

## EDITORIAL

2015 was a special year for the IDE: It was a year of transition marked by the establishment of a new Directorship, a new partnership with a donor – The Direction of Development and Cooperation (DDC), and new collaborators joined the team and certain activities were relaunched.

2015 was a special and festive year, during which the IDE celebrated a number of anniversaries: the 20 year anniversary of the organization, the 200 year anniversary of the entry of the Valais Canton into the Swiss Confederation, and last but not least, November 20 marked the traditional anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

2015 was also a special year because the IDE was honoured that one of its founding members, Michel Lachat, a now-retired juvenile court judge, was the recipient of a *Doctorat honoris causa* from the University of Fribourg.

2015 witnessed a number of tragic events which affected the entire world, such as the migrant crisis, or the earthquake in Nepal, which were events that affected and brought the IDE's work under scrutiny. In this troubled context, great obstacles were overcome while demonstrating professionalism and enthusiasm which characterize the IDE's team, who worked with the support of the Foundation Council.

The period leading up to Christmas, Nativity, and its related festivities, is the ideal time to look back at what has been accomplished. Despite the events which shook the planet, a look back at the IDE's activities allows for positive sentiments, as we will let you judge for yourself thanks to this 33<sup>rd</sup> edition of the IDE Newsletter.

To all friends of the IDE, donors, students, members of our network, or simply friends of children: We wish you a wonderful Christmas and New Year, and we look forward to seeing you again in 2016, to honour the cause close to our hearts: children's rights!

**Paola Riva Gapany**

Between July and December 2015, the IDE continued to carry out  **awareness raising** activities, thanks to its  **network**, and also continued to be very active in the field of  **professional training**. Happy reading!

### STAR PROJECT 2015



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The results of the **IDE's major research project** "*The child in Valais from 1815 to 2015. From Jean-Baptiste the little goat herder to Ana Luisa the interconnected adolescent*", lead on the occasion of the anniversary of the entry of canton Valais into the Swiss Confederation, were shared during a **round table in Brig** on November 10, and during a large conference, which was held on November 18, 19, and 20 in Bramois.



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As many as 140 participants and 80 contributors took part in the conference. In addition, school children from Bramois attended the event, as did the student-journalists from a secondary school in St-Guérin (they podcasted their interviews from their **bus**), children from the music school, young people placed in institutions, public conference givers and different artists who provided entertainment during the festivities held on November 20<sup>th</sup>, **the International day of children's rights**.

Consult the **full conference programme** and the **photo gallery**.

The conference was organized in collaboration with the Interfaculty Centre for Children's Rights Studies of the University of Geneva (CIDE), and coordinated by project manager – and ex director of the Mediathec in Martigny, Valais – M. Jean-Henri Papilloud. The conference explored the themes of the child and

childhood in Valais during the past 200 years, through education, training, health and hygiene, protection, orphanages, placed children, work and leisure, and migrations. Intergenerational relations, a transversal issue, were considered highly important since they are currently subject to restructuring.



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In parallel, iconographical research (archival photographs, posters) was presented and contributed to bringing this facet of history to life. The said images will be prominently featured in the final publication, which is scheduled for spring 2016.

## 20 NOVEMBER

On the occasion of the International day of the rights of the child, the Geneva office of the IDE also organized a conference around the theme of **joint parental authority**, in partnership with the **International social service**. 130 people attended the event at the Geneva Museum of Natural History to discuss the theme. The goal was to reflect upon the situation, one year after the entry into force of new legislation regarding joint parental authority. The quality of the speakers and the dialogue on joint parental authority and shared custody from a children's rights perspective was especially lively, and brought up numerous questions, as well as possible solutions. By the end of the day a shared intention was created to organize a national conference in the coming two years, and to create a platform to observe practices (an initiative of the ISS), in order to develop and provide services responding to real needs.

**Watch** some accounts of the conference and participant reactions.

## RECOMMENDATIONS TO SWITZERLAND

Two months ago, on September 17, a **day of awareness raising and discussion** took place regarding the recommendations the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) had directed to Switzerland (Concluding Observations), on February 4 2015. The event brought together 54 participants from all concerned areas of expertise, and also took place at the Geneva Museum of Natural History. M. Bernard Gastaud, co-rapporteur to the UN for Switzerland's CRC report, was also present. **Listen** to his interview (in French).

The day was organized by the IDE, the CIDE and the Child Rights Network Switzerland. The main themes discussed during the event were those of professional training, and possible solutions for achieving better child protection for particularly vulnerable children, such as children with disabilities and migrant and undocumented children.

**Texts and interventions** shared during the event are available in French and German on IDE's website.

## CSDH

On July 1, the Federal Council decided to prolong the mandate of the CSDH as a centre charged to promote the implementation of human rights in Switzerland. The CSDH **will pursue** its mission and its activities until a national institution for human rights is created or otherwise until the end of 2020.

During the **day of public thought**, held on November 9, discussions were led on two points: a retrospective on the pilot phase of the CSDH (2011-2015), and the possibility of creating a national Swiss institution.

It is also noteworthy that two of the CSDH's research domains (Children and Youth Politics, to which the IDE participates, and Migration) are currently undertaking a study on the implementation of the European Council's Guidelines on justice adapted to children, with a focus on child hearings in two specific contexts (placement in civil law and expulsion of a foreign parent).

## TRAININGS

### ABROAD

#### WEST AFRICA



The **Certificate in Children's Rights Protection** is a training provided in Senegal, for professionals in protection and children's rights in West and Central Africa. Training kicked off **in May** at the Centre for Judiciary Training (CFJ) in Dakar and continued during the second part of the year, with a module having taken place in August and a third one in October. The studied themes were situations of child mobility and juvenile justice.

This post-grad academic training was a great success: 33 participants from 14 West and Central African

countries took part in the programme, and are currently writing their theses, to be handed in January 2016.

## CHINA

Collaboration has intensified between the IDE and Fudan University in Shanghai, one of the 5 best universities in the country. The IDE has been notified by Prof Yuang Cheng, Vice-Dean of the School of Social Development and Public Policy, of his interest in developing a CAS in the field of children's rights in collaboration with the IDE, the University of Geneva and the University of Fudan. A meeting has been scheduled with the Office of continuous education of the University of Geneva in order to devise this training programme.

The upkeep of the IDE's website in the Chinese language was made possible thanks to Mrs. Astadjam Bamanga, a MIDE intern who competently managed to strengthen the IDE's presence on Weibo, an outlet for Chinese social media. A request to have our presence on this social media officially recognized was sent to the Chinese government, with the aim of raising our visibility. We also explored the possibility of using an alternative site, Wechat.

## PANAMA/LATIN AMERICA

Preparatory work for the **Certificate of Advanced Studies (CAS) in juvenile justice via e-learning**, scheduled to be launched in partnership with Terre des hommes in Latin America in 2016, continue to progress during the second semester 2015 with a workshop in Panama City in July, in the presence of Mr. Philippe D. Jaffé who represented the IDE and the CIDE.

A second meeting took place in Sion, Lausanne and Geneva on October 23-25, involving Mrs. Paola Riva Gapany, Mr. Philippe D. Jaffé and Mr. Jean Zermatten representing the IDE/CIDE. The curriculum, the programme, the modules and the list of professors were finalised.

Due to a great demand on behalf of Brazil to train professionals who intervene in the juvenile penal process, the Steering Committee is currently working on a Portuguese version on the online training platform, in addition to the Spanish version.

### “IN HOUSE” TRAININGS

18 students are currently enrolled in the 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the **Master of Advanced Studies in Children's Rights (MCR)**. The module “Children's rights and international law” took place in September, and the module “Child labour and education” took place in November. Two students have also enrolled in the CAS programme (a 2 module programme), and participated in Module 4, which took place from November 30 to December 4 in Bramois. **Registration for the CAS** remains open until January 2016. Registration for the MCR 2017-2018 remains open until spring 2016.

The 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the **Interdisciplinary Master in Children's Rights (MIDE)** began this autumn, and welcomed 25 students. The next edition will begin in autumn 2016 and registration is open through the **University of Geneva website**. At the latest diploma ceremony, which took place on October 16 2015, 20 diplomas were delivered.

In October, diplomas were delivered to 10 students who completed the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the training in **psycho-judiciary expertise for children and adolescents**. The IDE is currently recruiting **participants** to launch the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the training, which will be facilitated by the Centre for continuous education of the University of Geneva. The training is planned for launch in June 2016.

The fourth edition of the CAS **“Child victims and child witnesses: Hearing the child in justice procedures”** is tailored for professionals practicing in the legal system, in the police force, and in the field of child protection. The start of the programme was delayed, and registration has been **reopened** (deadline: February 15 2016). Classes will take place on March 11 and 12 2016.

### “A LA CARTE” TRAININGS

## RUSSIA

7 Russian professionals came to visit the IDE and participated in a week of awareness-raising on the issue of deprivation of liberty of children in conflict with the law in the spring of 2015. Following this meeting, an official delegation (DFAE and Swiss embassy in Moscow) and Swiss experts (including the IDE) visited the Russian Federation from November 22 to 27 2015, specifically visiting Lipetsk, Ryazan, and Moscow. Swiss experts met with professionals from the Federal Office of Sentencing (FSIN) and namely discussed alternatives to detention. The Swiss delegation also participated in a round table discussion on the theme “The defence of human rights and the citizen” at the 2<sup>nd</sup> international penitentiary forum which was held in Ryazan.

## BULGARIA

The three-phase programme to strengthen the legal and institutional capacities of the judiciary system in matters of juvenile justice was led in **Bulgaria**, in partnership with the Ministry of Justice. Approximately 30 professionals were trained (three modules took place in January, July and October). The Ministry of Justice asked the IDE to add 3 modules to the training, pertaining to training the trainers, to practical training of mediators in juvenile justice, and the issue of hearings techniques for children. The proposition is currently being studied in order to best respond to the need of the Bulgarian public.

In addition, a delegation of Bulgarian judges who did not follow the programme came to visit the IDE in September 2015 in order to learn more about the workings of a juvenile court, and about the institutions linked to juvenile justice. Fruitful discussions took place with the highly motivated delegation members.

In the long-run, specialized courts for children will be created in Bulgaria.



### ST-RAPHAËL INSTITUTE

In 2014, the IDE provided basic training in children's rights to the staff of one of its long-time partner institutions, the St-Raphaël institute for specialized education. The mandate was **innovative**, and its aim was to promote respectful behaviour towards children among all professionals, from the cleaning staff to the office workers and the educators. The second edition of this training took place from December 9 to 10. Fifteen participants from the Institution's Steering committee took part. The objective: to develop ways to make children's rights real in daily life at the institution.

## NETWORK

### ADEM

On 4 November, roughly 90 participants – including government officials, academics, and professionals working with child migrants – came together in Bern on the invitation of **ADEM, the Alliance for the rights of child migrants** (Terre des hommes, International Social Service, and the IDE). The ADEM relaunched its activities during this annual conference. The objective of the meeting was to determine the needs and constraints in view of establishing minimum intercantonal standards for the care of unaccompanied migrant children (MNA) in Switzerland.

In a context of increased migration, it was recognized as necessary to develop structural, sustainable solutions for the concerned children, which protect does not come to cease at age 18. Children themselves (participating in the project **Speak Out**) contributed crucial elements to the discussion in relation to standard setting for lodging, support, access to information, education, financial resources, etc. A future report is expected to be produced by the Conference of Cantonal Directors of social affairs.

Read the interview with Fouzia Rossier, in charge of defending children's rights in Switzerland with Terre des hommes in the **Tribune de Genève/24 Heures**.

### ASSOCIATION FUND VEILLARD-CYBULSKI

The deadline to present candidacies for the **Veillard-Cybulski Award 2016** has been prolonged until January 31 2016. Please do not hesitate to send in your candidacy!

Since 1990, the Association Fund Veillard-Cybulski awards noteworthy works with a 5'000 CHF prize. The award is especially for works which contribute to innovating and perfecting methods to work with children, adolescents, and families in difficult situations. The prize is awarded on the occasion of the quadrennial Congress of the International Association of Youth and Family Magistrates (AIMJF) or during the event organized in collaboration with the AIMJF.

### SARAH OBERSON FOUNDATION

15'000 flyers were distributed in school in the Haut Valais region in September 2015, during the second phase of the campaign **"Your child didn't come home?"**, coordinated by the Sarah Oberson Foundation. The campaign kicked off with a press release held on May 21 2015, dedicated to kidnapping alerts, and brought attention to the deficit in national statistics, and to the necessity to lead scientific research on the disappearances of children, in order to aid dealing with the multiple facets of the phenomenon.



In addition, the **Sarah Oberson Evening Event 2015** took place on November 11, around the theme "Being a poor child in Switzerland". Ideas were debated and will be included in regular editorials published in the Foundation's blog.

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The IDE wishes you all a festive year's end !

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*The team :*

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