



IDE News n°32 June 2015

EDITORIAL

20 years ago...

2015 is a year full of memories for the International Institute for the Rights of the Child.

Indeed, on the 10th of May 1995, The IDE was carried to the baptismal font by both parents, the International Association of Youth and Family Judges and Magistrates (IAYFJM) - two of whom became the founding members of the IDE, namely Dr. Hc Jean Zermatten and Mr. Michel Lachat – as well as the University Institute Kurt Bösch (IUKB) that still shares its premises with the IDE team. It is therefore natural that the IDE, on May 8th, invited their friends to share their birthday cake.



A long path over 20 years...

From a small group of enthusiastic volunteers, the IDE now relies on a team of 15 people not counting translators and student interns. Indeed, the IDE has trained more than fifty people from Switzerland, Germany, France, Italy, Spain, Algeria, Senegal, Burma, Brazil, Colombia and Canada.

From one international seminar every October, the IDE now organizes two additional major annual events, namely the **May symposium** and the celebration of the **International day of children's rights**. To overcome a lack of knowledge on children's rights, the IDE has been an innovator and created five academic

diploma courses for professionals working with children, including one that began in May 2015 in **West Africa**, in collaboration with the University of Geneva.

In support of its activities and to meet demand of its network, the IDE has opened an office in Geneva, responsible, amongst other activities, for the celebrations of the 20th of November and the collaboration with the city and canton of Geneva. The IDE is currently working in Switzerland, the Czech Republic, West Africa through Senegal, Nepal, China and Latin America via Panama.

The IDE is, above all, **a team, a spirit, and a network**. Indeed, it is thanks to many loyal partners that so many projects have emerged. In this time of celebration, it is to them that the IDE expresses gratitude and recognition. May they all be thanked. Let the adventure of children's rights continue, all together, and long live the IDE!

Paola Riva Gapany

In this 32nd edition of the IDE News, you will find the essentials on the projects underway since December 2014, be it **awareness raising**, **professional training** or activities related to the **network**.

Enjoy reading!

AWARENESS RAISING

STAR 2015



The first highlight of the **grand project of the IDE** for the occasion of the bicentenary of the entrance of the canton of Valais into the Swiss Confederation took place on the 6th and 7th of May 2015. The **May Symposium** organized in collaboration with the Centre for Children's Rights Studies of the University of Geneva (CCRS) took place the form of a seminar this year, bringing together all the researchers involved in the project "*Children in the Valais from 1815 to 2015. From Jean-Baptiste, the little goatherd to Ana Luisa, the inter-connected teenager*", as well as contemporary witnesses and an interested public.

For two days, researchers pooled their initial findings under the leadership of project manager and former director of the Médiathèque Valais (Martigny), Mr. Jean-Henri Papilloud. Through four thematic workshops (health, placement and institutions, protection and integration, cross-cutting themes), they could specify, redirect, confirm their respective areas of research with a view of arriving at a coherent and complete picture in April 2016 (end of the project). Testimonials complemented the research to make this conference a rich time of teaching and emotions.

Photo Gallery.

Following this, rendezvous on the 7th and 8th of August at the Espace des Remparts in Sion, for the official "**Sion vibrates**" days of the Bicentennial. The twelve "star projects", including that of IDE, will be presented in small houses, as well as with the screening of a one-hour feature film at the Place du Midi.

During the month of November (18th, 19th and 20th), a second symposium is planned. This time on a larger scale and with a global reach. Two days of conferences will present the studies and promote research. The event will culminate on the 20th of November, the **International Day of the Rights of the Child**, where children and adolescents will be involved and events specifically tailored to the youth will take place.

👉 GENEVA SUMMER SCHOOL



From June 8th to 19th, the IDE partnered with the University of Geneva (CCRS) for the **Geneva Summer School 2015: "Children at the heart of human rights"**. Twenty-two people from all over the world participated in these courses with joy and good humor.

👉 CHILDREN'S RIGHTS CARAVAN

The **Summer University** that brought happiness to its participants in 2010 and 2012 will hit the road again, from the 9th to the 16th of September 2015! From Brussels to Geneva, via Strasbourg and Sion, people who register on this study tour will discover the major European and UN institutions related to the rights of the child in a unique way.

This project is the result of a partnership between the Defence for Children International (DCI) in Belgium, the IDE, Dynamo International Belgium, the CCRS and

the Belgian and French *Journal du droit des jeunes* (newspapers for the rights of youth).

Information and registration:
www.caravane2015.eu

👉 THE 20TH OF NOVEMBER

Alongside the events related to the key projects that are to be held during the International Day of Children's Rights on the 20th of November (see **above**), the Geneva branch of the IDE will organize a one-day symposium on the theme of joint parental authority, in partnership with the **International Social Service**.

Since the 1st of July 2014, the Joint Parental Authority (APC) has become the rule in Switzerland, for married parents as well as for single, separated and divorced parents. Therefore many questions arise from the public to challenge professionals: what about the implementation of the APC, after a year, in regards to the child and his or her rights? Should joint custody be encouraged by the law? Moving both within Switzerland, as well as abroad, is subject to the authorization of both parents: What is the role of the professionals? What can mediation bring? How can child abduction be prevented?

These questions, amongst others, will be discussed and we invite professionals working with children in western Switzerland to sign up to this day. The detailed program will follow. Save the date!

On the other hand, note that **proceedings of the symposium "The Silent Revolution, 25 years of the Rights of the Child"**, held on the 20th and 21st of November 2014, in collaboration with the City of Geneva, for the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the UN Convention on the Rights of the child, has appeared!

👉 CONCERT OF THE 7TH OF MARCH IN VÉTROZ



On March the 7th in Vétroz (Valais, Switzerland) the IDE celebrated with music the retirement of its founder and director Jean Zermatten, through a great concert for the benefit of a pedagogical education program of the IDE. A choir of a hundred local children shared the

stage with the Corsican singer Eric Mattei and more than 800 people were present.

A DVD of the concert will be available soon. For orders email: info@childsrights.org

Visit the [photo gallery](#).

SCHR

The study carried out by the Swiss Centre of Expertise in Human Rights (SCHR), entitled "The child's right to protection. First effects of implementation in cantons Geneva, Vaud and Zurich", was [published](#) online on the 19th of March.

The [Children and Youth Policy](#) cluster, led conjointly by the IDE and the CCRS, also co-authored an [article on the theme of surrogate motherhood](#) together with the [Gender politics](#) cluster. This article was published in May.

Concerning the follow-up of the SCHR [pilot project](#) (and its eventual transformation into a national, independent human rights institution, see documentation available on [humanrights.ch](#)), the Federal Council will render its decision this summer. In its foreword to its [2014 annual report](#), the Director of the SCHR, Mr. Walter Kälin, reflects on the initial expectations concerning the project at its creation, and takes stock of the way in which the SCHR has responded to these expectations in the last four years.

TRAININGS

ABROAD

WEST AFRICA



The new [Certificate in Protection and Rights of the Child](#) is available [since May](#) out of Senegal for child protection professionals in all of West Africa. 34 participants from 15 countries of West and Central Africa partook in the training at the Centre for Legal Training (CFJ) in Dakar.

CHINA

From the 25th to the 29th of May, the IDE, the [Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences \(SASS\)](#) and the central level of the Ministry of Chinese Civil Affairs (MCA) conjointly organized a seminary entitled "*Child Protection in China: Theory and Practice*", with the support of [UNICEF-China](#), [Save the Children China](#)

[Program](#), and the NGO [Morning Tears](#). The seminary brought together 154 people (including MCA officials from all 31 Chinese provinces, and 5 international experts from Belgium, Hungary, Hong-Kong, Switzerland and Taiwan) and 1 expert from continental China (Canton). Avenues were explored for the development of a certificate of advanced studies in children's rights, as well as concerning the implementation of the recommendations of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child in response to the report by the Chinese government.



PANAMA/LATIN AMERICA

A [Certificate of advanced studies \(CAS\) in juvenile justice via e-learning](#) will be launched in Latin America in November, in partnership with Terre des Hommes. The training will be given in Spanish, but could be translated into other languages depending on its success rate.

IN SWITZERLAND

A new group of students in the [Master of Advanced Studies in Children's Rights \(MCR\)](#) (2015-2016) started their studies on the 2nd of February in Bramois (UNIGE Valais Campus), under the auspices of the Centre for Children's Rights Studies of the University of Geneva (CCRS). There were about 20 participants.

The fourth class of the CAS entitled "[Child victims, child witnesses: the testimony of children before the justice system](#)", developed for professionals in the fields of law, police and child protection is open for [registration](#) (deadline: 31st of August). Classes will begin on the 23rd and 24th of October 2015.

Last but not least, the next class for the Certificate of advanced studies for teaching personnel entitled "[Violence, class management and children's rights: intervention strategies](#)" will take place in July 2015, in collaboration with the CCRS and the lifelong education department of the University of Geneva. The deadline for [registration](#) for this CAS is the 15th of September.

"A LA CARTE" TRAININGS

RUSSIA

A delegation of high government officials and educational staff for young people in Russia (15

people) came to the IDE from 26th April to first May for a learning visit, and to facilitate an exchange of experiences in the framework of a collaborative project between Switzerland and Russia regarding the deprivation of liberty of children in conflict with the law. The subject of substance abuse was also discussed during the exchange.

BULGARIA

A three-phase programme for the reinforcement of legal and institutional capacities of the judiciary system in regards to juvenile justice is led in **Bulgaria**, in partnership with the Ministry of Justice. Around thirty professionals were trained since the beginning of the year (three modules in January, July and October). At the end of the programme, specialized courts for children will be created.

Also, a delegation of Bulgarian judges whom did not follow the programme will visit the IDE in September in order to learn more about the development of a juvenile court and other institutions linked to juvenile justice.

NETWORK

SWISS NETWORK FOR CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

On the 21st and 22nd of January, the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child heard the Swiss authorities on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (2nd, 3rd and 4th periodic reports presented as one), as well as the optional protocol to the Convention concerning the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (initial report). The IDE participated in the UN process through the **Child Rights Network Switzerland**, of which it is a founding member and which aim was to make heard the voice of civil society.



According to the recommendations published by the Committee on the 4th of February 2015 ("Concluding Observations"), Switzerland can do better, especially in terms of data collection, national coordination, and the systematic training of professionals working with and for children.

For more information: "**The recommendations of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child concerning Switzerland: General challenges**", SCHR, 31st March 2015.

Also note that an awareness raising day on these Concluding Observations will be organised in Geneva, at the Museum of Natural History, on 17th September, by the IDE and the CCRS. The detailed programme and registration slip will be available soon on their websites.

SARAH OBERSON FOUNDATION

The flyer entitled "**Your child did not come home?**" was massively distributed in schools in French-speaking Valais. This allowed the Foundation to initiate a new phase of its campaign: Awareness-raising on different aspects of child disappearances. The **Sarah Oberson annual Dinner 2014**'s theme was devoted to the "**The separation of parents and child disappearance**", and was turned into a publication of the same name. By the end of January 2015, a press release on the subject of child runaways was communicated. This phase was concluded with another press release dated **21st May 2015**, on the subject of kidnapping alerts, the necessity of developing sound national statistics, and scientific research on child disappearance, in order to tackle the phenomenon from all facets. In 2015, the campaign will take place in Haut-Valais.

The Sarah Oberson Foundation's annual Dinner 2015, will take place on the 11th of November on the theme "Being a poor child in Switzerland".

Enjoy the summer!

The IDE team:

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