

Newsletter

ENOC News & Announcements

ENOC Spring Seminar, 30-31 May 2013, Barcelona

On **30-31 May 2013**, ENOC will hold a two day working seminar on the subject of “children on the move”. The purpose of the Seminar is to serve as a forum for participating ENOC member institutions to exchange experiences and views on issues affecting the situation of “children on the move” in their respective countries. The Spring Seminar will allow ENOC members to meet, discuss and agree a plan of action, drafting a statement to be agreed at the Annual Conference in Brussels (September).

ENOC members who have not yet confirmed their participation in the Seminar are kindly invited to email the ENOC Secretariat ASAP.

External participation is subject to prior agreement by the ENOC Bureau.

Update on the ENYA documentary project

Most ENOC members expressing interest in facilitating the production of a 52-minute documentary looking at the situation of “children on the move” within the ENOC membership have already completed Phase I, identifying one or more problematic issues affecting children on the move in their respective countries. Thus, it appears that during country/region visits the film team will focus on the following situations: children on the move and prostitution, children of irregular migrants, age assessment issues, detention of UAM, living conditions in shelters, reception conditions for minors close to the age of majority, rights of undocumented children, child trafficking, guardianship for unaccompanied children seeking asylum, etc.

Country/region visits by the film team are already being planned for after completion of Phase II, which aims to identify children/young people willing to contribute to filming. Further details and regular updates will be posted on the ENOC website under “ENOC News”.

ENOC Chair at the 12th meeting of the Network of Contact Parliamentarians to stop sexual violence against children

The ENOC Chair, Ms. Leda Koursoumba, took part in a panel discussion on the importance of close cooperation between different stakeholders fighting sexual violence against children. The 12th meeting of the Network of Contact Parliamentarians to Stop Sexual Violence Against Children took place on March 14th in the German Parliament in Berlin. While the theme of the meeting was national strategies to fight sexual violence against children, the ENOC Chair's presentation looked at the role of Ombudspersons for Children in establishing intersectoral cooperation at a national level.

The full text of the presentation is available at: <http://crin.org/enoc/resources/infoDetail.asp?ID=30836&flag=news>

ENOC Chair-elect at Save the Children Conference on banning corporal punishment and supporting positive parenting in all European countries

Mr. Bernard De Vos, Ombudsperson for Children of Belgium/French speaking community and ENOC Chair-elect, participated in a conference in Brussels organized by Save the Children Italy, Lithuania, Romania and Sweden on “*Europe: a corporal punishment free zone-Banning corporal punishment and supporting positive parenting in all European countries*”. Mr. De Vos briefly presented the type of work carried out and the role played by Ombudspersons



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ENOC Annual 2013 Conference: update on the venue

The ENOC 17th Annual Conference will be held at **Les Ateliers des Tanneurs** (Rue des Tanneurs, 58-62, 1000 Brussels) from 25 to 27 September 2013. More details on the Conference venue here: <http://www.ateliersdestanneurs.be/fr/node/53>. Further details on the Conference programme and practical information will be provided at early June.

The Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights joined ENOC

The Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights recently joined ENOC and thus became the 42nd member of the Network. Ukraine has been granted associate membership. ENOC currently counts 31 full and 11 associate members. Two new applications for membership are currently under consideration.

More language versions (20 in total) of the Child-Friendly Justice Guidelines available

With the financial support of the European Commission, the Council of Europe Guidelines on Child-Friendly Justice are now available in 20 European Union languages. These are currently being adapted into both pdf and print versions and will progressively be available for download or to order.

The full list of texts is available at:

http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/standardsetting/childjustice/publicationsavailable_en.asp

The Consortium for Street Children's (CSC) online petition calling for the UN to recognize the International Day for Street Children

As every year, the CSC organized events and activities celebrating the International Day for Street Children on April 12th. This year's theme was *Home Sweet Home* - highlighting that for many children across the world the street is their home.

As part of this year's theme, the CSC also launched an online petition calling for the UN to officially recognize the International Day for Street Children, which the ENOC Chair has already signed. The online petition is ongoing and interested member institutions can still sign up. Further information and the online petition are available on www.streetchildrenday.org

for Children across Europe to support the ban of corporal punishment, quoting two positive examples: those of Sweden and Greece. Mr. De Vos also reminded the conference of the terms of the 2001 ENOC statement on the subject and reported on the reticence of Belgium to ban in explicit and clear terms all forms of corporal punishment against children. The full text of the presentation is available at: <http://crin.org/enoc/resources/infoDetail.asp?ID=30840&flag=news>

Update on European & International activities in the children's rights field

European Commission recommendation "Investing in children: breaking the cycle of disadvantage"

On 20 February 2013, the European Commission issued a recommendation on "*Investing in children: breaking the cycle of disadvantage*", which encourages Member States (regional and local authorities) to organize and implement policies to address child poverty and social exclusion, promoting children's well-being. To achieve these objectives, the recommendation proposes the use of multi-dimensional strategies reflected in three key pillars: 1) access to adequate resources: supporting parents' participation in work having a direct impact on access to good quality services and availability of adequate living standards for children; 2) access to affordable quality services: inequalities should be reduced at a young age by providing access to early childhood education and care, etc.; 3) children's right to participate: supporting the participation of all children in play, recreation, sport and cultural activities by reducing costs and by creating safe spaces for children. Additionally, awareness related to children's rights should be raised gradually from early age. The full text of the recommendation is available here: http://ec.europa.eu/justice/fundamental-rights/files/c_2013_778_en.pdf

Council of Europe publish manual for human rights education with young people

COMPASS - the manual for Human Rights Education for Young People - provides youth leaders, teachers and facilitators of human rights education activities, whether professional or volunteers, with concrete ideas and practical activities to engage, involve and motivate young people in living, learning and acting for human rights. It promotes a comprehensive perspective on human rights education and sees young people as actors in a culture of universal human rights. COMPASS was originally published in 2002 and is now available in more than 30 languages.

A version specifically designed for human rights education for children - **COMPASITO** - enjoys a similar success. The fully revised and updated edition (2012) of the Compass manual includes new activities and information about human rights issues such as disability, migration, religion, remembrance, war and terrorism. COMPASS is a practical tool and resource for citizenship and human rights education.

For more information: http://book.coe.int/EN/ficheouvrage.php?PAGEID=36&lang=EN&produit_aliasid=2741

Children's rights issues on the agenda of the spring (April) session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE)

PACE resolution on fighting "child sex tourism"

The PACE called for committed legal action and policies to fight child sex tourism. The Assembly called on European governments to develop, implement and monitor mechanisms that will "prevent high-risk sex offenders from travelling abroad"; to increase international co-operation for the prosecution of travelling sex offenders; and to establish a reliable and centralized database system allowing the exchange of records. The full text of the resolution is available here:

http://assembly.coe.int/ASP/Doc/XrefATDetails_E.asp?FileID=19687

PACE resolution on ending discrimination against Roma children

The PACE urged CoE member States to take concrete measures to end discrimination against Roma children. The adopted resolution stresses that efforts should be aimed at improving the material living conditions of Roma families through investment in housing, sanitation and job creation, and changing stereotyped and discriminatory attitudes towards Roma. The resolution stresses that the ultimate objective should be ensuring that "Roma children are given the same opportunities as any other children, and supporting their ability to take decisions freely about their future". The full text of the resolution is available here: http://assembly.coe.int/ASP/Doc/XrefATDetails_E.asp?FileID=19689

PACE's mid-term review of the Council of Europe ONE in FIVE campaign

The PACE recommended that the Committee of Ministers allocate adequate financing from the ordinary budget of the CoE to the three dimensions of the campaign until it ends in 2014. The campaign was launched in Rome in November 2010 to promote the CoE Convention on the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse (Lanzarote Convention) and to raise awareness of the need to act. Today, at the half-way point, the biggest success of the campaign has been the significant increase in the number of ratifications of the Lanzarote Convention, which now stands at 26 out of 47 CoE Member States. PACE called on Member States to sign and ratify the Convention and to adapt their national legislation. It also encouraged increased co-operation between stakeholders, parliaments, governments, regional and local authorities, NGOs, ombudspersons for children, academia and children and parents themselves.

The full text of the recommendation is available here: http://assembly.coe.int/ASP/Doc/XrefATDetails_E.asp?FileID=19688

Updates from ENOC members

- ✓ A summary of the 2012 report on “*Monitoring the Rights of the Child and Parenting*” has been recently published by the **Office of Chancellor of Justice-Children’s Rights Department of Estonia**. The study maps society’s awareness and attitudes concerning topics related to children’s rights, inclusion of parents and being a parent. For further information on the summary report, available in English and Russian: <http://crin.org/resources/infoDetail.asp?ID=30493&flag=report>
- ✓ The **Ombudsman for Children of Iceland** reported that in February 2013 the Convention on the Rights of the Child was incorporated into Icelandic law. For further information, please visit the website of the Ombudsman for Children of Iceland: <http://www.barn.is/barn/adalsida/forsida/>
- ✓ **Scotland’s Commissioner for Children and Young People** published a new report on “*Children and Young People’s Views on Participation and Principles for Practice*”. The report presents key findings from workshops undertaken with children and young people last year. The workshops aimed to explore, from the young people’s perspective, the key elements that make good quality, successful, participative experiences - as well as identifying the possible barriers. The report summarises what adults can think about to make sure children and young people participate in decision-making in a meaningful way. It also highlights what positive experiences of participation can look like. The report is available at: http://www.sccyp.org.uk/downloads/Adult%20Reports/Childrens_participation_report_120313.pdf

Upcoming Events

- ❖ **May-June 2013:** Country/ region visits of the film team in the context of the documentary project addressing the situation of “children on the move”
- ❖ **30-31 May 2013:** ENOC Spring Seminar on “children on the move”, Barcelona, Spain
- ❖ **4 June 2013:** 3rd Annual Conference on *missing children and 116000 hotlines* organized by the EC, the Irish Presidency of the EC and other partner organizations in Brussels, Belgium
- ❖ **8 June 2013:** Janusz Korczak Seminar organized by the Representation of the Republic of Poland to the UN in Geneva and the International J. Korczak Association, Geneva, Switzerland

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).

MAY 2013						
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European Network of Ombudspersons for Children

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