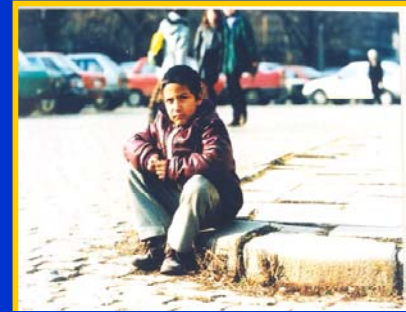




## Newsletter

December 2006 – February 2007



# The European Foundation for Street Children Worldwide

Dear Readers

Welcome to the first edition of the EFSCW newsletter!

The EFSCW newsletter will be sent to you on a quarterly basis and will include news on EU funding programmes and international and EU developments related to street children and other groups of very vulnerable children as well as news from EFSCW members. Upcoming events and conferences will be detailed and updates will be provided on new publications of relevance to children.

If you would like to submit an article to the next edition of this newsletter, please send your contribution to [info@enscw.org](mailto:info@enscw.org).

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## Network news

**❖ EFSCW would like to warmly welcome our Bulgarian and Romanian member organisations into the European Union!**

EFSCW member organisations in Bulgaria include the *Alliance for Children and Youth* ([www.acybg.org](http://www.acybg.org)), *Free and Democratic Bulgaria Foundation* ([www.fdbfoundation.org](http://www.fdbfoundation.org)) and the *Gavroche Foundation* ([www.gavroche-bg.org](http://www.gavroche-bg.org)). Our Romanian member is the *Romanian Foundation for Children, Community and Family* ([www.frccf.org.ro](http://www.frccf.org.ro)). EFSCW hopes to take on a stronger coordinating role between the child rights organisations in the new Member States and the European Union in 2007. These countries are particularly affected by the problem of street children and EFSCW sincerely hopes that the efforts made by these member organisations to tackle this pressing issue as well as the integration of many other groups of vulnerable children can be strengthened through full access to EU programmes and policies.

**❖ The First Children’s Embassy in the World, an EFSCW member has started a campaign to combat violence against children in Macedonia.**

Incited by the recent incident of two children being beaten to death, as well as the shocking increase in the number of calls related to violence to the SOS free line for children and youth 0800 12222 (18.6% in 2006 compared to 2% in 2000), the First Children’s Embassy in the World have decided to launch a campaign to increase

awareness about the need to protect children from all forms of violence, as well as to encourage the citizens to report incidences of violence.

15 billboards were set up a week ago in different locations around the center of Skopje, Macedonia, with 2 different messages:

“Have you embraced your child today?” and “Stop violence against children”.

The campaign will take place for one month. For further information contact Gordana Pirkovska Zmijanac, the programme manager at [info@childrensembassy.org.mk](mailto:info@childrensembassy.org.mk) or visit [www.childrensembassy.org.mk](http://www.childrensembassy.org.mk).

❖ **Casa Alianza UK launch a global campaign to raise the profile of issues surrounding street children and HIV/AIDS**

Street children are widely recognised as being one of the most at-risk populations to HIV/AIDS yet most national governments and structural funders fail to make even the most basic provision for them in regional, national and local programmes. EFSCW strongly supports the launch by its member organisation Casa Alianza UK of a global campaign to raise the profile of issues surrounding street children and HIV/AIDS. How can it be that in excess of 150,000,000 children who exist from hour to hour, day-to-day on the streets of our world have become the excluded face of HIV/AIDS? For further information on the campaign: [http://www.casa-alianza.org.uk/northsouth/CasaWeb.nsf/CasaNews/World\\_Aids\\_Day?OpenDocument](http://www.casa-alianza.org.uk/northsouth/CasaWeb.nsf/CasaNews/World_Aids_Day?OpenDocument).

❖ **The European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN) and a group of child NGOs produce special newsletter issue on child poverty in Europe**

This newsletter presents child poverty figures in the EU, child poverty in the EU's Social Inclusion Process, a case study on how the UK has put the problem of child poverty at the centre of its social inclusion strategy, quotes from parents living in poverty, and an interview with the Secretary General of Eurochild who outlines that a policy-making approach that places children at the centre is strongly needed. This newsletter can be downloaded from EFSCW website in English, Spanish, French and German or click on the following link to EAPN: [http://www.eapn.org/code/en/publ\\_detail.asp?pk\\_id\\_content=2255](http://www.eapn.org/code/en/publ_detail.asp?pk_id_content=2255)

❖ **Have your say on the European Union and Children's Rights**

Save the Children Europe has launched a child consultation process “YOU and THE EU: Having your say on the European Union and Children's Rights” to encourage children and young people to give their opinions on the document “Towards an EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child” published by the European Commission on 4 July 2006. The consultation period will run from 5 February – 26 March 2007 and is based on a questionnaire available in several languages. If you are interested in promoting and/or supporting children's involvement in the consultation process please visit the Save the Children website: [www.savethechildren.be/brussels](http://www.savethechildren.be/brussels).

❖ **French newspaper “La Croix” publishes an article on child poverty in Europe**

“La Croix” a widely read French newspaper published an article on child poverty in Europe based on the special edition of the EAPN newsletter mentioned above. To read the newspaper article in French:

<http://www.lacroix.com/article/index.jsp?docId=2289819&rubId=1094>.

## News from the EU Institutions

### Update on funding programmes

- ❖ The **DAPHNE III programme** has been approved by the Council and the Parliament for the period 2007-2013. This particular EU programme targets projects concerned with preventing and combating violence against children, young people and women and providing support to victims of violence. It is most unlikely that a Call for Proposals will be published before May 2007.
- ❖ The **PROGRESS programme** (Programme for Employment and Social Solidarity) is expected to publish a relevant Call for Proposals in the coming months. The programme targets projects concerned with the following five themes: employment, social protection and inclusion, working conditions, diversity and combating discrimination and equality between men and women. The programme will finance the following types of action: analyses, mutual learning, awareness-raising and dissemination activities. It will also support the main players through contributing to the operating costs of the main networks in the Union, the formation of working groups, funding training seminars and creating networks of specialist bodies and observatories.

### News from the European Commission

- ❖ **The European Commissioner for Justice, Freedom and Security elaborates on the European Strategy on the Rights of the Child at the meeting of First Ladies in Paris on 17 January 2007 and outlines a new Commission initiative on missing children in Europe.**

*Follow up to the Commission’s communication on the Rights of the Child*

On Wednesday 17 January Commissioner Frattini spoke at the meeting of First Ladies (the Queen of Belgium, the Queen of Sweden, Mrs Laura Bush, Mrs Lioudmila Putin and Mrs Margarida Sousa Uva-Barroso) in Paris on the European Strategy on Children’s Rights. **EFSCW has been involved in this strategy on a**

**consultative level since the very beginning as a member of the core group of the Brussels NGO Group on Child rights.** Following on from the Commission's Communication on the Rights of the Child, published on 4 July 2006, Mr Franco Frattini emphasised that the protection of children's rights is a key priority of the European Commission and he reiterated his commitment to establishing a long-term strategy on the rights of the child.

The Commissioner announced his plan to organise a yearly European Forum on the Rights of the Child, which will bring together, national and international experts, the European Network of Ombudspersons for Children, the Council of Europe, NGOs, the European Commission, UNICEF, national governments and representatives of civil society, in order to exchange existing and innovative practices concerning children. In respect of Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, children themselves will also be invited to actively participate in the Forum and share their own points of view. In the first Forum meeting, scheduled for March 2007, Mr Frattini will meet with institutional and NGO representatives in order to discuss how to move forward towards an EU strategy on the rights of the child. This will also be an occasion to meet Patrick Trousson, the new European Coordinator for Children's Rights, whose role is to coordinate the activities related to children's rights implemented by the different Directorate Generals within the Commission, as well as to maintain permanent contacts with civil society and the other EU institutions.

The Commissioner was pleased to point out the fight against racism and xenophobia as a key priority of the current German presidency of the EU, making reference to the Commission's proposal for a Council framework decision on combating racism and xenophobia and highlighting the particular vulnerability of children to acts of racism.

The Commission will also deliver a Communication in Spring 2007 on the fight against cyber-crime. This will include proposals for cooperation on combating the exploitation of children and child pornography on the Internet. Mr Frattini is working in collaboration with banks and credit card companies in order to try and implement stricter controls on, as well as reduce, the purchase of child pornography on the Internet.

#### *New Commission initiative on missing children*

Commissioner Frattini acknowledged that missing children is a cross-border problem and underlined the Commission's support for the establishment of a pan-European early-warning system in relation to this. As a first step, a European emergency help line for missing children, telephone number 116 000, was set up on 17 January 2007. This number will become available in each European country between now and summer 2007 and is free of charge.

#### **❖ EU Commissioner Franco Frattini refers to the problem of child trafficking in his speech at the International Seminar on Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation on 21 November 2006 in Lisbon.**

Following the adoption by the European Parliament on 16 November 2006 of a report on trafficking in human beings drafted by Slovak MEP Edit Bauer, Franco Frattini European Commissioner responsible for Justice, Freedom and Security made a speech on "The EU's approach to fight trafficking in human beings" at the International Seminar on Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation. He specifically referred to the fact that children's rights must be at the core of the strategy against trafficking, in accordance with the 2003 Framework Decision on combating the sexual exploitation of children and child pornography. Although both boys and girls can fall

victim to trafficking, Mr Frattini stressed that it is thought that over 80 percent of all the victims of trafficking are women and girls and that 70 percent of them were forced into sexual servitude. It is mainly girls who are exploited every year in the multi-billion dollar sex industry, one third of whom are subject to coercive sexual relations, one fifth is victim of forced marriages and close to a million were infected last year with HIV because of their exploitation.

To read the full speech:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/06/716&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>.

❖ **European children and the Vice-President of the European Commission Margot Wallström debate the future of Europe live on the Internet**



On 20 November 2006 children and young people from all over Europe joined the live internet debate to express their views on the future of Europe to Margot Wallström who is responsible for institutional relations and Communication at the European Commission. The event was organised by Save the Children and the European Commission as part of Plan-D and the consultation process for the White Paper on a European Communication Policy.

Five young people from Romania, Finland, Spain, Lithuania and the UK participated in the debate along with the online chatters who were sending in their comments and questions live through the internet. A wide range of issues were discussed ranging from unemployment, poverty and discrimination, violence against children and young people and the involvement and participation of children and young people in EU decision making. Commissioner Wallström stressed the need for the European Institutions to listen to their citizens, including young citizens, and the positive impact that communication between the Institutions and the citizens can have. Margot Wallström clarified that in most of the cases, Member States are responsible for taking decisions but promised to take the issues back to the European Commission and share them with her colleagues.

Save the Children is currently preparing a summary of the input they have received from children and young people on the White Paper on a European Communication Policy. The report, which will be submitted to Commissioner Wallström will be made available on Save the Children's website [www.savethechildren.net/brussels](http://www.savethechildren.net/brussels). For more information contact Olivia Lind Haldorsson, [olivia-savechildbru@skynet.be](mailto:olivia-savechildbru@skynet.be)

## News from the Council of Europe

### ❖ **Commissioner for Human Rights at the Council of Europe speaks out on the treatment of young offenders**

In a viewpoint on juvenile crime, Thomas Hammarberg, the Commissioner for Human Rights at the Council of Europe argues that instead of criminalizing and locking up more and more young offenders at an increasingly young age, family-based or other social alternatives to imprisonment should be pursued in the spirit of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

To read the Commissioner's speech:

<http://www.crin.org/resources/infodetail.asp?id=12131>

## International news on child issues

### ❖ **Paris conference concludes with a firm commitment to stop the recruitment of child soldiers**

This conference was of particular relevance to EFSCW as street children in conflict zones around the world are extremely vulnerable to being recruited as soldiers, and many former child soldiers, having been separated from their families, find themselves forced to live on the streets after the fighting has ceased. Representatives of 58 countries who met in Paris on 5-6 February 2007 have committed themselves to putting an end to the unlawful recruitment and use of children in armed conflicts. The Paris conference, hosted by the Government of France and UNICEF, brought together both countries affected by the use of child soldiers as well as donor nations to tackle the recruitment of children and to harness the political will to confront it. The Paris Commitments, as they are now known, lay out detailed guidelines for protecting children from recruitment and for providing assistance to those already involved with armed groups or forces. They will complement the political and legal mechanisms already in place at the UN Security Council, the International Criminal Court and other bodies trying to protect children from exploitation and violence. Governments at the conference also committed themselves to make every effort to uphold and apply the Paris Principles wherever possible in their political, diplomatic, humanitarian and funding roles. For further detailed information and video footage from the conference [www.unicef.org](http://www.unicef.org).

### ❖ **Cycle for Street Children! ChildHope is organizing a bike ride from London to Paris to raise money for vulnerable children living on the streets.**

In June 2007, ChildHope will organise the first London to Paris bike ride for the legal community. The objective of the event is to raise much-needed funds for ChildHope.

Cycling for Street Children will be the biggest ever fundraising event for ChildHope. It will see teams of lawyers setting off from London's Tower Bridge on the 29th June to get to Paris' Palais de Justice on the 2nd July.

Childhope are looking for enthusiastic cyclists to become 'yellow jerseys' for street children! This event is open to anyone over the age of 18 with a good level of health and fitness, lawyers or not. All you need to do to participate is raise enough funds and enjoy the ride... So get peddling and give a chance to some of the world's most vulnerable children!

If you are interested in participating in this cycle ride, Child Hope can send you a full itinerary of the event, and a registration pack, as well as fundraising information and promotional material. For more information on any of these events, please contact Julie Anne at ChildHope on 020 7065 0959 or by email [events@childhope.org.uk](mailto:events@childhope.org.uk).

#### ❖ **High-profile women urge safer Web for children**

Several high-profile women, including the wives of four political leaders -- Laura Bush, Bernadette Chirac, Suzanne Mubarak and Lyudmila Putin, along with Margarida Sousa Uva-Barroso, the wife of the President of the European Commission, the Queen of Sweden and the Queen of Belgium met on Wednesday in Paris to discuss how the Internet can be made safer for children. The women called for more barriers against Web sites that promote child pornography and paedophilia. To read the article in the New York Times:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2007/01/18/world/18wives.html?>

#### ❖ **Human Rights Council: NGO meeting on children's rights**

On Wednesday, 29th November, the Subgroup on the Human Rights Council (NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child), held an informal discussion in Geneva on "Placing the rights of the child on the Human Rights Council agenda", during the resumed Second session of the Human Rights Council (HRC). Thirteen country delegations and over 20 NGOs participated in the discussion; five UN agencies were also present.

The discussion focused on the Subgroup's recent Call for Action to make children's rights visible on the agenda of the newly established Council. The Call for Action's main recommendations to the Council are:

- to devote two days a year - or 4% of its sessions time - to children's rights
- to ensure a child rights perspective is adopted throughout the work of the Council
- to implement a process for meaningful child participation in the work of the Council

The aim of the Call for Action is for child rights NGOs to engage in the process of institution building of the Human Rights Council to make it fit for children from the outset, and avoid having to adapt its methods of work, once decided, to children's needs. The Call for Action therefore identifies gaps and needs and presents concrete steps to make the Council fit for promoting and protecting children's rights, and involve them in this work.

## Upcoming events and conferences

The Subgroup will carry on producing more detailed papers on specific aspects of the Call for Action. The Subgroup will hold a similar event at the Spring session of the Human Rights Council, to be held from 12 March to 6 April 2007. For further information: <http://www.crin.org/hrc/>

❖ **European Conference on Children and Migration in Warsaw, Poland 20-21 March 2007**

The conference aims to create a meeting arena for researchers from Universities, Non-Governmental Organisations and European Regional Bodies, in order to stimulate discussion on the latest research findings on various aspects of children in migration in Europe, from a child rights perspective. For further information: <http://www.enmcr.net/>

❖ **Conference: "Vision into Practice-Making Quality a Reality in the Lives of Young Children" 8-10 February, Dublin, Ireland.**

The second conference of the Centre for Early Childhood Development and Education CECDE will take place in Dublin Castle and will examine ways in which learning and innovation gained through research can be successfully translated into practice in both Irish and international contexts. For more information and to register for the conference: [www.cecde.ie](http://www.cecde.ie).

❖ **World Conference on Children Without Parental Care: "Symposium for Enforcing the Human Rights of Orphaned and Abandoned Children" 21-24 May 2007, The Netherlands.**

This international conference, meant for Government Decision-makers, relevant NGO's and Researchers, will provide an open forum for communication on reforms in Child Welfare Policies and will identify new approaches and model practical solutions. The 4-day event will host up to 100 countries, represented by officials, NGO's and scientists. For further information and to register for the conference: [www.wiorphans.org](http://www.wiorphans.org).

❖ **Seminar: "The social inclusion of Roma children in the educational system: a challenge to EU enlargement in South-Eastern Europe" in April 2007.**

Subject to funding, EFSCW is hoping to organise a conference in Brussels on Roma children in the education system. The seminar will bring together NGOs, representatives of Roma groups and representatives of the EU and local authorities. Commission representatives will present relevant European policies as well as the funding available at national and European level for implementing projects on the inclusion of Roma street children in the educational system.

## Publications

❖ **MedChild Report: *Charting the Mediterranean Child***

Charting the Mediterranean Child (Mappa del Bambino del Mediterraneo) is a synthesis of the best available data related to child well being in the Mediterranean.

The data is presented in tables and charts, with singular and collective comments, highlighting the main trends and foreseen changes. This year's issue includes a study by Jacques van der Gaag on Child Poverty in Albania and Morocco

To download the report:

[http://www.medchild.org/upload/Pubblicazioni/Files/46\\_200719\\_165941\\_charting%20the%20medchild%202006.pdf](http://www.medchild.org/upload/Pubblicazioni/Files/46_200719_165941_charting%20the%20medchild%202006.pdf)

❖ **UNICEF Publication: *The State of the Worlds Children 2007*** states that empowering women and ending gender discrimination will have a strong positive impact on the well-being of children. According to the report, there is a direct link between equality for women and the health and development of children. <http://www.unicef.org/sowc07/>

❖ **Innocenti Social Monitor 2006: *Understanding Child Poverty in South-Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States***. Pursuing a child rights perspective, the study set out to measure and understand better the nature and scale of child poverty, as distinct from adult poverty; it highlights the large disparities in child well-being which have emerged in this period of economic expansion, between countries, between regions within countries, and between families; it points to ways in which governments in the region could more effectively address marginalisation and disparities among children.

<http://www.unicef-icdc.org/publications/>

❖ **UN Study on Violence Against Children**

The World Report on Violence against Children was launched on 20 November in Geneva and is the outcome of the first comprehensive global attempt to describe the scale of all forms of violence against children and its impact. The report is a result of a lively participatory process involving Governments, international bodies, civil society and children. Violence is a problem that calls for a multi-sectoral response. This report approaches the issue from the combined perspectives of human rights, public health and child protection and presents recommendations on how to combat violence against children.

[http://www.crin.org/docs/UNVAC\\_World\\_Report\\_on\\_Violence\\_against\\_Children.pdf](http://www.crin.org/docs/UNVAC_World_Report_on_Violence_against_Children.pdf)