Euronet project funded with support of the European Commission

EURONET WEBSITE:
HTTP://EUROPEANCHILDRENSNETWORK.GLA.AC.UK
• INTRODUCTION

Welcome to issue twelve of the Euronet, the European Children’s Network, newsletter. Its purpose is to keep you informed of Euronet’s actions and membership and to brief you on relevant developments in the European Union and member states’ policies concerning children. The newsletter also aims to be a means of communication between NGOs at national level. Therefore, you are invited to contribute articles on any initiative which is relevant to Euronet’s work, either by phone (+32 2 512 4500), fax (+32 2 512 6673) or e-mail “savechildbru@skynet.be”. This issue gives a summary of the new Euronet project to combat social exclusion of children and young people, which has been approved by the Commission this month. It also includes information about the adoption by the European Parliament of the amendments to the Social Exclusion Programme and about last year’s French presidency and the initiatives of the present Swedish presidency. Furthermore the newsletter will inform you about the preparation for the World Summit for Children in 2001.

If you have questions, ideas or remarks about the newsletter or if you would like to receive the newsletter by email, please contact Floor Gussenhoven at the address above.

NEWS FROM THE EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS

* Social Exclusion Programme

The end of November 2000 the European Parliament adopted the report on Social Exclusion presented by MEP Ilda Figueiredo. The Social Exclusion Programme follows up the Lisbon Summit (March 2000) and aims at action against poverty and social exclusion, which requires a national and European co-ordination of measures to be effective. The report amended several articles to include children and child poverty in the framework of the programme. Children are expressly mentioned as being one of the most disadvantaged social groups, child poverty is one of the themes for thematic study and children’s organisations are mentioned as one of the relevant European networks for core funding.

The Parliament called on the Commission to set up a European Reflection Group that includes social partners, NGO’s and representatives of the European Parliament, ECOSOC and the Committee of the Regions to assist in preparing the annual round table conference on social exclusion and poverty. It also called to increase the funding for the Programme. It is expected that the Council will produce a common position in January 2001, followed by negotiations between EP and the Council on the final text.

This will be followed up in Euronet’s Newsletters.

* European presidencies

The French Presidency
Within the framework of the French presidency concrete things for children has been organised. At the initiative of the French Presidency an informal Ministers meeting was
held on the 20th of November 2000 concerning children in the EU. They set out an Action Plan for Children in Europe and asked about the next steps.

Euronet's member organisation COFRADE organised a seminar where children and young people participated, followed by the Colloquium in October 2000 (see newsletter issue 11, 2000).

The Swedish Presidency
The Swedish Presidency of the Council started in January 2001. Priorities of the presidency include issues directly relevant for children, such as preventing violence against women, trafficking in women and children and gender equality. The White Paper on Youth will be prepared during the Swedish presidency, with the emphasis on young people's participation and their own initiatives.

On the 21st of January 2001 an informal Meeting of Ministers for Gender Equality and Social Security took place in Norrköping. The 13 candidate countries, Member States and NGO's were represented. The meeting provided an opportunity to discuss ways how the objectives of equal opportunities between men and women and modernising social protection could be achieved. With respect to the well being of children, discussion took place concerning the importance to provide more and better opportunities to combine work and family life. Simone Ek made a statement on behalf of Euronet, which was appreciated and will be looked into in the future. So far there were no recommendations from any EU minister to include the rights of the child.

Another meeting relevant for the rights of the child will take place on the 12th-13th February 2001 in Stockholm, organised in association with the European Commission. The affects of the development of the new media on children and young people will be discussed. It will be an expert seminar concerning ethics and technology- a meeting point for children, public authorities, media enterprises, researchers and organisations.

The agenda of the Swedish Presidency is available at www.utrikes.regeringen.se/eu/startsidan.htm

EURONET CAMPAIGNS

Combating children and young people's social exclusion- The development of a coherent European approach.

Euronet has received funding from the European Commission to work on a project to assess the impact of social exclusion on children in Europe. Background of the project is the existing one fifth of EU's children and young people living in poverty with the result that they are at most risk to experience social exclusion. The Lisbon Council, which met in March 2000, did an appeal to eradicate child poverty by the year 2010. The reason to carry out this project is to work on this appeal and to make a comparison of the situation of social exclusion for children and young people in the EU member states.
Objective of the project is examining good practice of member states and review the extend to which member states and the EU have implemented the targets related to Social Exclusion following the World Summit for Children in 1990. It will formulate EU level and member state level policy recommendations and identify European targets on social exclusion and children in the framework of the UN Special Session, which will take place in September 2001.

The project places a strong emphasis on supporting children/young people’s development as active citizens themselves as means to combat their social exclusion and identifying ways of seeking children/young people’s views on social exclusion. One of the objectives will be the promotion and development of civil dialogue with children and young people and children’s NGO's at the European level.

Euronet member states, other NGO's, Euronet’s expert academic partners, universities, research centres and children and young people will be involved in the project. Research will be used to take an overview of the available documentation on the impact of social exclusion on children and young people, with a particular focus on the role played by participatory methodologies. The above mentioned civil dialogue will form an important source of evidence on such methods. The project will start with a consultation round through Euronet members in the EU member states to reach a wide number of children and young people.

Conferences
The results of the consultation round together with already existing material will be discussed at a conference in Brussels in May/June 2001. A further consultation will be held with the participants present. They will revise the results of the questionnaire and evaluate the consequences for the EU and for the UN Special Session on Children.

The outcomes of the work will be disseminated through the publication of a research report and leaflets summarising key findings and results of the project. A press launch and conference will be organised in February 2002 to launch the report and leaflet and the outcomes will be promoted with key decision makers at member states and EU level through briefings from Euronet and its members.

The project will be supported by a group of experts consisting of academics from different EU member states. They will comment on and give input to the report. A researcher will be appointed to do research, to contact universities and research institutes and to write the report. He/she will also use the results of the questionnaire and the conference and will meet with the group of experts.

Euronet’s Newsletter will keep you informed about the development of the project. If you have information related to the project or if you want further information you can contact Floor Gussenhoven.
World Summit for Children 2001

Euronet has been asked by UNICEF to be involved in the regional preparation in Europe for the World Summit for Children organized by the United Nations General Assembly in September 2001. During the Summit priority issues for children in the coming decade will be discussed and major new commitments will be made to help address them. The European regional conference is planned for the early summer in Berlin, bringing together governments from across Europe.

As part of the preparations for this meeting, a meeting was held in Budapest in October to co-ordinate the views of CSO’s in CEE/CIS and it was agreed that Western European CSO’s should link up with this work. An Euronet co-ordinator will be appointed to prepare a policy document for CEE/CIS summarizing the situation of children in that sub-region and to identify key policy recommendations for the future. The aim of the four months post is to produce a companion/parallel document for Western Europe which would provide a similar overview and be the basis for CSO input at the Berlin regional meeting.

The co-ordinator will be expected to establish links with members of EU networks of children's organizations and national child rights coalitions in Western Europe to inform them of the Berlin meeting and the regional process and to seek their co-operation in the preparation of the policy document, based on existing national and regional policy papers and reports. He/she will be responsible for the dissemination of the draft report to national child rights coalitions, Euronet members and other networks to seek their views and comments before re-drafting. The report will be presented at a one-day CSO consultation event in advance of the Berlin meeting.

Euronet will provide policy and other support to the co-ordinator. More information will follow in next Newsletters.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- **Thessaloniki, Greece**  
  **23-26 March 2001**: 3rd World Summit on Media for Children, organised by European Children’s Television Centre. For more information or registration: tel: +30 31 240109; fax: +30 31 257282; e-mail: summit@cmd.gr

- **Osnabrück, Germany**  
  **8-10 May**: Exit- Ways out of Violence for Children and Youth International Conference, organised by Terre des Hommes Deutschland and the City of Osnabrück. For more information visit [www.exit.tdh.de](http://www.exit.tdh.de).

- **örebro, Sweden**  
  **29-31 May 2001**: European conference on children's rights, within the framework of the Swedish presidency. Themes: child labour, Roma children, sexually exploited children,
separated refugee children and children with disabilities. Organised by the City of örebro together with other organisations (among others the Swedish Committee for UNICEF and the National Council for cultural Affairs). For more information visit www.children2001.org or contact Ms. Gunnel Olsson (project co-ordinator) tel.+46 19 211582.

- **Linz, Austria**
  28 June-1st July 2001: Festival for children’s rights, organised by Kinderfreunden Oberösterreich and Verein Festival for Children’s Rights. For more information visit www.kidsfestival.net or contact Andreas Schwandner (project co-ordinator) tel. +43 732 773011-60, fax. +43 732 773011-10, e-mail: office@kidsfestival.net.

**LIST OF PUBLICATIONS**

These publications can be obtained from the Euronet office.


* Agenda 2000 for children and young people in Europe, Euronet November 2000. In English, French, Spanish, German, Scandinavian, Dutch, Italian, Portuguese…


* Newsletter of the International Save the Children Alliance (Brussels office): this monthly newsletter gives more information on European issues for children as well as EU development policy related to children. It is produced once a month, in English, French and on e-mail.
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This newsletter is available in English and French, on e-mail and on the website. Euronet partners are encouraged to translate the newsletter in their own language or highlights of it. The Spanish member organisation has done this for a number of existing Euronet publications. If you are translating the newsletter please let the Euronet coordinator know. Could you also inform her about any national initiatives which are planned. These can be included in the newsletter.

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