



IDE News n°30 July 2014

EDITORIAL

TRAINING IN JUVENILE JUSTICE

The International Institute for the Rights of the Child (IDE) was in high demand this Spring 2014 for various courses in juvenile justice, coming from several partners and it also received significant mandates. Thus:

- In **Algeria**, an agreement between the Graduate School of Magistracy, UNICEF Algeria and the IDE leads to a 4-module training for a group of 25 professionals including police, prosecutors, judges, social workers and psychologists. These are to be held in Algiers between May 2014 and January 2015. These professionals are intended to become trainers themselves.
- In **Bulgaria**, at the request of the Ministry of Justice, an agreement was signed for a three-phase program: a) an analysis of the current situation of justice for children in conflict with the law, the compatibility of provisions enforced with international standards as well as the presentation of a report; b) the training of about thirty professionals during the first semester of 2015; and c) the establishment of five specialized courts for children (pilot project) during the second half of 2015 and early 2016. The Swiss Solidarity Fund funds this program.
- In **Bulgaria** again, parallel training will be offered for 25 lawyers who want to specialize in child's rights (second half of 2014), at the request of the NGO **PDJS** and also with Swiss funds.
- In **Tunisia**, following various discussions on the implementation of a project aimed at improving the juvenile justice system, the IDE has organized a specific training on the international standards for members of the steering committee of this project, from the 2nd to the 6th of June 2014. Such training might lead to other expert services offered by the IDE for the benefits of Tunisia.

This leads to some general remarks in regards to juvenile justice, which faces several challenges: firstly the observation that no country remains unscathed by the Committee's consideration of the Rights of the Child on the question of justice juvenile; not all undergo the same kind of criticism, but all must make serious efforts to bring the justice system in line with

international standards. The main recommendations put forward for the countries touch on:

- The poor training of judges (or the lack of training)
- The absence, in many countries, of specialized courts (or their existence only in urban centres, the capital...)
- The poor coordination between intervention agencies (police, prosecutors) and the social services as well as the very sectorial way of working within the judiciary and the services that follow (including institutions). We do not consider the whole intervention, from arrest to the final measures, as a single system; each works for himself. It is necessary that all work together for the children in conflict with the law.
- The still too frequent recourse to the deprivation of liberty (jail and institutions)
- The still very common detention of children with adults
- The questions of diversion, of alternative measures, of inquiry into personal conditions (ad personam) have progressed, but their application is still very inhomogeneous
- The weakness of the judiciary in relation to the situation of child victims and witnesses (children in contact with the law) on the procedural plan, their care and compensation.

It is therefore not surprising that many states are asking for help to reform their juvenile justice system, to specialize it, to make it compatible with international standards and... to humanize it! The IDE takes on this technical assistance, given its particular expertise in this domain. The Institute will also be a privileged partner of the **World Congress on Juvenile Justice** convened by Switzerland and *Terre des hommes* in January 2015 in Geneva.

Jean Zermatten

The year 2014 is very rich in activities for the IDE. The Convention on the Rights of the Child of the United Nations, which is a working tool and reference, celebrates its 25th anniversary with its procession of initiatives and events, often associated with the IDE. An international organization but also anchored locally, the IDE also prepares for the bicentenary entrance of the Valais into the Swiss Confederation (2015). So much so that the International Seminar of Sion, which is usually the par excellence  **awareness** channel of the Institute and is held every October, will not take place in 2014.

The projects in the field of  **training professionals**, especially in the field of juvenile justice in various countries (**see above**), but also those around the support and care of children by the State (Czech Republic) are not lacking. In Switzerland, teachers, educators as well as a constellation of professionals confronted with the child facing justice remain a main target for trainings.

Note that in the context of the integration of the Department of Teaching and the Research of Child's Rights of the University Institute Kurt Bösch (IUKB,

partner of the IDE for several courses and projects) and the University of Geneva in an "Interdisciplinary Centre for the Rights of the Child - ICRC", a number of adjustments also involve members of the Institute.

As for the  **network** of the IDE, it continues to grow and produce collaborations, as a result of its activities.

Happy reading!

AWARENESS RAISING

INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR

See you in 2015 for the next edition of the **International October Seminar** in Sion.

The **proceedings of the 2013 Seminar** on sex tourism involving children can now be ordered on our website.

25 YEARS OF THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

The anniversary of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (20th of November) will be celebrated this year by showcasing the "silent revolution" that led to 25 years of child's rights. A two-day **conference** is scheduled for November 20th and 21st in Geneva, in collaboration with the city at the end of the lake, which has declared 2014 to be the "Year of the Child in Geneva City."

HUMAN RIGHTS WEEK

This year, the IDE will partner with the Human Rights Week which will be held in Geneva from the 7th to 10th of October. Within the program for this event, which is open to students, are four half-days including Wednesday 8th and Thursday October 9th, which are dedicated specifically to the rights of the child through the following themes: The Child Subject to Rights; the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child of the United Nations on a Communications Procedure (OPIC); the discrimination of girls as well as the "right to a child". To be noted: a key moment of this event will be on Thursday at 17:30, with the participation of children.

SUMMER SCHOOL

The **Geneva Summer School** is underway in Geneva with 20 participants. From June 16th to July 4th it includes mixed pedagogy, dominated by meetings with leading actors in the field of international children's rights as well as visits to governmental and non-governmental organizations active in the field. This English training is provided in collaboration with the University of Geneva on the theme: "The child at the heart of human rights".

SWITZERLAND IN FRONT OF THE CRC

As a founding member of the Child Rights Network Switzerland, the IDE plays a role in the appearance of Switzerland in front of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

Switzerland deposited its 2nd, 3rd and 4th reports to the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) in July 2012 and will likely officially answer questions from committee members in January 2015. Meanwhile, the UN procedure follows its course and the pre-session, during which the voice of civil society can be heard, took place **last June 19th**.

The Child Rights Network Switzerland, including the IDE, was heard and answered various questions of experts, on the basis of its **alternative report**.

MAY SYMPOSIUM

The international May symposium entitled "Children, Families, State: are children's rights in peril?" took place at the University Institute Kurt Bösch on May 22nd and 23rd. The 100 participants and 22 speakers focused on the relationship and the balance between the three entities after 25 years of children's rights. The IDE was a partner to this event, which was organised and held at the IUKB.

CSDH

In **newsletter n°13** of the **Swiss Centre of Expertise in Human Rights (SCHR)**, which will be changing formats in order to treat less themes, but in a more in-depth manner, the "Children and Youth Politics" Cluster (IDE-IUKB) focused on the effects of the national vote on paedophilia and on discrimination against children with disabilities. The Gender politics Cluster carried out a study on FGM/excision.

Sign-up for the CSDH **Newsletter** is free of charge.

"IN-HOUSE" TRAINING

Sign-up is open for the next year's programme of **Master of Advanced Studies in Children's Rights**, which will be organized by the Interfaculty Centre for Children's Rights of the University of Geneva (*Centre Interfacultaire en Droits de l'Enfant - CIDE*). The programme will begin on February 2nd 2015. Sign-up will be open until September 30th 2014.

The Certificate for education professionals entitled **Violence, class management and children's rights: intervention strategies**, was initially planned to take place this summer, but has been **postponed** for practical reasons linked to the creation of the CIDE. The programme will begin in July 2015.

The third consecutive year of students studying to obtain their Certificate in Advanced Studies (CAS) in **Child Victims, Child Witnesses: The Child's Word in the Courts** is on-going. The 11 participants will complete the programme in December. The certificate will be included into the programmes on offer by the CIDE.

The sixth consecutive class studying for **Diploma in Child Protection** (2012-2014) came to an end in April. Student work is now being evaluated and diplomas will be given out on October 10th. This DAS will also be included into the trainings offered by the University of Geneva and a seventh class will be launched in 2015.

PROGRAMS ABROAD

SOUTH ASIA

The present political and economic situation in Nepal has delayed the launch of the Certificate in Children's Rights for the region of South Asia. Nevertheless, the IDE is carrying out discussions with its local partner, [Creating Possibilities](#), in order to organize a teaching session on juvenile justice this year for regional professionals in Kathmandu.

CHINA

The report on the carrying out of a first teaching format for life-long learning with the partnership of the [China Welfare Institute](#) and the Academy of social sciences of Shanghai (specifically the Institute of Youth and Juvenile Studies) has been published. Thirty professionals from the field of young childhood partook in this opportunity. A second learning format is planned for September, and remains to be confirmed. The aim would be to gradually work towards the creation of a CAS, DAS, or even a Master.

"TAILOR-MADE" TRAININGS

ALGERIA

The first module of a programme aimed at professionals involved in the care of children in danger and in conflict with the law [took place](#) at the Superior School of Magistrates in Alger from May 25th to 29th. Three other modules aimed at training future trainers are planned.

BULGARIA

A 3-phase programme, including the training of about 30 professionals, the creation of specialized courts for children, and training opportunities for 25 lawyers are in progress. For more details [click here](#).

CZECH REPUBLIC



In the framework of Sub-Project PF134, developed in close collaboration with the Czech NGO [Ceskò-britska o.p.s.](#), the [International Social Service](#) and the IDE, and with the assistance of the Swiss Confederation a Czech delegation came to Sion in February

On May 6th and 7th, two [conferences took place in Brnò](#) (Czech Republic), in order to discuss important questions in children's rights, especially regarding situations when protective decisions need to be made.

SÉNÉGAL



The fifth training module in juvenile justice for judges, prosecutors, lawyers, police and penitentiary agents, and social workers took place in Sion, Fribourg and Geneva, from April 28th to May 2nd. It is the end of this programme launched last year for future trainers, organized in collaboration with the Centre of judicial training in Dakar, with the support of the Swiss Confederation.

TADJIKISTAN



A delegation of Tadjik judges, prosecutors and lawyers, who are part of an inter-institutional working group on juvenile justice, came to follow courses on justice for children at the IDE from January 21st to 25th 2014. This was a tailor-made learning opportunity which was created at the request of UNICEF.

TUNISIA

Thirteen members of the pilot committee of a project carried out in Tunisia with the support of UNICEF and the financing of European Union, in order to reinforce the system of juvenile justice visited the IDE from the 2nd to the 6th of June. A tailor-made training opportunity, which objective was to reinforce the

capacity of its participants in the field of child justice, from inter-sectorial coordination to working with the network. [Click here to hear interviews with participants.](#)



NETWORK

GALA EVENT

The IDE has had the privilege of being the fourth beneficiary of the gala event of support, organized by the "[à deux mains](#)" ([two-handed](#)) association on May 10th 2014, in Monthey. A big thank you to all participants!

SARAH OBERSON FOUNDATION

Staying true to its beginnings, the [Sarah Oberson Foundation](#) celebrated the International Day of Disappeared Children on May 25th. [Click here to read the Editorial by Clara Balestra.](#)

The annual evening event 2014 of the Sarah Oberson Foundation will take place on Wednesday, the 12th November at the Saxon Casino, on the theme:

"Separation of parents, disappearance of children: after legal norm, social work."

ASSOCIATION VEILLARD-CYBULSKI FUND

The annual forum of the [Veillard-Cybulski Fund Association](#) took place on April 8th 2014 in Lausanne, around the topic of the "shared secret". The talk centred on the exchange of good practices and the will to share narratives of what is being done in Western Switzerland on the topic, which gathered more than 50 persons.

Group work appeared to be fundamental, and within the strict unit, could bring together different disciplines and persons working together in the long-term toward a common goal, and can be brought to share information of a secret nature concerning a child or youth. The question of what is necessary to reveal is acutely felt by all participants, but could be resolved through the child's consent. Jean Zermatten called out, in his concluding remarks, to a greater involvement of children in this process. [Click here to read the summary in seven points \(in French\).](#)

Best Regards,

The IDE Team

*Jean Zermatten, Paola Riva Gapany, Michel Lachat,
Daniel Stoecklin, Andressa Curry Messer,
Evelyne Monnay, Elvira Fischer, Alexandra Prince,
Zikreta Ukic, Mieszko Marchand, Corinne Bruttin,
Viviane Michellod, Julie André, Frédéric Darbellay,
Céline Morisod, Daniel Burnat, Diana Volonakis,
Dania Marti, Manuela Berger, Lucas Imhof,
Olga Lucia Poretti, Linda Rodriguez, Ana Miràs,
Marina Stoffel, Fanny Balmer and Stéphanie Geiser for
the Child Rights Network Switzerland,
Clara Balestra for the Sarah Oberson Foundation.*