



European Network of Masters on Children's Rights

CRnews 9

Children's Rights Newsletter
June 2006

CR Coordination, Jean-Monnet-Haus
Bundesallee 22, D-10717 Berlin

info@enmcr.net/www.enmcr.net/Fon:+49-(0)30-88412-191

Dear Network Members and Network Interested,

We have successfully concluded our second meeting in the frame of our Curriculum Development project and have advanced in some areas. Please read a more detailed report below. In this newsletter you will read excerpts of the comment on the new ILO-Report on Child Labour, which we briefly mentioned in CRnews 8_06 by the group ProNats (Pro niños y adolescentes trabajadores- pro working adolescents and children), and you will be invited to join the virtual football stadium of the control arms campaign.

For comments and feedback on our newsletter, and/or our forum suggestions for improvement, or news you would like to have included please write to info@enmcr.net

Sincerely,

Rebecca Budde
Günter Chodzinski
Editors



In this Newsletter you will read:

- **General News**

 - **Internal**

 - Meeting ENMCR-CD at Stockholms Universitet (report)
 - New member Norwegian Centre for Child Research (NOSEB)

 - **External**

 - Excerpts from ProNats' comment on the new ILO-Report on Child Labour
 - Participation of Young People
 - Control Arms gets Football Fever
 - Concluding Observations: Committee issues its recommendations

 - **Info from CRIN Newsletters**

- **Job Opportunities**

- **Funding**

 - New Programme of Aktion Mensch
 - Tempus (Trans-European mobility scheme for university studies)

- **Upcoming Dates**

General News Internal

Meeting ENMCR-CD at Stockholms Universitet (report)

ENMCR successfully concluded its second meeting in the frame of the Curriculum Development project. Achievements are the decision on the joint core course "Childhood and Children's Rights in Theory and Practice" of the European Master on Children's Rights, which will start as pilot in winter semester 2007. The core course will be offered at all participating universities and is, next to the methods course on childhood research, the joint element of the MA. Further modules of the MA will vary according to expertise at the partner universities. We have also advanced in linking our academic expertise with professional work in the area of children's rights, by conducting a survey with stakeholders (NGOs and public agencies) on their needs and recommendations for academic qualification in Children's Rights. The respondents are invited to participate in our upcoming stakeholder workshop on September 28, 2006 at the University of Amsterdam. Further Information on progress of the CD-Project and on the Stakeholder Workshop can be obtained from Rebecca Budde (Project Coordination), FU Berlin, Habelschwerdter Allee 45, 14195 Berlin, Germany
Tel: ++49 (0)30 838 53968; e-mail: rbudde@ina-fu.org

New Member Norwegian Centre for Child Research (NOSEB)

The European Network of Masters on Children's Rights welcomes its new member, the Norwegian Centre for Child Research (Norsk Senter for Barneforskning-NOSEB). NOSEB offers an interdisciplinary, international master's programme in Childhood Studies, which starts this autumn. The programme offers an advanced education within the interdisciplinary social studies of children and childhood. The aim is to generate knowledge about childhood, children's life-worlds, and the politics of childhood in changing societies. The programme will give a broad introduction to different theoretical and methodological perspectives and key concepts in contemporary social research on children and childhood. The programme is related to the new social studies of childhood. A child perspective represents a main integrative approach. An important task is to create comprehensive insights in and understanding of how the globalised conditions in which children grow up affect "local" and "National" childhoods in the world. The ways in which children themselves explore and experience their everyday lives and childhoods will be explored. NOSEB believes that joining the network will give great opportunities to exchange experience in teaching and curriculum development. Other forms of cooperation such as student exchange or the organisation of conferences and seminars will also be discussed.

We, ENMCR, are looking forward to the cooperation!

General News External

Excerpts from ProNats' Comment on the new ILO- Report on Child Labour: "A Document of Self-Satisfaction"

.....One main problem of the ILO Report is that its definition of child labour – as in previous reports and comments – even considering the conducted distinctions, allows only a categorically negative valuation. Children's work, as it is understood by the ILO, is considered incompatible to (school) education and is seen primarily as a "development obstacle" – particularly for economic growth and poverty reduction. This way, the view is not only limited to focussing on the negative aspects of children's work, but also many essential activities as well as those accepted by children are not taken into consideration in the statistic data and strategic thoughts of the ILO.....

.....From the viewpoint of the ILO, "economic activity" of children is exclusively a "statistical" category which may well be surveyed, but is insignificant for political measures... children over 12 years of age who are working only a few hours a week in permitted light work as well as children over 15 years of age whose work is

not classified as "hazardous", do not perform "child labour" or are not classified as "child workers". According to the ILO, child labour is a strictly judicial category, thus is defined by political, respectively legal guidelines. These are implicitly assumed to be "sensible" and "in the interest of the children"..... Apart from the problematic character of the categories, the question should be raised, which recording methods the data is based on and which problems came about in praxis during the cross-national, worldwide surveying using unified criteria. The report itself does not provide information on this.....

..... Work and education are considered, regarding children, as incompatible antagonists. Although an improved quality of educational institutions is repeatedly demanded and at one time there is even talk about a "child-friendly school", no thought is wasted on how schools could be reconciled with the living conditions of working children. Concrete and often successful approaches of "non-formal education" with working children whose experiences are taken seriously, are discredited as "second-class education", or even branded as "a parallel system competing against the formal education system" (p. 60). The report leaves the impression that the ILO has never heard of educational conceptions and progressive schools that aim at linking learning with work experience and which could pose a promising alternative, especially for working children.

..... The new Report on Child Labour is new evidence, that the International Labour Organisation is deaf for the concrete interests and needs of working children. Instead of preaching the elimination of child labour, the ILO should be recommended to ask exactly what could help to improve the situation of these children – whilst actually listening to working children and their organisations and beginning a serious dialogue in mutual respect.

For further information, please contact: Manfred Liebel: mliebel@ina-fu.org

Participation of Young People

Results from the EUYOUNG show that young people are increasingly judging the political system more critically. Political protest conducted by young people is becoming more important as social and political form of expression. In view of the declining trust in political parties, young people feel that NGOs' work is more effective. EUYOUNG is a project co-funded by the EU. The objective of the project was the development of a new measuring instrument for political participation of young people in Europe. The project was implemented by a consortium of European HEI's from 8 member states and was coordinated by the Austrian Institute for Social Research and Analysis (SORA).

Further information is available on: <http://www.sora.at/de/start.asp?b=312>

Control Arms gets Football Fever!

As football fans countdown to the World Cup, the Control Arms campaign is counting down to next month's crucial UN Conference on Small Arms. Join our huge virtual football stadium: choose a seat, create a character in your own team colours, invite your friends to sit next to you and upload your photograph to the Million Faces petition. Visit The Stadium now and score one for the Control Arms campaign! :

<http://www.controlarms.org/worldcup>

Concluding Observations: Committee issues its recommendations

Concluding Observations to the States parties reports considered at the 42nd Session of the Committee on the Rights of the Child are available (in English) on the website of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights: Committee on the Rights of the Child; Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR); 8-14 Avenue de la Paix, CH 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland; Tel: + 41 22 917 9000; Fax: + 41 22 917 9022; Website: <http://www.ohchr.org/english/bodies/crc>

Info from CRIN Newsletters

CORPORAL PUNISHMENT: CRC Committee Issues General Comment 8 [publication]

The Committee on the Rights of the Child ended its 42nd session on June 2, 2006 and adopted a new General Comment (number 8) on the question of corporal punishment.

The Committee regularly adopts general comments based on specific articles, provisions and themes of the CRC to assist the States parties in fulfilling their obligations under the Convention and to stimulate international organisations and specialised agencies in achieving the full realisation of the rights recognised in the Convention. Members may propose at any time that a general comment relating to a specific article, provision or theme be prepared. The Committee sometimes decide to develop a general comment on an article, provision or theme that has been discussed earlier in one of its General Day of Discussion. The Committee

generally shares draft general comments with selected number of experts, including those from the other treaty bodies, for comments.

Following its two General Discussion Days on violence against children, held in 2000 and 2001, the Committee on the Rights of the Child resolved to issue a series of General Comments concerning eliminating violence against children, of which General Comment 8 is the first.

The Committee aims to guide States parties in understanding the provisions of the Convention concerning the protection of children against all forms of violence. This General Comment focuses on corporal punishment and other cruel or degrading forms of punishment, which are currently very widely accepted and practiced forms of violence against children.

Visit: <http://www.crin.org/resources/infoDetail.asp?ID=8495>

CHILD RIGHTS: Save the Children calls on Council to Hold Governments to Account on Child Rights [news]

The Save the Children Alliance today called for an end to the routine violation of the rights of the world's children and says the new Human Rights Council must mark a turning point in the treatment of children. The call comes as Kofi Annan Secretary-General of the United Nations opens the Council's first session in Geneva on Monday 19 June.

The Save the Children Alliance, operational in over 100 countries, wants the Human Rights Council to commit to:

- Promote the implementation of the Convention of the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols throughout its deliberations and decisions.
- Ensure children are given the opportunity to be involved in making the decisions that affect them.
- Involve child rights NGOs in its work including consultations during the Universal Periodic Review process
- Promote the implementation of the Convention of the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols throughout its deliberations and decisions.

For more information, contact: Save the Children UK, 1 St John's Lane, London EC1M 4AR, UK; Tel: +44 20 7012 6400; Fax: +44 20 7012 6963; Email: supporter.care@savethechildren.org.uk; Website: <http://www.savethechildren.org.uk>

INTERNATIONAL NGOS: Accountability Charter [publication]

[6 June 2006] - International civil society organisations took an unprecedented step last week in coming together to endorse the first international, cross-sectoral code of conduct for Non-Governmental Organisations. The heads of eleven of the world's leading human rights, environmental and social development organisations endorsed the first global accountability charter for the non-profit sector.

The Accountability Charter sets out core values and operating principles for international NGOs. These include good governance and management; fundraising and multi-stakeholder engagement. It also makes specific reference to respect for universal principles (such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights), independence, responsible advocacy, effective programmes, non-discrimination, transparency and ethical fundraising.

All international NGOs -- across different sectors -- will be invited to sign-up to the Accountability Charter. The organisations say that the Charter is only the first step and that a robust system for reporting and review of the Charter will be put in place so that it can be improved and updated in light of experience.

The eleven organisations who have endorsed the Charter are ActionAid International, Amnesty International, CIVICUS World Alliance for Citizen Participation, Consumers International, Greenpeace International, Oxfam International, International Save the Children Alliance, Survival International, International Federation Terre des Hommes, Transparency International and World YWCA.

For more information, contact: Amnesty International - International Secretariat ; 99-119 Rosebery Avenue, London, EC1R 4RE, United Kingdom ; Tel: + 44 20 7814 6200 ; Email: info@amnesty.org
Website: <http://www.amnesty.org>

CHILD PARTICIPATION: Research with Children Affected by Armed Conflict [publication]

The Refugee Studies Centre of the Queen Elizabeth House (Oxford University) has recently produced a working paper on "Research with Children Living in Situations of Armed Conflict".

Research about children's lives conducted in the volatile setting of armed conflict places particular demands upon researchers. The suggestion that researchers should, whenever possible and appropriate, involve children as meaningful participants in that research may seem unreasonable or inappropriate. However, the production

of this paper has been motivated by the conviction that participatory research is especially valuable *because of* the emergency context.

Firstly, such an approach is likely to yield richer and more detailed data than a conventional, adult-led approach. These data can be invaluable to the design of interventions. Secondly, engagement in well-planned research activities can offer direct benefits for young participants by enhancing their skills and awareness. In settings of conflict where the young may be required to play an expanded role in their own protection and in the care of others, their personal development is especially important.

For more information, contact: Refugee Studies Centre, Queen Elizabeth House; 21 St Giles Street, Oxford OX1 3LA, UK; Tel: +44 1865 270432; Fax: +44 1865 270721; Email: rsc@qeh.ox.ac.uk
Website: <http://www.rsc.ac.uk>

JOB Opportunities:

Deutsches Kinderhilfswerk Consultant for Children's Policies

The German Children's Assistance Works seeks to recruit a consultant for children's policies. We expect profound knowledge in the field of children's policies, preferably in a national context and professional experience in the field, methodological and theoretical experience in participatory education as well as a fine sense for societal themes and developments.

Please direct applications to Deutsche Kinderhilfswerk, Leipziger Str. 116-118, 10117 Berlin.

Deadline: 6 July, 2006

Contact person Michael Kruse, Tel.: +49/30/ 308693-0, E-Mail kruse@dkhw.de

URL: www.dkhw.de,

Institute of Social Studies: Senior Lecturer in Development, Human Rights and Governance

ISS seeks to recruit a (Senior) Lecturer in Development, Human Rights and Governance for a fixed period of three years. In future, (an)other position(s) might be created in this field. Tasks and responsibilities include teaching, research, and public service including (external) project work.

Application deadline: **1 July 2006**

For more information, contact: Ms Bea Tabink, ISS Personnel Office; Box 29776, 2502 LT The Hague, The Netherlands; Email: tabink@iss.nl ; Website: <http://www.iss.nl>

Funding

New Funding Programme of Aktion Mensch (Germany)

Starting on May 1, 2006 projects of non-profit organisations, that are mainly implemented by voluntary staff or aim at recruiting volunteers, may apply for funding. In 2006 Aktion Mensch will most likely fund at least 2500 projects with a total of € 10 million Further information and funding applications

<http://www.diegesellschafter.de>

TEMPUS (Trans-European mobility scheme for university studies)

The European Funding programme TEMPUS co-finances projects for a duration of 2-3 years (€ 300.000-500.000) The applications can be submitted as national projects (with national institutions), as regional projects (with universities from EU member states). The project must foresee one of the three actions in CARDS, (South East Europe) MEDA (Mediterranean) or TACIS (New Independent States) countries:

1. Curriculum Development
2. Higher Education Institution management
3. Training courses for promotion of institutional development

Next Deadline for applications is: Mid October 2006

Further Information: http://ec.europa.eu/education/programmes/tempus/index_en.html

Upcoming Dates

June 30th, 2006: Deadline submission YOUTH programme, exchange of good practices in youth work

June 30th, 2006: Deadline submission contributions to general discussion CRC

July 1st, 2006: Deadline submission YOUTH programme, action 5, support measures

July 4th-6th, 2006: Conference: Childhood and Youth: Choice and Participation

July 10th -22nd, 2006: 7th encounter of African Movement of Working Children and Young People

July 17th- 20th, 2006: Asia-Pacific Childhoods Conference

July 17th-21st, 2006: Summer University on the Rights of the Child at IUKB, Sion Switzerland

July 18th-21st, 2006: Conference: Investment and Citizenship: Towards a Transdisciplinary Dialogue on Child and Youth Rights, Location: Brock, Canada

September 4th, 2006: MA in "Human Rights, Development and Social Justice" at the Institute of Social Studies, The Hague

September 15th, 2006: Day of General Discussion, UN-Committee on the Rights of the Child

September 20th- December 12th, 2006: Distance Learning Course on Rights-Based Programming (HREA)

September 28th, 2006: Stakeholder workshop ENMCR-CD at University of Amsterdam

October 1st -12th, 2006: Workshop "Children's Participation, Protagonism and Governance" **October 13th, 2006:** Start Expert Course on Children's Rights in Berlin

October 15th, 2006: Deadline TEMPUS Applications

October 24-25, 2006: Juvenile Justice in Europe International Conference

November 1st, 2006: Deadline Pre-call Erasmus Thematic Network Project