



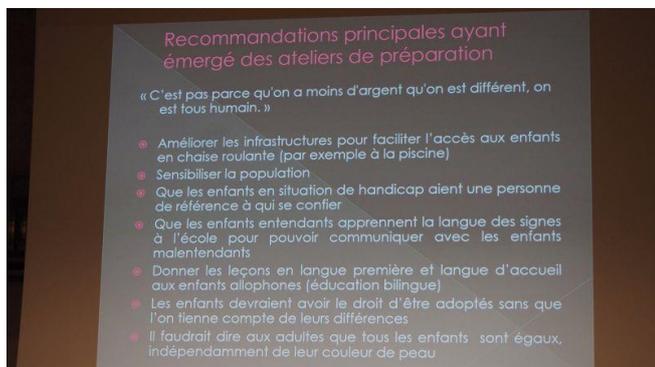
IDE News n°37
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EDITORIAL

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child celebrated the 20th anniversary of its ratification by Switzerland and in 2019, it will celebrate its 30th international anniversary! The Convention triggered a great revolution, allowing children to fully participate in the exercise of their rights as legal subjects. Nevertheless, this principle's enactment poses major difficulties. The International Institute for the Rights of the Child (IDE) continues to lead its awareness raising mission and strives to give a voice to children. Two events took place this autumn around November 20. The work and words that came from the children who participated in these events warmed our hearts and make us hope for a more open and solidary future. The IDE is dedicated to tackling issues such as racism, social relief and community engagement in Switzerland and around the world. These remain some of the ideals of the IDE.

This end of year we send you our heartfelt greetings and wish you a happy holiday full of child-like wonder!

Paola Riva Gapany



This edition of *IDE News* details the organization's work carried out between June and December 2017, with a special focus on the following points :

- awareness-raising
- training
- network
- publications

CHILDREN'S RIGHTS DAY



Some twenty children gave talks in front of 200 people (children, professionals, politicians) at the International Conference Center of Geneva (CICG) on **November 22**, during an event organized by the IDE and the Department for solidarity and social cohesion of the City of Geneva on the occasion of the **Universal Children's Day**.

The right to participation (art. 12 CRC) remains largely unimplemented in Switzerland, despite the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child 20 years ago. Children and young people, and especially the **Intercommunal group for Genevan after-school care (GIAP)** were privileged participants during the workshops-debates on child-related themes, such as child and migration, children in urban spaces, access to human right's education, equal opportunity and protection in the field of digital media.



Children put forth **recommendations** on these themes. The recommendations will be forwarded to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child through the Swiss alternative report to the Committee.

The event was carried out in the framework of the study "**Consulter les enfants sur leurs droits**" (Consulting Children on their Rights) (2014) carried out by the City of Geneva.

IDE 20 YEAR PRIZE

To celebrate the 20 years of the Swiss ratification of the CRC, the IDE awarded on November 22 the **IDE 20 year prize** to the Medical-pedagogical Center (CMP) located in Châtelard (Lausanne). This is a boarding school for children aged 7-14 who face school and family-related difficulties. The CMP was

awarded for a project devised by and for children in the institution in order to ameliorate the implementation of their rights within the CMP. They were selected by a jury of three children, two IDE interns and one institutional head.



The Châtelard CMP **was awarded** a 5'000 CHF money prize for the project entitled "The road to rights". The children of that institution were especially impressed by the film "Sur le chemin de l'école (On the way to school)" (Pascal Plisson, 2013). Building on this enthusiasm, the educational team created five modules. They used the film to speak with children about children's rights in the world and in the West. Health, food, traditional art and dance, freedom of expression, spirituality, play and leisure are some of the themes that will be discussed through various means (ex. skits, tasting, interview, calligraphy, dance). The project will begin in January 2018 and materialize in the form of a blog which will be held in real-time by children.

TEACHING MATERIALS

On November 20th, **teaching materials** for classroom use in Switzerland was published in French, German and Italian. It can be freely downloaded online at www.childsrighs.org or can be ordered by post (delivery charges apply). In 2017, the theme was diversity, which led to a broader project supported by The Sarah Oberson Foundation and public schools of Martigny (Valais). All classes of the primary level worked on the issue in their own way. One such class worked on the issue of intergenerational diversity by leading a press conference around the book "**Histoires d'enfants, en Valais, de 1815 à 2015**" (**Children stories, in Valais, from 1815 to 2015**).

A must see: **documentary by Swiss Radio and Television** on a classroom project by 10-year olds working on the diversity theme. Through the project the children realized how difficult it was to move around the city of St-Maurice in a wheelchair. The children wrote to the authorities in order to bring about change.

Teachers who used our teaching materials are invited to fill out the **online questionnaire** in order to help us to better the project. Thank you for your participation!

MAY SYMPOSIUM

Save the date ! The **May symposium** 2018 will take place on May 3-4 at the Inselspital in Bern. The event will be dedicated to the issue of corporal punishment and its prohibition in Switzerland. The conference is organized by the Interfaculty Center for Children's Rights Studies of the University of Geneva (CIDE), the IDE and the Swiss Centre of Expertise in Human Rights, in partnership with the Applied school of pedagogy of Valais (HEP-VS) St-Maurice and Brigue, the Applied school of social work (HES-SO Valais/Wallis) and the Cantonal Service for Youth in Valais.



A petition has been circulated in Switzerland on the topic of prohibition of corporal punishment and psychological violence. It is available for signature [here](#).

TRAINING

ABROAD

WEST AFRICA

On November 9-10, the IDE was honored to welcome Professor Samba Thiam, the Director of the Institute for Human Rights and Peace of the University of Cheikh Anta Diop (UCAD) in Dakar. The meeting was held in view of the creation of a Certificate of Advanced Studies (CAS) in child rights protection in West Africa. This is a collaborative project carried out with the Interfaculty Center for Children's Rights Studies of the University of Geneva (CIDE). Registration for this CAS are open as of early 2018.

INDIA

In partnership with the National Law University in Odisha, the University of Geneva and the NGO HAQ - Centre for Child Rights, an executive course in juvenile justice is being created in India. Negotiations are underway and the course is expected to be launched in the spring of 2018.

"IN HOUSE" TRAINING

In Switzerland, the IDE continues to train students and professionals through its involvement in providing education (tutoring and lectures) to students enrolled at the University of Geneva (CIDE).

The ninth class of the **Master of Advanced Studies in Children's Rights (MCR)** and of the **Interdisciplinary Master in children's rights (MIDE)** were carried out with respectively 13 and 45 participants.

Ten Certificates of Advanced Studies (CAS) **Child Victims and Witnesses: Hearing children in Justice Proceeding** (4th class) were awarded on December 8. The recipients were professionals in the fields of socio-psychological and judiciary intervention. The IDE also had the pleasure to welcome Mr. Lyes Louffok, who was once a foster child and is now a member of the National Council for Child Protection in France, for a **public conference**. Eighty people took part in the talk which explored child social aid that is more child-friendly.

"TAYLOR MADE" TRAINING

SENEGAL

The third **Training of trainers programme in juvenile justice (FFJJ3) in Senegal** for all the juvenile justice professionals took place on July 3-4 and October 16-20 in Dakar. Current students met with alumnis of the FFJJ 1-2-3 in order to build networks and spread good practices: [watch the video](#).

The third module of FFJJ3 will take place from January 29 to February 3 in Kédougou, on the border with Mali and Guinea (extreme South-West of the country). The IDE came to the region where one part of the participants come from. This region presents a different situation than that of Dakar, especially in light of the high number of displaced children and child mine workers.

SOMALIA



A **Somalian delegation** made up of federal government officials and non-State actors was welcomed to the IDE and its partner **the RAJO association** in Geneva and Sion in September 11-17.

Since Somalia's 2015 ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, training is provided in children's rights to local actors. The country is expected to submit its State and alternative reports to the Committee on the Rights of the Child by the end of the year.

In parallel, work is underway to create an online training programme for professionals established in the African Horn. The IDE is seeking a collaborator to take

up the position of **project manager** (50-60%). Please contact us if you feel you fit the profile !

INSTITUTE STE-AGNES



The Institute Sainte-Agnès, located in Sion and which benefits of an enduring support of its youth Parliament by the IDE celebrated its **50 year anniversary**. The IDE congratulates its partner! The said Parliament was renewed in presence of the director of the IDE and of the first citizen of the Valais Canton on the occasion of a ceremony held on September 4.

NETWORK

ADEM

The Alliance for the Rights of Migrant Children (ADEM) has gained a Coordinator (50%) : Mrs Lauren Barras joined the team on October 18. The organisation continued to celebrate the 20-year Swiss ratification anniversary of the CRC, namely by producing texts on the Convention's rights that are highly relevant to migrant children, such as **Sports : a tool for participation, integration and wellbeing for youth and unaccompanied minors** (September 8, by Lorène Métral), and **The right to enjoy the best possible state of health** (November 2, by Aline Sermet). The Alliance also took a stand on the **reform in the field of asylum policy** in Switzerland (in the framework of the consultation procedure).



The high point of the 2017 autumn semester for the ADEM was its **annual colloquium**, which took place on December 7 at the BERNEXPO centre in Bern. The event was organized by the Swiss Red-Cross and the Support for Torture Victims group around the theme

"Overcoming trauma: outlooks for children and youth migrants". The event brought together more than 300 people. The main ideas developed during the conference were broadcast "live" thanks to the hashtag [#conf17](#) (French) and [#nft17](#) (German). You can also watch and listen to some small talks in this [video](#). [Six final recommendations](#) were put forth with the aim of bettering the quality of support and care provided to children and youth having experienced trauma (about medical care, legal representation, housing, education, security, social life and participation).



© Swiss Red-Cross

The ADEM participated in the press conference with other organizations that advocate for rights and dignity for migrants in the framework of the crossing of the [Bainvegni Fugitivs](#) March in Valais. You can watch the televised programme broadcast on [Canal 9](#) on this occasion.

CRNS

Mrs Flavia Frei left the presidency of the [Child Rights Network Switzerland](#) (CRNS) in order to be replaced ad interim by the vice-president, Mrs Lorène Métral of the Terre des hommes Foundation.

The CRNS published an [annual report on the implementation](#) by Switzerland of the recommendations made to the country by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (Concluding Observations). The main points emphasized in 2017 were the protection from discrimination, and marginalisation.

A working group was constituted in view of producing the next alternative report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child. The CRNS also [took a position](#) in the framework of the consultation procedure on the topic of the negotiation of a federal law supporting a national human rights institution (INDH).

Finally, the CRNS was involved in a series of transnational meetings with Austrian and German networks for children's rights. The meetings took place in Vienna, Geneva and Berlin between September 1 2016 and February 28 2018. Discussed topics included ideas, methods and practices for [child participation](#) in the framework of the redaction of the report for the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

SCHR

At the end of August 2017, the [Childhood and Youth Policy](#) thematic cluster of the Swiss Centre of Expertise in Human Rights (SCHR) published its bilingual study entitled [Child-friendly justice: child testimony in the case of civil law placement and in the case of parental expulsion](#).

Since this autumn, a new programme has begun work on the request of the Confederation. [This study](#) aims to establish a comparative report on the implementation of CRC art. 12 in Switzerland (cf. postulate of the Commission for Science, Education and Culture of the National Council, [postulate CSEC-N 14.3382](#)). The SCHR study is mainly dedicated to the fields of health, education, child protection and justice.

On November 30 2017, the Justice and Police thematic cluster organized a conference in Bern on the theme of ["Police measures within the public space involving minors"](#).

SARAH OBERSON FOUNDATION

The Sarah Oberson Foundation collaborated with the School of Social Work in Valais to carry out a quantitative study on juvenile runaways in Valais. During the past years the Foundation has requested the creation of national statistics on child disappearances. This research is a first step. On October 17, the Foundation organized a half-day conference to present this project to professional networks. The project is called [Runaways in Valais: radiography of the phenomenon](#).

In addition, on November 20 2017, the primary school of St-Maurice/Lavey and the Sarah Oberson Foundation (FSO) celebrated the International Day of Children's Rights and the 20-year anniversary of the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child by Switzerland around the theme of diversity: [Celebrating diversity at the St-Maurice school!](#) As of the beginning of the school year and throughout the autumn, teachers and the Foundation collaborated to organize the anniversary. Pupils worked on the bases of educational materials provided by the IDE that aim to promote the implementation of the CRC on the national level in school environments. The pupils participated in a number of activities including photography, painting, singing, tasting, narrating, etc. Families from the St-Maurice community took in their work and enjoyed the festive atmosphere.

VEILLARD-CYBULSKI ASSOCIATION

The [Veillard-Cybulski Fund Association](#) brought together some 90 people on the occasion of the discussion forum ["Cannabis and adolescents: new approaches. What about interdiction?"](#). The event took place on November 7 in Lausanne. An [editorial](#) about the event was published on the website [www.childsrights.org](#).

