



## IDE News n°39 January 2019

### EDITORIAL

2018 has been a busy year for the International Institute for the Rights of the Child (IDE) as a significant transition has begun. Indeed, the IDE has decided to refocus its strategies around its priority areas, in short, training at the academic level, while developing new perspectives that you can discover throughout 2019.

Thirty years after the creation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the academic expertise acquired by IDE and its international network of experts remains a unique added value in Switzerland in the field of children's rights. The conditions under which IDE has emerged, however, have evolved, both at the contextual level and at the level of the content proposed. These conditions force the organization to refocus its activities in 2019 and, unfortunately, to reduce some of its workforce.

Refocusing activities will have no impact on key IDE programs. The Certificates of Advanced Studies (CAS) in juvenile justice in Latin America and in protection and children's rights in West Africa will be maintained, as will the pedagogical support for Swiss schools and the organization of 30 years of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in the Valais and Switzerland.

New opportunities will emerge in 2019, in the field of action research, in the development of tools and methodologies in children's rights and in juvenile justice training. This is thanks to the partnership with the University of Geneva - the Interfaculty Center for the Children's Rights, and the one recently concluded with the Terre des hommes Foundation - Helping children worldwide (Lausanne). An evolution that is part of its continuity.

Although the need to reduce our staff is painful for the IDE team and for the cause of children's rights, IDE is convinced that the strategy adopted is not only in response to the growing need for research and sharp reflection on the rights of the child, but also guarantees the maintenance and development of IDE activities.

To all of you, dear friends of children's rights, I wish a happy new year in 2019.

**Paola Riva Gapany**

This edition of IDE News, which will also be the last in the series, reports on the work done during the period from June 2018 to January 2019, in the following order:

-  raising awareness
-  professional training
-  network

We thank you for your loyalty throughout these years and wish you a good read!

### RAISING AWARENESS

#### DAY OF THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD



The **Child Participation Meetings** brought together professionals and young people in Geneva on November 13-14 to update theoretical and practical tools and examples for effective participation in various fields. Special attention has been given to children in situations of vulnerability (disability, migration, early childhood). Dialogue and communication with young people to "create bonds and trust," as evoked by the youth delegate from Valais Cédric Bonnébault, is undoubtedly the first step towards participation. With this in mind, it is necessary to set up organizations such as youth councils and to organize meetings with the politicians in the framework of consultative processes so that the expectations and needs of the children can be understood in the best possible way, with actions in their best interests. Drawings, discussion groups, votes, interviews and questionnaires, the tools of participation are various and can be adapted to children of all ages.



Ireland, a leading example of child participation, has 34 local youth councils as well as a national youth parliament. National consultations with children and youth forums are also regularly organized as part of political decision-making. This right still goes against adultism, time constraints and representativeness of the groups of young people consulted. However, the benefits of children's participation are substantial. These participatory methods help anchor policies and decision-making processes in the reality of a child's life while promoting citizenship and active inclusion of young people.



### TEACHING MATERIAL

This year, IDE's prepared **teaching material** for schools to work on in class on November 20th focused on the link between children's rights and climate change. During the launch, it received good media coverage, mainly on the German side of Switzerland.

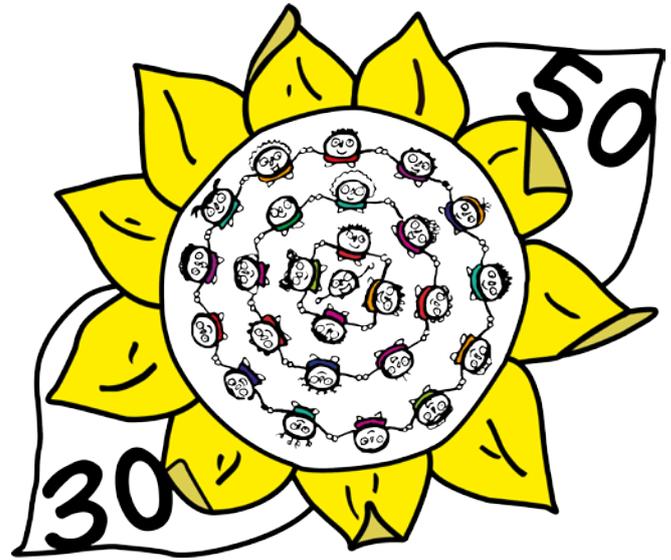
Environmental threats weigh disproportionately on children because of their physical and social vulnerability. Likewise, they will have to live with the consequences of climate change, which is getting worse. They have a greater ability to adapt to change, with a freedom of thought not hampered by established ideas and closed thought patterns, they can more easily move through the unknown and dare to adopt innovative solutions.

Children's rights provide them with tools to participate in the search for solutions that our society is seeking to bring to this issue. The activities proposed adapted to each cycle of compulsory schooling in which these tools can be put into practice. The first activity of all cycles (optional) highlights the effect of greenhouse gases; activity 2, adaptation to the heat wave and the rights of the affected children; activity 3, mitigation through daily eco-gestures and participatory children's rights and activity 4, putting children's rights into

practice through a project on education for sustainable development.

This material is downloadable for free on [the IDE website](#).

### CARAVANE 30-50



Noting that 2019 would be both the year of the 50 years of the traveling educational board from the Valais and the 30 years of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the IDE and the canton of Valais have joined in a caravan-birthday project. Launched by a press conference on November 20th, 2018, the latter will go up the Rhône symbolically, for one year, with six key stages in Monthey (**Castalie**), Martigny (**FOVAHM Boutique-Hotel and City**), Sion (**Radiobus**), Savièse (**Schools**), Naters (**World Nature Forum**) and a final public event in Sierre (**HES-SO**) on November 20th, 2019. In each of these places, various events with a focus on participation will take place with the aim of highlighting what has been achieved in Valais in 50 years in the field of integration of children with disabilities, to probe the current needs of professionals, concerned parents and children and generate a commitment to **all** vulnerable children at **all** ages.



The youth delegate of the canton is associated with the project. The caravan also aims to encourage the emergence of future actions, such as youth-led projects that can be submitted to the Cantonal Youth Commission.

The first stop of the caravan will take place in the afternoon of February 6th, at Castalie. The active participation of all young people, with and without disabilities, will be at the heart of the discussions. They will discuss themes about "Living together" and "What are my rights?" Their productions, which will take various forms, from drawing to film, to painting or cooking will be created for an audience of parents and professionals invited for the occasion. The directorates of the specialized institutions and associations, a group of pediatricians, the association of the principals of the primary schools, the association of the Valais communes and the association of the structures of the early childhood are also invited to this event.

Follow the caravan on [www.caravane30-50.ch](http://www.caravane30-50.ch) (website under construction)

On facebook: [@caravanne30-50](https://www.facebook.com/caravane30-50) @caravanniversaire

### **MAY SYMPOSIUM**

The annual symposium organized in spring by the Interfaculty Center for the Rights of the Child of the University of Geneva, with the participation of IDE, will be held on May 2nd and 3rd, 2019 on the theme: "Between religions and education, what is the autonomy of the child?" Book the date!

### **SUMMER UNIVERSITY**



And to take advantage of the summer in a constructive way, do not miss out on this opportunity to register for the [Summer School on the Rights of the Child](#) which will take place from June 17th to 28th, 2019 as part of the [Geneva Summer Schools](#) and with the title Children at the Heart of Human Rights.

## **TRAINING**

### **ACADEMIC TRAINING ABROAD**

#### **WEST AFRICA**

The first module of the [Certificate of Continuing Education in Protection and Rights of the Child](#) for professionals from all walks of life working with and for children in West Africa took place from December 10th to 14th, 2018 in Dakar, Senegal with 20 participants. Unique in its kind, this training is the result of a

collaboration between the Institute of Human Rights and Peace of the University Cheikh Anta Diop in Dakar (UCAD), the Interfaculty Center for the Rights of the Child of the University of Geneva and the International Institute for the Rights of the Child.



The curriculum is divided into four modules, three face-to-face modules (Dakar / Senegal) and one distance learning. It is organized around four main poles: "Introduction to the rights of the child", "Child protection in the face of local realities", "Methodology" and "The child and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)."

### **ONLINE TRAINING**

#### **PANAMA/LATIN AMERICA**

The second goal of the [Certificate of Advanced Studies in juvenile justice via e-learning for Latin America](#) began on October 1st with 24 students from the following countries: Bolivia, Costa Rica, Switzerland, Spain, Peru, Chile, Uruguay, Ecuador, Brazil, Dominican Republic, Colombia, Argentina, Panama, Honduras and Paraguay. Intended for professionals involved in interventions related to the rights of children in conflict with the law, victims or witnesses: police, prosecutors, judges, lawyers, staff of institutions and penitentiary, educators, psychologists, doctors, criminologists, professionals of migration, researchers, this CAS in Spanish is the result of a collaboration between IDE, CIDE and Terre des hommes.

#### **SOMALIA**

"Through the Horn of Africa: Take Action for the Rights of the Child": The e-learning video to introduce children's rights for professionals working in the Horn of Africa will be completed soon! Working closely with grassroots actors, IDE has been able to work with local partners and civil society stakeholders in the region to best meet the needs of future participants and share best practices. International experts, such as members of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, also participated in the project. The teaser for the e-learning videos will be available soon [on our website!](#)

### **"CUSTOMIZED" TRAINING**

#### **BULGARIA**

In Bulgaria, the last add-on module requested by the Ministry of Justice as part of the program to strengthen

the juvenile justice system was held the week of September 17 in Stara Zagora, on the theme of child's hearings. Aline Sermet went on site with an inspector from the canton of Vaud and a psychocriminologist from the canton of Neuchâtel. The following week, Paola Riva Gapany also traveled to Bulgaria for the final conference of this program started in 2015.

## **IVORY COAST**



From December 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup>, actors from the formal and traditional justice systems of West Africa gathered for a round table discussion on the practice of criminal and civil mediation for children. People from the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso, Mali, Guinea Conakry, Mauritania, Benin and Senegal were invited to participate. Michel Lachat, former juvenile judge, pioneer in the implementation of juvenile criminal mediation in the canton of Fribourg (Switzerland) provided external insights to the West African context. This round table was organized by IDE with the Mediator of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire and the Terre des hommes Foundation - Helping children worldwide (Tdh).

## **SENEGAL: JUVENILE JUSTICE TRAINERS**



The fourth and final module of the **training for trainers in juvenile justice (FFJJ3)** organized for Senegal with the Swiss Embassy in that country and the Judicial Training Center of Dakar took place in Switzerland, Sion and Geneva, from June 25<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup>. Many visits and meetings were held with experts in the field: closed centers for adolescents, juvenile courts, open institutions, miners' brigade, etc. A training that will likely be renewed in the future.

## **NETWORK**

### **ADEM**

During the second half of 2018, the Alliance for the Rights of Migrant Children (ADEM), which unites IDE, the Swiss Foundation for International Social Work and the Terre des hommes Foundation - Help the Children has issued several positions. On October 12<sup>th</sup>, the organization congratulated the Confederation and the cantons for the **Integration Agenda**, within the framework of the consultation procedure in which it was able to participate. On November 28<sup>th</sup>, ADEM took a stand in favor of Switzerland's approval of the **Global Compact on Migration**. On October 25<sup>th</sup>, ADEM informed the media of its **concerns regarding the care** of young migrants. The press release gave rise to several articles ([watson.ch](http://watson.ch), [luzernerzeitung.asile.ch](http://luzernerzeitung.asile.ch)). On the occasion of World Mental Health Day on October 10<sup>th</sup>, the ADEM also recalled the situation of psychological vulnerability in which migrant children find themselves. It was also displayed as part of the campaign **"against the anti-human rights initiative."**

The ADEM's annual conference brought together around 150 people on November 28<sup>th</sup> in Bern, around the theme: **"The integration of children and young migrants: what issues are there for professionals?"** By bringing together the experts in the field, while giving way to testimonials, the purpose of this symposium was to clarify the role of professionals in the integration process (legal, social, academic, professional and participative angles) and resulted in **seven resolutions** - developed with the help of young migrants - to guide practices. Equal opportunities, basic education, training, access to leisure activities, accompaniment to adulthood, legal certainty and participation are the rights of migrant children who have thus been reaffirmed and clarified.

More information on the Alliance for the Rights of Migrant Children: [www.enfants.migrants.ch](http://www.enfants.migrants.ch)  
On this site, you will also find practical tools such as the **Handbook for the care of unaccompanied children**, the **Cartography of the cantonal structures of taking into account the MNA** or the **Catalog of Good Practices** produced by the International Social Service.

### **CRNS**

On December 19<sup>th</sup>, The **Child Rights Network Switzerland** voted on a **group of measures** decided by Switzerland to implement the recommendations of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC), unveiled by the Confederation on the same day. The commitment of the Confederation was hailed but qualified as too **shy and selective**. As in recent years, a **2018 report** on the implementation of the recommendations has also been published on the occasion of the International Day of the Rights of the Child.

The network also continued to focus on one of its main tasks, namely the preparation of the NGO report for the CDE. To this end, a working group met twice in 2018. Members were consulted on a draft list of urgent

issues of concern, which will enable the CRNS to contribute to the "List of Issues Prior to Reporting" to be developed by the CDE, according to the new simplified reporting procedure.

In parallel, a group was formed to prepare the report of children and young people, a first in Switzerland!

## VEILLARD CYBULSKI FUND



The 2018 Veillard-Cybulski Fund Association **Forum** titled: "**Sexy, my selfie! Flirt with the norm and the limits of the private life; be careful: danger!**" gathered some 80 people on November 6th at the School of Social Work and Health of Lausanne. It referred to the transposition of normal stages of child development into a borderless digital world and the necessary preventive measures in this context to protect those whose notions of critical thinking and danger are not protected and not yet well matured. In Switzerland, the Swiss Federal Council adopted in 2018 a new National Strategy for the protection of Switzerland against cyber risks in this direction.

On the other hand, the **2018 Veillard-Cybulski Prize** was awarded jointly to Laura Del Nostro and the *Lire Live* Association in Lausanne for the project "Turning pages to turn the page" on the one hand, and to Susanna Borda Carulla for her research, "Child Protection and Social Regulation in Colombia. Ethnology of community homes in Bogota," on the other hand. **More information.**

Nominations for the **2020 Prize** can already be sent to [veillard-cybulski@childrights.org](mailto:veillard-cybulski@childrights.org).

Best Wishes!

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