer to play outdoors. The survey showed that it is in London where the percentage of children who said that they play outdoors most often is the lowest in the country. Unsurprisingly then, three quarters (75%) of children surveyed in the capital said they would like to play outside more often.

For more information: www.londonplay.org.uk or www.playday.org.uk.

**Meetings between offenders and victims could cut crime**

Young offenders who meet their victims are less likely to re-offend than those who have no contact, according to a new report that suggests the tactic could be a key to reducing crime in Scotland. The Scotsman has learned that an evaluation of a youth restorative justice programme, run by the charity Safeguarding Communities - Reducing Re-offending (SACRO), has found repeat offending was markedly reduced in those who were forced to face up to their actions.

In the SACRO project, nearly 200 children in Aberdeen who had offended were "tracked" for a year to study the impact of meeting victims on their behaviour. About 80 were first offenders and, of those, 86% did not re-offend in the 12 months after working with SACRO. Previous studies have found that the equivalent figure for children who do not take part in restorative justice schemes is 65-70%.

Meanwhile, authorities saw a 10% reduction in crime among 20 hardcore offenders - responsible for a total of 383 crimes each - who took part in the project. One in 4 victims and one in 5 offenders were prepared to engage with the scheme, when approached. SACRO said offenders were made aware of the consequences of their crime, while young people were less likely to be "demonised".

[source: NEWS.Scotsmen.com]

**Child Abuse Linked to Accusations of "Possession" or "Witchcraft"**

Britain's Children and Families Minister Beverley Hughes has announced that action has been stepped up to tackle child abuse linked to 'possession' and 'witchcraft' in the UK. A new report Child Abuse Linked to Accusations of "Possession" or "Witchcraft" is available.

It is clear from the report that beliefs in "possession" and "witchcraft" have been a hidden problem in some parts of society. Action must be taken to ensure that society – including Government and everyone who works with children - actively tackles the problem. The report states 'the number of cases of child abuse linked to accusations of "possession" and "witchcraft" are small compared to the total number of children abused each year' but that the nature of the cases is disturbing.

For more information: http://www.crin.org/resources/infoDetail.asp?ID=9149&flag=report

For the full report: http://www.crin.org/docs/dfes_witchcraft.pdf

Visit http://www.childpolicy.org.uk for the latest on child policy matters across the U.K.
Council of Europe News

Presentation of the UN Study on Violence against Children at the CoE

Paulo Sergio Pinheiro, appointed by Kofi Annan to conduct the United Nations Study on Violence against Children, spoke before Ministers’ Deputies of the Council of Europe on 12 July 2006. His intervention took place against the background of a political discussion on the Council of Europe programme “Building Europe for and with children”.

In his speech, Mr Pinheiro welcomed the Council of Europe’s leading role in combating violence against its children. He paid special tribute to the Deputy Secretary General, Maud de Boer-Buquicchio, as the “driving force” of the activities to improve children’s lives. He also expressed his full support for “Building Europe for and with children” as an excellent framework for the follow-up and implementation of the UN study recommendations. Many of the key results of the UN study, such as the consultation and participation of children, and the banning of corporal punishment, are a part of the programme’s agenda.

Even though the UN recommendations will be announced in detail when the final outcome of the UN study is presented officially this autumn, Mr Pinheiro provided the 46 Council of Europe member states with a sneak preview of the document.

For more information on the UN study on violence against children, read the section “United Nations News” below, or read: http://www.violencestudy.org.

For more information on the Council of Europe programme “Building Europe for and with children”: http://www.coe.int/T/TransversalProjects/Children/Default_en.asp

G8 News

Junior G8 Summit 2006

World’s children were given voice at G8 Summit

Every year, the “Group of Eight Nations” (G8), including the UK, the USA, Germany, France, Italy, Japan, Canada and Russia, meets to discuss key global issues and decide on common goals.

The decisions concerning global issues taken by the leaders of the world’s major industrialised nations will have a huge impact on children’s lives throughout the world. Children have a unique perspective on all the issues under consideration and will have to live with the decisions made by today’s leaders, so it is vital that those leaders take the views of children into account.

This is why, at the initiative of UNICEF, this year for the first time in G8 history a Children’s Forum has been incorporated into the official programme at the G8 summit in St. Petersburg. The event called the “Junior 8” meeting was held in Pushkin, near St. Petersburg from 7 to 18 July 2006.

The J8 brought together more than 60 youths aged 13-17, representing all G8 countries, to discuss what they think the G8 leaders should do about some of the most serious global issues. Hosted by the Russian Federation Government, in partnership with UNICEF, the Junior 8 focused on the key themes of this year’s G8 agenda: Education, Energy Security and HIV/AIDS. The children also discussed violence and other issues they saw as priorities.

The delegates attending the Junior 8 from all countries (except Russia) were selected through an essay competition organised by the Morgan Stanley International Foundation, with additional children selected by UNICEF. Russian participants won their places through a televised competition.

Their Recommendations

The main highlight of the event was that the G8 children had the chance to share their views with the world’s leaders on 16 July. The views of children from non-G8 countries were included via video-conferences linking the Junior 8 to children from Asia, Africa, the Middle East and Latin America.

Following a year of preparations and a week of intensive work finalising their recommendations on the spot, youth delegates representing each G8 country sat down with the Heads of State for a 40-minute discussion on HIV, education, tolerance, violence, and energy security.

Only 8 representatives, chosen by each national delegation, were allowed to meet with leaders. The remaining delegates watched via closed-circuit television in the complex’s Press Centre. The session was also carried live on Russian TV.

After brief welcoming remarks by Russian President Vladimir Putin, Junior 8 delegates took the floor to present their views to G8 leaders.

Canadian delegate Kristina Abretti spoke first, focusing on aid to education in the developing world – with suggestions that included free education for all, teacher training, more international exchanges and a global development fund.

US delegate Diana Perez, addressing the issue of infectious diseases, called for more international research, education & HIV prevention programmes.
French delegate Xavier Attwell added a call for measures to end the stigma associated with HIV. He noted that the world has the means to eliminate other deadly infectious diseases, such as malaria and tuberculosis, but determination and financing are needed to finish the job.

Italian delegate Elena delle Site spoke of the need for energy security, especially for environmentally sound and renewable energy sources.

German delegate Janusz Krasberg presented youth views on violence and intolerance, urging the G8 to set up a body that would monitor and enforce conventions on children’s rights.

Russian delegate Tatjana Ushakova ended the youth presentations with a call for education to foster the values of tolerance and respect.

“We feel the intellectual and moral energy of your work, concluded Mr Putin, wrapping up the session. “It’s precisely with the input of youth that we’ll solve the problems facing us.”

G8 Failing to Act Ambitiously to Tackle Poverty
International NGOs expressed dissatisfaction with the 2006 G8 Summit, saying that the G8 have fallen short of their commitments on health, education, trade justice, climate change, and tackling poverty.

### United Nations News

**European States under the scrutiny of the Committee on CRC**

The Committee on the Rights of the Child, the monitoring body to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UN CRC), meets three times a year at the UN Office in Geneva, normally in January, May and September.

The Geneva based Committee on the Rights of the Child, was established “for the purpose of examining the progress made by States Parties in achieving the realization of the obligations undertaken in the... Convention” (CRC Art 43(1)). Among these obligations, States that ratified the Convention are bound to present to the Committee reports on both the measures they have taken domestically, and the progress made in ensuring the children’s rights recognised in the Convention and in its two Optional Protocols. Examining and commenting on the State Parties’ reports is the Committee’s principal task.

The Convention binds the State Parties to submit the first report to the Committee within two years from the ratification of the treaty and every five years thereafter. In these reports, the State Parties report on issues such as the children’s rights situation in their country, the measures adopted, the progress made and the difficulties affecting the level of fulfilment of their treaty obligations. The underlying reason behind the convention’s reporting obligation is to create a cooperative, non-confrontational space that promotes a constructive dialogue among Committee members, government representatives and NGOs.

The Committee’s 42nd Session was held from 15 May to 2 June 2006. During this session, the Committee considered the reports of the following European States:
- **Latvia** - Second Periodic Report on the CRC;
- **Iceland, Italy and Turkey** - Initial Report on the Optional protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography;

On 11-29 September 2006, the Committee will convene for its 43rd Session, during which the following European States will have their reports scrutinised:
- **Ireland** - Second Periodic Report on the CRC;
- **Denmark** - Initial Report on the Optional protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography;

For more information:

Eurochild will participate in the Day of General Discussion, which will take place during the Committee meeting on 15 September, with the theme: a “Child’s Right to be Heard”. For more information on the Day of General Discussion:
[http://www.ohchr.org/english/bodies/crc/discussion.htm](http://www.ohchr.org/english/bodies/crc/discussion.htm)

[contribution from Ryan Meilak, Malta/Brussels]

**UN Secretary General’s Study on Violence against Children**

“No violence against children is justifiable. All violence is preventable. This is the core message of the study which I am leading.”

On 9 October 2006, Paulo Sergio Pinheiro will be presenting the UN Secretary General’s Report on Violence against Children to the 3rd Committee of the UN General Assembly. Prof. Pinheiro, of Brazil, (also UN Special Representative for Burma) was appointed by UN SG Kofi Annan on 12 February 2003, as an independent expert to lead the global study on violence against children, a project supported by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (www.ohchr.org), UNICEF.
A meeting will take place on 5th September at the UNICEF office in Brussels with Prof Pinheiro, to hear about the study now that it is finalised, his findings and recommendations and to ask questions, at which Eurochild will be present.

[contribution: Ryan Meilak, Malta/Brussels]

International Youth Day gathering

Young people from the far reaches of the globe gathered at UN Headquarters in New York to discuss measures they can take in tackling youth poverty at an event to commemorate International Youth Day, marked each year on 12 August. With almost half of the world’s population under 25 years old and surviving on less than $2 a day, the repercussions of youth poverty are immense. Problems include hunger and malnutrition, lack of access to education and basic services, unemployment, increased illness, homelessness and lack of participation in decision-making.

International youth studying human rights as well as volunteers from New York-area YMCAs assembled to discuss poverty issues from their perspectives. During their work with children and young people in countries all over the world, many of them noticed that people and their problems are the same everywhere. Community service and education were the most important poverty solutions highlighted during the discussions.


[source: CRIN/UN]

Youth with disabilities participate in UN Treaty process

Youth from across the world were a driving force behind talks at the UN Headquarters in New York (8th session of the ad hoc Committee for the Drafting of the Disability Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities) aimed at finalising a Treaty protecting the rights of persons with disabilities.

Born in Venezuela, Vincent Pineda has muscular dystrophy and Svetlana Kotova from Russia has a sight disability. While they come from opposite ends of the earth, with very different personal circumstances, both represent the new generation of the earth, with very different personal circumstances, both represent the new generation that people and their problems are the same everywhere. Community service and education were the most important poverty solutions highlighted during the discussions.

Delegates from all 192 Member States and representatives of more than 90 NGOs are involved in talks on the 33-article draft Convention. At the beginning of the two-week session, the Chairman, Ambassador Don MacKay of New Zealand, voiced optimism that agreement was close but negotiators will “have to start compromising” to reach a final text.

The Convention would oblige countries, among other measures, to gradually include disability-friendly features into the construction of new facilities, promote and improve access to education and information and introduce measures that eliminate discrimination against persons with disabilities.

Trafficking and forced marriages

The UN Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, will devote her next thematic report to the aspects of the issue of forced marriages that are relevant to her mandate. She has prepared a questionnaire to gather information on this subject and invites submissions by no later than 31 October. The questionnaire and responses as well as other information can be obtained from: Ms. Rachel Rico-Balzan (rrico@ohchr.org) and Geneviève Clottey (gclottey@ohchr.org).

Disappeared children call for information

A questionnaire has been circulated by the Special Rapporteur on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography in preparation for his report to the Human Rights Council in 2007. The report will focus on the sale of organs and rapid response programmes for disappeared or abducted children. Deadline for submitting information: 31 October 2006, send to Thierry Del Prado: tdelprado@ohchr.org. For more information: http://www.ohchr.org/english/issues/children/rapporteur/index.htm

Index of child well-being in the EU

In the framework of Research on Social Indicators in Europe, Jonathan Bradshaw, Petra Hölscher and Dominic Richardson have published an Index of Child well-being in the European Union. While the living conditions of children and young people in the EU have gained increased recognition, the well-being of children is not monitored on the European level. Based on a rights-based, multi-dimensional understanding of child well-being, the authors analyse data available for the EU 25, using a series of data as well as comparative surveys of children and young people. More information on Jonathan Bradshaw: http://www-users.york.ac.uk/~jrb1/ or: http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/spru/profiles/jrb.htm

Further Reading

Voices of children in conflict with the law

A contribution to the UN Study on Violence against Children from the International Save the Children Alliance. What do children in conflict with the law have to say about their experiences? Gaining Respect reports on what these children have to say about: why they got into trouble, their experiences with the justice system and the law enforcement authorities, their relationship with their families and communities, their recommendations for better and more relevant solutions to the challenges that bring them into conflict with the law in the first place. To download the PDF file: http://www.savethechildren.org.uk/scuk_cache/scuk/cache/cmsattach/3989_GAINING_RESPECT.pdf

Reference Guide on Protecting the Rights of Child Victims of Trafficking in Europe

The UNICEF Regional Office for Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CEE/CIS) has launched a Reference Guide on Protecting the Rights of Child Victims of Trafficking in Europe, a new tool designed specifically for use by those working to protect children victims of trafficking within the European region. For more information, see: http://www.unicef.org/ceecis

Violence against young children

The Bernard van Leer Foundation recently published its latest edition of Early Childhood Matters on violence against young children. It features interviews and articles covering such issues as corporal punishment, child abuse and violence in schools. Published at least once a year, Early Childhood Matters reviews specific issues pertaining to the development of young children, in particular from a psychosocial perspective. It draws on current theory as well as recent practical experience. For more info: www.bernardvanleer.org/

Impact of Domestic Violence on Children

A global study published on 1 August 2006 by UNICEF and The Body Shop International reveals the devastating and lasting impact on children of living with domestic violence. Defining domestic violence as the physical, sexual or mental abuse of a parent or caregiver, the report finds that the experience of watching, hearing or otherwise being aware of domestic violence can impact children’s physical, emotional and social development, both during childhood and later in life. For more information: http://www.unicef.org.au/documents/BehindClosedDoors.pdf

Refugee children: Guidelines on determining the best interests of the child

The UNHCR Guidelines on Formal Determination of the Best Interests of the Child are part of the
commitment by UNHCR to disseminate materials on the rights of refugee children, drawing on the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other international human rights law. Information collected from a variety of reports, including the Annual Protection Reports, as well as through participatory assessments, indicates that there is no consistency among field offices as to when and how Best Interests Determinations should be carried out. For more information, see: http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/text/vtv/home

Right to Education during Displacement and emergencies

As part of a campaign to promote displaced children and youth’s uninterrupted access to quality and safe education, the Women’s Commission for Refugee Women and Children has produced a new resource entitled the Right to Education during Displacement: A Resource for Organisations Working with Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons. This tool identifies the right to education and actions that individuals and organisations can take to fulfil these rights, with a focus on refugees, returnees and internally displaced people. It has been developed for local, regional and international organisations that work with displaced communities. For more information: http://www.womenscommission.org

Roma and Travellers in Public Education


UK: What Will it Take to End Child Poverty?

The British Government’s existing policies will not be enough to reduce child poverty in line with its targets, despite its recent success in bringing child poverty down. A wide-ranging study, What Will it Take to End Child Poverty? Firing on All Cylinders, by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation has estimated the future impact of current policies and examined what it will take to halve child poverty by 2010 and end it by 2020. This is the first systematic attempt to calculate what will be needed to achieve these ambitious targets. For more information, see: http://www.jrf.org.uk. For an Article for The Guardian by Polly Toynbee, commenting on the research: http://www.guardian.co.uk/comment/story/0,1814457,0,html

Children’s rights in a world with AIDS

Millions of children throughout the world do not have the means to protect themselves against the spread of HIV infection, according to a new report from international children’s organisation, Plan International. The 50 page report, “Circle of Hope”, highlights how despite knowing the risks and how to protect themselves, many young people simply cannot choose safe sexual behaviour because of economic, social, and cultural pressures. For more information: http://www.plan-international.org/news/06/aids-2006/. To download the report: http://www.crin.org/docs/Plan_HIV_AIDS_report_2006.pdf

Child protection: Welfare of children in the international context - call for papers

The Child Abuse Review is a journal of the British Association for the Study and Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect on international child rights and child protection. The journal provides a forum for all professionals working in the field of child protection, giving them access to the latest research findings, practice developments, training initiatives and policy issues. A special edition on international issues in child protection is being prepared. It aims to explore key issues of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the international context, emphasising a child rights perspective. Editors are calling for papers (research or case studies) that describe work in progress as well as project evaluations. For more information: Andy Bilson, editor: abilson@uclan.ac.uk

Website on children without parental care

The Better Care Network (BCN) has launched a website on 20 July 2006 in collaboration with the Child Rights Information Network (CRIN): www.bettercarenetwork.org. The website will improve the Network’s ability to support individual and collective efforts to enable children to have the care that they need and to which they are entitled. The network is guided by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Stockholm Declaration on Children and Residential Care.

Blog safety Advice

Childnet International has announced the launch of its “Blog safety” advice website (http://www.childnet-int.org/blogsafety/) and leaflet (http://www.childnet-int.org/downloads/blog_leaflet.pdf) designed to help parents, teachers and young people understand the new safety issues of Social Networking and Blogging sites. For more information: http://www.childnet-int.org
Asylum Seeking and Refugee Children Good Practice website

The National Children’s Bureau (NCB) has launched the Asylum Seeking and Refugee Children Developing Good Practice website (www.ncb.org.uk/arc). This new online resource provides essential information and resources for all those working with or for separated or unaccompanied refugee children and young people. All the resources contained on the website are grounded in research and modelled on ‘what works’ evidence based practice.

Prevention Programmes of Child Abuse and violence against children

Women’s World Summit Foundation (WWSF) is compiling a database of Internet links to prevention programmes of child abuse and violence against children so that good practices and innovative measures may be shared among child rights organisations and relevant groups. This database will be launched on the annual World Day for the Prevention of Child Abuse on 19 November 2006. By sharing information through a questionnaire, each organisation contributes to the creation of a culture of prevention. For more information: www.woman.ch

Conference on Child Abuse
3-6 September 2006, York, UK

The XVIth ISPCAN International Congress on Child Abuse and Neglect will take place from 3 to 6 September 2006 in York, England. The Congress is being organised by the International Society for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (ISPCAN) in collaboration with the British Association for the Study and Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect. The title of the Congress “Children in a Changing World: Getting It Right” reflects the need to ensure that research, knowledge, policies, the shape of services and practice skills address the challenges faced by those working to protect children and their welfare. This academic programme will provide an opportunity for those from all disciplines working at every stage of professional development to participate in sharing knowledge and experience and to learn from sources of high expertise. For more info: http://www.ispcan.org/congress2006/

Peer Reviews in social inclusion in 2006

The Peer Review Programme is a voluntary mutual learning process involving the scrutiny of specific policies, programmes or institutional arrangements presented as good practice in the various National Action Plans on social protection and social inclusion. It consists of a series of peer review sessions, in which the experience of the host country is confronted with the comments and critical analysis of peer countries and other stakeholders, including NGOs.

Upcoming Peer Review sessions:
• 7-8 September: Norway: National strategy to prevent and tackle homelessness
• 23-24 October: Spain: Social integration of Roma people. Municipal programme of shanty towns eradication in Avilés (Asturias)
• 6-7 or 13-14 November: Netherlands: Amnesty of debts: a legal solution to over indebtedness
• 4-5 December 2006: Sweden: Financial coordination within the field of rehabilitation

Day of General Discussion
15 September, Geneva, Switzerland

The Committee on the Rights of the Child has decided to devote its next day of general discussion to the theme: “To Speak, Participate and Decide - The Child’s Right to be Heard”. The meeting will take place in Geneva, on 15 September 2006 and will be attended by Eurochild representatives. It is open to representatives of NGOs, children and their organisations/networks, UN programmes and agencies, governments and other interested individuals, experts & organisations. For more info: http://www.ohchr.org/english/bodies/crc/discussion.htm

Elimination of discrimination and violence against the girl child

An online discussion on the theme of “The elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against the girl child” is being organised by the Division for the Advancement of Women, Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the UN. It will run for 4 weeks from 14 August to 8 September 2006. The purpose of the online discussion is to contribute to a further understanding of the causes and consequences of discrimination and violence against the girl child and to identify good practices and further strategies required to accelerate the elimination of these violations of human rights.

Contributions to the discussion will provide the background information to a meeting of experts convened by the Division for the Advancement of Women in collaboration with UNICEF at the UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre in Florence, Italy from 25 to 28 September 2006, to discuss this theme. The online discussion and the expert group meeting are part of the preparatory process for the 51st session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in March 2007, which will consider “The elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against the girl child”.

Calendar of Upcoming Events
Conference on Quality in the lives of young children
8-10 February 2007, Dublin, Ireland

The second International Conference of the Centre for Early Childhood Development and Education (CECDE) will be hosted by the Irish Department of Education and Science on 8-10 February 2007. This conference will look at policies and practices as agents for change and their impact on the lives of young children. It is aimed at practitioners, policy makers, parents, academics, students and anyone with interest in early childhood care and education. Its aim is to share information and experiences of practice, discuss and debate current research findings, exchange innovative policy approaches and network with others who are committed to making a positive contribution to provision of quality early childhood experiences for all children.

Call for Papers
The CECDE would like to invite interested parties to submit papers under the following themes:
- Professionalism in practice
- Listening to children
- Diversity and inclusion
- Creating learning environments
- partnership, parents and communities
- Innovation in policy and investment in early childhood education

For more information: www.cecde.ie

Youth-Empowerment-Solutions – Final conference
22 September 2006, Halle, Germany

Y.E.S. FORUM invites all relevant stakeholders to join the final conference of the Youth-Empowerment-Solutions project in Halle, Germany, on 22 September 2006. As the two year project comes to an end, the conference is the opportunity to share results and experiences of the project group to a wider public. The six local project locations in favour of young people benefited from the trans-national exchange and work setting extensively. They will share the impact the European project had on their local work and settings. Y.E.S. FORUM will create a safe setting to put young people in the centre of the event in order for them to share their views and opinions in partnership with their project workers. For more info: http://www.yes-forum.org/y-e-s

Consultation of Child Helpline International
1-4 October 2006, Stockholm, Sweden

The third international consultation of Child Helpline International (CHI) will take place on 1-4 October 2006 in Stockholm, Sweden. The helpline movement has chosen to make this consultation an event of networking with one another, networking with international children’s networks and organisations, participatory thematic workshops and plenary sessions with international experts. The registration fee is 550 Euro, covering conference, hotel accommodation for three nights, meals, field visits, sight seeing and transfers. Registration on-line at the following website: www.chistockholm.org

Round Table on Poverty & Social Exclusion
16-17 October 2006, Tampere, Finland

The 5th European Round Table on Poverty and Social Exclusion under the Finnish Presidency will take place on 16-17 October in Tampere. The Conference aims to provide an opportunity for a broad-based European discussion on the prevention and eradication of poverty and social exclusion. The Round Table is one of the main European-wide occasions where politicians and representatives from NGOs, national/regional/local governments as well as European Institutions can exchange their views and learn from each other’s approaches. Representatives of Caritas, Eurochild, ESN, FEANTSA and RETIS will be funded to represent their networks or NGOs during the event. For more information on the Round Table: http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/social_inclusi on/conf_en.htm

World Conference on Children without Parental Care
23-26 October, The Hague, NL

The 3rd annual World Conference on Children without Parental Care is going to take place on 23-26 October in The Hague, The Netherlands. It is organised by International Advocates for Children (IAC), a non-profit organisation whose mission is to vigorously advocate for human rights of orphaned and abandoned children worldwide. The objective of the conference is to create an active forum of discussion and debate amongst participants from all over the world. This “Symposium for Enforcing the Human Rights of Orphaned and Abandoned Children” will host up to 100 countries, represented by officials, NGOs and scientists. That is why participation is limited per country. Pre-registration forms must be received by 30 April 2006. For more information: info@iachildren.nl

Conference on Juvenile Justice in Europe
24 - 25 October 2006, Brussels, Belgium

The 2nd International Conference of the International Juvenile Justice Observatory, entitled ‘Juvenile Justice in Europe: A Framework for Integration’, will take place in Brussels on 24-25 October 2006. The subject matter of this conference is based on the challenge of promoting a reflection about a major harmonisation of legislation and common ways of action in prevention, treatment and integration policies, regarding young people in conflict with the law. For more information: http://www.oijj.org

Children in Scotland’s Annual Conference
2-3 November, Cumbernauld, Scotland

Ahead of the 2007 Scottish Parliament election, Children in Scotland’s annual conference “A gift for life? Building better childhoods for Scotland’s children” will consider the progress made to date
and future priorities in building better childhoods for Scotland’s children and young people. The two-day event will consider how we can improve children’s experience of childhood and lay the basis for their physical, mental and emotional wellbeing throughout life. Registration fees are between 180£ and 390£, depending on the chosen formula (residential/non-residential) and the membership status of the organisation with Children in Scotland. On-line booking: www.childreninscotland.org.uk/gfl.

Conference: Emotion Literacy for children
3 November, Edinburgh, Scotland

The conference on 'Implementing and Embedding Emotional Literacy - 4 Approaches for Success' will discuss Implementing and Embedding Emotion Literacy in to a variety of settings to help children. It will be a chance to see some of England and Scotland's good examples of embedding and using Emotional Literacy in a range of settings and schools. During the workshops it will be possible to work with the actual practitioners who have been there and are doing it. The participation cost is £150 + VAT per delegate and it is possible to book online at www.schoolofemotional-literacy.com.

Day for the Prevention of Child Abuse
19 November 2006

Alerting Governments and civil society organisations to play a more active role in the promotion of and respect for the rights of the child and contribute to the prevention of child abuse, the Women's World Summit Foundation (WWSF) launched in 2000 the World Day for Prevention of Child Abuse, a Day to be commemorated every 19 November in synergy with the anniversary of the International Day for the rights of the child (20 November) which has as its objective to be a rallying point around the issue of child abuse and the need for urgent effective prevention programmes. For more information: www.woman.ch

Conference: non-formal & informal learning
14-16 November, Berlin, Germany

The next Annual Conference of Eurochild AISBL will take place on 14-16 November 2006 in Berlin. It is co-organised with Eurochild AISBL's member organisation in Germany, AGJ (Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Jugendhilfe). The title of the Conference will be: “Policy and Practice for Social Inclusion of Children and Young People - the Role of Non-formal and Informal Learning”. For more information, see: www.eurochild.org.

HeadsUpScotland 2nd annual conference
12 December, Falkirk, Scotland

This conference is about helping to share and find out about some of the work underway in this area. It will among others: raise awareness of political and practical ideas, projects and programmes which promote mental health and well being, provide a platform to inspire those working in the field to embed and sustain this work, enable the voice of young people to be heard about issues affecting their mental health, re-invigorate commitment and enthusiasm for this work. It will give the legates the opportunity to: enhance knowledge & understanding of mental health in policy and practice, explore ideas, projects and programmes that can be replicated, listen to and enter into dialogue with a delegation of young people about mental health, network with other practitioners. On-line booking: www.childreninscotland.org.uk/iiii.

Lifelong Learning

Master of Arts in Child Welfare and Applied Childhood Studies
October 2006 - May 2007, Swansea, UK

The Master of Arts in Child Welfare and Applied Childhood Studies (MACWACS) is a one-year full-time or two-year part-time degree delivered by the Department of Applied Social Sciences at the University of Wales in Swansea. It is a well established (since 1997) diverse programme which attracts students who are professionals in practice with children and families, or at the beginning of a career in either research or practice with children. There are also opportunities for students to gain experience of working with children and families in the local community (either in a volunteer capacity or as an employee), where permitted by UK entry regulations. Application deadline: 8 September 2006.

For more information: http://www.swan.ac.uk/pgcourses/HumanSciences/MACChildWelfareAppliedChildhoodStudies/

Postgraduate Programme in Child Rights
12 February 2007 – 2008, Sion, Switzerland

The Master of Advanced Studies in Children’s Rights (MCR) is a part-time two-year postgraduate programme in children’s rights, which is jointly organised by the Law School and the Institute for family research and counselling at the University of Fribourg (Switzerland) and the Institut Universitaire Kurt Bösch (IUKB), associated with the International Institute on children’s rights (IDE), both in Sion, Switzerland. The MCR is an interdisciplinary and international programme which attracts a diverse range of graduate students from all over the world. The programme is designed for professionals who work with children’s rights issues. Deadline for applications: 15 September 2006. For more information: http://www.iukb.ch/mcr

Seminar on Children with Disabilities
10-14 October, Sion, Switzerland
The Institut International des Droits de l’Enfant (IDE) is organising its next international Sion seminar on the rights of children with disabilities. The aim of the seminar is to better understand the life of children with disabilities, to find out the protection potential of the future Convention, and to promote handicap as a real richness. Issues tackled in the seminar include: the WHO definition of disability, the national and international protection tools, as well as specific issues like education and training, family, institutionalisation, participation, environment, positive & negative discrimination. IDE is launching a call for papers to any individual, NGO, State, private or public agency, university, working in the field of children with disabilities. More information: http://www.childsrights.org/html/index.html

Inter-disciplinary course on Child Rights
27 November – 2 December, Ghent, Belgium

The International Inter-disciplinary Course on Children’s Rights with the title “From Text to Context: Bringing child rights to reality through the social practices of those working with and for children” is being organised in co-operation between the Children’s Rights Centre of Ghent University and the International Institute for Child Rights and Development based in Victoria, Canada. It recognises and will be formulated to address the evolving state of knowledge in children’s rights and to prepare leadership throughout the world to apply it constructively. In this spirit, the 2006 Course will give particular attention to the opportunities, preparation, and strategies for professionals and social practices to advance children’s rights. For more information: www.centreumkinderrechten.org

Training courses by COPES

COPES is a training and research centre on psychological and social problems of children and young people based in Paris, which frequently organises training courses on these issues. The courses are open to all medical, social and psychological professionals working with children, young people and their families. Upcoming courses:
- Psychological violence and mental cruelty in education – 18-20 September 2006,
- Meetings with parents in full-time family centres – 21-22 Sept, 19-20 Oct & 23-24 Nov 2006,
- Law, children, family: social actors and justice – 20-22 September & 19-20 October 2006,
- Foster care: stretch the family circle beyond parenthood – 27-29 September 2006,
- Traumas & psychology: loss, bad experiences and mourning in the family – 27-29 September & 19-20 October 2006,
- Aggressivity, violence and risk behaviour of teenagers – 5-6 October & 16-17 November,
- Cultural differences in motherhood – 9-10 October, 6-7 November & 11-13 December,
- Violence of children and young people – 16-17 October, 20-21 November & 14-15 December,
- Fatherhood today – 9-10 Nov & 7-8 Dec 2006,

For more information: www.lecopes.com (in French)

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.