



Confirmation of EFSCW Participatory Status with the Council of Europe and study to be carried out by EFSCW for the Council of Europe on the integration of street children in different European municipalities

Through a letter dated 4 January 2007 the Council of Europe (COE) confirmed EFSCW participatory status with the Council of Europe as from 2 January 2007. The next meetings will take place from 17-19 April 2007 in Strasbourg.

Cooperation with the Council of Europe will be very important in for EFSCW in order to:

- build bridges between this institution and our member organizations working with street children;
- consolidate our good image towards the Council of Europe as a crucial partner for advocating street children;
- raise political awareness on the living conditions of street children in Europe;
- consolidate the EFSCW network with organizations which has participatory status with the Council of Europe and local/national authorities;
- make concrete recommendations to the municipalities in order to improve the situation of street children;
- strengthen the image of EFSCW to donors and possible funders as a competent organization that can provide high quality advice on street children and child rights issues.

As a first example of co-operation, the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe has already contacted EFSCW to discuss the compilation of a study on the situation of street children in different municipalities in Europe. EFSCW will support the Council of Europe through all the contacts at its disposal within the network: case studies from our member organizations, experts on street children, local and regional authorities working on projects dealing with street children. Following the call for proposals of EFSCW towards its relevant member organizations, the following organizations have sent project descriptions which have been forwarded to the COE Congress:

- 1) Pupil Parent Partnership (UK) - Project with local municipalities to reintegrate disaffected young people whose relationships with their families have broken down or who are children of travellers.
- 2) The Society of The Friends of Children (Poland) - Environment Education Center. The purpose of this center's project is to help children threatened by with social orphanhood as well as social maladjusted.
- 3) The Romanian Foundation for Children, Community and Family (Romania) - The Mayor's office in Cluj-Napoc agreed to be a partner in the work of the community centres which select the beneficiaries (the children) from families with very low income and high number of family members. These are the groups with a higher risk for school and child abandonment and sometimes working in the streets. Some of the children they work with can be included in the definition of street children.



- 4) Istituto Don Calabria (Italy) - Project AZIMUT carried out by Istituto Don Calabria in the Veneto region for the integration of unaccompanied foreign minors involving a number of different municipalities.

All the projects closely involve municipalities and work with children who are abandoned or excluded and who spend large parts of their lives on the streets (employing a broader definition of 'street children').

The COE has welcomed these projects as possible case studies on innovative projects and agreed to cooperate with EFSCW. The formal contracts will soon be sent to EFSCW. The project has been launched at the Congress Plenary Chamber's spring session of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg on 27.03.2007. EFSCW Director Reinhold Müller presented the project during the meeting of the COE Committee on Social Cohesion held on 26.03.2007. The Committee members unanimously agreed to it.

Objectives of the project:

- Presenting 5/6 case studies on initiatives carried out by different municipalities in Europe in favour of street children 2007;
- Drafting a Report and direct recommendations aimed at local level representatives to be presented in March 2008.

Timing:

27 March 2007	Outline of programme presented to Congress Plenary Chamber during Spring Session
March-October 2007	Field visits by expert to chosen cities
November 2007	4/5 case studies finalised by expert
December 2007	1 st draft of report for Congress
February 2008	Final report and recommendations received by Secretariat
March 2008	Report and draft texts presented for approval by Committee on Social Cohesion
May/June 2008	Report and texts presented for adoption to Plenary Session (plus possible side event)