



European Network of Masters in Children's Rights

# CRnews 12

Children's Rights Newsletter  
November/December 2008

European Network of Masters in Children's Rights  
c/o Internationale Akademie an der Freien Universität Berlin  
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## Dear Network Members and Network Interested,

Today, 19 years ago on November 20<sup>th</sup>, 1989 the UNCRC was signed. Of course there are many events commemorating this milestone day in the history of children's rights, in which we are all participating actively. There is still a long way to go to realize children's rights fully around the world and we hope the community fighting for this realization will continue growing as rapidly as in the passed few years.

As usual, here the invitation to you to send us information you would wish to distribute through our information service. Please use [info@enmcr.net](mailto:info@enmcr.net) for all feedback, questions, comments or information. Thank you! Keep up the good work!

Sincerely,  
Rebecca Budde (Editor)

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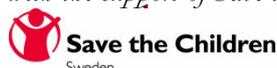
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*CRnews is produced with the support of Save the Children, Sweden*



## General News Internal

### **European Strategy on Children's Rights**

The German Section of ENMCR decided to submit an application for a permanent (or expert, if not selected for permanent) seat in the European Forum on Children's Rights. You will remember that we reported on this possibility in the last edition of CRnews. It was not possible to communicate this within ENMCR beforehand, due to timely constraints. We will keep you informed on the outcome. ENMCR welcomes that there are permanent seats for civil society reserved in the forum, albeit the ratio between state and non state actors is quite disproportionate. ENMCR is worriedly observing that discussions on children's and young people's representation and participation in the forum seem to have died down completely.

### **News from members, associated members and Networks of which ENMCR is a member**

#### **5<sup>th</sup> annual conference Eurochild AISBL: Including Children: a Child rights approach to Child well-being (report)**

On November 6 and 7, Eurochild held its 5<sup>th</sup> annual conference. It was organised and implemented in cooperation with the Child, Youth, Family non-profit Association, Budapest, Hungary, where the conference took place. About 150 participants from 23 European countries were present at the event, which was opened by Eurochild's director, Catriona Williams, followed by an Address by Peter Kiss, Cabinet Minister, Hungarian Prime Minister's Office. After general opening words by the organisers and a presentation of the subject: child well-being. The group split up into 4 working groups to discuss different issues concerning the well-being of children in Europe. The conference put a great focus on early childhood, drawing on the common belief and understanding that by getting everything right in the early years, the child will also be better off at an older age. Even though this focus has been predominant in dealing with child well-being and other aspects were only touched rather briefly, some new insights also for children in school age were mentioned, such as day care for school children, labour market needs, children (of all ages) in institutional care.

A delegation of young people, who had already participated in the last annual conference of Eurochild met in parallel working groups and had the chance to voice questions to the adults on the second day of the conference. The questions posed were of very valid and basic nature and not too easy to answer by the expert adults. It was perhaps a bit unfortunate that the young people weren't consulted by the adults as well, in order to feed in their voices in any work done to promote well-being amongst as many children and young people as possible.

Further information on the conference can be found on Eurochild's webpage: [www.eurochild.org](http://www.eurochild.org)

#### **Open Forum: Germany child-friendly (suitable for children?!) (report)**

On November 14, the German National Coalition for the implementation of the UNCRC held its 14<sup>th</sup> Open Forum to discuss how far Germany has come in its endeavour to make the country suitable for children as declared in the National Action Plan-NAP- (2005-2010).

The forum served not only to present and depict what state the country is in, compared to a few years ago, before the NAP was launched, but also to discuss specific most urging themes in preparation of the large expert congress to which the government has invited on *December 4 (in Berlin)* to discuss the interim stage of actions of the NAP. It was noted that progress has been made in certain health issues, such as a sharp decrease in infant mortality rates, yet that in general the process is stagnating- especially for children without a regulated status in Germany are confronted with very difficult access to health care. It was also noted, that according to the UNICEF study done on child well being in industrial countries, Germany is on one of the last positions, specifically concerning relationship with parents and emotional well-being. Not new, but still a very hot theme discussed and made responsible for several shortcomings is the German school system, which is uniquely backward and unbeneficial not

only for the children but for family life in general (children start school at different hours and end school at different hours e.g.; not to speak of the three fold schooling system, of which has been proven several times is the most discriminating system in the whole of OECD countries. The discussions and insights will make for a good and hopefully progressive discussion and debate with government representatives on December 4. For further information contact: [info@national-coalition.de](mailto:info@national-coalition.de)

#### **Update on NAP 2008-2010 on Social Inclusion (info from Eurochild)**

Eurochild secretariat has received completed toolkits for the NAP of several countries and will develop a synthesis report based on the NAP analysis done by the Secretariat and by Eurochild consultant Hugh Frazer. The synthesis report will be launched the 12 of February during an event in the European Parliament hosted by the German MEP Gabrielle Zimmer. All members involved in the NAP analysis will be invited to Brussels for the event.

Additional, we will develop and send key messages on the NAP process at national level to relevant country desks during the month of December. **If you want to participate in this process or have short key messages on your country NAP please send your inputs to the Policy Section of the Secretariat by the 15 of December.**

Further information: [policy@eurochild.org](mailto:policy@eurochild.org)

## General News External

### **Call for Papers: Strategies Against Poverty - Designs from the North and Alternatives from the South**

**Date: 4-6 February 2009; Location: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

It is organized by the CLACSO-CROP programme and the Organization for Social Science Research in Eastern and Southern Africa (OSSREA) with the collaboration of the CLACSO South-South Program and the South-South Exchange Programme for Research on the History of Development (SEPHIS). The objective of the workshop is to bring about a comparative, critical and multidisciplinary understanding of the theoretical frameworks and practices which were/are put forward as solutions to poverty in the South.

The deadline for abstracts is **November 24, 2008**

Further Information: <http://www.crop.org/news/news.cfm?id=104&page=1&row=2> or contact: Jon-Kristian Johnsen, Childwatch International Research Network: [j.k.johnsen@childwatch.uio.no](mailto:j.k.johnsen@childwatch.uio.no)

Source: e-mail message from Childwatch

### **PICUM International Conference on: Undocumented Children in Europe: Invisible Victims of Immigration Restrictions**

**Date: 22-23 January 2009; Location: Brussels (Intl. Auditorium)**

Working languages: English /French/Spanish

PICUM, the Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants will hold an International Conference on Undocumented Children in Europe to launch its publication on this issue.

The conference is organized in the framework of the **EU project "Fighting discrimination-based violence against undocumented children in Europe"**. It will provide an opportunity to investigate the specific needs and problems that undocumented children face in Europe when trying to access their basic social rights. The event will enable participants to share experiences and good practices regarding the provision of protection to undocumented children. **Registration € 15** (including lunch & refreshments) is open until **03 January 2009**. Draft program and registration form are available on [www.picum.org](http://www.picum.org). Contact: [administration@picum.org](mailto:administration@picum.org) for further information.

Source: e-mail from PICUM

### **Invitation: Human Rights school film programme: Look at Human Rights!**

**Date: 24-26 November; Location: Berlin**

In memoriam of the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights the German Institute for Human Rights is offering a Human Rights school film programme in cooperation with "Vision Kino" and the JugendKulturService. On 25 November the Institute will present the Czech film: „like in a bad dream“, which shows the Nazi time through the eyes of a Jewish girl. On November 26, 4 short films of the „Global Oneness Project" will be shown. Further Information:

[www.institut-fuer-menschenrechte.de/sl.php?id=340](http://www.institut-fuer-menschenrechte.de/sl.php?id=340)

Source: Newsletter of the Human Rights Institute

### **Meeting of the group: Right to play**

**Date: 28 November; Location: Berlin (Rotes Rathaus)**

The play-friendly city or community, be it about opportunities to play in neighbourhoods, nature near school ground design, offers to include children in urban planning, needs a lobby in Germany. On the world play day 2008 about 100 have set a clear signal to act on this together. The German Children's Charity is now planning on giving this group a frame and would welcome many experts to participate in this group. To get to know the activists and engage in a first exchange of ideas a first meeting is planned to take place on November 28 in the Rotes Rathaus in Berlin. More information and registration on: [www.recht-auf-spiel.de](http://www.recht-auf-spiel.de).

Source: Newsletter of the Children's Charity

### **What can youth expect from Europe?**

How to go on with education, vocational training, mobility? What about the Lisbon treaty? What does the EU do for us? In all 27 Member states young people articulated their demands on Europe in the European Youth week which took place from November 2-9. It took place in the European Parliament upon an initiative of the EU Commission. The German director of Youth in Action said: "Without the young people the EU has no future. If in Germany more than 50% of the young people believe they do NOT have a voice in Europe, it is an alarming signal- the fantasy of many creative people is needed here.- Together we have to set up attractive offers for young people. The European Youth week is a good opportunity to voice concerns, demands and raise critique."

The themes of several workshops (radio, internet, brochures) are decided by the 13-25 year olds themselves. Subjects such as work life, the own community or volunteering were discussed.

Further information: [www.jugendfuereuropa.de/ejw08](http://www.jugendfuereuropa.de/ejw08)

Source: EU news

### **New Internetportal: „Study in Europe"**

The EU Commission has launched the new online platform "Study abroad", which should raise attractiveness of the European Higher Education System. The portal is part of an overarching campaign to raise the number of non-European students in the EU. The website offers information on Study programmes, admission procedures and criteria, costs and scholarships, but also practical hints on themes such as housing and life in the different European countries.

[www.study-in-europe.org](http://www.study-in-europe.org)

Source: EU news

## **P u b l i c a t i o n s**

### **Monthly newsletter from research point EU**

The Joint Research Centre of the EU has started publishing a monthly newsletter. With this new service the JRC aims at informing better on activities and its role. Activities include scientific consultations by the JRC and the institutes pertaining to it as well as research results achieved. In the first edition you can read about effects of climate change and business issues. By following this link you can access the GRC website: <http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/jrc/index.cfm>

**New Online brochure for journalists: people without papers in Germany: their right to health“**

The German Institute for Human Rights has published this new online brochure, which is presented as kind of investigative tool which enables a quick, founded research on the theme from a human rights perspective. The theme is especially “hot” after the Federal ministry for domestic affairs has published its report on “Illegally residing migrants in Germany” a year ago. (in German)

Further information: [www.institut-fuer-menschenrechte.de/sl.php?id=344](http://www.institut-fuer-menschenrechte.de/sl.php?id=344)

Source: Deutsches Institut für Menschenrechte

**Policy Paper "Human Rights at the EU's common external maritime border" published**

This publication was published in September and is directed to EU political decision-makers and recommends them to reconsider and change the border codex established with Schengen and to establish a more reliable system of burden sharing within the EU.

You can download the Policy paper as PDF: [http://www.institut-fuer-menschenrechte.de/webcom/show\\_shop.php/c-488/lkm-618/cat-2/](http://www.institut-fuer-menschenrechte.de/webcom/show_shop.php/c-488/lkm-618/cat-2/)

Source: Deutsches Institut für Menschenrechte

**UK: Rights of the child with focus on juvenile justice - report by Council of Europe**

‘United Kingdom must reshape its juvenile justice system’ says Commissioner Hammarberg

The system of juvenile justice in the UK should be reformed. It is too punitive and too little focused on rehabilitation, stated the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights. Thomas Hammarberg presented a series of reform proposals in a memorandum addressed to the UK authorities. You can read the full report by accessing the CoE page of publications on CR issues:

[http://www.coe.int/t/transversalprojects/children/publications/Default\\_en.asp](http://www.coe.int/t/transversalprojects/children/publications/Default_en.asp)

The Commissioner observed the very low age of criminal responsibility in the UK and recommends that the authorities come into line with the rest of Europe where the average age of criminal responsibility is higher. Moreover, concern is voiced about the overuse of child detention and the high numbers of children in custody in England and Wales. ‘Arrest, detention and use of child custody must be a last resort and for the shortest appropriate period of time’ Hammarberg said, welcoming the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008 which received Royal Assent on 8 May 2008. Commissioner Hammarberg urges the authorities to ban corporal punishment in all custodial settings and reminds the Government of its obligations to protect children from all forms of harm and ill-treatment. Finally, he observes that the high re-offending rates of children leaving custody ‘seriously question the efficacy and purpose of the entire youth justice system in England and Wales and the use of detention in particular’ adding that ‘repression is not the only answer to juvenile crime: alternative approaches could provide better responses to it.’

For more information, contact: Council of Europe; B Building - Office B137, F - 67075 Strasbourg Cedex; Tel: +33 3 88 41 22 62; Fax: +33 3 90 21 52 85; Email: [elda.moreno@coe.int](mailto:elda.moreno@coe.int); Website:

[www.coe.int/children](http://www.coe.int/children)

Source: Crinmail 1027

## News from CRIN

**The 50th Session of the Committee on the Rights of the Child will take place 12 to 30 January at the Palais Wilson in Geneva, Switzerland.**

The Committee will examine reports from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Malawi, Republic of Moldova, Netherlands and Republic of Chad on their implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

In addition, the Committee will review reports on the implementation of the Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography (OPSC) from the Maldives and the Netherlands and reports on the Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict

(OPAC) for the Maldives, the Republic of Moldova and Tunisia.

A special CRC news page devoted to the activities of the Committee on the Rights of the Child has been set up on the CRIN website in partnership with the NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

States Parties reports submitted by governments to the Committee on the Rights of the Child are available in English, French and Spanish on the website of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in Word and PDF formats.

Alternative Reports submitted by NGOs to the Committee on the Rights of the Child are made available on the CRIN website in partnership with the NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The reports can also be searched by country, Committee session or by organisation. Note that alternative reports are posted on the CRIN website as they are received.

### **Session reports from the 49th session**

Country reports from the last session, by the NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child, are available on CRIN's publication site: [www.crin.org](http://www.crin.org) publications.

For more information, contact: UN OHCHR - Committee on the Rights of the Child; 8-14 Avenue de la Paix, CH 1211 Geneva 10; Tel: +41 22 917 9000 ; Fax: +41 22 917 9022; Website:

<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/crc/index.htm>

## Job Postings

### **Several Job postings at Save The Children**

Please visit the careers section on [www.savethechildren.org](http://www.savethechildren.org) for further detailed information.

## Funding / Prizes / Research Opportunities

On November 20th, today, the winners of the poster competition „My Right to Protection“ will be awarded their prizes. More information: [www.eurojugend.eu](http://www.eurojugend.eu)

### **ASA Programme 2009 online- call to apply for scholarships**

Young people who are interested in global issues and challenges, who would like to collect international experiences and who are keen on engaging in civil society and political activities can from now apply for 230 scholarships of the ASA programme.

Eligibility criteria: applicants have to be either students or professional with a completed education (non- academic) aged 21-30. ASA is looking for young people from all different professional background and disciplines. Applications are to be submitted by *January 10, 2009* online. Information on procedure etc.: [www.asa-programm.de](http://www.asa-programm.de).

The Programme offered by ASA is an excellent mixture of seminar and practical phases, which is embedded in a broad network of equally minded people. The seminars impart knowledge and competences in development cooperation, intercultural communication, conflict resolution and developmental education work and well as specific preparation courses for the time spent abroad.

The practical phase is 3 months of living in Africa, Latin America, Asia or south east Europe. Examples of projects: support to computer courses for children in Laos; design of fashion with Brazilian prostitutes; promotion of fair trade in South Africa....

Contact: InWEnt gGmbH; ASA-Programm; Lützowufer 6-9; 10785 Berlin [www.asa-programm.de](http://www.asa-programm.de);

Contact person: Heidi Thoma, Fon 030-25482-362, mailto: [hei.di.thoma@inwent.org](mailto:hei.di.thoma@inwent.org)

### **New Publication on Social Sciences, Economics and Humanities in the 6th and 7th Framework Programme**

The European Commission has published a new brochure entitled: "European Union Research on Governance and Citizenship in the 6th Framework Programme and the first period of 7th Framework Programme" Socio-Economic Sciences and Humanities Programme. It can be downloaded from this link: [http://ec.europa.eu/research/social-sciences/cluster-publications\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/research/social-sciences/cluster-publications_en.html)

### **Funding of travel expenses to congresses and conferences abroad (Academics in Germany)**

Starting on January 1, 2009, the German academic exchange Service (DAAD) will take over the coordination of the programme "Kongress- und Vortragsreisen ins Ausland", which has been administered by the DFG. This funding instrument supports the participation in international scientific events, e.g. conferences, symposia or colloquia that take place in other countries than Germany. The programme is financed by the ministry of foreign affairs and will be modified only slightly when the DAAD takes over coordination. Until 31 December, application should be submitted to the DFG, starting from January 1, 2009, please submit application to the DAAD. Further Information:

[http://www.dfg.de/aktuelles\\_presse/information\\_fuer\\_die\\_wissenschaft/ausschreibungen\\_mit\\_internationalem\\_bezug/info\\_wissenschaft\\_66\\_08.html](http://www.dfg.de/aktuelles_presse/information_fuer_die_wissenschaft/ausschreibungen_mit_internationalem_bezug/info_wissenschaft_66_08.html)

Source: newsletter DFG

### **New Version of search machine on Europe Aid**

A few weeks ago, the EU has installed a new version of the search machine for „Call for Proposal” for all funding programmes coordinated by Europeaid (Projects in development cooperation). The new address is: <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/online-services/index.cfm?do=publi.welcome>

The search criteria and search ways remain the same. *What is new?*

- Search can be refined by entering a date: “Published after” und “Published before”.
- The menu for “programmes” has a better overview by separating regional and thematic programmes.

*Caution:* The calls for thematic programmes are now under an own menu point and not any more collectively under “other”.

Source: e-mail from bengo

## **U p c o m i n g   D a t e s**

**10-24 November:** e-discussion on Child Rights

**Open until 25 November:** Consultation on Youth policy

**20-22 November :** Conference: Youth Empowerment and HIV/Aids prevention/control-the way forward in London and 27-29 November 2008 in New York City

**24-26 November:** Human Rights school film programme: Look at Human Rights! in Berlin

**starting: 26 November :** Lecture Series: Child Rights and School (German) every other Wed: 6-8pm, 2008; Location: Grundschulwerkstatt of the Humboldt-University Berlin, (Geschwister-Scholl-Strasse)

**28 November:** Meeting of the group: Right to play in Berlin

**4 December:** expert congress on Germany's situation concerning child friendliness

**6-9 December:** Seminar: Children and Young People in Care: What do YOUTH think?

**15 December:** Deadline to submit inputs on NAP (Social Inclusion) to Eurochild

**10 January 2009:** Deadline application scholarships for ASA Programme 2009

**12 to 30 January 2009:** 50th Session of the Committee on the Rights of the Child in Geneva

**19-20 January 2009:** Child Poverty and Disparities: Public Policies for Social Justice, Cairo

**22-23 January 2009:** PICUM Intl. Conf: Undocumented Children in Europe

**26- 30 January 2009:** San Diego International Conference on Child and Family Maltreatment

**4-6 February 2009:** Workshop: Strategies Against Poverty - Designs From The North And Alternatives From The South