Introduction

Welcome to issue 16 of the Euronet, the European Children’s Network, newsletter. The purpose of the newsletter 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 on children. The newsletter also aims to be a means of communication between NGOs at national level.

Please note Euronet’s contact details of the co-ordinator Mieke Schuurman, tel: +31 187 481396, fax: +31 187 487390, e-mail: mieke.schuurman@tiscali.nl (on Mondays-Wednesdays). The office address remains Rue Montoyer 39, 1000 Brussels, tel. +32 (0)2 512 4500, fax. +32 (0)2 513 4903.

This issue gives a summary of the conference on 23 January 2002 in the European Parliament in Brussels at which Euronet’s report ‘Including Children? Developing a coherent approach to child poverty and social exclusion across Europe’ was launched. It also contains news of the EU Convention on the Future of Europe and Euronet’s campaign on this.

If you have questions, ideas, articles or remarks about the newsletter, please contact Mieke Schuurman at the address above.

We are intending to send the newsletter by e-mail in future. Could you please send us your email address on the attached form? If you still wish to receive the Newsletter by post or no longer wish to receive it, please indicate this on the form below.
Children and Social Exclusion

Euronet’s Launch of Report ‘Including Children?’


The report examines the impact of poverty and social exclusion on children in the EU. It also analyses policies that can indirectly affect child poverty and social exclusion. The report explores how our perspective would change if we looked at poverty and social exclusion through children’s eyes. And it contains a ‘Child Audit’ of the National Action Plans against poverty and social exclusion.

Mary Banotti MEP chaired the morning session and Fran Bennett, one of the co-authors, presented the report along with Sandy Ruxton commissioned by Euronet to write the report. Fran Bennett summarised the main conclusions of the report.

Continues in Page 3

EURONET E-Mail Newsletter

Euronet is intending to send the newsletter by e-mail in future. Could you please indicate on this form if you wish to receive the newsletter by email or still would like to have a paper copy?

Name: ........................................................................................................................................

Address: ....................................................................................................................................

Organisation..................................................................................................................................

Thick the appropriate box:

☐ Yes, I would like to receive the newsletter by email,

My email address is: ......................................................................................................................

☐ No, I prefer to receive a paper copy of the newsletter at the address above

☐ I no longer would like to receive the newsletter
1. There is a need for a legal base for children in the EU Treaty.

2. There is a need for further guidance from the European Commission about developing the NAPs/incl in future, on integrating a child perspective throughout;

3. Social exclusion indicators should focus more explicitly on children, for example by making breakdowns in age groups. Children’s organisations should be included in this process.

4. The National Action Plans against poverty and social exclusion need to include more on the situation of children.

5. On targets: member states should draw up their own targets on eliminating child poverty; at EU level, we could look at ‘benchmarking’ (for example, all member states striving to reach the average of the best 3 performers); and in the longer term we could explore the possible development of a cross-EU target.

The European Forum for Child Welfare (EFCW) also presented its findings of national research in five EU member states on child poverty and social exclusion. Two young people, James Anderson and Dean Moss from the UK gave their view on children and poverty and stated that the best way to combat social exclusion is to do this from a children’s point of view.

Responses to the report came from Carmen Cerdeira MEP, Daniel Soil, representing Minister J.M. Nollet (Minister for Education of the Francophone Community) from Belgium, Daniel Saez, Head of the Children’s Unit from the Spanish Ministry for Employment and Social Affairs and Hugh Frazer from the European Commission.

Carmen Cerdeira MEP raised the issue that children need to be included in EU programmes and that there needs to be budgetary support for the social exclusion of children.

Daniel Soil stated that the Belgian Presidency had wanted children included in the Laeken Declaration and were disappointed that they did not succeed in this, although no substantive issues were included in the Laeken Declaration at all. He quoted Minister Michel of Foreign Affairs who said that all EU governments are aware of the importance of future generations and that children will be included on the agenda of the Convention on the Future of Europe.

Daniel Saez agreed with the authors of the report that all governments should commit themselves to eradicate child poverty. He also raised the need to develop the Nice indicators on social exclusion. He stressed that child participation needs to be a political priority and moreover EU member states should move towards an Article on children in the EU Treaty.

Hugh Frazer raised five key points:

- The need to focus on children as citizens here and now
- Identify indicators as experienced by children
- That different needs for different age groups exist
- Warning to use penalizing policies (for example, withdrawing benefit payments from families, since this can affect the standard of living of children)
- Involve candidate countries of the EU

Hugh Frazer said that the Euronet report could help to set European targets to combat social exclusion and showed that the Member States need to think how to get children consistently included in the National Action Plans on poverty and social exclusion.
The afternoon session was a question-time panel with participants from the European Commission, Hugh Frazer, the European Parliament, Lissy Gröner and Ilda Figueiredo, co-author of the report ‘Including Children?’ Sandy Ruxton, experts from the University of Vienna, Austria, Helmut Wintersberger, the European Anti-Poverty Network, Marie-Françoise Wilkinson, the Italian Commission on Poverty and Social Exclusion, Chiara Saraceno, and the French Coalition of Children’s NGOs, COFRADE, Barbara Walter, and chaired by Luisa Maria Aguilar from BICE-Europe.

Questions debated included: “the participation of children on the subject of social exclusion; the lack of up-to-date statistics and data that show the position of children in poverty and social exclusion; the need to include the candidate countries in EU policies dealing with social exclusion; the need to include NGOs in the EU programme on social exclusion and the need for a legal base for children in the EU Treaty.”

The day was concluded by Astrid Thors MEP, who said that a legal base for children was necessary and that children needed to be seen and heard. She also raised that it is necessary to pursue a rights based approach to childhood policy which would then raise the dignity of the child.

The European Summit in Barcelona on 15 and 16 March will discuss social exclusion

A full report of the conference will be published on the website of Euronet.

The Report ‘Including Children? Developing a coherent approach to child poverty and social exclusion across Europe’ is available in English, French and Spanish and the summary leaflet also in German from the Euronet office.

EU Social Exclusion Programme

Community Action Programme to Combat Social Exclusion, 2002-2006

On 7 December 2001 the European Parliament and the Council decided on the establishment of a programme of Community action to encourage cooperation between Member States to combat social exclusion. The programme will run from 1 January 2002 until 31 December 2006 and has a budget of 75 million EURO.

The programme is part of an open method of coordination between Member States to contribute to the elimination of social exclusion and poverty. This will be achieved by setting appropriate objectives at Community level and by the implementation of national action plans.

To implement the activities under the programme account shall be taken of the experiences of Member States, people exposed to social exclusion and poverty, as well as non-governmental and voluntary organisations involved in the fight against social exclusion and poverty.

Community actions to implement this programme are:

1. The analysis of characteristics, causes, processes, trends and statistics on social exclusion;
2. The exchange of information and best practices and encouraging the development of quantitative and qualitative indicators;

Continues in Page 5
3. The promotion of dialogue involving various actors and support of relevant networking at
European level to combat social exclusion and poverty, in particular non-governmental
organisations

The Commission has proposed some initial suggestions and priorities to implement the Social Exclusion
Programme in 2002 and 2003. The Programme Committee discussed these suggestions on Social
Exclusion. Euronet has given input for a meeting, which took place in January of the Social Policy
Platform with the Commission on these priorities for 2002 and 2003. Euronet is concerned that the
Commission’s priorities include few references to children. Children should be included in the priorities
for 2002 and 2003. In the part on comparable statistics it should be added that statistics on children are
also needed, since there are still no comprehensive, up-to-date figures on the number of children living
in households on low incomes in the EU. To combat child poverty and social exclusion effectively
adequate numbers/data are needed.

The priorities stated that child poverty should be prevented, which is of course supported by Euronet, but
child poverty should not only be prevented but existing child poverty also needs to be combated. In
addition, the priorities should include the mainstreaming child poverty/social exclusion next to the
mainstreaming of poverty/social exclusion across all policy areas and gender mainstreaming.

The fight of child poverty and exclusion was supported by the European Meeting of Children’s Ministers on 9
November 2001 at which it was underlined that a specific consideration was needed for childhood in the national
action plans implemented by the Member States especially those with respect to fighting social exclusion.

The Community Action Programme to combat social exclusion was published in the Official Journal of the European Communities of 12.1.2002
Website: http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/oj/index.html

European Parliament Report on Illiteracy and Social Exclusion


The European Parliament requested the European Commission to submit a green paper and an action plan
on illiteracy and social exclusion to the European Parliament, together with a “timetable for tangible
objectives”. Mrs. Hermange also floated the idea of a proposal for a Directive, including a plan for policy co-
ordination and a network for exchanging best practice. The European Parliament also called on the
Commission to adopt a recommendation on this subject to the Member States, including ideas such as the
development of literacy courses, mobile libraries and learning support.

The full text of the report, PE 305.708 can be found on http://www.europa.eu.int
European Union Convention on the Future of Europe

In 2004 the next Intergovernmental Conference (IGC) will take place. At this IGC the Heads of State and Government will decide on new reforms and amendments of the EU Treaties. The process that will lead to this IGC started at the European Summit on 14 and 15 December 2001 in Laeken, Belgium. At this Summit a Declaration was adopted which launched the debate on the future of Europe and installed a Convention to prepare the IGC and it set the agenda for the next IGC.

According to the Laeken Declaration the challenges and reforms for a renewed Union are the following. Firstly, a better division and definition of competence in the European Union, including the subsidiarity question; secondly, a simplification of the Union’s instruments and lastly more democracy, transparency and efficiency in the European Union. The Laeken Declaration also questioned whether a simplification and reorganisation of the Treaties might lead to the adoption of a constitutional text in the Union. Thought would have to be given to whether the Charter of Fundamental Rights should be included in the basic treaty and to whether the European Community should accede to the European Convention on Human Rights.

In order to pave the way for the next IGC as broadly and openly as possible a Convention will be held (similar to that used for the drafting of the Charter of Fundamental Rights). The European Council has appointed Mr V. Giscard d’Estaing as Chairman of the Convention and Mr G. Amato and Mr J.L. Dehaene as Vice-Chairman.

The accession candidate countries will be fully involved in the Convention’s proceedings. The ECOSOC, the Committee of the Regions and the European Ombudsman will be invited to attend as observers.

A Forum will be opened for organisations representing civil society (the social partners, the business world, non-governmental organisations, academia, etc.). Their contributions will serve as input into the debate. Such organisations may be heard or consulted on specific topics in accordance with arrangements to be established by the Presidium.

The Convention will hold its inaugural meeting on 28 February 2002 under the Spanish Presidency in the European Parliament and will be brought to a close before the European Council meeting in Greece in June 2003. Between March and the end of July 2002 6 plenaries are planned.

The Presidency will meet once a week. The President, Valéry Giscard d’Estaing will visit all EU Member States as well as the USA and Russia. He will report on the Convention’s progress at the Barcelona Summit (15-16 March) and at the Seville Summit (21-22 June).

More information on the Convention, its members and work you can find on http://europa.eu.int/futurum/
Following the inclusion of an article (24) on children in the Charter of Fundamental Rights and the positive conclusions of the European Meeting of Children’s Ministers of November 2001, we are campaigning to ensure that children will finally be recognized within the EU Treaties.

The campaign started on the same day as the day of the Convention with a press release by Euronet on the need for a legal base for children in the EU Treaty. Euronet will need the involvement of its member organisations in all EU member states and in the accession countries to make the campaign a success.

EU SPANISH PRESIDENCY TO ORGANISE MEETING ON CHILDREN

The Spanish Presidency will organise an Experts Meeting on children on 11 April in Madrid.

The Spanish Presidency has not mentioned children in its priorities for the EU Presidency during the first half of this year, despite the progress that was made during the Belgian Presidency. The only issue that is mentioned as a point to be discussed during the Spanish Presidency is the revision of the directive ‘TV without Frontiers’

You can read more about this revision elsewhere in this newsletter.

The Spanish Presidency will, however, follow-up the European meeting of Children’s Ministers, which took place on 9 November 2001 and at which Euronet got the opportunity to do a presentation on the participation of children and a legal base for children in the EU Treaty. On 11 April 2002 an EU Experts Meeting on Children will take place in Madrid, Spain. The main points to be discussed at this meeting will be:

- The fight against poverty: investing in children;
- International adoption;
- Sexual Exploitation of children;
- A network of observatories for children;
- The UN Special Session on children.

For more information on the Spanish Presidency, you can visit their website: www.eu2002.es
CHILDREN AND ADVERTISING

Revision of Directive ‘TV without Frontiers’

This year the Commission will carry out a consultation, including a series of hearings resulting in a communication with proposals for amendments to the Directive ‘TV without Frontiers’. This Directive co-ordinates at Community level national legislation in among others areas concerning television broadcasting, television advertising and sponsorship and the protection of children.

Commissioner Reding, who is responsible for the revision of the directive ‘TV without Frontiers,’ said in a speech held on 22 June 2001 that “I do believe very strongly that there must be strict and effective rules in place to prevent the unscrupulous from exploiting children’s inexperience and credulity. These rules should apply across all electronic media. (…) What is important is that they are effective.” Euronet welcomes this statement of Commissioner Reding. Euronet believes that the best interests of children need to be taken into account in all EU legislation and also in the ‘TV without Frontiers Directive’. Children can be marginalized when they are not able to buy what they see in advertisements and they are more vulnerable to advertisements than adults. Unfortunately, Commissioner Reding also admitted in her speech that in matters such as the protection of children the Treaty is silent and on consumer protection the Community’ competence is limited. This shows again why it is so important to obtain a legal base for children in the EU Treaty. Euronet has written to the Commissioner to take the best interests and the rights of children as described in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child into account when revising the ‘TV without frontiers directive’ and to support the creation of a legal base for children in the EU Treaty.

EU NEWS ON PVC IN TOYS

During the Belgian Presidency of the EU an attempt was made to extend the emergency ban on PVC in toys.

At the moment the ban is only intended for toys that are intended to be put in the mouth for children under 3 years. Toys that are not intended to be put in the mouth are not banned. Several Member States have extended the ban to all toys and would like this to be on at European level as well. However, the Council blocked the extension of the ban to all toys containing toxics. Again this shows the need for a legal base for children, in order to ensure that the interests of children are taken into account in all EU actions affecting them.

Forthcoming Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8-10 May</td>
<td>UN Special Session on Children. The UN Special Session on Children has been</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>rescheduled to take place in May 2002. The Special Session will bring together</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>government leaders and Heads of States, NGOs, children’s advocates and young</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>people. The Session will look back at the ten years after the first Session on</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Children took place and plan for the future work for children in the world.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>For more information visit <a href="http://www.unicef.org/specialsession">http://www.unicef.org/specialsession</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17-18 October</td>
<td>Denmark: Round Table on the Programme for Social Inclusion to discuss the</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>main lessons learnt from the first National Action Plans on poverty and social</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>exclusion, to be organised by the European Commission in Denmark. More information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>will follow in next issues.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Euronet Co-ordinator
Mieke Schuurman
Rue Montoyer 39
B- 1000 Brussels
Belgium
Tel: +31 187 48 1396 or +32.2.5124500
Fax: +31 187 48 7390 or +32.2.5134903
E-mail: mieke.schuurman@tiscali.nl or europeanchildrenetwork@skynet.be

EU OFFICES
Diana Sutton
International Save the Children Alliance
Rue Montoyer 39
B – 1000 Brussels
Tel: +32 2 5127851
Fax: +32 2 5134903
E-mail: savechildbr@skynet.be

Luisa María Aguilar
Bureau International Catholique de l’Enfance
16, Rue Stevin
1000 Brussels
Belgium
Tel: +32 2 231.03.88/32.2.231.04.74
Fax: +32 2 2301133
E-mail: bice@village.uunet.be

Jacqueline Andries
Organisation Mondiale Pour l’Education Prescolaire
Avenue de Montalembert, 27
B-1330 Rixensart
Tel: +32 2 653 48 12
Fax: +32 2 652 18 87

AUSTRIA
Paul Artz
Kinder- und Jugendanwaltschaft Salzburg
Ombudsoffice for Children & Youth
Strubergasse 4
A - 5020 Salzburg
Tel: +43 662 430550
Fax: +43 662 43059017
E-mail: jai@salzburg.co.at

BELGIUM
Jan van Gils
Kind en Samenleving
Nieuwelaan 63
B - 1860 Meise
Tel: +32 2 269 7180
Fax: +32 2 269 7872
E-mail: gate@salzburg.co.at

FINLAND
Jari Virtanen
Pelastakaa Lapset r.y.
Lapinrinne 2
PL 177
00180 Helsinki
Tel: +358 9 41355400
Fax: +358 9 41355444
E-mail: ari.virtanen@pela.fi

FRANCE
Henri DELAUNAY - Belleville
COFRADE
3, Avenue de l’Europe
92300 Levallois-Perret
Tel.: + 33 1 49640910
Fax:+33 1 49640911

GERMANY
Katharina Abelmann-Vollmer
Deutscher Kinderschutzbund
Schiffbraben 29
D- 30159 Hannover
Tel: +49 511 30485 25
Fax: +49 511 30485 49
E-mail: AbelmannVollmer@DKSB.DE

DENMARK
Niels Hjortdal
Red Barnet
Rantzauagate 60
DK - 2200 Copenhagen N.
Tel: +45 7020 61 20
Fax: +45 7020 6620
E-mail: mg@redbarnet.dk
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Contact Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Fax</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GREECE</td>
<td>Helen Agathonos</td>
<td>Institute of Child Health</td>
<td>+30 1771 57 91</td>
<td>+30 1779 36 48</td>
<td><a href="mailto:against@oteten.gr">against@oteten.gr</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LUXEMBOURG</td>
<td>Robert Soisson</td>
<td>FICE</td>
<td>+352 570 368</td>
<td>+352 573 37</td>
<td><a href="mailto:soisson.robi@st.lu">soisson.robi@st.lu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NETHERLANDS</td>
<td>Stan Meuwese</td>
<td>DCI/NL</td>
<td>+31 20 4203771</td>
<td>+31 20 4203832</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jclint@wxs.nl">jclint@wxs.nl</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PORTUGAL</td>
<td>Manuela Enes &amp; Jorge Ferreira</td>
<td>Instituto de Apoio à Criança (IAC)</td>
<td>+351 218824020</td>
<td>+351 218850192</td>
<td>e-mail: <a href="mailto:jferreira@isss.pt">jferreira@isss.pt</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPAIN</td>
<td>Purificación Llaquet Baldellou</td>
<td>Plataforma de Organizaciones de Infancia</td>
<td>+34 9 1 3695099</td>
<td>+34 9 1 3695028</td>
<td><a href="mailto:purillaquet@navegalia.com">purillaquet@navegalia.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SWEDEN</td>
<td>Simone Ek</td>
<td>Rädda Barnen</td>
<td>+46 8 698 90 00</td>
<td>+46 8 698 90 13</td>
<td>E-mail: <a href="mailto:simone.ek@rb.se">simone.ek@rb.se</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNITED KINGDOM</td>
<td>Bill Bell</td>
<td>SCF/UK</td>
<td>+44 207 70354 0</td>
<td>+44 207 7937610</td>
<td>E-mail: <a href="mailto:b.beit@sctuk.org.uk">b.beit@sctuk.org.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lynn Collie</td>
<td>NSPCC</td>
<td>+44 207 825 25 0</td>
<td>+44 207 825 27 63</td>
<td>E-mail: <a href="mailto:collie@nspcc.org.uk">collie@nspcc.org.uk</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.