



European Network of Masters in Children's Rights

CRnews 7

Children's Rights Newsletter

July 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,

As usual we are providing you with information on procedures within ENMCR and its members. In this edition we have not compiled information from the CRIN information service- we will include this information again in the next CRnews. For comments and feedback on CRnews and if you would like us to include information on activities, events, publications etc. please send an e-mail to info@enmcr.net.



Sincerely,
Rebecca Budde (Editor)

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General News Internal

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

Fifth year of Expert Course in Children's Social Policies at Universidad Complutense Madrid

Starting from October, it will be possible to submit applications for the next edition of the Curso de Experto en Políticas Sociales de Infancia at the Universidad Complutense in Madrid, Spain. The course will take place from February to July 2009 and is organized in weekend module blocks.

The secretariat of the course is open after the summer break starting from September 15. You are welcome to contact the coordinators of the course by telephone: +34-91 394 2665, or by e-mail at: expertoinfancia@cps.ucm.es

For further information on the course and the course flyer, please visit: www.ucm.es/info/polinfan

Internship post at the ENMCR coordination office in Berlin

The coordination office of the European Network of Masters in Children's Rights is looking for an enthusiastic intern to assist in all activities starting September, 1 2008.

In particular, the tasks will cover: technical and organizational support to the European Master in Childhood Studies and Children's Rights at the Free University in Berlin, including in particular the maintenance and updating of our online learning environment on Blackboard. Support in developing and organizing local activities with students and teachers of the European Master. Support in editing CRnews and the ENMCR website and other Public Relations activities (incl. fundraising). The intern will have the opportunity to participate in relevant local children's rights workshops and conferences. The position is half time and paid.

We are looking for an engaged, enthusiastic person, preferably a student of social sciences, who is willing and able to work in a team and who speaks and writes English and German fluently. The position will be filled for 6 months with the option to extend to 12 months.

Please direct applications to Rebecca Budde, ENMCR, Freie Universität Berlin, Habelschwerdter Allee 45, 14195 Berlin, Germany. For inquiries and further information, please contact the coordination office at: tel: +49-(0)30-838-52734 or by e-mail: info@enmcr.net. URL: www.fu-berlin.de/emcr and www.enmcr.net

EURONET campaign to make Europe a corporal punishment free zone for children in law and practice

EURONET has asked its members to inform them on any activities and/or campaigns that are being implemented already across Europe. If anyone would like to share information on best practices and successful activities in their region or country, you may wish to fill in the attached questionnaire EURONET developed. Responses to the questionnaire will help EURONET to inform the position paper EURONET is currently developing on combating corporal punishment against children and will be used to prepare the EURONET statement of support that will be launched in the European Parliament in December 2008. The deadline for submitting the questionnaire is set to: **Monday August 18th 2008.**

EURONET expert meeting on the EU Strategy on Children's Rights

Timeframe for the EU Strategy on Children's Rights:

- The Commission aims to have a first draft ready by 22 July. After which there will be a period of consultation and input from all stakeholders.
- Discussion of this draft at the steering group on children's rights on 9 October 2008.
- Discussion of the draft at the European Forum on children's rights in November 2008.

- Child-friendly version will be made for consultations with children from Dec 2008 - May 2009.
- Final strategy on children's rights adopted by the Commission in June 2009. The new European Commission to be installed end of 2009 will have to decide what to do with it, but the aim is that they will adopt the strategy as a new communication.

The meeting brought together stakeholders from across Europe to discuss general guidance to the EU to ensure it takes a child rights based approach (based on the UNCRC and its optional protocols) and includes a range of questions that the Child Rights Action Group (CRAG) members believe that the Commission should address in the EU strategy on CR. The results of the discussion should be fed into a second input by CRAG to the Commission, which is planned for mid July.

For further information please contact:

Mieke Schuurman; Secretary-General; The European Children's Network (EURONET)
Avenue des Arts 1-2; B-1210 Brussels; Tel: +32 2 2170186 or +31 187 481396; Fax : +32 2 513 4903
or +31 187 487390; mieke.schuurman@tiscali.nl or eupeanchildrenetwork@skynet.be
URL: www.europeanchildrensnetwork.eu

Themes network meeting EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child (NC Germany)

Following the EURONET expert meeting on July 7; a group of organisation representatives met in Berlin on July 8 to discuss further possible action points referring to the EU's plans for a Children's Rights strategy from Germany. The themes network was founded about 6 months ago, after the first forum meeting took place in Berlin in July last year, in which participants (of which many had invited themselves to the meeting) felt, agenda and purpose as well as composition of the forum were decided without consultation of many CR stakeholders. This led to a sentiment, that an active engagement in the processes, not only by groups and networks located directly in Brussels (such as EURONET, Eurochild, the Save the Children Alliance), but also from the individual member states is needed.

The themes network decided on several further action points for the next weeks and months:

In order to guarantee the participation of civil society in the development of the draft strategy paper and the actual new communication (see timeframe in news above) advocacy with the German Ministry of Justice (that has the mandate for the EU Strategy) and the German Parliament will be sought. The argument is to promote and strengthen the impact of such an envisaged CR strategy on civil society by formally engaging the national stakeholders in all processes. The group envisages holding a consultative meeting with the Justice minister Brigitte Zypries well before the planned next session of the EU forum in November this year. Impact of such consultations on a EU level would increase if such endeavours would take place also within other National Coalitions in member states.

In addition, the group envisages a briefing of members of the German Parliament, which until now has not been well informed or aware of proceedings concerning the EU strategy. As the strategy is only prone to be successful if the society at large favours such activities it would be important to engage in PR and awareness raising activities. The group decided to use the upcoming 20th anniversary of the UNCRC as well as the election for European Parliament in 2009. First ideas for activities are broad scale letters or postcards to candidates for election to the EU Parliament (e.g. postcard actions by schools) or possibly even a children's march to Strasbourg.

Eurochild's fifth Annual Conference "Including Children: a child rights approach to child well-being".

Date: 5-7 November 2008; Location: Budapest

It is being co-organised with Eurochild's member organisation Family, Child & Youth Association in Hungary.

The conference will gather high level representatives from member states and the European Commission, as well as government officials, NGOs and children, to discuss the EU social inclusion process and its impact on national and regional policies to combat child poverty and exclusion.

Thematic workshops will explore implications for member states in 3 policy areas:

1. Early years education & care; 2. Family & parenting support; 3. Education and life-long learning

Please visit Eurochild's website for further information and to register for the conference:

<http://www.eurochild.org/en/activities/upcomingevents/index.html>

Fifth regional meeting of NGO children's rights coalitions in Europe (news from EURONET)

Date: 28-30 October 2008; Location: Bucharest, Romania.

Among the topics to be discussed are: monitoring of the rights of the child, the cooperation between the nongovernmental organizations relating to the children's rights issue, advocacy, mainly the prohibition of the corporal punishments and all humiliating treatments upon children.

For more information, do not hesitate to contact Andreea Rusu, Save the Children Romania, hosting organization, at tel: +4021 316.61.76 or fax: +4021 312.44.86 or e-mail: rosc@salvaticopiii.ro. You can also visit Save the Children Romania website: http://www.salvaticopiii.ro/romania_en/index.html.

General News External

Migrant children and education: a challenge for EU education systems

A Green Paper adopted by the Commission on 3 July opens the debate on how education policies may better address the challenges posed by immigration and internal EU mobility flows. The presence of significant numbers of migrant children has substantial implications for European education systems. Key issues are how to prevent the creation of segregated school settings, so as to improve equity in education; how to accommodate the increased diversity of mother tongues and cultural perspectives and build intercultural skills; how to adapt teaching skills and build bridges with migrant families and communities. For the Commission's Press Release:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/08/1092&type=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en> FAQ:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/08/475&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN>

What should our schools be like in the 21st Century?

The European Commission wants Member States to cooperate better in order to make school systems more relevant to pupils' and employers' needs in the knowledge-based Europe of the future. The Commission Communication "Improving Competences for the 21st Century: An Agenda for European Cooperation on Schools", presented on 3 July, says that change, sometimes radical, will be needed if Europe's schools are to equip young people fully for life in this century.

For the Commission's Press Release:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/08/1094&type=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en> FAQ:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/08/476&type=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

NGO network meeting and open seminar in Oslo October 29-30 2008

On October 29 the SCEP NGOs will have an internal meeting in Oslo and on October 30, SCEP in co-operation with Save the Children Norway plan to hold an open seminar; the theme of the seminar will be 'CRC mainstreaming in the protection and care of separated children in Europe'. The Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs have kindly supported these events financially.

Migration and Participation in child and youth work (Seminar)

Dates: 16-17.10.2008; Location: Berlin

Themes that will be discussed and elaborated include: Basic knowledge on intercultural competence; dealing with foreign/alien behaviours; reflection of familiar seeming behavioural patterns; working on cases from practice; learning and trying out new behaviours; realize and make use of resources in everyday work. More Information at: <http://www.kinderpolitik.de/werkstatt/seminare.php>

Discovering children's rights in theory and practice

Dates: 7.-8.11.2008; Location: Berlin

The seminar offers an introduction to children's rights and also an opportunity to reflect on own behaviours and concrete methods to implement children's rights in pedagogical practice. It is addressed to teachers, as well as pedagogues in school and out of school educative projects, who work with children from age 6-13. The following subjects will be discussed at the seminar:

What rights do children have and in what laws are they written? Children's rights- a subject in Germany? How do children learn about their rights? How can children's rights be implemented in school, the kindergarten, other out-of school institutions?

More Information at: <http://www.kinderpolitik.de/werkstatt/seminare.php>

Initiative of the German senate to take back reservations on UNCRC

The reservation to the UNCRC declared by the German government should be taken back immediately. The Berlin Senate has decided on June 3 to start an initiative with the federal senate together with 2 other Länder. Several church and human rights organisations, child protection associations as well as prominent individuals (e.g. Rita Süßmuth and ex federal minister Heiner Geißler – keep on addressing the federal state as well as the Länder with the objective to take back the reservation. The federal government doesn't have the competence to do so without agreement by all Länder. The Länder governed by the CDU are therefore once again called upon to drop their blocking attitude.

Expert seminar „Show yourself, how you are (not)“

Date: 3 September; Location: Bielefeld

In everyday life of most young people, communication via the internet has become commonplace. In Web 2.0 they actively publish photos, videos texts and audio files. For pedagogical work fields new necessity and chances arise to accompany this media behaviour of children and youth. At the GMK-expert these activities will be looked at from a gender perspective and ways will be shown, how girls and boys can implement their themes on the media.

Further information: www.gmk-net.de

Publications

Stern, Rebecca: The Child's Right to Participation – Reality or Rhetoric?

This dissertation examines the child's right to participation in theory and practice within the context of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and other international human rights instruments.

Article 12 of the Convention establishes the right of the child to express views and to have those views respected and properly taken into consideration. The emphasis of the study is on the democracy aspects of child participation and on how the implementation of the right to participation could become more effective. For these purposes, the theoretical underpinnings of the child's right to participation are examined with a particular focus on the impact of power structures. The full text can be downloaded from: <http://publications.uu.se/abstract.xsql?dbid=7083>

Independent Human Rights Institutions for Children?

Report from a seminar organised by Save the Children Sweden in February this year. The seminar discussed the functioning of a children's ombudsman and highlighted many different aspects of this institution as well as several high level speakers.

For additional information or a copy of the report, please contact:

Karin Fagerholm; Europe Programme; Save the Children Sweden; SE-107 88 Stockholm, Sweden; Tel +46 8 698 67 27; Fax +46 8 698 90 12; URL: www.rb.se

Semi-annual newsletter of SCEP published

The new semi-annual newsletter of the Separated children in Europe programme has been published and is available at the organisation's website: http://www.separated-children-europe-programme.org/separated_children/publications/newsletter/index.html

It contains detailed information on EU developments (legal regulations, activities and guidelines) as well as of EU member states legislation concerning children in migration.

Menschenskinder – UNSERE Rechte!

The child-friendly version of the UNCRC (German) offers children, youth school classes, educators, parents, judges and politicians an introduction and a resource to explain and realize children's rights. The brochure can be ordered from: bestellung@wir-falken.de

Young Children and Racial Justice: Taking action for racial equality in the early years - understanding the past, thinking about the present, planning for the future

This essential new resource by Jane Lane provides a framework for good practice in racial equality for everyone working in the early years sector, and gives practitioners the tools and knowledge to implement race equality policies and action plans. Jane Lane is an advocate worker for racial equality in the early years. She was formerly the policy director for Early Years Equality and an education officer at the Commission for Racial Equality.

Job Postings

Project leader (Bundesfachverband Unbegleitete Minderjährige Flüchtlinge e.V.)

Start date: Sept 16 2008, location: Munich, Germany

The Bundesfachverband Unbegleitete Minderjährige Flüchtlinge e.V. (Federal Association Unaccompanied Minor Refugees) aims at improving the difficult legal and social situations of these children and young people. It is a cooperation of individuals and organisations that engage in advocacy work for the rights of unaccompanied minor refugees since 1998. The BfUMF is in search of a project leader for the project „Participation of Young Refugees“ (financed by Aktion Mensch)

Activities include: Financial management and control over content and organisation of the project.

Qualification: dynamic personality, relevant experience in the area of refugee work.

The post is part time: 25 hours per week and temporally limited until January 2011.

Send applications by **31 July 2008** to: Bundesfachverband Unbegleitete Minderjährige Flüchtlinge e.V.; Herrn Albert Riedelsheimer; Nymphenburger Str. 47; 80335 München or in an e-mail to info@b-umf.de

Professorship „Children's Politics“ (University of Applied Sciences, Magdeburg)

Location: Stendal

The university is searching for social scientists whose expertise lies in childhood and youth sociology, inequality research and /or children, family and social policies.

Over the passed years, innovative study programme offers in the areas childhood studies, elementary pedagogy, economics and rehabilitation psychology have been developed in Stendal.

Qualification: social science activities in the field, as well as publications. International work experience in research, teaching and practice especially in the area of children's rights and participation are beneficial. Besides very good working conditions for students and teachers, Stendal is attractive because of its student-friendly environment and the connection to large cities such as Berlin, Hamburg, Hannover via the ICE- routes. Application deadline: **31 August 2008**

For further information, please contact the course coordinator Hertha Schnurrer at: +49 (0)3931 2187 4801 or Prof. Dr. Beatrice Hungerland; Tel.: ++49.(0)3931.2187-4883; Fax: ++49.(0)3931.2187-4870 Email: beatrice.hungerland@hs-magdeburg.de; URL: www.stendal.hs-magdeburg.de

Upcoming Dates

- 13-15 August:** World Conference of Children's Playtowns (Berlin, Germany)
- 19 August:** Deadline submission applications Marie Curie Fellowships (Specific Programme: People)
- 2 September:** Deadline applications for Initial Training Networks (FRP 7)
- 3 September:** Expert seminar „Show yourself, how you are (not)“ (Bielefeld)
- 8-10 September:** “Building a Europe for and with Children - Towards a Strategy for 2009-2011”, Stockholm
- 15 September:** Deadline ESF conferences 2010
- 17 September - 16 December:** Course monitoring Children's Rights
- 19 September:** Day of General Discussion (Geneva, committee on the Rights of the Child)
- 19 September:** Swansea Conference
- 19-22 September :** The Social Capital Foundation – Malta Conference
- 24-25 September:** Educational Dilemmas in Culturally Diversified Societies (Conference in Warsaw)
- 24-26 September:** Getting it Right for Every Child : Childhood, Citizenship and Children's Services, Glasgow
- 29 September – 1 October:** IFCW World Forum 2008 “Early Intervention and Prevention”, Cardiff, Wales, UK (co-hosted by Children in Wales).
- 2 October:** Eurochild Members' Exchange Seminar on “Child and Youth Participation”, Cardiff, Wales, UK.
- 9-12 October:** Active citizenship: Democratic practices in education Budapest, Hungary
- 16-17 October:** Migration and Participation in child and youth work (Seminar, Berlin)
- 28-30 October:** Fifth regional meeting of NGO children's rights coalitions in Europe (Bucharest)
- 29-30 October:** NGO network meeting and open seminar in Oslo (SCEP)
- 3-5 November:** Child in the City 2008: Rotterdam, The Netherlands
- 5-7 November:** Eurochild annual conference (Budapest)
- 7-8 November:** Discovering children's rights in theory and practice (Berlin)
- 17-18 November:** final colloquium of the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue
- 19 November:** World Day for the Prevention of Child Abuse
- January 2009:** Child Poverty and Disparities: Public Policies for Social Justice, Cairo