

CR news 12

Children's Rights Newsletter June

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EUROPEAN NETWORK OF MASTERS IN CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

INSIDE THIS EDITION

WHAT'S NEW

- IOE Education and social science blog
- Summer School: The Hague
- Children have rights Conference
- India: New child abuse Bill
- Germany: Refugee children

CONFERENCE: *CHILDREN HAVE RIGHTS*

20/09: www.kinder-haben-rechte.eu

SUMMER SCHOOL: *LA INFANCIA EN EL SIGLO XXI*

09/07 to 27/07: Escuela Complutense de Verano

INTERNATIONAL COURSE "HUMAN RIGHTS FOR DEVELOPMENT" (HR4DEV)

30/07 to 24/08: www.hr4dev.be

CHILDREN'S RIGHTS IN A GLOBALIZED WORLD: CRITICAL PERSPECTIVES

06/08 to 24/08: www.hr4dev.be

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Dear ENMCR network members and network interested,

In this issue of the CRnews, we would like to draw your attention to our publications, especially to the book *African Children at Work: Working and Learning in Growing Up for Life*.

If you have any suggestions, comments and / or ideas for improving the newsletter you can use our email address: info@enmcr.net

Sincerely,
Rita Nunes (Editor)



General News Internal: page 2

- Sociology of Childhood
- Children have rights Conference
- IOE awards Maestro Jose Abreu
- IOE Education and social science blog
- Master in Childhood Studies and Children's Rights at the University of Edinburgh (MSc in Childhood Studies)
- Master of Advanced Studies in Children's Rights (MCR) at the Institut Universitaire Kurt Bösch (IUKB)
- Summer School The Hague

General News External: page 3

- Germany: Refugee children
- Norway: Asylum children
- Mobile Phone bans in schools
- India: New child abuse Bill
- Colombia: Child Soldiers
- Turkey: Kurdish language to be taught in schools
- Europe: baby boxes

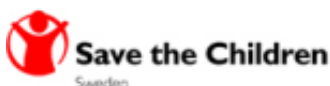
Funding / Prizes / Research Opportunities: page 4

- Call for papers: International Social Work Conference
- Call for abstracts: European Sociology: New Challenges and Opportunities

Publications: page 5

- Persistent poverty and children's cognitive development: Evidence from the UK Millennium Cohort Study
- Towards an Emancipatory Discourse of Children's Rights
- *African Children at Work: Working and Learning in Growing Up for Life*
- Research Report Card 10/ Measuring Child Poverty
- Intercountry Adoption
- Annual Report of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict
- A Chance to Grow

Upcoming Dates: page 6 and 7



General News Internal

Sociology of Childhood

The Institute of Education of the Universidade do Minho (ENMCR Member) held on June 25, 2012 a workshop under the topic: Sociology of Childhood (Childhood, Movement and Mobility).

This topic reflected the investigation of the multidisciplinary approach of the relations between children and space. Situations such as autonomy, mobility and freedom in urban areas were considered at this workshop. In this workshop guest speakers from Brazil and Portugal presented their research.

Children have rights Conference

On the occasion of the 20th Anniversary of the ratification of the CRC by the Federal Republic of Germany, Torsten Krause, EMCR graduate 2012 and member of the Parliament of "Die Linke" in Brandenburg is organising the Conference: Children have rights. At the Conference, the history, effectiveness and legal rights of the children will be topics of debate. The panel of guest speakers includes Prof. Dr. Manfred Liebel (Free University of Berlin - ENMCR Member) and Dr. Volkmar Schoneburg (Minister of Justice of the Brandenburg Region). The participants in this Conference may join one of the following working groups: poverty, participation and inclusion.

All information regarding the conference Children have rights as well as the registration to this event can be found online at: www.kinder-haben-rechte.eu

IOE awards Maestro Jose Abreu

World renowned Venezuelan composer and social visionary Maestro José Abreu received an honorary degree by the Institute of Education, University of London (ENMCR Member), for his work with the pioneering El Sistema project. The program was launched from Maestro Jose Abreu garage in 1975, with a group of only 11 students.

Maestro Jose Abreu vision was to use music as a vehicle for social change, social justice and community development. It has brought hope, through music, to hundreds of thousands of children not only in Venezuela, but also in the more than 30 countries where El Sistema inspired programs are being delivered.

IOE Education and social science blog

The Institute of Education (ENMCR Member) launched an education and social science blog. Expert commentary on education and related social sciences is available online.

To follow the IOE blog: <http://ioelondonblog.wordpress.com/>.

Master in Childhood Studies and Children's Rights at the University of Edinburgh (MSc in Childhood Studies)

The MSc/Diploma in Childhood Studies is an intensive interdisciplinary degree, designed to explore issues such as child law and how it is implemented through policy and practice, and the implications of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) for child welfare, disability, education, family studies, juvenile justice, social policy and social work.

Applications for this programme are now being accepted.

To enter this programme in September 2012, applications must be submitted by August 15, 2012. Further information: http://www.sps.ed.ac.uk/gradschool/taught_masters/a_g/msc_childhood_studies

Master of Advanced Studies in Children's Rights (MCR) at the Institut Universitaire Kurt Bösch (IUKB)

The Master of Advanced Studies in Children's Rights (MCR) is a part-time international and interdisciplinary postgraduate programme on children's rights, which takes place over a two-year period.

The Programme is organised jointly by the University of Fribourg and the Institut Universitaire Kurt Bösch (IUKB), both in Switzerland, and is designed for professionals who work with children's rights issues, including lawyers, psychologists, sociologists, judges, social workers, government officials, staff of non-governmental organisations, academics and journalists.

The participation of students with different backgrounds and career-levels in an interactive learning environment helps foster exchanges at both theoretical and practical levels. The next cycle will start in February 2013.

New deadline for application: 30 September 2012

Contact: Sarah Bruchez, Programme Secretary, Email: mcr@iukb.ch

Further information: <http://www.iukb.ch/?id=263>



Summer School The Hague

After the success of the first student intensive program (IP) at the University of Jordan in September 2011, the DPPCR consortium organized a second student intensive program in The Hague, Netherlands. From June 25 to July 6 more than 20 students from the eight participating universities in Germany, the Netherlands, United Kingdom, Egypt and Jordan are attending the program. The intensive program focused on the topic "Poverty and Exclusion of Children and Youth. An International Perspective".

For more information on the DPPCR program, please contact Noemi Fivat: noemi.fivat@fu-berlin.de or visit the DPPCR blog at <http://dppcr.wordpress.com/>

General News External

Germany: Refugee children

Those forced to flee their lands to escape persecution and death are under a lot of pressure - even upon arrival in a secure country. Child refugees find it particularly difficult. In Germany, people legally become adults at the age of 18 and thus entirely responsible for their own actions. But children who have been forced to flee their country of origin are expected to decide whether or not they want to apply for asylum by the age of 16. Refugee children receive almost half the amount of welfare support given to German children which is seen as "second class welfare", and those pending deportation are often placed in police custody for up to several weeks.

Norway: Asylum Children

A white paper on asylum children examines the situation that asylum seeking children experience when they are either traveling on their own or with an adult. Its aim is to discuss what measures can be provided for children who come to Norway. The paper highlights the areas that the government wishes to prioritize when dealing with these children. It also addresses the issue of children who have lived in Norway for a long period, stating that the child's best interests should be considered, with the government making it clearer on how children should be treated in these circumstances. Although it contains no major legislation changes, Minister of Children, Equality, and Social Inclusion Inga Marte Thorkildsen stressed more children would be allowed to stay in Norway.

Mobile phone bans in schools

Under a decree adopted in late May, students in Uzbekistan are banned from using, and even displaying mobile phones in schools. The official reason for the measure is a desire to ensure students aren't distracted in class, and cannot cheat during exams. But certain provisions in the decree are prompting regional experts to suspect that the government has a hidden agenda: to restrict the ability of technology-savvy kids to both obtain

and share information with the outside world.

The goal, according to the wording of the decree, is to "ensure the constitutional rights of students in getting a quality education and professional training, as well as to lower youth health risks for the interests of the nation and society."

India: new child abuse Bill

The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Bill was hailed as landmark legislation. In a country where over 50 per cent of children report having faced one or more forms of sexual abuse, such legislation seems necessary. The bill provides severe punishment that varies from three years to life imprisonment for a broad range of acts. The legislation also includes measures to protect the identity of the child and help him or her overcome abuse. But an apparent rush to get the bill made into a law has resulted in several crucial points being overlooked. Despite aiming to protect children from sexual abuse, the bill criminalises all sexual activity involving a child under the age of 18, even if consensual and practiced by under-18s.

Colombia: Child Soldiers

Colombian authorities have been alerted to the FARC's alleged recruitment of 13 minors in the southern department of Putumayo. According to authorities, members of the FARC arrived in the area May 13 and actively recruited children from nearby schools, violating international humanitarian law. In a report on child soldiers, the UN revealed that there were 343 children recruited to illegal groups in Colombia between January 2009 and August 2011

Turkey: Kurdish language to be taught in schools

Turkey has been fighting Kurdish rebels in the country's southeast for decades. Many Kurds have been campaigning for autonomy and better cultural rights. For the first time schools in Turkey

will be allowed to teach the Kurdish language as an elective subject. Lessons in the Kurdish language will be granted in schools if enough students asked for them. University-level language courses in Kurdish and other minority languages were introduced in 2009, a move widely welcomed by rights groups. The EU has still urged the Turkish government to improve anti-discrimination laws for all minorities in the country and do more to tackle racism. Kurdish rights remain a sensitive issue in Turkey, where political organisation along ethnic lines is banned by the constitution.

Europe: baby boxes

The UN is increasingly concerned at the spread in Europe of "baby boxes" where infants can be secretly abandoned by parents, warning that the practice "contravenes the right of the child to be known and cared for by his or her parents". The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child is alarmed at the prevalence of the hatches – usually outside a hospital – which allow unwanted newborns to be left in boxes with an alarm or bell to summon a carer. The committee says that while "foundling wheels" and baby hatches had disappeared from Europe in the last century, almost 200 have been installed across the continent in the past decade in nations as diverse as Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Poland, Czech Republic and Latvia. Since 2000, more than 400 children have been abandoned in the hatches, with faith groups and right-wing politicians spearheading the revival of the controversial practice. However UN officials argue that baby hatches violate key parts of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) which says children must be able to identify their parents and even if separated from them the state has a "duty to respect the child's right to maintain personal relations with his or her parent".

Funding / Prizes / Research Opportunities

International Social Work Conference

The Association of Schools of Social Work in Africa [ASSWA] invites you to its first International Social Work Conference to be hosted in the Ingwenyama Conference and Sport Resort, White River, South Africa: 14-17th October 2012

The main theme of the conference is: Social Work: Towards inclusion, social justice and Human Rights. Social work remains concerned about the widespread human rights abuses and the various forms of exclusions and injustices experienced by the world's downtrodden majorities all too often to further neo-colonial and neo-liberal interests.

The conference will provide opportunities to engage in constructive dialogue, to network within and across borders to develop greater understanding of the numerous sub-themes under discussion and to develop strategies, in accordance with the Global Agenda of IASSW, IFSW and ICSW, to contribute to a more humane world characterised by greater equality, more deepened democracies, reciprocity and solidarity. You may submit your papers on the following topics:

- North-South relationships: Globalization, growth, inequality and poverty; the intersection of race, class and gender
- Contextual social work: Developing relevant and appropriate locally specific social work education and practice
- The universal and the particular: Social exclusion, human rights and social justice
- Innovative pedagogical strategies: Advancing social work education, research, knowledge development and practice (including field practice education, e-learning and trans-disciplinary work)
- Practice context: Child, youth and family centred work
- Practice context: Health as biopsychosocial well-being
- Practice context: Individual, group and community based interventions (including advocacy and social activism at local, national, regional and/or international levels)

- Policy context: Social security, welfare policy and social development
- Institutional context: Governance, social work administration, management and planning
- Special focus interest: International/regional exchanges and cooperation in the development of social work education and practice
- Special focus interest: Systems of patriarchy, women and gender
- Special focus interest: Preparing frontline social workers in areas such as wars, disasters, famines, epidemics

Submissions may either be in Oral Presentation, Poster Presentation or Workshop format. The body of the abstract should contain 250 words. Please specify on the abstract form which format your abstract falls into – if not specified we will assume that your submission is meant for an oral presentation. The body of the abstract should contain 250 words. All abstracts to be submitted in English via email in Microsoft Word format. No faxed abstracts will be accepted. Please submit your abstract to asswa2012@aceconferences.co.za The deadline for paper submissions is now August 3, 2012.

Call for abstracts: European Sociology: New Challenges and Opportunities

The Romanian Sociological Association, the University of Oradea, Faculty of Social-Humanistic Sciences and the Institute for Quality of Life, Romanian Academy invites abstract submissions for the International Conference European Sociology: New Challenges and Opportunities which will take place in Oradea from September 27 to September 29, 2012.

The International Conference European Sociology: New Challenges and Opportunities aims to open an arena for the discussion on new investigations of the situations our societies face. The conference brings together theoretical and empirical contributions to this subject in sociology as well as in related fields such as demography, anthropology and social work.

Theorists and practitioners in the above mentioned areas are expected to present papers and participate in discussions.

Topics:

1. Changes within the postmodern society family group.
 2. Challenging Heteronormative Family Practices in Eastern Europe.
 3. Employment hardships and perspectives of the youth
 4. The future of education in Romania: restoring measures and paradigmatic changes
 5. Youth and education in contemporary society
 6. Well-being of children and adolescents
 7. Children's rights and the social context
 8. Social policies in social work
 9. The social work of the risk groups. Current trends and development opportunities
 10. Quality of life and social inequalities
 11. European Social and Penal Policies of Prevention and Fighting against Crime
 12. The impact of legislative changes on social realities
- Submission: Abstracts for papers with 250 words or less should be uploaded.

The online submission form can be accessed at the address: www.conference.arsociologie.ro/Online-abstract-submission.

A person cannot sign (as author or co-author) more than two papers within the conference.

Participants will be notified online no later than July 30, 2012 on the acceptance of their abstracts.

A selection of the papers, submitted no later than October 15, will be published in the special issues of the journals Romanian Sociology, Quality of Life and Social Innovation.

The papers will be selected through a double blind peer-review process.

Further details:

www.conference.arsociologie.ro

Contact details:

conference@arsociologie.ro

Publications

Persistent poverty and children's cognitive development: Evidence from the UK Millennium Cohort Study

The corrosive effect of persistent poverty on children's cognitive development is revealed in a new study published by the Institute of Education, University of London. Researchers found that seven-year-olds who have lived in poverty since infancy perform substantially worse in a range of ability tests than those who have never been poor – even when family circumstances and parenting skills are taken into consideration. On a scale from 0 to 100, a child who has been in persistent poverty will rank 10 levels below an otherwise similar child who has no early experience of poverty. This is believed to be the first study to examine systematically the impact of persistent poverty on young children's cognitive development in contemporary Britain. Its authors, Professor Andy Dickerson and Dr Gurleen Popli, analysed data which follows the lives of children born in the UK in 2000-01.

Available online:

http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/economics/research/serps/articles/2011_023

Towards an Emancipatory Discourse of Children's Rights

Rights are tools of empowerment. However, the hegemonic children's rights discourse, crystallized in the UNCRC, is anything but child empowering because it is indebted to specific Euro- American adult understandings which picture the child as ignorant, innocent and needy and the child's human rights as a concession granted by adults. From a survey of the relevant literature this paper critiques and pretends to challenge this disempowering conception. If historically the strength of any given right has depended on its condition of being conquered, the paper reframes the dominant discourse from the standpoint of real children, specifically working children, fighting for their rights. This article from Matías Cordero Arce embraces the experiences of children driving the children's rights movement and

takes steps to advance an emancipatory discourse of their rights where they become legislators by achieving authoritative, norm-creating capacity.

doi: [10.1163/157181812X637127](https://doi.org/10.1163/157181812X637127)

African Children at Work: Working and Learning in Growing Up for Life

Most children in Africa start working from a very early age – helping the family or earning wages. Should this work be abolished, tolerated, or encouraged? Such questions are the subject of much debate: international and national organizations, employers, parents, and children often have diverse opinions and put pressure in different directions. The authors of this book (Gerd Spittler and Michael Bourdillon) contribute to the discussion through intensive fieldwork and careful analysis of children's activities. They consider childhood and family, work and play, work in rural and urban contexts, paths to learning, work and school, and children's rights.

ISBN: [978-3-643-90205-4](https://www.isbn-international.org/product/9783643902054)

Research Report Card 10/ Measuring Child Poverty

This is the latest installment of the UNICEF Office of Research Report Card series, aimed at focusing on the well-being of children in industrialized countries. It considers two views of child poverty in member countries of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD): a measure of absolute deprivation, and a measure of relative poverty. The two measures, though separate in concept, highlight significant disparities in the living conditions of children. Of the countries surveyed, around 15% of children are considered "deprived" and a similar proportion live below their national poverty line.

This report card argues that accurate and timely monitoring of child poverty and deprivation is crucial for gauging what is happening to vulnerable children now. It argues that even during times of economic hardship, with the right evidence-based policies, it is possible to protect

vulnerable children.

Available online: <http://unicef.us2.list-manage.com/track/click?u=868bc193d9fcfe837d3fb7bc3&id=2be490bdad&e=367d823526>

Intercountry Adoption

The report *Africa: The New Frontier for Intercountry Adoption*, provides analysis of the law and practice of intercountry adoption in Africa, with the aim of informing debate on conceptualising, developing and implementing policies, laws, programmes and research in relation to intercountry adoption in Africa.

Available online at:

<http://www.africanchildforum.org/site/>

Annual Report of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict

This report gives an overview of the situation of girls and boys in conflict zones and measures taken for their protection.

The report includes a list of parties who recruit and use children, kill and maim, commit sexual violence or attack schools and hospitals; the so-called "list of shame."

This report is available online:

http://www.un.org/children/conflict/_documents/A66782.pdf

A Chance to Grow

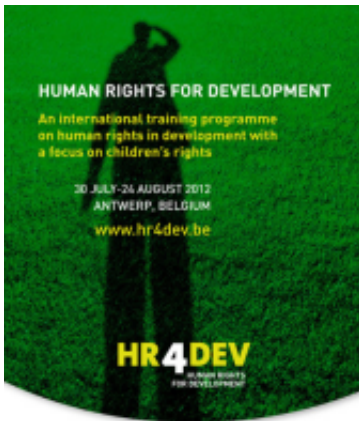
Global economic and financial crisis threatens to leave millions more people in developing countries hungry and malnourished. Social protection can address both the immediate and the underlying causes of malnutrition – and prevent lasting damage to children's lives.

A Chance to Grow calls on developing country governments and donors to promote and strengthen social protection programmes – and thereby reduce child hunger and malnutrition.

Available online:

<http://www.savethechildren.org.uk/sites/default/files/images/A%20Chance%20to%20Grow%20UK%20low%20res%202.pdf>

Upcoming Dates



International course
Human Rights for Development (HR4DEV).
From July 30 to August 24,
2012. University of
Antwerp, Belgium.



1st International Early Childhood Intervention Conference and EURYLAND ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2012.
September 13 and 14,
2012, University of Minho,
Braga, Portugal.

JULY 2012

- 05/07: Theories, frameworks and concepts Workshop, University of Bristol, UK.
- 06/07: Making children visible, Dublin, Ireland
- 07/07 to 09/07: 2nd Global Conference: The Child: A Persons Project, Mansfield College, Oxford, UK.
- 09/07 to 11/07: 4th International Conference: Celebrating Childhood Diversity, University of Sheffield, UK.
- 09/07 to 27/07: La infancia en el siglo XXI: Escuela Complutense de Verano 2012. Madrid, Spain
- 16/07 to 24/07: Summer Program: International Human Rights Law Summer Studies 2012, Mykolas Romeris University, Vilnius, Lithuania.
- 30/07 to 24/08: International course "Human Rights for Development" (HR4DEV), University of Antwerp, Belgium.

AUGUST 2012

- 01/08 to 03/08: Breaking the Mould. Humanitarian Aid and Empowering Local Communities, Durham, UK.
- 06/08 to 24/08: Children's Rights in a Globalized World: Critical Perspectives, University of Antwerp, Belgium

SEPTEMBER 2012

- 03/09 to 14/09: Child-to-Child and Disaster Risk Reduction International Training Course, Malawi Institute of Management (MIM), Lilongwe, Malawi
- 04/09 to 07/09: 12th International EUSARF Conference, Glasgow, Scotland.
- 05/09: Global Conversations: An International Gathering of Children and Young People, Preston, UK
- 05/09 to 07/09: Children, Young People and Adults: Extending the Conversation, University of Central Lancashire, UK.
- 13/09 to 14/09: Twenty-first Century Childhood and Youth: Interdisciplinary Debates and Challenges. Anglia Ruskin University, Cambridge, UK.
- 13/09 to 14/09: 1st International Early Childhood Intervention Conference and Euryland Annual Conference 2012, Universidade do Minho, Portugal.
- 18/09: Nature Kindergartens - Making a Start, Edinburgh, Scotland
- 20/09: Children have rights, Potsdam, Germany
- 26/09 to 29/09: Families in a Changing Europe: Challenges, Conflict and Intervention, Lillehammer, Norway
- 26/09 to 29/09: Child in the City 2012, Zagreb, Croatia
- 27/09 to 28/09: International conference: Men in Early Childhood Education and Care: Strategies, experiences and perspectives, Berlin, Germany.
- 27/09 to 29/09: European Sociology: New Challenges and Opportunities, Oradea, Romania
- 30/09 to 02/10: Law, Genital Autonomy and Children's Rights, Helsinki, Finland

OCTOBER 2012

- 01/10 to 05/10: Child labour: Training course on Achieving education for all and eliminating child labour, Turin, Italy
- 08/10 to 19/10: Child-to-Child and Disaster Risk Reduction: What Children Can Do to Keep Themselves and Others Safe, Kisumu, Kenya.
- 10/10 to 12/10: Think Parents! - European conference on parenting support, The Hague, Netherlands.
- 14/10 to 17/10: Social Work: Towards inclusion, social justice and human rights, White River, South Africa.

Upcoming Dates & ENMCR

DEAR NETWORK MEMBERS,

Please send us your agendas for the coming months as well as publications, funding and prizes or any other topic so we can include them in our newsletter (info@enmcr.net).

NEXT MONTH'S NEWSLETTER:

- Eurochild General Assembly

CONTACT US

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*Save the Children,
thank you for making this
newsletter possible!*

OCTOBER 2012

15/10 to 19/10: 5th World Congress on Children's and Adolescents' Rights, San Juan, Argentina.

24/10 to 26/10: Promoting the rights of children in alternative care across Europe, Sofia, Bulgaria

NOVEMBER 2012

05/11 to 07/11: Criminality or Social Exclusion? Justice for Children in a Divided World, London, UK.

26/11 to 30/11: IUAES 2012 Inter-congress – Children and Youth in a Changing World, Bhubaneswar, India.

27/11 to 29/11: Policy Round Table on Early Childhood Education and Care, Leiden, Netherlands

DECEMBER 2012

06/12 to 10/12: Third International Conference on Human Rights Education: Promoting Change in Times of Transition and Crisis, Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland.

12/12 to 14/12: Child and Teen Consumption 2012: "Food Consumption, Communication, Life Styles and Fashion". 5th International Conference on Multidisciplinary Perspectives on Child and Teen Consumption. IULM University, Milan, Italy.

17/12 to 18/12: Knowing and Not Knowing: Thinking psychosocially about learning and resistance to learning, London, UK.

How to join ENMCR

It is possible to join ENMCR as a member at any time.

The European Network of Masters in Children's Rights was established with the support of Save the Children Sweden (SCS). SCS has also been actively supporting and fostering the Latin American Network of Masters in Children's Rights, which currently comprises nine universities in eight Latin American countries.

Why is it worthwhile joining our network?

We have been cooperating as a network for more than six years and have longstanding experience of loosely cooperating - you will work with children's rights experts from all over Europe (and Latin America). You will get an insight into children's rights from a variety of perspectives and will be able to build on longstanding experience of the members.

We offer a joint European Master in Children's Rights at leading universities in Europe - you will have access to knowledge on how to build up and offer a joint European Master study programme and will have access to training. We organize conferences and workshops on children's rights themes in Europe and in the world; you will have the chance to meet other children's rights experts, activists, share ideas and thoughts and gain new perspectives. You will receive copies of all materials published in the frame of ENMCR, such as the monthly electronic newsletter Children's Rights news (CRnews), reports from projects, materials from conferences and workshops, etc.

To become a member of ENMCR, simply send us a letter of intent, in which you should name what you believe you or your institution can contribute to and gain from our network. In addition, please include an outline of your child rights related programme and/or courses. It is important that you name a contact person at your institution for correspondence purposes.

Please send the letter to:

European Network of Masters in Children's Rights (ENMCR)
c/o European Master in Childhood Studies and Children's Rights
Freie Universität Berlin
Habelschwerdter Allee 45
D- 14195 Berlin, Germany