



European Network of Masters on Children's Rights

## Children's Rights Newsletter (crnews) 9/05

### **Dear Network Members and Network Interested,**

Once again we invite you to read crnews. This time the 9<sup>th</sup> edition in 2005. As many have already heard, ENMCR is planning an international public conference on Children's Rights in Politics, Science and Practice. It is to be held on Thursday, the 29<sup>th</sup> of September in Berlin. We are looking forward to welcoming a wide variety of professionals from the child- and youth sector as well as politicians and academics from Germany, Europe and Latin America. Please review the section General News/Internal and consult the invitation for more detailed information. As usual, for feedback, criticism and comments as well as any information input, please use the e-mail address: [info@enmcr.net](mailto:info@enmcr.net). If you do not wish to receive this newsletter any longer, please send a message with the subject "unsubscribe crnews" to either one of the above addresses.

Warm Regards,

Rebecca Budde,  
Günter Chodzinski,  
Editors



### **In this Newsletter you will read:**

- **General News**
  - **Internal**
    - EU-CD project approved
    - Children's Rights in Germany and Europe: Politics, Science and Practice (conference)
    - Next Internal ENMCR Meeting
  - **External**
    - Foundation for the Rights of Future Generations
    - Violence against Children (publication)
    - Bertelsmann Foundation project presentation
    - Bringing Youth into the heart of European policy-making
    - International Forum in Solidarity with Working Children
- **News from the Members/Interested**
  - Status of Expert course in Berlin
  - Second cycle of expert course in Madrid
  - Marie Curie Project idea
- **To Do's**
- **Upcoming Dates**
- **Impressum**

## General News:

### Internal

#### EU-project approved

As some of you have already heard: Our Curriculum Development project to develop and implement a joint Master's study programme on children's rights at the network's core universities has been approved by the European Commission. Children's active and effective participation in societal processes is the core element of the MA programme. The MA is directed to graduates and to professionals working in the field of childhood and children's rights.

The overall objectives are to

- acquire human resources of higher learning education for policy and programme design and implementation and institution management
- produce knowledge, innovative methodology and tools for policies, strategies, direction
- organise and implement a professional technical service specialised in promotion and development of children's rights projects.

The main activities in the next two years will be meetings and workshops between partner institutions, experts and stakeholders to develop

- integrated methodological pedagogical approaches (including e-learning)
- a business plan for sustainability (including fundraising methods)
- monitoring and evaluation methods for quality assurance
- principles of student and staff mobility

Administrative and legal steps will be taken to implement the joint programme in the 3<sup>rd</sup> year.

Expected outputs are four running MA study programmes with the award of a joint degree as well as an extended network of universities and organisations. Special emphasis will lie on the inclusion of Central East European HEI.

For further information, please contact Rebecca Budde, CR Coordination, [info@enmcr.net](mailto:info@enmcr.net)

You can review the list of approved projects under the Socrates CD- Call 2005 under:

[http://www.socleoyouth.be/static/Bots/docbots/ERASMUS/IC%202005/RESULTS%20Selection%202005/2005%20Result%20Public\\_Proguc.pdf](http://www.socleoyouth.be/static/Bots/docbots/ERASMUS/IC%202005/RESULTS%20Selection%202005/2005%20Result%20Public_Proguc.pdf)

#### **Children's Rights in Germany and Europe: Politics, Science and Practice- International Conference in Berlin**

The public event is being organized in cooperation with the Deutsche Gesellschaft e.V./The European Information Centre in Berlin. It will serve ENMCR to become more known in the "Child Rights Scene". Practitioners from the children and youth sector (NGOs, representatives of public institutions) have been invited to voice their needs as to what kind of academic qualification is required for successfully implementing children's rights in practical work. Effective participation possibilities for children and youth will be discussed in an afternoon expert talk after participation projects have been presented by coordinators. Besides participation possibilities the instrument Child Rights Programming will be introduced by representatives of Save the Children. In an evening panel discussion with politicians, professionals and scientists from Germany and the European Union, a broader public audience should be sensitised for the implementation of the rights of the child. Neuralgic and critical points of the UN convention on the rights of the child will be discussed. The conference will take place on Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup> September, 2005, from 14-22h in Berlin. For further information please contact: Rebecca Budde, Jean- Monnet-Haus, Bundesallee 22, 10717 Berlin, Germany. Tel: +49-88412-191, Fax: 0721-151334408, e-mail: [info@enmcr.net](mailto:info@enmcr.net) URL: [www.enmcr.net](http://www.enmcr.net)

### **Next Internal ENMCR Meeting**

We will use the opportunity of being gathered for the conference to hold an internal ENMCR meeting on Friday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2005. As we are expecting possible new members, especially from Central- and East Europe, we will use the time to present work and experiences, get to know each other and discuss possibilities for future cooperation.

We will also discuss the next steps to be taken concerning the CD- project.

### **External**

#### **Foundation for the Rights of Future Generations**

The foundation for the Rights of Future Generations is a non-profit Think-Tank based in Germany. At the cross section of Science and Politics the foundation deepens the knowledge about justice of generations and sustainability in Germany and the world. Its activities include the organisation of various conferences and seminars, publication of books and papers and the award of a justice of generations prize for young scientists who work on future themes. The foundation also publishes a quarterly magazine "Generationengerechtigkeit!" (in German) that is sent out to decision-makers of all levels (politics, economy, science). Theme of the last edition is child participation/right to vote from birth. The foundation is at the moment developing an English website that you may visit at:

<http://www.srzg.de/english/indeng1.htm> for further information contact: [info@srzg.de](mailto:info@srzg.de)

#### **East and Southern Africa: Violence against Children [publications]**

World Vision International has recently published two reports on violence against children, as contributions to the United Nations Study on Violence against Children. Given children's fundamental right to participate in their own development and to be key partners in finding solutions to the problems facing them, World Vision sought to specifically document the voices of children in the context of the UN Study.

For more information, contact: Ruth Kahurananga, Child Rights Officer, World Vision International, United Nations Liaison Office, 222 East 48th Street, New York, NY 10017, USA  
Tel: + 1 212 355 1779; Fax: + 1 212 355 3018, e-mail: [ruth\\_kahurananga@wvi.org](mailto:ruth_kahurananga@wvi.org)  
Website: <http://www.child-rights.org>

#### **Bertelsmann Foundation project presentation**

The Bertelsmann Foundation will present first findings of its study project "mitWirkung" (participation) on September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2005 in Berlin. The research on participation and participation possibilities of youth was done in 50 German communes and cities. Active and non-active youth as well as political decision-makers and administrations took part in the survey. The deadline for registration for the public event was August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2005 however there are some limited places left. If anyone is interested please contact: Tanja Schnatmann, Tel: +49-5241-8181346, Fax+49-5241-81681346, e-mail: [tanja.schnatmann@bertelsmann.de](mailto:tanja.schnatmann@bertelsmann.de) URL: [www.mitwirkung.de](http://www.mitwirkung.de)

#### **Bringing Youth into the heart of European policy-making**

The European Commission wants to place young people at the very heart of its political considerations. Its communiqué of 30 May on "European policies concerning youth" has been included in the extension of the European Youth Pact. This pact gives young people a fundamental place in the Lisbon partnership for growth and jobs, integration, social promotion, education, training, mobility and the reconciliation of personal and professional life. "Europe's future relies more and more on its ability to promote the emergence of societies which are well adapted to children and the young" affirmed Ján Figel', commissioner responsible for youth,

"and the communication adopted by the Commission clearly shows that the Lisbon partnership for growth and jobs is of great interest to young people because it deals with issues directly affecting them". On the 31 May, a group of young Europeans met with Commissioner Figel' in Brussels to debate the European Youth Pact communiqué and the role of young people in shaping their futures within the Union.

For more information, see: [http://europa.eu.int/youth/news/index\\_2278\\_en.html](http://europa.eu.int/youth/news/index_2278_en.html)

#### **International Forum in Solidarity with Working Children (brief report on meeting)**

Professionals and Scientists as well as active children and youth met in Kundapur, India from 13-17 June 2005 for a preparatory meeting to form an International Forum in Solidarity with Working Children. The initiative started at the World Meeting of Working Children, held in Berlin in 2004. The participants discussed "how a democratic world once allowed a pro-active approach, converting harmful child labour to dignified work, and active child participation. It was realized that this has changed to an autocratic world, in which we are forced to be defensive, harmful child labour is a response to poverty, and 'participation' is widely used without precision". The founders of the forum ascribed themselves to reverse this trend. It was pointed out that there is a need for children to have a say in how to interpret conventions, and to decide on what work is harmful. The functions of the adult forum in supporting the Movement of Working Children includes direct support on the ground, but also political advocacy; theory; information, research and communication, as well as economic support. The next meeting of the forum will be held next year, most probably in Siena, Italy.

For more information contact: Prof. Dr. Manfred Liebel, Tel: +49 (0)30-31473166, e-mail: [manfred.liebel@tu-berlin.de](mailto:manfred.liebel@tu-berlin.de) or Nandana Reddy, e-mail: [nandana.reddy@vsnl.net](mailto:nandana.reddy@vsnl.net)

#### **News from the Members/Interested:**

##### **Expert Course Childhood Studies and Children's Rights Practice in an international context at the International Academy (INA) in Berlin**

Advance notice: The first cycle of the 6 month expert course is planned to begin on April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2006. Please visit the enmcr-website ([www.enmcr.net](http://www.enmcr.net)) for further information on course contents, tuition fees, admission etc. Or contact Prof. Dr. Manfred Liebel/Dr. Bernd Overwien at : [mliebel@ina-fu.org](mailto:mliebel@ina-fu.org); [bernd.overwien@tu-berlin.de](mailto:bernd.overwien@tu-berlin.de)

##### **Project suggestion for Marie Curie measures :**

Prof. Dr. Elisabeta Stanciulescu from Babes-Bolyai University, Romania has voiced an interest for participating in a possible MC project for which a host organisation is needed. She has two topics in mind, which seem eligible: (1) children and youths participation in decision making, especially in educational institutions, where they are supposed to acquire some transferable skills and where Romanian society faces many and crucial problems, given some specificities of the local and institutional culture (this topic works very well with the FP6 - citizenship and governance); (2) university management (which she says is another fundamental problem in her society - from the perspective of Bologna process and quality assurance -, and integrates very well the topic of students participation). The host institution should have a well-known expertise in the respective field, in order to improve the chance of rising money.

If anyone feels that the shoe fits or has an idea for an institution, please contact Prof. Dr. Elisabeta Stanciulescu at: [estanciulescu@email.com](mailto:estanciulescu@email.com)

#### **To Do's:**

For all network members:

- Establish contacts to interested individuals and organisations, institutions who could possibly participate in the network (as members, sponsors, affiliated)

- Find out about national funding programmes

### **Upcoming Dates:**

**September 19-23, 2005:** Child Welfare Leaders WorldForum 2005 in Tallinn, Estonia.

Deadline for submission of abstracts closed. URL: <http://www.lastekaitseliit.ee>

**September 28, 2005, 17h Brussels time:** Deadline application Marie Curie Research Training Networks

**September 29, 2005, 14h-22h:** Children's Rights in Germany and Europe: Politics, Science and Practice- International conference in Berlin. URL: [www.enmcr.net](http://www.enmcr.net)

**September 30, 2005:** Internal ENMCR meeting in Berlin. Contact: [rebecca@eufund.de](mailto:rebecca@eufund.de)

**February 12-16<sup>th</sup>, 2006:** Third International Conference on the Impact of Global Issues on Women and Children Location: Dhaka, Bangladesh

<http://www.fhs.mcmaster.ca/slru/ic2006/main.html>, <http://www.ic2006.info>

**May 18-19<sup>th</sup>, 2006.** International Interdisciplinary Conference on Children's Rights University of Ghent, Belgium. Deadline call for papers: **September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2005:** URL:

[http://www.law.ugent.be/pub/iuap/c\\_call.html](http://www.law.ugent.be/pub/iuap/c_call.html)

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