



IDE News n° 31 December 2014

EDITORIAL

It was in autumn of 1994 that the idea to create an academic study of children's rights first emerged in Sion/Bramois, however, without great success. At that time, the Convention on the Rights of the Child was only a few years old and its voice was largely ignored! It was, therefore, not surprising that no one wanted to support an initiative that appeared to be so absurd...

However, a year later, in 1995, a few rather stubborn pioneers, decided to give a voice to children and to create the International Institute for the Rights of the Child (IDE) Foundation, with the aim of bringing awareness to the Convention, to disseminate and explain its contents. This beautiful idea materialised slowly and gradually transformed into conviction that the training of professionals could be the key to the implementation of children's rights, the key to their respect. In a more complex manner: that the fate of children could be changed. Child's rights had found a path!

The institute has been successful in helping governments, major international organisations, the UN-related or others, to realise that without training, strengthening of human resources, establishing a shared common language, and forming universally recognised values, the obligations found under the Convention will be difficult to fulfil. From then on, many universities or institutes of higher education have discovered children's rights and have opened pathways for players in the field. This is very rewarding and the IDE is very pleased to have, along with other organizations, triggered this movement.

In the future the IDE will continue to pursue its mission and has decided on an ambitious strategy both locally and abroad. They have developed certificates in Child's Rights in West Africa, Southeast Asia and have responded to numerous requests from various partners (governments and NGOs) for customised trainings. Locally, they have worked in close collaboration with the Interfaculty Centre on Children's Rights (CIDE) at the University of Geneva in order to promote existing trainings and to launch new projects, which are already abundant.

The full implementation, wise and respectful, of child's rights remains a challenge for governments, NGOs, adults... and children who are considered actors in their own futures. When the new management takes over the reins of the IDE, there is no doubt that this

institute will continue its mission, in collaboration with all willing partners, as it is true that nothing is done alone.

I give all my best wishes to the new IDE team for a serene and fruitful 2015... and many more years after that, because I am convinced that children need the profound action and fundamental help of an organisation like this one!

Jean Zermatten

As you can see, our devoted director and captain of the IDE ship releases the baton. As of the 1st of January 2015, the IDE will be under the leadership of a woman, the current deputy director of the IDE, Paola Riva-Gapany, as we continue to navigate the ocean of children's rights. On the 13th of October she was **officially designated** by the Board of Trustees of the International Institute for the Rights of the Child to succeed Jean Zermatten. We wish her every success in this new mission!

By appointing her to this position, continuity was prioritized by the Board of Trustees. On the menu, you will find actions for **raising awareness**, **professional training**, as well as the maintenance of a large **network**.

Enjoy this newsletter and we wish you all the best for the New Year!

AWARENESS

25 YEARS OF THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD



The anniversary of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) was celebrated in style during a **two-day conference (20-21 November)** at the International Conference Center in Geneva. Close to 600 participants per day responded to the invitation of the City of Geneva, the IDE and the IUKB, on the theme of the "silent revolution", which operated for 25 years on the rights of the child.

Visit the [photo gallery](#).

The results of a **survey on children's perceptions of their rights** completed by children aged 10 to 12 in schools in Geneva, led by the IDE and the IUKB in the context of the initiative "2014, Year of the Child in the

City of Genève were also presented at this symposium. With this anniversary project, the city aims to improve the environment for children based on the principles established by the CRC.



Read the [minutes from the City of Geneva](#).



HUMAN RIGHTS WEEK

Also in Geneva, the IDE participated as a partner during the [Human Rights Week](#) at the University of Geneva, which took place from the 7th to the 10th of October. The Institute organized a large birthday party for "Madame Conventiofl (Rights of the Child, 25 years) on Thursday the 9th of October. A sharp scientific symposium was held over two days, with the participation of the management of the IDE. The week ended with the ceremony of [Dies Academicus](#), during which the director of the IDE, Jean Zermatten, received an honorary doctorate from the University of Geneva.

Photo gallery of the [Human Rights Week](#).

STAR 2015

The bicentenary festivities of the entrance of the canton of Valais into the Swiss Confederation were [officially launched](#) at a press conference on the 25th of November. The [research project of the IDE / IUKB](#) that was selected for this anniversary, called "*The child in the Valais from 1815 to 2015. From Jean-Baptiste, the little goatherd, to Ana Luisa, the connected teenager*", will see the light of day for the first time on the 6th and 7th of May 2015, during the conference organized in collaboration with the IUKB, which will be devoted to this topic. The research will run until April

31st, 2016, under the leadership of Jean-Henri Papilloud.

IDE-RTS AWARD

Reminder! The students, classes and schools in Switzerland have until the 1st of June to deliver projects for the IDE-RTS award for the rights of the child. At stake: a total of CHF 5000 for the realization of the winning project. [More information](#).

SCHR

The thematic area of [Policy for childhood and youth](#) from the [Swiss Centre of Expertise in Human Rights \(SCHR\)](#) is currently working on a "*Study on the first effects of the new law on child protection*". This is an analysis of the practices of the protection authorities as well as actors and institutions collaborating with them in the cantons of VD, GE and ZH. The results of the study, based on semi-structured interviews, will be available in early 2015.

The SCHR, which is a [pilot project](#) of the Confederation until 2015, needs to be [evaluated](#).

TRAINING "WITHIN THE WALLS"

The next batch for the [Master of Advanced Studies in Children's Rights \(MCR\)](#) will be organized in 2015-2016 by the new Interfaculty Centre on Children's Rights (CIDE, University of Geneva). The masters will begin on the 2nd of February 2015 in Sion (UNIGE Valais Campus). Registrations are still open but please contact MCR's secretariat mcr@iukb.ch in order to know the availabilities prior of sending a registration form. In November, 3 students of the 2013-2014 class defended their thesis and obtained their Master.

For the [Interdisciplinary Masters Degree in Children's Rights \(MIDE\)](#), there are 31 students who began their studies in September.

On the 10th of October, 8 diplomas were awarded as part of the [Diploma in Child Protection](#). The next batch will be launched in 2015.

The Certificate of Advanced Studies (CAS) "[Violence, Classroom Management and Children's Rights](#)" for teaching staff and people in the field of education, will begin in July 2015 in collaboration with the CIDE and the University of Geneva.

The third batch of the Certificate of Advanced Studies (CAS) [Child victims, child witnesses: The Words of the Child in Justice](#), is coming to an end. The 11 participants will submit their projects by the month of March 2015.

PROGRAMMES ABROAD

CHINA

The Chinese pages of the IDE website have been adapted in accordance with the new design.

A new training module in Shanghai was planned for May 2015 in collaboration with the Academy of Social Sciences, Shanghai (SASS), during the visit of professors Yang Xiong and Cheng Fucai in Geneva. They participated with representatives of the IDE to a colloquium during the Human Rights Week from the 7th to the 10th of October 2014.

Steps have been taken with the continued education department at the University of Geneva, to explore joint training possibilities in the area of Child's Rights in China.

"CUSTOM MADE" TRAINING

ST-RAPHAEL INSTITUTE

The IDE has completed the fundamental training on the Rights of the Child, which was provided to all staff at the **St-Raphael Institute** of special education, one of its long-time partners, (approximately 80 employees). The idea of this mandate was to promote respectful behaviour of children with all professional staff, from the cleaning staff, through to the teachers and the management. The St-Raphael Institute hosts hundreds of girls and boys aged 10 to 18.

The last two of four 2-day sessions were held on the 2nd and 3rd of October and the 13th and 14th of November. The evaluation of the experiment is on-going.

ALGERIA

The second and third module (of four) of a program for professionals involved in the care of children at risk and in conflict with the law (training of future trainers) took place at the School of Magistrates of Algiers from September 28th to October 2nd and November 23rd to 27th.

BULGARIA

A three-phase programme to strengthen the legal and institutional capacity of the judiciary system in relation to juvenile justice is brought to Bulgaria, in partnership with the Ministry of Justice. An analysis of the current system has already taken place. The training of approximately thirty professionals, as of February 2015, will follow this. Finally, specialized courts for children will be created.

In parallel and in collaboration with the NGO **PDJS**, the IDE has trained 22 lawyers to be specialized in the rights of the child over two modules (from the 13th to 19th of July and the 19th to 25th of October). A working visit to Switzerland is planned for this Bulgarian group in September 2015.

NETWORK

GENERAL DISCUSSION DAY

The IDE attended the **General Discussion Day** of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, which was themed "Digital media and Children's Rights" this year.

Interesting contacts were made for a future seminar on this issue.

Read the **editorial** by Audrey Parvex.

SARAH OBERSON FOUNDATION

At the beginning of November, the Sarah Oberson Foundation launched a vast **information campaign** for schools in the French-speaking part of the Valais, to prevent child abduction and to enable a quick alarm triggers in case of need as well as to reassure parents. 45'000 flyers, created in collaboration with the canton, containing one side addressing parents and teachers (*Did your child not come home?*) and the other side addressing children (*Advice for children*) were sent to day-care centres, kindergartens, primary schools and specialized institutions.



Moreover, the **Annual Sarah Oberson Evening** was held on November 12th at the Saxon Casino, with the theme: *"Children and separation: the situation described and suggested interventions"*. It was a success, both from the point of view of the content and the crowd: more than 130 people (professionals, students and parents) gathered around the scheduled experts.

ASSOCIATION FUND VEILLARD-CYBULSKI

The Veillard-Cybulski Award 2014 was given on the 20th of November in Geneva by Xavier Lavanchy, the President of the Association, during the conference organized for the 25th anniversary of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. The Association Arte Libera, for the publishing of the comic *"Des sportifs très à droits"*, from the illustrator Trinco and Mister Numa Graa, for his doctoral thesis *"History of the juvenile criminal law in the canton of Vaud: 1803-1942"* were "tied" in the eyes of the jury.



Discover [the winners](#) and learn more about [how to participate](#) for this award on the IDE website.

May the year 2015 be sweet and beautiful for you, as well as all the children and their supporters!

The IDE Team:

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