Dear Readers,

Since our last newsletter the European Children’s Network has been busy delivering our EU funded project ‘Children’s rights in an enlarged EU’. For this project three regional seminars were held in Warsaw, Prague and Ljubljana between March and May 2005 with over 30 children’s organisations taking part. The project culminating in a two day event in Brussels in June, which included a training day for organisations new to working at EU level, and a conference in the European Parliament, hosted by Lissy Groener MEP. We were delighted with the success of this project and in particular the contacts we have all made in the ten new member states. It was inspiring to meet so many dedicated individuals working with children and young people across Europe.

Alongside this project the European Children’s Network has also been involved in discussions on the forthcoming European Commission Communication on children’s rights. We have been involved in consultations with key stakeholders including UN agencies and other children’s organisations.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Simona de Lisi to the EURONET Secretariat. Simona started in January 2005 as Project Manager and is Acting Secretary General while Mieke Schuurman is on maternity leave. Before coming to the European Children’s Network, Simona worked as Public Relation Adviser for the Social Platform in Brussels.

Finally I would like to welcome all our new members to the European Children’s Network. The network is rapidly expanding. We look forward to working together campaigning for the interests and rights of children in the EU!

Tara Hopkins,
President
European Children’s Network
NEWS FROM EURONET

EURONET Analysis of the EU Constitution launched at the European Parliament on January 2005

In January 2005 EURONET, in co-operation with its member organisation the NSPCC, organised a reception in the European Parliament to launch EURONET’s analysis of the European Constitutional Treaty. The analysis, with inputs from all EURONET members and some specialised lawyers, assesses the articles which are likely to impact on children's rights. This event also offered the opportunity to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the organisation. Several members participated together with members of the new European Parliament.

L’Europe de l’enfance

During the last meeting of the L’Europe de l’Enfance group, organised by the Luxembourg Presidency, EURONET Secretary General Mieke Schuurman was invited to make a presentation on the impact of the European Constitution on children's rights.

EURONET joined the Social Platform

In April 2005, EURONET was accepted as a full member of The Platform of European Social NGOs (Social Platform). The Social Platform is the alliance of representative European federations and networks of non-governmental organisations active in the social sector, promoting social justice and participatory democracy by voicing the concerns of its member organisations. The Social Platform and its members are committed to the advancement of the principles of equality, solidarity, non discrimination and the promotion and respect of fundamental rights for all, within Europe and in particular the European Union. For more information on the Social Platform visit: www.socialplatform.org

EU funded project ‘Children’s rights in an enlarged EU’

On June 13 and 14, 2005 the European Children’s Network organised a series of events in the framework of a project on “Children’s rights in the enlarged European Union”, supported by the European Commission. This project aimed to assess the state-of-play of children's rights in the new member states and accession countries of the European Union. The three regional seminars organised during the first part of this year in Warsaw (Poland), Prague (Czech Republic) and Ljubljana (Slovenia), to build capacity on the functioning of the EU institutions, allowed child-rights NGOs in the new Member States and accession countries to work together with representatives of the European Children’s Network. This project provided an important opportunity to enlarge the European children's rights advocacy agenda with children's rights trans-national issues within these countries. It also aimed to facilitate new contacts of national children’s NGO representatives in the new member states to the EU institutions. The training day and conference, organised in June 2005 in Brussels, represented the final stage of this project. During the two days events, participants not had only the opportunity to learn about the functioning of the EU institutions, but also to directly present the main priorities arising from regional seminars to key officials from the European Commission and Members of the European Parliament.

The EURONET General Assembly

EURONET’s General Assembly took place on June 14 in Brussels. It represented a very important event for the organisation, the official establishment of the organisation as AISBL. Issues such as membership categories and fees, the internal rules of the Management Council and the long term development of the organisation were discussed in detail.

On this occasion two new members of the Management Council were elected. The Management Council now consists of: Tara Hopkins (NSPCC UK - President), Diana Sutton (Save the Children, Europe Group - Treasurer), Marie Christine Ashby (BICE), Conchi Ballesteros (Spanish Platform of Children’s NGOs), Simone Ek (Save the Children Sweden), Tess Noonan (ISPCC Ireland) Stefan Stoyanov (Save the Children UK), and Zuzana Baudysova (Our Child Foundation, Czech Republic).
NEWS FROM THE INSTITUTIONS

Children and the EU Constitution
Following the negative votes in France and the Netherlands, the future of the EU's Constitutional Treaty is unclear. The deadline for ratification has been delayed and it is unlikely that it will enter into force in its current form in November 2006 as expected. Political leaders are currently re-thinking the future of the Constitution. EURONET successfully campaigned for the inclusion of specific references to children’s rights in the EU Constitution and therefore hopes that these will be retained in whatever compromise solution is reached, putting an end to the invisibility of children in EU legal texts. In the absence of an EU constitution, other legal texts, such as a reference to the rights of the child in art. 4 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights remain important.

Towards a communication on the protection of the rights of the child
In Spring 2005, at the initiative of Franco Frattini, Commissioner in charge of Justice Freedom and security and Vice-President of the European Commission, the Commission announced a Communication on the protection of the rights of the Child. The document is expected at the end of 2005/beginning of 2006 and it should present an improved overall consistency of the various on-going actions suggesting new strategies in view of a «pact for child ». The aim of such an initiative is to stimulate Member States and stakeholders to act in a co-ordinated and collaborative manner. The global objective of such a Pact would be to assist Member States in the implementation of their children policy, be it with legislative or financial support, or by an exchange of existing good practices.
Mr Patrick Trousson, co-ordinator for the Commission strategy, organised a consultation meeting with stakeholders on 22 June. At the meeting EURONET repeated its call for this action plan to be firmly based on the UNCRC. NGOs called for the action strategy to focus, not only on the important issue of the protection of the rights of the child, but to put children’s rights at the centre of all EU policies and programmes. The need for a focal point for child rights in every Directorate was addressed by the Commission. In autumn the European Parliament will hold a hearing with children’s ombudspersons, NGOs and Commission.
EURONET has been involved in several meetings with Commission officials on this strategy and a meeting with cabinet members of Vice president Frattini. EURONET, Save the Children – Europe Group and UNICEF sent out a joint letter and a press release on this issue stressing the need for such a communication to be based on the UN CRC. Since May a large coalition of Brussels-based children’s rights NGOs is supporting this action.

A European agency to protect and promote fundamental rights
On June 30, the European Commission adopted a proposal for a regulation establishing a European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights. The Council will negotiate the proposal and the European Parliament will be consulted. According to the proposal, the agency should be operational from January 1, 2007. The proposal follows the decisions of the Heads of State of the EU, taken in 2003 to extend the mandate of the EU monitoring centre on racism and xenophobia based in Vienna, by converting it into a Fundamental Rights Agency. This agency will be an independent centre of expertise on fundamental rights issues through data collection, analysis and networking, which currently does not exist at EU level. The Fundamental Rights Agency will advise the EU institutions and the member states on how best prepare or implement fundamental rights related to EU legislation.

EURONET has been following this process since the beginning. In December last year EURONET sent a contribution to the Commission welcoming the setting up of a fundamental rights agency. We also expressed our concerns about the tasks and competencies of this agency. The document stressed the importance complementing the setting up of a Fundamental Rights Agency, with a specific children's unit within the EU institutions. We believe this could be based in the Secretariat General of the Commission, where it would have an overview of the activities of all the different directorates involved.
For more information: http://europa.eu.int/comm/justice_home/fsj/rights/fsj_rights_agency_en.htm

EP adoption of phlatates in toys for children
Based on the precautionary principle, in July 2005 the EP voted by an overwhelming majority to ban the use of three and restrict the use of another three chemicals in plastic toys and childcare articles, without age-limitations. The Commission will prepare guidelines to facilitate the implementation of these new provisions on the restrictions in toys and childcare articles.
EURONET has addressed this issue in the past and very much welcomes the banning of this material in toys for children.

**EP vote on Paediatric Medicines**
The European Parliament 5-8 September Plenary Session confirmed the Parliament Environment Committee's (ENVI) position and voted in favor of the paediatric medicines directive.  
The directive, the aim of which is to guarantee that medicines administered to children are suitable for them, requires pharmaceutical companies to conduct clinical trials involving children before authorisation of drugs. As compensation for these extra costs and as incentive for more R&D, the companies will be granted a six-month extension of their patent.  
The Parliament also backed the ENVI Committee's wish to see the European Medicines Agency (EMEA) establish a network of researchers to avoid duplicating research or tests on children and called for the creation of a special EU programme for research into medicines for children, to be called MICE (Medicines Investigation for the Children of Europe).

**EP adopts a report on the PROGRESS Programme**
The European Parliament adopted a report by Karin Jöns MEP, on the Commission proposal for a new community programme on employment and social cohesion. The so-called PROGRESS is an integrated Community Programme relating to employment and social cohesion from 2007 to 2013. It groups four specific action plans and various budget lines into one common programme. The programme will be divided in 5 sections corresponding to the 5 main fields of activities: employment, social protection and inclusion, working conditions, anti-discrimination and diversity and gender equality. The Council has already reached, by a qualified majority, a partial general approach on draft decision. Only budgetary aspects remain to be discussed due to the lack, for the time being, of a financial perspective.  
EURONET has contributed to the debate with a letter to MEP’s to ensure that child poverty will remain a key priority in the new PROGRESS Programme.

**UK PRESIDENCY**

**Children’s Rights and the UK Presidency**
Britain will be chairing the Presidency of the European Union until the end of 2005. EURONET members, the NSPCC and Save the Children UK, are working together during the Presidency to raise the profile of children’s rights, both internally and externally.  
Children’s rights rarely feature high on the formal agendas of the EU Presidency’s and unfortunately, the UK Presidency is no different. However, several of the Presidency priority areas will impact on children, including further co-operation at European level to combat people trafficking, further work on social inclusion with a particular emphasis on the Lisbon agenda and employment targets linked to the National Plans of Action, child poverty in the Union, and cooperation on making the internet safer for children.  
The informal, *L’Europe de l’enfance* meeting will be taking place in November, hosted by the Department for Education and Skills (DIES) and the theme has been set as securing better outcomes for children and young people through integrated services. The DIES is hoping the meeting will be an opportunity for all 25 member states to share good practice on integrated services aimed at children and young people. The NSPCC is sitting on the steering group organising the meeting.  
The Fourth Annual Roundtable on Social Inclusion will also be hosted by the Presidency in October. Save the Children UK are involved in the planning of the event and the European Children’s Network has been invited to present the roundtable with the forthcoming EURONET report on children’s policy in the EU.  
The negotiations on the Financial Perspectives 2007-2013 will continue during the UK Presidency. Save the Children UK, together with other development agencies members of BOND (British Overseas NGOs for Development) is in the process of finalising its position on those instruments, proposed by the European Commission in the Perspectives, which are related to the Union’s development and enlargement policies. The network will be calling on the UK Presidency to ensure that the instruments are designed in a way, which allows for action to reduce poverty and to combat child poverty, to be taken in the countries covered by the different instruments.  
Finally, EURONET will be calling for the Presidency to deliver a commitment to Europe’s 90 million children. The Constitutional Treaty was a significant step forward for the visibility of children on the EU agenda. The references to protecting children’s rights were a hugely important advance and one
which the European Children’s Network had long campaigning for. With the future of this Treaty now in question, it is important that the British Presidency sends a signal that the commitment to children’s rights, laid down in the Constitutional Treaty, will be upheld.

Priorities for the UK Presidency of the EU 2005

- Future financing
- CAP reform
- Economic report and social justice
- Security and stability
- Europe’s role in the world

Specific priorities which could impact on children.

- **Justice and home affairs**
  - People trafficking and migration
  - Improving arrangements for exchange of law enforcement information and lead EU work to develop a model for intelligence led policing
  - The European Evidence Warrant
  - Progress on EU proposals on criminal records exchange
  - Progress on implementation of the EU Drugs Action Plan
  - Better operational cooperation e.g.: joint operations and intelligence led policing

- **Education and youth policy**
  - EU education and youth programmes
  - Report on education and training’s contribution to competitiveness and social inclusion under the Lisbon agenda;
  - Improving quality assurance for Higher Education Institutions across Europe;
  - Agreeing an EU Youth Pact which considers the problems of unemployed young people;
  - How universities can contribute to the Lisbon strategy.

- **Employment and social policy**
  - Employment rate target of the Lisbon Strategy for Economic reform

For further information on the UK Presidency go to: [http://www.eu2005.gov.uk](http://www.eu2005.gov.uk)
The UK Presidency's calendar is available online, with the Council’s, the Parliament’s and Commission’s meeting dates for the period from 1 July to 31 December: [http://ue.eu.int/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/fr/fc/85471.pdf](http://ue.eu.int/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/fr/fc/85471.pdf) (French version)

**FOCUS ON**

**A Children's Policy for the 21st Century Europe:**
**Setting a new policy agenda for children in the European Union**

More than any other group, children will be affected by the long term implications of key decisions on the future of the EU. The introduction of the single currency in most Member States, the enlargement from 15 to 25 countries and the debate around the Treaty for a Constitution for Europe, are only some examples of issues which have a clear and direct impact on children lives as citizens of Europe today, with their own specific rights, as set out in the 1989 UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. However, despite the importance of the issues at stake, children's point of view on the future of the European Union is almost never taken into account.

This lack of visibility of children's rights at EU level led Euronet to launch a fifteen month project, with financial support from Directorate General V within the European Commission which culminated in a report on " A Children's Policy for the 21st Century Europe: First Steps" published in 1999. Based on an audit on EU legislation and policy, the report, identified a number of weaknesses in EU policy-making resulting in children's rights being ignored, overridden or addressed incoherently at EU level. It highlighted the importance of a coherent EU children's policy if children's rights and interest were to be taken into account fully, and presented a series of recommendations to this end.

Six years after the first report and in the light of the significant changes of the EU policy context, Euronet decided set out a new policy agenda for children. An update of the 1999 report was launched with the aim of extending Euronet's existing analysis and making recommendations for the...
development of new legislation, policy and structures. This revised and expanded report is now in its final phase and will be launched in November 2005.

The new report is more than an update of the 1999 analysis. It takes into account the significant increase in the number of Member States and the emergence of new issues, notably related to the removal of frontier controls (family separation, children trafficking, etc.). It also takes advantage of the availability of far more data on the issue of children in the EU and draws from a wide range of sources.

Old and new challenges in an enlarged Union:
Children are facing new challenges in the enlarged European Union. These derive from several dimensions and factors such as demography, child poverty and social exclusion, environmental degradation, emergence of new technology and racism and xenophobia. Demographic change is probably the most obvious challenge with declining fertility rates. The family structure is becoming more complex. Parents find it often difficult to reconcile work and family needs. Child poverty and exclusion have increased significantly in the last 20 years. Children often face extremely difficult conditions often due to extra pressure on the welfare systems, notably on children's services. This is particularly relevant in an enlarged Union, were several new Member States experienced a difficult transition to the market system. Environmental degradation has also an important impact on children's lives as they are less able to resist to these risks, owing to their less developed respiratory and immune systems.

Although in theory children are acknowledged as EU citizens, EU citizenship has remained a relatively hollow concept. Therefore the existing approach of EU legislation, policy and structures, which is missing a children's perspective, is insufficient to meet the wide range of challenges faced by children in the enlarged Union.

Why a children's policy for the 21st Century Europe?
The 1989 UN Convention on the rights of the Child enshrines in international law children's right to protection, provision and participation. In this context children are recognised as a specific group in society. They are acknowledged as social actors to be supported in the gradual transition from dependence to the family to independent adults.

Family and more specifically women play a central role in protecting children and providing for them. The interests of children are therefore often closely linked to those of their parents. However, although there are important areas of overlap between children's policy and family or gender policy, this is not always the case as children are individuals and exist also outside the family. Focusing only on these other policy areas might therefore limit the approach to some circumstances which, although important, could render invisible children's own experience and could result in children's rights being neglected.

If in the majority of cases children's interests mirror those of the family there are some important exceptions. Separations, divorce or child protection are all examples of cases where tensions between children's rights and their families need to be reconciled. Moreover, increasingly children have interests and needs which go beyond the sphere of the family. They are consumers, recipients of services, citizens and they spend more time in institutions such as day care centres, schools, youth groups, increasing the importance of developing policies which recognise them as full social actors.

Only a children's policy at EU level, complementing existing policies towards families and women while recognising that the interests of individual family members sometimes differ, could render children's rights visible.

ANALYSIS

The Lisbon Strategy is of fundamental importance to the well being of children in the EU, in the way it has mainstreamed the fight against poverty and social exclusion amongst member states and has promoted education as a way of achieving the Lisbon goals. This has led to higher prioritisation for tackling child poverty. The revision of the Lisbon agenda by the Commission has shifted the balance between growth, employment and inclusion towards growth and employment, which demotes social inclusion. EURONET has done extensive work in the field of social exclusion of children and is concerned about the negative implications of the Lisbon Review and the Social agenda. It was therefore pivotal for EURONET to prepare a position paper on this issue. On February 2005, we sent letters to the relevant Commissioners (Barroso and Spidla), Commission officials within DG employment and social affairs and members of the EP of different parties in the EP Committee on
Employment and Social affairs. All our members were asked to send this EURONET position paper with a letter to their Prime Minister and their national Minister of Social Affairs and Employment.

The EU’s Lisbon Strategy

The French threaten to vote ‘no’ at the referendum for the European Constitution because they feel Europe is getting less social and increasingly ‘ultra-liberal’. The English ‘no’ camp complains about too much social regulation in the Union, which is blocking private enterprise.

The truth lies traditionally between these poles but it only gets there after harsh bargaining. The most recent proof of this is the mid-term review of the Lisbon strategy. The original strategy devised in 2000 aspired to make the Union ‘the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world, capable of sustainable economic growth with more and better jobs and greater social cohesion’.


This March, the mid-way point to the deadline was marked by a stock-taking exercise which ended with the European Commission changing its mind and suggesting that social cohesion be taken off the agenda and focusing on achieving more ‘growth and jobs’. The European social NGOs reacted strongly to the proposal and a number of protest campaigns were organised. The action in which Save the Children was directly involved was to mobilise the members of the European Children’s Network (EURONET) and write a position paper on the proposed changes to the Lisbon agenda and the new Social Agenda.

The document was sent to the president of the European Commission and relevant commissioners. Together with the NSPCC we sent it to the UK government asking for putting social cohesion back on the European agenda and for more money to be made available in the Union’s budget 2007-2013 for social inclusion and poverty reduction.

The various pressures exerted by different organisations and the different political considerations (some of them taking into account approaching referenda on the European Constitution) eventually lead to the European Council’s departure from the Commission’s disengagement with what was known as the European social model. Truth be told, the wording of the Presidency Conclusions is weaker and lacking social vision in comparison to the original.

However, it has something which the Lisbon strategy didn’t have - it asks for social inclusion to focus ‘on target groups such as children in poverty’, reducing the number of early school-leavers, and improving child care facilities.

We can congratulate ourselves with these changes and can, at least partially, attribute the sudden eminence of child anti-poverty action among EU priorities to our campaigning.

The revised Lisbon strategy is clearly a new advocacy tool with great potential. Now we must analyse that potential and take action to ensure that what has been declared will be delivered. And monitor progress. And call the Commission to account. Because now Lisbon is for children. And so are we.

By Stefan Stoyanov, Save the Children’s UK

NEWS FROM THE MEMBERS

New members’ profile
EURONET is continuing its network development. During the last months two new members joined the network: the Czech organisation Our Child Foundation and the trans-national organisation Child Helpline International.

Our Child Foundation
Our Child Foundation was established by Mrs Zuzana Baudysova as a non –profit organisation in 1993 with the aim of helping children who find themselves in a crisis or difficult life situation. The foundation focuses its activities to help abused, exploited, disabled and those children who are at risk or have been abandoned.

In 1994 the foundation established the crisis Safety Hotline for children and at the same time the Safety Hotline Association, which was entrusted with the operation. The hotline came into operation on 1st September 1994. The Foundation initiated the activities of the counseling Parents Hotline /2001/ and the Message Home HelpLine /2003/ for children who run away from home or institutional facilities.
For all these crisis intervention hotlines Our Child Foundation ensured the financial resources and all the necessary services. Since 1 October 2004 took the association full responsibility /including the financing/ but Our Child Foundation stays the main sponsor of these projects since 2005. Our Child Foundation is also interested in raising awareness of children rights in the connection with the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Foundation published First Reading Book on the children Rights and together with the manual how to teach them were sent to all primary schools on the CR, free of charge.

The foundation’s present and the future main activities:
- increasing awareness raising and educational programs and other activities having to do with children’s rights, with help of the EU
- strives and lobbies to create an effective system of children protection in the CR
- acting in the field of missing and sexually exploited children in the CR
- Participating in the international programs /Agis, Phare
- dealing with individual requests for assistance to children
- providing regularly grants for children protection
- cooperating with children homes and helps them
- organising the educational project Safer Internet
- preparing the educational program Cruelty to children must stop /start October 2005/
- preparing the counseling Law helpline for adults /start November 2005/

For more information on the organization please visit the website: www.nasedite.cz

Child Helpline International.
Child Helpline International is a global network of child helplines with 72 members in 61 countries. Child Protection is at the core of all telephone helplines for children and young people- covering a wide range of behaviors that from the child's perspective harms them in some way. CHI aims to respond to children in need of care and protection, throughout the world and to make their needs and feelings known to policy and decision makers nationally and internationally. CHI works actively at the international level with funding agencies, children's based networks, child protection agencies, corporate federations and telecommunication organisations to support national helplines as a mean for child protection. CHI facilitates the sharing of information, experience and resources amongst child helplines. The guiding principle of CHI is to ensure that regional level expertise is utilised and that each country develops its own unique helpline model.

CHI Objectives:
• to network amongst existing children's helplines to facilitate experience sharing and mutual support in order to reach out more effectively to children.
• to facilitate the establishment of helplines in interested countries which need a helpline service for children and strengthen existing helplines, to ensure that more children have access to services.
• to evolve principles, standards and practices for children's helplines ensuring a cultural and regional context.
• to partner with the telecommunication sectors to ensure that technological innovations are channelled for use by children's helplines, to ensure that children have access to telephone infrastructure.
• to develop an international data base on children's issues and problems of children in need of care and protection, based on existing helplines national databases.
• to advocate at national, regional and international levels on issues emerging on the basis of children's calls and their problems.
• to partner with the government, corporate sector, and media in responding to children and providing appropriate telecommunication.
• to facilitate a global network of young persons who can advocate for issues concerning themselves, thereby placing young people at the centre stage of advocacy and policy development.

For more information on CHI please visit the website: www.childhelplineinternational.org
FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Open call for tender VT/2005/062
Mapping study on existing national legislative measures and their impact in tackling discrimination - outside the field of employment and occupation – on the grounds of sex, religion or belief, disability, age and sexual orientation
The main purpose of this contract will be to provide the European Commission with independent and authoritative information on national measures to combat discrimination in fields where Community legislation has not been introduced such as: social protection (including social security), social services and advantages, education, and access to and supply of goods and services. It will also look at the application and impact of existing anti-discrimination legislation. More specifically, the purpose of this contract is twofold: • To provide the Commission with a comprehensive and independent mapping of existing national measures to combat discrimination on the grounds of sex, religion or belief, disability, age and sexual orientation outside the fields of employment and occupation; • To report on the conclusions of impact assessments of anti-discrimination legislation, where available in the EU member states, candidate countries, and other countries including at least the US, Canada & Australia.
Deadline for sending offers is 12 September 2005.
For more information:
http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment_social/fundamental_rights/callspt/calls_en.htm

Open Call for tender VT/2005/023
Service Contract on Peer Review and Assessment in Social Inclusion
The Commission has recently launched a new call for tenders in the framework of the open method of coordination. The subject of the contract will be to provide support services to the Commission for the joint management of the Peer Reviews and the network of independent experts in the field of social inclusion, integrated in one single sub-programme: ‘Peer Review and Assessment in Social Inclusion’. Peer Review support services are to be delivered by the contractor through a coordinating team, assisted by social inclusion experts working under its responsibility in the context of the seminars. The contractor will prepare and organize Peer Reviews, in accordance with a work plan and calendar agreed with the Commission and the Programme Committee, and will actively document and disseminate their findings.
Deadline for applications is 16 September 2005.
For more information:

Open call for tender EAC/42/05
Evaluation of activities undertaken by the Directorate- General for Education and Culture in support of the European Union’s equal opportunities policies
The overall objective of this contract is to help improve the ability of DG Education and Culture to support the achievement of the EU’s equal opportunities policies. The specific objective of this contract is to procure an external, independent evaluation of the activities undertaken within the programmes and activities managed by DG Education and Culture in support of the achievement of the EU’s equal opportunities policies. The results to be achieved by the contractor are as follows: • description, analysis and evaluation of current and developing activities and practices undertaken within the DG’s programmes and other initiatives with the aim of supporting the achievement of the EU’s equal opportunities policies; • identification of good practices that could be replicated across the DG; • identification of barriers and risks to the effective implementation of such activities and practices, and suggestions for how to overcome them; • practical recommendations regarding the fostering of good practices and the establishment of a future strategy and related action plan, including provisions for the training of managers and staff, in the context of the implementation of the proposed post-2006 generation of programmes; • a presentation.
Deadline for applications is 5 October 2005.
For more information: http://europa.eu.int/comm/dgs/education_culture/appel/4205/index_en.html

Open call for tender EAC 33/05
Study on key education indicators on social inclusion and efficiency, mobility, adult skills and active citizenship
The overall objective of this contract is to contribute to the programme Education & Training 2010 by supporting the statistical and analytical work linked to it as regards the following themes:
Key education indicators on social inclusion and efficiency and other areas
- Mobility of teachers and trainers
- Adult skills
- Active citizenship.

The focus for 1-3 is on indicator-based analysis and on measuring progress in relevant areas and towards the common benchmarks in areas where these have been adopted. 4 has a more qualitative character. The specific objective of this contract is to fill statistical gaps as regards key European education indicators with a view to mainly analysing questions relating to social inclusion and efficiency of education spending. The focus here will be on indicators on social inclusion in education and training and on questions on investment in education and training and efficiency.

Deadline for applications is 10 October 2005.

For more information: http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/programmes/calls/3305/index_en.html

PUBLICATIONS

A guide for NGOs to access EU funding
“Accessing Europe’s largest donor” is the 11th edition of the guide to EU funding for NGOs released by ECAS, the European citizen action service. It is a handbook for organisation seeking to learn more about the EU funding, foundations, structural funds and cohesion funds, internal and external budget lines. To order this publication (price:29€) contact ECAS, rue du prince royal 83, B1050 Brussels, fax 003225480499, email: publication@ecas.org

The Daphne toolkit
This toolkit is designed to be resource for combating violence against children, young people and women. It contains lessons and ideas from 303 projects financed by the EC’s Daphne programme between 1997 and 2003. Part of the information is available from www.daphne-toolkit.org, the complete toolkit is available on DVD-Rom from info@daphne-toolkit.org or cityshelter@skynet.be

Published by the UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre in Florence this publication is the sixth in the series designed to monitor the performance of the industrialised countries in promoting the realisation of the human rights of their children. It is also the first in a series of Innocenti reports on child poverty in rich country. Embargoed media materials in English, French and Italian and downloadable copies of the report are available from IRC newroom: www.unicef-icdc.org/presscentre/indexNewsroom.html

State of the World’s Mothers Report
Save the Children (US) has released its annual report ranking the best and worst places to be a mother and a child. Using ten indicators relating to health and education, the study ranks 110 countries. Sweden tops the list, with Mali and Burkina Faso being identified as the worst countries to be a woman or a child in. The report can be downloaded from www.savethechildren.net/alliance/whatwe do/newdesk/2005-05-09.html

Making Children’s Rights Work: National and International Perspectives, June 2005
This report, published by the International Bureau of Children’s Right, summarises the proceedings of their conference to celebrate the 15th anniversary of the adoption of the CRC. It is available for purchase from www.editionsyvonblais.qc.ca

Manual on Corporal Punishment
Save the Children Sweden has published a practical manual entitled "Ending Physical and Humiliating Punishment of Children - Manual for Action", to be used as a guide in the development of strategies to challenge and end physical and humiliating punishment. The Manual for Action is valuable for the planning, implementation and evaluation of work to achieve an end of physical and humiliating punishment of children.

For more information visit:: http://seweb-01.rb.se/Shop/Products/Product.aspx?Itemld=1350.

Report on physical and humiliating punishment
Save the Children Spain has published a report entitled "Love, Power and Violence. A comparative analysis of the physical and humiliating punishment patterns", which summarises findings of the training experience promoted in South America, Central America, South Asia, Southeast Asia and
Spain by International Alliance Save the Children Task Group on Physical and Humiliating Punishment during 2003 and 2004.
For more information visit: http://www.crin.org/violence/search/closeup.asp?infoID=5865

Report on child sexual abuse in Spain

Fear of 'youth drain' from new member states
A report published by the NGO, European Citizen Action Service (ECAS) on 10 August, suggests that "3% to 5% of young new member states nationals who [have] completed a third-level education tend to leave their home countries for better wage prospects". Some new member states are battling with a 'youth drain' as well-qualified young people leave for jobs in Western Europe. "Sending countries (such as Poland or Hungary) fear not simply a brain drain but rather a youth drain", states the report. In order to read the report: http://www.ecas.org/file_uploads/784.pdf.

Reader on Children and HIV/AIDS
The Child Rights Information Network (CRIN) has published a new reader on "Children and HIV/AIDS" containing key resources designed to support the work of child rights professionals, i.e., CRIN members, students and NGO staff looking for recent thinking and best practice in this area. This reader contains selected resources relating to children and HIV/AIDS. This includes basic texts that provide an overview on how it affects children; key legal instruments;best practice documents by thematic areas and key resources for child rights and HIV/AIDS. Each document featured is accompanied by its summary, publication details and URL. For more information, please go to the web site:http://www.crin.org/resources/infoDetail.asp?ID=5931&flag=report.

Report about the state of children’s rights around the World
The International Bureau of Children’s Rights has published a report summarising the views, facts & recommendations expressed by a wide range of children's rights specialists who spoke at a conference organised by the IBCR last November to celebrate the 15th anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). The report, entitled "Making Children's Rights Work: National and International Perspectives" is a concise analysis of the implementation of the CRC, assessing the progress being made in children's rights on the national and international levels. For more information: http://www.ibcr.org.

EVENTS

11-14 September, Berlin, Germany – Conference on New Developments in Science and Practice: influence on child protection
This tenth International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (ISPCAN) European Regional Conference will focus on up-to-date information on innovative research and practice to help professionals to better understand and more effectively address child abuse and neglect in modern society. It is open to professionals in the field. For more information: www.ispcan.org/euroconf2005.

12-30 September 2005, Geneva, Switzerland - UN Committee on the Rights of the Child: 40th Session
The 40th Session of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child will take place in Geneva, Switzerland, from 12 to 30 September 2005. Scheduled for consideration are reports on China (with Hong-Kong & Macau), Trinidad & Tobago, Uganda, Russia, Denmark, Australia, Saudi Arabia, Finland and Algeria. Information about this session is available at: www.ohchr.org/english/bodies/crc/crcs40.ht. This link will include all the country documentation for the Committee’s 40th session. It will be updated on a daily basis during the session.

13-14 September 2005, Birmingham, UK - Conference on Young People and offending
Promoting community safety and working positively to reduce youth offending are two key priorities for the Local Government Association (LGA). This residential conference will examine the different
aspects of offending by young people. It will focus on the need to protect vulnerable young people from the risk factors that can lead to involvement in crime and, consider how we can best support young people who have already become involved in the criminal justice system. For more information: http://www.lga.gov.uk.

29 September 2005, Conference on Children’s Rights In Germany and Europe
The conference jointly organised by the European Network of masters on children’s Rights and the Deutsche Gesellschaft aims to elaborate needs perceived in practice in order to promote cooperation between the professional world and academia. The public should be sensitized for implementation of children’s rights and incentives for an active and effective participation of children and youth societal processes should given. For further information contact: info@enmcr.org

6-8 October 2005, Paris, France - International Congress on the intelligence of the child
This conference is going to discuss issues such as theory, ethics, psychopathology, current issues etc. and feature 18 plenary sessions with, 12 two-hour symposia, 2 round tables with a large spectrum of speakers from all over Europe and the United States. It is hosted by the French Ministry of Education and Research and the Ministry of Health and Social Security and co-organised by the European Federation of Psychological Associations and the American Psychological Association. For more information: www.intelligence-enfant-2005.org

17-18 October, Glasgow, UK - Round Table on Social Inclusion
This year's Round Table on Social Inclusion is going to take place under the British Presidency of the EU, in Glasgow. EURONET is involved in the organisation and will be the rapporteur in one of the workshops.

17-18 October, London, UK – Conference on Tackling Health inequalities: Governing for Health
This event will be the highlight of the work of the UK presidency work on health inequalities. It will explore the scope for action on social determinants such as poverty, education and social welfare, as well as key health determinants such as nutrition smoking and alcohol. EURONET has been invited to participate.
For further information: www.reagteam.com/healthinequalitiessummit

18-22 October 2005, Sion, Switzerland - Seminar on Education
The International Institute for the Rights of the Child (IDE) is organising a seminar on the subject: “Right to Education: Solution to all Problems or Problem without Solution?”. By confronting theory/practice, legal frame/field reality, the Seminar aims at: giving a clear view on the problems, bringing up especially blatant situations and identify causes, singling out best practices, by exchanges of experiences between international organisations, NGOs, professionals concerned by education, State officials, field workers, etc, identifying possible synergies and partnerships between the various stakeholders, and reaching a conclusion allowing for strong and concerted international action. For more information, please go to: http://www.childsrights.org.

20-21 October 2005, Berlin, Germany - Conference on Raising Children without Violence
For five years now the right of children to an upbringing without violence has been firmly anchored in the German civil code. This has prompted the Federal Minister for Family Affairs, Renate Schmidt, to look at the situation today, both from the perspective of society as a whole as well as with a view to its relevance in a united Europe. The European Conference “Raising Children without Violence” will provide concerned child rights professionals with a forum in which to report on achievements from the past five years and discuss future challenges. For more information: http://www.bmfsfj.de.

9-10 November, Brussels, Belgium- Conference “Future Europeans: the right start in life for children and young people in Europe”
The main focus of this high level conference, which takes part during the Council of Europe’s European Year of Citizenship through Education, will be to bring together children, young people and senior child care professionals from across the EU. They will discuss how Europe can support children and young people becoming active and engaged citizens, and celebrate the contribution they make to European society. The conference is an official UK Presidency Associated Event, with the support of the UK Department of Health, and a senior UK civil servant. EURONET will present the new report “the next steps for a children’s policy for Europe”. For more information: http://children.epha.org
18-19 November, Ankara, Turkey – Symposium on Child Rights Advocacy in Europe
The International Children’s Center (ICC) is organising an event commemorating the 20 November World Child Rights day. The Conference aims to introduce good practices and ideas on child rights advocacy to NGOs working in Turkey to help children and to raise awareness amongst the child rights NGOs and other relevant governmental actors regarding child protection mechanisms in Europe. EURONET will do a presentation about the European child rights networking experience.
For more information: www.icc.org.tr

For more information on the EURONET activities or if you wish to make a contribution to our Newsletter, please contact:

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