

Newsletter

ENOC News & Announcements

Update from the ENOC working Seminar on 'children on the move'

On 30-31 May 2013, ENOC held a two day working seminar in Barcelona on the subject of "children on the move". The purpose of the Seminar was 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 Seminar participants, assisted by Mr. Yves Pascouau-expert on migration issues at the European Policy Center, discussed the terms of an ENOC draft statement on the same theme. The Seminar was attended by twenty participants representing eleven ENOC member institutions. The list of discussed items included the legal status of children of irregular migrants, age assessment, reception conditions for young people close to the majority or for inter-European migrant children and families, guardianship services for unaccompanied/separated children, child trafficking, children in transit, and others. The Seminar was kindly hosted by the Office of the Catalan Ombudsman with the special assistance of the Catalan Deputy Ombudsman for Children's Rights. A Seminar report will be released in late August.

Update on the ENOC documentary on 'children on the move'

In the course of May and June, a film team: David Lallemand (communication officer and project manager at the office of the Belgium French speaking Ombudsman for Children) and a cameraman, paid visits to Catalonia, Malta, Cyprus and Greece where they explored different problems related to the situation of children affected by being on the move. For the country visits, the film team has been assisted by participating Ombudspersons for Children's offices which have previously identified relevant children in their countries and linked them to the filming process. A teaser of the documentary will be screened at the European Parliament on the 25th of September while the final version of the film will be shown for the first time on at the ENOC Annual Conference on 26 September 2013 in Brussels.

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

European Commission's report on 'Early Years Education and Care'

The Directorate-General for Education and Culture of the European Commission recently published a report on '*Early Childhood Education and Care*' (ECEC) in promoting educational attainment, including social development of children from disadvantaged backgrounds and in fostering social inclusion'. The full report and its annexes are available at: http://ec.europa.eu/education/more-information/reports-and-studies_en.htm

Early school leaving: new figures published by Eurostat

A majority of EU Member States have made progress on the Europe 2020 education targets to reduce the rate of early school leaving to below 10% and increase the share of young people with higher education qualifications to above 40% by 2020, according to new figures for 2012 released by Eurostat.

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Inside this issue

ENOC news & announcements:	1
Update on European & International activities in the CR field	2-3
Update on ENOC member institutions' activities	2-3
Upcoming events	3

ENOC 2013 Annual Conference: register now!!!

ENOC members are invited to register and to send their proposals for the thematic country updates session by **31st of July**.

External participation is possible only upon invitation.

Conference related information is available and will be regularly updated under: <http://crin.org/enoc/resources/infoDetail.asp?id=30507>

Annual Membership fees

ENOC members who have not yet paid their **membership fee for 2013** are kindly requested to complete payment ASAP. Delays in payment without notification will be taken under consideration by the Bureau.

The Council of Europe Congress of Local and Regional authorities involved in the One in Five Campaign

To mobilise municipal and regional authorities for the ONE in FIVE Campaign, the Congress has launched a *Pact of Towns and Regions to stop Sexual Violence against Children*. The Pact comprises a list of initiatives and policies-from simple, cost effective actions to comprehensive strategies - to be implemented. For its Pact, the Congress has adopted a four-pronged approach of Prevention, Protection, Prosecution and Participation - the four "Ps": to prevent abuse, protect victims, and prosecute perpetrators, while ensuring full participation for children. A new interactive website has been designed to showcase good local and regional practices that aim to stop sexual violence against children-<http://www.congress-pact1in5.eu/en/>

Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights concerned about 1200 stateless children in Estonia

After a visit to Estonia in March, the Commissioner released a report in June in which he expressed concerns about: child statelessness, child protection system at municipalities' level, corporal punishment and the need to prohibit it in all settings through explicit legal provisions, sexual abuse, violence and bullying in schools, the long-term effects of the economic crisis on child poverty and unemployment of young people. For more information: http://www.coe.int/t/commissioner/News/2013/130620Estonia_en.asp

However, there are still wide disparities between Member States and between males and females. The share of young people leaving school early now stands at 12.8% on average in the EU, down from 13.5% in 2011. Overall, girls tend to do better: the rate of early school leavers among girls is 24% lower than for boys. For more information: http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-13-324_en.htm?locale=en

Migrant children more likely to end up in poor schools, EC report says

According to a recent study of the European Commission, newly arrived migrant children are more likely to face segregation and end up in schools with fewer resources. This increases the chances of migrant children dropping out of school earlier. The study suggests that Member States should provide targeted educational support for migrant children, such as specialist teachers and systematic involvement of parents and communities, to improve integration. To read the report findings: http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-13-323_en.htm?locale=en

Four New General Comments adopted by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child

At its 62nd session, the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child adopted the following four new General Comments:

- ✓ **General Comment n° 14** (May 2013) on the right of the child to have his or her best interests taken as a primary consideration (Article 3§1 CRC)
- ✓ **General Comment n° 15** (April 2013) on the rights of the child to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health (Article 24 CRC)
- ✓ **General Comment n° 16** (April 2013) on State obligations regarding the impact of the business sector on children's rights
- ✓ **General Comment n° 17** (April 2013) on the right of the child to rest, leisure, play, recreational activities, cultural life and the arts (Article 31 CRC)

Full version of the texts can be found at: <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/crc/comments.htm>

UNICEF report on sustainable development

On the one year anniversary of the Rio+20 Sustainable Development Conference, UNICEF is releasing *Sustainable development starts and ends with safe, healthy and well-educated children* to help make the case that investments in the health, growth and safety of children should be placed at the heart of the world's post-2015 approach to achieving a sustainable world of progress for all. *Sustainable development starts and ends with safe, healthy and well-educated children*, situates children as crucial drivers of, stakeholders in and contributors to sustainable and inclusive development. The report is available at: http://www.unicef.org/socialpolicy/files/Sustainable_Development_post_2015.pdf

Eurochild published a report on "Breaking the cycle of Roma exclusion"

To mark International Roma Day, Eurochild published the report "*Breaking the cycle of Roma exclusion - The situation of Roma children & promising practices that promote children's rights and well-being*". This report brings together two important policy debates at EU level: **Roma inclusion and child poverty & well-being**. Despite a lack of ethnic data, it is widely known that Roma and traveller children face extreme poverty and deprivation throughout the EU - both indigenous Roma and traveller communities, and those migrating to the West to seek a better quality of life. However, despite the level of political attention given to Roma exclusion, a specific focus on the rights of Roma children is largely missing from the debate. For more information: http://www.eurochild.org/en/news/details-homeblock-links/index.html?tx_ttnews%5btt_news%5d=7616&tx_ttnews%5bbackPid%5d=185&cHash=7cc42b412194da3b7d678cc5864289c9

Updates from ENOC members

- ✓ **The Commissioner for Children's Rights of Cyprus** published a report on "*The right of children to communicate with their imprisoned parent*" following an investigation conducted by the Commissioner's office on the exercise of this right by children whose parent is imprisoned in Central Prisons. Based on the findings of the investigation, the Commissioner addressed recommendations to the relevant authorities concerning amendment of the relevant legal provisions for a better implementation of the right of children to communicate with

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imprisoned parent, on intersectoral coordination, the establishment of Guidelines for the Prisons Department for dealing with children and family issues of prisoners, the creation of a child-friendly visiting environment, and others.

The report is available in Greek at: <http://www.childcom.org.cy/ccr/ccr.nsf/All/57C0E4849E170E43C2257B24003CAABC?Opendocument>

The Commissioner for Children's Rights of Cyprus addressed a special message to all children through the media and schools in relation to the economic crisis Cyprus is facing. The message aimed to inspire children with an optimistic approach for their future, to make them understand that the situation is under control and to emphasize the importance of being part of this process by supporting their families and friends.

The Youth Advisory Panel (YAT) of the Commissioner for Children's Rights of Cyprus organized an event in the city centre of the capital aiming to enhance public awareness on children's rights. The event included a flash mob, short theatrical acts and street workshops related to children's rights issues, and painting. All activities were designed and executed by the members of YAT.

- ✓ The Ombudsman for Children of Ireland published its 2012 annual report on June 20th highlighting areas where the State does not adequately support children and families, and cataloguing the work in 2012 across the Office's three statutory functions: Complaints and Investigations; Policy and Legislation; and Participation and Education. More information and the full report are available at: <http://crin.org/enoc/resources/infoDetail.asp?id=31205>
- ✓ The French Rights Defender released its annual 2012 report, Annex II of which is dedicated to the institution's annual activities in the children's rights field. The children's rights annual report pays special attention to the protection and promotion of children's best interests by exploring the issue through the institution's statutory functions-case-work, investigation and research. More information and the full reports (in French) are available under: <http://crin.org/enoc/resources/infoDetail.asp?id=31209>
- ✓ The Fundamental Rights Commissioner of Hungary released its 2012 annual report and issued a number of thematic and investigation reports concerning child-friendly justice, the status of unaccompanied/separated children in Hungary, the conditions in Homes for UAM, temporary detention facilities for minors in Békéscsaba and the conditions in Nyírbátor Detentions Facilities. All the reports are available under: <http://crin.org/enoc/resources/find.asp?orgID=3065>
- ✓ The Ombudsman for Children of Republika Srpska's annual 2012 report was approved in May 2013 by the National Assembly of Republika Srpska. The report provides detailed statistics but also points out those parts of the system that need to be strengthened in order to better protect and promote the rights and interests of children. More information and the full report are available at: <http://crin.org/enoc/resources/InfoDetail.asp?ID=30916>

Upcoming Events

- ❖ **15-18 September 2013:** 13th ISPCAN (International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect) European Regional Conference on *Child Abuse and Neglect*, Dublin, Ireland
- ❖ **25-27 September 2013:** ENOC 17th Annual Conference on "*Children on the move: children first!*" and 17th General Assembly meeting. Venue: 'Atelier des Tanneurs' (Rue des Tanneurs 58-62), Brussels, Belgium
- ❖ **3-5 October 2013:** International Conference on *children's rights in residential and family type care* organised by the Ombudsperson for Children of Moldova in Chisinau, Moldova

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).

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European Network of Ombudspersons for Children

Council of Europe
 "Agora" Building
 Office n°B5 07V-B5 08V
 67075 Strasbourg Cedex
 Tel. +33 3 90 21 54 88
 E-mail:
secretariat@ombudsnet.org

Find us on the Web:
www.ombudsnet.org

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