

ANNUAL REPORT 2003

Narrative Report

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INTRODUCTION

The European Network on Street Children Worldwide (ENSCW)

The “Stichting European Network on Street Children Worldwide” unites non-governmental, governmental, multilateral and international organisations that are committed to addressing the rights and needs of street children all over the world. Its main aims are to facilitate the exchange of information, to share experiences and promote good practices, to raise public and political awareness and to encourage the establishment of national and regional networks. ENSCW’s office is based in Brussels.

ENSCW has its origin in the concern of members of the European Parliament with the situation of street children in and outside Europe. It was formally established in Amsterdam in October 1995. Its first aim was to organise a conference on the issue of street children, which was held in Amsterdam in June 1996. In April 1997 a “Constitutional conference” was organised in Brussels and led the basis for the activities of ENSCW.

In September 1998, ENSCW co-hosted a Symposium on Mobile Youth Work in St-Petersburg. From 2001 to 2003, ENSCW ran the “Satellite Street Children Project”, which aimed at exchanging methodology, building networks and raising awareness about street children worldwide. The project took place in Central and Eastern Europe (Czech Republic, Bulgaria, Romania, Russia), Latin America (Mexico, Bolivia, Brazil, Ecuador) and Southern Africa (Angola, Mozambique South Africa, Zambia). It was financed by the European Commission and the Dutch Government. In this context, ENSCW co-organised an International Forum on Street Children and Street Work in November 2002 in Brussels.

Highlights in 2003

2003 was definitely a challenging year for ENSCW. Among the achievements, it is certainly possible to highlight: the implementation of the African stage and the successful conclusion of the Satellite Street Children Project, the constant update of the web site, the production and spreading of relevant documents to partners and interested parties, the submission of several project proposals and the selection of the DAPHNE project by the European Commission, the meeting with Commissioner Diamantopoulou (responsible for Employment and Social Affairs), awareness raising activities and the participation in different conferences. All these activities are summarised and illustrated below as part of the ENSCW 2003 Narrative Report, after a short presentation on the state of affairs of ENSCW’s Board and Office.

Board

The Board of ENSCW was composed of the following members: Mrs van Putten (Chair – NL), Mr de Boevé (B), Mrs Davies (UK), Mr Fenton (UK), Mr Korp (Estonia), Dr Rean (Russia), Mr Sklavounos (GR), Mrs Sirgado (P), Prof. Dr. Specht (D) and Mr Tay (F/Togo).

Board meetings: 21 February (Brussels) and 21 June (Brussels).

Telephone conferences: 12 September and 29 September 2003.

Office

Executive Director: Mr Roy from January until May 2003.

Information Manager: Mrs Arnold-Assakhen.

Conference consultant/ Advocacy Officer: Ms Del Zotto.

Project Manager: Ms Decker until 30 September.

ACTIVITIES

A THE SATELLITE STREET CHILDREN PROJECT

Brief introduction

The Satellite Street Children project began in January 2001 and was financed by the European Commission and the Dutch Government. The main aims of the project included the exchange of methodology, building networks and raising awareness about street children worldwide. Through the implementation of educational, recreational children's projects the children were provided with a platform to express themselves and to learn about their rights.

Countries in which the project took place:

- Central and Eastern Europe: Czech Republic, Bulgaria, Romania, Russia
- Latin America: Mexico, Bolivia, Brazil, Ecuador
- Southern Africa: Angola, Mozambique South Africa, Zambia.

Co-ordination: Belgium, Russia, Costa Rica, Mozambique.

The Southern African stage took longer than expected due to several factors. ENSCW requested an extension of several months, which was granted by both the European Commission and the Dutch Government. The end date of the Satellite Street Children Project was officially changed to 30 September 2003.

African stage

After the evaluations of the Eastern European and Latin American stage, it became clear that during the exchange of social workers the methodology was not always passed on in the most effective way. In the light of these results, it was decided to change the structure of the Southern African stage by maximizing the training of social workers and thereby the transferral of methodologies. This could be achieved through the organisation of national training seminars for the NGOs working with street children in each country rather than carrying out a trans-national exchange. This alteration had two positive results. Firstly, the transferral of knowledge was lead in an organised and professional way, allowing more social workers to benefit from it. Secondly, the training seminars made organisations working in the same city or country come together and to reconsider the benefits of joint actions.

The children's projects were designed depending on the needs in each country and the children involved in each program. In Angola the focus was mainly on the reunification of the families that were broken up during the war. In Mozambique the project contained two elements: firstly the creation of a Children's Forum and secondly the continued training of the social workers. The children's forum met twice monthly allowing the children to voice their opinions, to learn about their rights and to develop leadership qualities. The formation of the social workers allowed them to acquire skills such as how to utilise legal instruments and how to identify physical and sexual abuse in children. The South African project looked at increasing the children's self esteem and knowledge about the world they live in. One part of the project gave youngsters living in townships the opportunity to learn how to act from professional actors and to set up a theatre production talking about the life of street children. This play was then performed in the community and schools. The Zambians also took a project, which helped to increase the children's well being and their awareness about issues such as HIV/AIDS. Through the organisation of a summer camp the children did sports, play games and learn to live and play together.

Training Seminar

The four day training seminar for the Southern African partners was held on 22-25 July 2003 in Maputo, Mozambique.

Participants:

- Centro Arnaldo Jansen (Angola) – Delphina Matos Tiago & Padre Horacio Caballero
- Rede da Criança (Mozambique) – Amélia Fernanda & Carlos Mahumane
- New Ways Project (South Africa) – Loretta Thomas & Gerrie Smit
- CHIN (Zambia) – Arlene Phiri & Chipu Chiya
- IAC (Portugal) – Mathilde Sirgado
- ENSCW – Nuria Decker

As with the other seminars the first day was reserved for the exchange of information about each of the organisations and an overview about the situation in each country. The second day further NGOs from Maputo and some government official attended the seminar. The themes looked at included a general approach for working with children, the importance of self evaluation, the benefits of partnerships, and the positive effects of involving the community. The seminar continued with the partners having to evaluate how far the children's project had progressed and what difficulties had been encountered. On the last day there was a press conference at which French, Portuguese, and Dutch embassy representatives attended. This was followed by visits to two Mozambican NGOs. On the whole the training seminar was a successful and positive event. Several participants said that they felt they were being taken out of their isolation.

Evaluation meeting

The evaluation meeting of the African stage of the project took place in Limuru (Kenya) on 31 October and 1 November 2003.

Participants:

- Angola: Delfina Matos and P. Horacio Caballero (Centro Arnaldo Janssen)
- Mozambique: Amélia Fernanda and Carlos Mahumane (Rede da Criança)
- Zambia: Chipu Chiya and Mambo Chiluwe (CHIN)
- ENSCW: Erki Korp and Stefania Del Zotto

As concerns South Africa, Gerrie Smit and Loretta Thomas (New Ways Project) were not able to attend due to last minute commitments.

During the evaluation meeting, each partner illustrated the project in his/her country and its outcome, including the positive aspects and the difficulties, which had to be dealt with. Since all projects had been initiated but not yet terminated, it was agreed that a detailed assessment would be part of the final report to be sent by each partner at the end of the project.

A general discussion on the Satellite project followed. The opportunity to exchange experience and ideas with partners from different countries and to discover that some aspects are very common was welcomed by all participants, and the wish for further co-operation was expressed, although the financial means to concretely pursue this goal was seen as a problem. The importance of amplifying effect of the methodologies learned during the training seminar aimed at street educators and children was also outlined. The partners said that they were looking forward to receiving updated information

on a regular basis and suggested to implement a concrete programme together on an annual basis. The need for long-term involvement and action was also expressed.

To conclude, the representatives of ENSCW mentioned the fact that the Network was undergoing an evaluation process and that the partners would be kept informed on its final outcome.

Impact and Evaluation of the Satellite Street Children Project

(details in the Final report to the European Commission)

The Satellite Street Children Project had a positive impact on a variety of actors, including on ENSCW. When reviewing the overall objectives it is possible to say that these have been fulfilled since:

- Street children participating in the project have a better understanding of their fundamental rights as stated by the UN Convention.
- Social workers received training and a more global view of the reality of street children.
- The exchange of experiences and methodologies has led to the identification of good practices and programmes.
- Small and intermediary NGOs have been supported in their work through information, contacts and training.
- Increased degree of communication and cooperation between organisations.
- Awareness about the issue of street children has been raised on a political, media and public level.

Looking at the quantifiable results (number of children, social workers, organisations and countries involved, successful children's projects, training seminars, evaluation meetings, publications, international forum and documentary film), it is possible to see that practically all have been met apart from a slightly lower number of children that were addressed directly. However, this number does not include the multiplying effect of all the projects and interventions. The number of social workers on the other hand was much higher than predicted, since the Southern African partners organised training seminars involving other local NGOs.

As concerns ENSCW, first of all the direct contact with the field established through visits, training seminars and regular reporting allowed for a much better understanding of the situation of street children and the work carried out by its partners in the Satellite countries. This is essential when working for street children since projects need to be designed according to their needs as well as being executable by the partners on the ground. Furthermore new contacts were established not only with NGOs but also with research institutes, government officials and local communities. This has of course allowed the network to be strengthened and extended in certain regions, such as in Southern Africa. Local networks were equally reinforced as for example in Russia where an additional seminar was held bringing together different contacts, including the Satellite partners.

The exchange of information and methodologies being one of the main aims of the network, the production of country reports, children's pages on the web, and awareness raising material, such as the 'Green Lights' booklet and the documentary film 'The Right to Dream', provided interesting material for all of ENSCW members and non-members. Last but not least, the Satellite project also contributed towards the evaluation of the Network's activities.

B INFORMATION / COMMUNICATION (general public and partners)

Web site

ENSCW's web site is the main tool for spreading information in a quick and efficient way. It reaches the members of ENSCW worldwide and allows free access to anyone wanting to find out more about

street children. It was also an essential tool for presenting and raising awareness about the Satellite Street Children Project.

The web site is composed of the following 4 main sections:

1. The "Street" is meant to advertise the main actors of the field. It includes three databases: one on NGOs, one on funders and the last on containing references of about 300 books. This section contains as well an additional document titled "Your way through EU funding labyrinth".
2. Within the room "Services" a series of tools to support NGOs and CSOs in their daily activities were developed. This chapter tries to bring a systematic answer to the demands the Brussels-based office receives, and which mainly concentrate on finding partners or specific goods (see "market place") and finding information on specific topics (see "information centre"). Moreover, partner NGOs, which do not have a web-site have also the opportunity to insert information on their organisation (see "Your web site"). Finally, there is also an "Employment" section advertising both CVs and job ads.
3. The "Children's page" is devoted to the activities performed by children and to children's drawings, pictures and poetry.
4. A section is devoted to ENSCW and to the Satellite Street Children Project, where a general description of the project can be found, as well as information on the partners, the children's projects, the book "Green Light for Street Children's Rights" and the video tape "The right to dream", information on the International Forum for Stakeholders on Street Children and Street Work and the list of participants.

Materials

ENSCW produced and disseminated several materials as part of the Satellite Street Children Project and of the follow-up of the November 2002 International Forum.

The Right to Dream - this documentary film shows the situation of street children in 7 of the 12 satellite countries (Angola, Brazil, Bulgaria, Bolivia, Ecuador, South Africa, Russia) highlighting the success of many of the programs run by local NGOs. The film illustrates the initiative and talent of the children to deal with their difficult situation and to find solutions for a better future. The aim of the documentary is not only to raise awareness about the reality of children living on the street but also to underline the positive work already being done and to give hope to all those children struggling to survive on a daily basis. We would like to thank all of those who participated in this excellent production; in particular the children who shared their dreams with us. The video tape is in English and can be ordered on-line.

Green Lights for Street Children's Rights – "The main purpose of the booklet is to highlight current priorities for action and show motivate people from different walks of life, with varying perspectives and skills, and at all career stages, how to make a real difference to street children's lives. The main aim is to enable children on the edges of societies to find their way into the centre, to achieve well being within their communities, to become fully fledged participants instead of excluded onlookers." (page 13) The author of this booklet is Mrs Sarah Thomas de Benitez, Executive Director of the International Children's Trust. This document is available in English, French and Spanish and can be ordered on-line.

International Forum Report – the "International Forum for Stakeholders on Street Children and Street Work" was held from 25 to 28 November 2002 in Brussels and brought together experts, policy-makers, stakeholders and social workers from all over the world. The two days workshops and one day public session in the European Parliament were all documented in this final report, which was written in cooperation with Dynamo (co-organiser of the Forum), ENSCW being mainly responsible for the section devoted to the Public Session. The main message of the forum is clearly summarised within the recommendations from the street workers and from the youth. These proceedings can be

seen as a tool to inform our members and other relevant parties, as well as a tool for awareness raising and political lobbying. This document, which had been sent to all participants (more than 700), is available in English, French and Spanish.

C EXTERNAL RELATIONS

Follow-up of the November 2002 Forum

As already mentioned, the proceedings of the 2002 International Forum were written and disseminated in co-operation with Dynamo in three languages (English, French and Spanish). Moreover, an evaluation meeting took place in Brussels on 30 April.

In the context of the follow-up of the Forum, the Office met several institutional contacts/policy-makers and Mr Sklavounos, on behalf of the Chair, participated in l' "Europe de l'Enfance" meeting held in Athens on 30 May 2003. The Interim Director, who went to Geneva on 27-28 March, met representatives of UNAIDS (Ms A. Mendoza), ILO-IPEC (Ms S. Caglar and Mr Guy Thijs), UNFPA (Mr E. Palstra) and the CRC NGO Group. As concerns the EU Institutions, the Office met Mr Charles Whiteley and Mr José Zarzoso (DG External Relations), who offered to show the video "The Right to Dream" to the Inter-services Human Rights group. A meeting took place with Mr Joaquim Miranda, MEP and Chair of the Committee on Development and Cooperation, as well as with Ms Caprile, who was in charge of organising a hearing on child soldiers at the European Parliament. On 16 July, a meeting was arranged with Commissioner Diamantopoulou, responsible for Employment and Social Affairs.

Visits / meetings / cooperation with other actors

In the context of the "Children are Citizens too" Conference by EURONET (2-3 April), the Office was involved in the organisation of the recreational activities for about 60 children from 10 different countries. It was also co-rapporteur with a child delegate in one of the workshops.

Moreover, the office had several meetings with potential partners in future projects in 2003:

- The Railway Children (London) on 4 April, in order to discuss two possible projects to be carried out together on early intervention techniques and on the development of best practice guidelines
- The Who Cares? Trust in London and Brussels (Mr P. Clarke) about the "Care Zone" project, which is an entirely secured, personalised and interactive zone on the internet aimed at children in care.
- Terre des Hommes (Geneva) (Mr D. Stoeklin)
- Mobile School (Leuven) open doors on 28 March.
- Eurodiakonie in Brussels on 12 May.

Conferences

ENSCW Office was involved in several relevant events at EU and international level, be it as simple participant or in a more active role.

- "Invisible Children" organised by Save the Children Brussels (presentation of a report on children's rights in EU and Member States Development Policy) on 23 January in the European Parliament (EP).
- "Children are Citizens too" organised by EURONET (2-3 April).
- "Hands up for Education" held on 8 May in the EP and organised by Education International.

- Forum organised in Brussels by the Belgian French speaking Ministers in charge of children and youth (presentation of the conclusions of the study on begging children in Belgium.
- 8th ISMO Symposium Street Children and Mobile Youth Work “In Solidarity With Young People at Risk”, co-organised with NCKK (Limuru, Kenya, 27-30 October 2003). As already mentioned, the evaluation meeting for the African stage of the Satellite Street Children Project was combined with the symposium.
- 2nd Symposium on street children in Turkey: two-day event organised by the Turkish Foundation for Street Children and UNICEF on 6 and 7 November at the University of Ankara. The Office was asked to held presentations during the plenary sessions and to lead workshops on networking.
- Fifth EU Human Rights Forum, which was co-organised by the EU Presidency and the EC and held in Rome on 10 and 11 December.

Awareness-raising activities

The Office made two presentations in the context of the workshops organised by the Belgian Technical Cooperation (BTC) for candidates, who will work in the framework of the international cooperation in third countries. The workshops were held on 14 July and 13 September.

D FUNDRAISING / PROJECT PROPOSALS

In 2003, the main funders of ENSCW were the Dutch Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the European Commission, but the Network received also a grant from Kinderpostzegels (NL) aimed at the information aspect of the Network and from the Sisters of Love (NL).

Several potential donors were approached in 2003, among which: the Oak Foundation, the Fortis Foundation, IMFUNDO/DFID. The Finish government was also approached. As already stated, meetings took place also in view of future partnerships with Railway Children and the Who Cares? Trust. A visit was organised in Paris on 17 April to representatives of the French Ministry for Employment and Solidarity (Mr O. Chazy), Foreign Affairs (Mr J.-F. Lanteri and Mrs S. Guénard), UNESCO (Ms L. Saldari) and Fondation Air France. Mrs M. Oueslati and Mr T. Rueda (CPLP Productions) were also met on that occasion.

Another survival strategy related to fundraising, which was followed by the Office, consisted in writing and submitting project proposals:

- DAPHNE “Violence against street children: realities and challenges in three European cities”, submitted to the European Commission on 10 February.
- “How to prevent the violation of Street children’s rights when they are in conflict with the law?”, submitted to Ireland Aid on 20 February under the Human Rights and Democratisation Scheme.
- Co-financing “Empowering street children and promoting their rights”, submitted to the EC on 12 March (due to the lack of time available, a consultancy was hired by the Interim Director – Kingston Smith, to design and fill in the grant application).
- “Walk in and learn” Project, which on the contrary to the other projects, was not developed in response to a call for proposals and focused on attractive and interactive educational programmes.
- Dutch appeal: follow-up in March.

Unfortunately, apart from the DAPHNE, no other project proposal was successful.

DAPHNE

The project submitted was threefold:

- mapping all public and private organisations working with street children in three European capitals (Athens, Berlin and Brussels)
- survey aiming at collecting data on who have been the beneficiaries of the above identified actors in the last 24 months
- information and awareness raising campaign aimed at general public.

The total budget of the project was of 151 000 Euros (80% requested to the EC). Time frame: October 2003 to September 2004.

In June, the Office was informed that the European Commission (EC) had selected the project and was asked to make some changes to the initial proposal. The third part would focus on encouraging the transferral of methodology and the building of cross-sectoral partnerships. The Office contacted the local authorities of the three cities in order to try to secure the 20% of the budget, which were still lacking. Meetings with several Cabinets were held in Brussels.

Early September, the EC sent the contracts to the Office. However, due to the desperate financial situation of the Network, the Board of ENSCW decided that it was not wise to sign the contract. The Office insisted to find another organisation to run the project and the EC agreed upon this request. The partners were informed on the situation. Several potential coordinators were contacted, and although the search revealed to be more difficult than foreseen, in December the Office could finally tell the EC and the partners that ENSCW was to hand over the project to BICE/Brussels.

FUTURE ACTIVITIES PLAN NEDERLAND

Since no new grants had been received by ENSCW, the financial situation early September was desperate. Plan Nederland decided to secure the funding of the Network during the following three-four months and to commission an evaluation. The decision to continue supporting the Network would depend on the results of the evaluation.

The evaluation was carried out according to the Terms of Reference established by Plan Nederland with the comments of ENSCW. The 3 objectives were to identify strengths and weaknesses of ENSCW, to find out what was the value of such a network and finally to look at the feasibility of continuation beyond 2003. The Office prepared documents and relevant information, answering accurately the questionnaires and making proposals. Mrs Vreeburg based her conclusions on the study reports provided by ENSCW, the interviews with Board Members of ENSCW and the Office, the interviews with experts and questionnaires to members.

On 8 December Mrs M. Vreeburg and her assistant Ms P. Bourgonje presented their conclusions to representatives of Plan Nederland and ENSCW. Among other suggestions, Mrs M. Vreeburg insisted on the need to continue the Network, but with clear objectives and a more limited focus, the necessity of re-thinking its organisational structure and to link it with a research institute, the need for a business plan to be drawn rapidly. She suggested that Plan Nederland should support such a Network for two years and foresee an evaluation after the first year (the documents produced in this context are available).

The representatives of Plan Nederland decided to support ENSCW and to organise another meeting on 16 December in Amsterdam to further discuss the outline of a business plan. On 22 December, several documents written by the Office were sent to the relevant actors, including suggestions on the Business plan and the structure of the new organisation.