

Newsletter

ENOC News & Announcements

ENOC 16th Annual Conference, Nicosia, Cyprus

The 16th ENOC Annual Conference on “*Juvenile Delinquency-Child Friendly Justice, Structures and Processes for Prevention and Intervention*”, hosted by the Cypriot Commissioner for Children’s Rights and ENOC Chair-Elect, Ms. Leda Koursoumba, took place from 10-12 October 2012, in Nicosia, Cyprus.

Bringing together more than 90 participants, the Conference was addressed by recognized experts in the field of juvenile justice-Mag. Renate Winter (Former Chair of the International Association of Youth & Family Law Judges) and Ms. Kirsten Sandberg (member of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child). The Conference also provided a unique opportunity to hear the position on the Conference subject of European Organizations represented by Mr. Emmanuel Crabit (European Commission), Mr. Ioannis Dimitrakopoulos (EU Fundamental Rights Agency), and Mr. Cédric Foussard (IJJO).

As a result of a ENOC expert study undertaken in 2012 on the issue of ‘*National Human Rights Institutions and Juvenile Delinquency*’ (<http://crin.org/enoc/resources/infoDetail.asp?ID=29866&flag=news>), the ENOC General Assembly, meeting on the same occasion, adopted a position statement on “*The rights of children and young people in conflict with the law*” (<http://crin.org/enoc/resources/infoDetail.asp?ID=29872&flag=news>).

ENOC also discussed the terms of an ENOC position paper on ‘*the consequences of the economic crisis on Independent Children’s Rights Institutions*’, adopted and released in December 2012 (<http://crin.org/resources/infoDetail.asp?ID=30044&flag=news>).

A Daphne III European project on ‘*Ending violence against children in custody*’ has been presented by the Office of the Commissioner for Children’s Rights in Cyprus, a partner organization in the project. A young person from Cyprus, participating in the project, addressed the Conference to talk about its own experience of having been in custody, its motivation and interest to participate in a project specially dedicated to young people experiencing violence in custody (<http://crin.org/enoc/resources/infoDetail.asp?id=30202>).

The full set of documents related to the 16th ENOC Annual Conference are made available under: <http://crin.org/enoc/meetings/index.asp>

ENOC at the European Conference on combating violence against children

How to effectively implement integrated national strategies against violence and strengthen child protection systems? How to improve accountability and responsiveness when safeguarding children’s rights and eliminating violence? These questions were considered at the European conference on “*Stepping up progress in combating violence against children*” that took place on **27-28 November 2012** in Ankara, Turkey. ENOC was represented by the ENOC Treasurer, Ms. Tamara Luksic-Orlandic, who made a presentation on “*Supporting children and families through positive parenting*” (<http://crin.org/enoc/resources/infoDetail.asp?ID=30221&flag=news>) and by Mr. Bernard De Vos, ENOC Chair-elect, panelist in a Conference session related to reporting, complaint and referral systems and the enhancement of inter-sectorial collaboration on violence against children. For further information: http://www.coe.int/t/dg3/children/News/Ankara1112/AnkaraConference_en.asp



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ENOC working theme for 2013: “Children on the Move”

As part of the ENOC annual work programme for 2013, ENOC is planning to organize a seminar in the spring of 2013. The Seminar will serve as a preparatory meeting to the ENOC annual conference and will prepare the basis of the thematic work that will be further elaborated at the annual meeting.

In this context, interested ENOC members, particularly those who have already worked in one way or in another on the issue or addressed aspects of the phenomenon, are invited to send their proposals for **sub-themes under the general theme of the situation of children/young people on the move.**

Proposals can be sent to the ENOC Secretariat.

UNICEF Position Paper on 'The Right of Children with Disabilities to Education: A Rights-Based Approach to Inclusive Education'

This report was commissioned by the UNICEF Regional Office for Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CEE/CIS). Using a human rights-based approach to education, this position paper addresses the long-standing issues of discrimination and exclusion of children with disabilities from education systems in the countries of the CEE/CIS region. This position paper is the second in a series dedicated to highlighting the plight of specific groups of children who are systematically and continuously excluded from education in the CEE/CIS Region. It follows the publication *The Right of Roma Children to Education- Position Paper*, which provided an analysis of the situation of Roma children in the region and proposed a set of strategies to enable them to realise their right to access quality education. Click here to download the position paper:

http://www.unicef.org/ceecis/IE/PositionPaper_ENGLISH.pdf

SCEP's 2012 Position Paper on Age Assessment

This Paper represents the position of the Separated Children in Europe Programme on Age Assessment, in the context of separated children in Europe. In particular, it aims to provide concrete recommendations to States and other relevant stakeholders on how to ensure full respect of the rights of separated children when doubts concerning their age may arise. The full text here: http://umf.asyl.at/files/DOK45Age_Assessment_PP.pdf

ENOC at the IJJO Conference on "Criminality or Social Exclusion? Justice for Children in a Divided World"

The 5th biennial Conference of the IJJO on the impact of the economic global crisis on youth justice took place on 6-7 November 2012 in London. ENOC was represented by the ENOC Chair, Ms. Leda Koursoumba and by Mr. Bernard De Vos, ENOC Chair-elect. The ENOC Chair presented the main conclusions of the ENOC 16th Annual Conference held last October in Cyprus (<http://crin.org/enoc/meetings/index.asp>) and introduced the terms of a recently released ENOC position statement on 'The rights of the children and young people in conflict with the law'. Mr. Bernard De Vos made a presentation on 'Active citizenship against incivilities' in the workshop addressing the issue of the impact of exposure to crime and violence on urban youth. You can find further information on the Conference here: <http://www.oijj.org/en/conferencia-internacional-oijj/2012-londres>

ENOC Chair at the International Congress on Children's Rights in the Year of Janusz Korczak, 4-6 December 2012, Warsaw

As part of the 2012-Year of Janusz Korczak (<http://en.2012korczak.pl/>), organized under the auspices of the Republic of Poland and coordinated by Poland's Ombudsman for Children, an International Congress on "The Rights of the Child to Respect-Challenges of the 21st century" took place on 4-6 December 2012 in Warsaw, Poland. The Congress was the concluding event of a series of events organized throughout the year across the world to spread the memory and promote the ideas of Janusz Korczak in the children's rights field. The ENOC Chair, Ms. Leda Koursoumba delivered a key note speech entitled: »Janusz Korczak and the Convention on the Rights of the Child". <http://crin.org/enoc/resources/infoDetail.asp?ID=30203&flag=news>

ENOC Chair at the 2012 Fundamental Rights Conference (FRC) on "Justice in austerity: challenges and opportunities for access to justice"

The fifth annual FRC that took place on 6-7 December 2012 in Brussels focused on the impact of the economic crisis and austerity measures on the fundamental right to every individual of access to justice. The FRC examined current challenges in accessing justice, exploring ways to turn the economic crisis into an opportunity for innovation and reform. The ENOC Chair, Ms. Leda Koursoumba participated in the conference, joining the working group panel addressing the issue of strengthening access to justice through bodies with a human rights remit. For further information: <http://fra.europa.eu/en/event/2012/fundamental-rights-conference-2012-0>

Update on European & International Activities in the Children's rights field

CPT planned visits in 2013

In 2013 as part of a programme of periodic visits, the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT) intends to examine the treatment of persons deprived of their liberty in the following ten countries: **Belgium, Cyprus, Greece, Hungary, Montenegro, Poland, San Marino, the Slovak Republic, Turkey and Ukraine**. The exact dates of the visits will be disclosed shortly before the visits. The CPT will also organise ad hoc visits whenever it considers this is required by the circumstances. Any person, NHRIs, Ombudspersons for Children or other competent non-state bodies in possession of information concerning deprivation of liberty in any of these countries, are invited to bring it to the Committee's attention.

Council of Europe report on "Children's rights and the European Committee for the prevention of torture"

Prepared by Dr. Ursula Kilkelly, a Professor of Law and expert on juvenile justice and children's rights, the report examines the potential of the Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT) to protect the rights of children in detention. Its aims are to: analyse country reports and government responses to those reports with a view of identifying the major deficiencies in the countries examined; analyse the Standards and Annual General Reports of the CPT to see whether they address the situation of children deprived of their liberty in a comprehensive manner; identify ways in which the CPT could contribute further towards improving the protection of children deprived of their liberty. The report is available under: <http://crin.org/enoc/resources/infoDetail.asp?id=30275>

Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights issues a Human Rights Comment on stateless children

In his recently published Human Right Comment (January 2013) Nils Muižnieks, CoE Commissioner for Human Rights, urged governments to preserve and act in the best interest of stateless children. The Commissioner expressed concerns about the increasing number of stateless people across Europe generating an increasing number of stateless children, the risk of statelessness being greatest among the poorest and most excluded-minorities, the displaced, refugees, orphans, and the illiterate. Statelessness increases the vulnerability of children to serious human rights violations, such as trafficking, labour, sexual exploitation or illegal adoption. The full text of the HR Comment is available here: <http://humanrightscomment.org/2013/01/15/governments-should-act-in-the-best-interest-of-stateless-children/>

Children and Young People across Europe take action to end violence in custody

The Children's Rights Alliance for England (CRAE) presented the campaigning activities undertaken by 40 children and young people in Austria, Cyprus, England, the Netherlands and Romania to try and create violence-free youth custodial settings in their countries. The campaigning activities were carried out as part of CRAE's Ending Violence against Children in Custody project, funded by the EC's Daphne III programme. The youth-led campaigns in each country were based on the recommendations developed by young researchers in the first phase of the project. More detailed information on the project, the European research and campaign reports are available under: <http://crin.org/enoc/resources/infoDetail.asp?id=30202>

The Commissioner for Children's Rights in Cyprus, as a partner organization, published Cyprus' country available under: <http://www.childcom.org.cy/ccr/ccr.nsf/All/6B6196EB60896B92C2257AC400378761?Opendocument>

Updates from ENOC members

- ✓ The **Human Rights Defender in France** released its thematic 2012 report on "*Children and screens: growing up in a digital world*". The report looks in detail at: children's interaction with 'screens'; the existing (complex) legal system to protect children; the advantages of the digital world; the youngest screen consumers (2-3 years old); respect of the private life of 'screen' users. Check the summary (in English) of the thematic report (only in French) here: <http://crin.org/enoc/resources/infoDetail.asp?id=30126>
- ✓ The **General Delegate for Children's Rights of the French Community in Belgium** released its annual 2011-2012 report to coincide with celebrations on November 20th. The report addresses issues related to schools, families, migration, poverty and to youth in general, and also presents child rights promotion initiatives undertaken by the institution in the course of the year 2012. The full report (only in French) is available here: <http://crin.org/resources/infoDetail.asp?ID=29902&flag=report>

Upcoming Events

- ❖ **20 February 2013:** Save the Children Conference on '*Europe: a corporal punishment free zone. Banning corporal punishment and supporting positive parenting in all European Countries*', Brussels, Belgium
- ❖ **21-22 February 2013:** Council of Europe Conference on '*Poverty and Inequality in Societies of Human Rights: the paradox of democracies-proposals for an inclusive society*', Strasbourg, France
- ❖ **26 February 2013:** International Conference on undocumented migrants '*Children First and Foremost: Realising the Rights of Children and Families in an Irregular Migration Situation*', organized by PICUM (the Platform for International Cooperation of Undocumented Migrants) in Brussels, Belgium
- ❖ **1 March 2013:** ENOC Bureau meeting, Athens, Greece

The ENOC website needs your input to continue to grow. Send us information about new web resources, research or data related to Children's Rights.

If you have any suggestions or if you would like to include any information or upcoming events in our newsletter please send the details to secretariat@ombudsnet.org (Re: ENOC Newsletter).

FEBRUARY 2013

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European Network of Ombudspersons for Children

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