



## IDE News n°36 June 2017

### EDITORIAL

*Switzerland 2017: Celebrating 20 years since the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child!  
Have you adapted your professions accordingly?*

Those of you who have been in contact with the IDE via e-mail during the first semester of 2017 may have noticed the little hook we've added to our signatures.

Indeed, 2017 marks the 20-year anniversary of Switzerland ratifying the United Nations' Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and their engagement to implement its principles onsite, particularly in regards to professionals working with and for children. This is an occasion for introspection and assessment for all, from instructors like the IDE, to professionals, States, etc.

On the 25<sup>th</sup> of April, Switzerland announced the ratification of the most recent of the three additional protocols of the CRC. This optional Protocol establishes a procedure for presenting communications (OPIC). From now on, Switzerland will need to put in place a mechanism that will allow all children in Switzerland the chance to file a complaint before the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, whenever the federal government infringes on their rights. It is an important step forward.

Through its various activities, the IDE reaches to the heart of what it takes to apply the CRC, particularly in Somalia. A delegation of 10 professionals will come to the IDE in September, in order to receive and then share support and knowledge where they are most needed. Somalia, ravaged by famine, has relegated the subject of the CRC to background. The country must undergo a phase of policy adoption that respects human rights, in particular children's rights, in order to develop, especially considering that more than half of Somalia's population is under the age of 18!

Food is a topic that will be addressed next October, when the IDE organises their 19<sup>th</sup> Seminary with the Terre des Hommes Foundation, on the subject of nutrition and health. Make sure to pencil it in!

Finally, I'd like to pay homage to two exceptional women who have recently become presidents of different organisations. Renate Winter has been elected president of the Committee on the Rights of the Child and is a long-time friend of the IDE, as well as a judge for the Special Court of Sierra Leone and

has been a member of the Committee on the Rights of the Child since 2013. Muriel Langenberger Graf has been elected to the board of trustees of the IDE. She is a member of the Jacobs Foundation, for which she handles strategic development in the key sector of early education in Europe. The new president, who took office on the 18<sup>th</sup> of May, headed up the Swiss Confederation's unit on Child and Youth Policy for five years, before which she worked for Terre des Hommes for twelve years. To both of these women, bravo and thank you for your commitment!

**Paola Riva Gapany**

This edition of the *IDE News* will document the work done by the IDE from December 2016 through to June 2017. Happy reading!

 **raising awareness**  
 **professional training programmes**  
 **network**  
 **publications**

### RAISING AWARENESS

#### UNIVERSAL CHILDREN'S DAY

The **20th of November**, Universal Children's Day, marks the enactment of the CRC and will have a special importance for Switzerland this year, since the country will be celebrating the 20-year anniversary of the ratification of the universally recognised treaty.

In partnership with the Department of Solidarity and Social Cohesion of the City of Geneva, the IDE will organise a special event at the International Conference Centre of Geneva (CICG) on the 22nd of November. Intended for an audience of children and adolescents (schools, extracurricular groups, youth parliaments, etc.), professionals from French-speaking Switzerland and representatives from the political world, this event aims to promote youth participation (art. 12 CDE). A follow-up of the '**Consult Children about their Rights**' investigation (2014) will be organised and children will be informed on the evolution of the actions taken by various public collectives, in order to ensure their rights, but also regarding the responsibilities that they involve.

#### THE IDE 20-YEAR AWARD

To celebrate the 20-year anniversary of Switzerland ratifying the CRC, the IDE also launched an award, aimed at children and adolescents in institutions throughout French-speaking Switzerland. With prize money totalling 5,000 CHF, the award will allow the winning children to set up a project of their own creation, destined to help the rights of the child thrive in their institution. The projects can be entered until the 1<sup>st</sup> of September at the latest. **More information** and the **rules of the contest**.

#### THE '10 MONTHS, 10 RIGHTS' CAMPAIGN

To celebrate the anniversary of the CRC's ratification, the IDE was also invited to take part in a **wide-ranging**

**campaign** – spread out over 10 months and very in-depth – organised by the canton of Neuchâtel. On the 13<sup>th</sup> of May, Paola Riva Gapany participated in a **round table on the right to education**, particularly for migrant children, whereas Jean Zermatten took part in a *café scientifique* on **delinquent minors**, on the 17<sup>th</sup> of May. On the 30<sup>th</sup>, Philip D. Jaffé of the CIDE (Interfaculty Centre for Children's Rights Studies, University of Geneva) was at the *café* on **'The Rights of the Child Versus the Child-King: the Parent-Child-Teacher Triangle.'** In the month of August, Aline Sermet will lecture youths on the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

More information: [www.10mois10droits.ch](http://www.10mois10droits.ch)

## EDUCATIONAL MATERIAL

The educational material offered in 2017 will cover the topic of diversity, a key marker in Swiss society and a reality in schools, and how it relates to the rights of the child. This is an opportunity for educational and academic environments to celebrate Switzerland's 20-year anniversary of the ratification of the CRC, with activities adapted to all levels of compulsory education.

The full file will be available at the start of term on the [IDE's website](#).

## OCTOBER SEMINAR

Sion's International Seminar, organised this year in partnership with the Terre des Hommes Foundation - Helping Children Worldwide, will cover the topic of nutrition and the rights of the child (the right to health). It will take place in Sion from the 9<sup>th</sup> to the 11<sup>th</sup> of October 2017. Mark your calendars! More information will soon be available on [www.childsrights.org](http://www.childsrights.org).

The presentations of the 2016 lecturer's, on the alternative care, as well as numerous pictures, can be downloaded on the [conference's website](#). The 2016 seminar also led to the creation of an **alternative care MOOC**.

## MAY SYMPOSIUM 2017

The traditional **May Symposium** organised by the CIDE, in collaboration with the IDE and other partners, took place in Bern from the 4<sup>th</sup> to the 5<sup>th</sup> of May, discussing the topic of **'The rights of migrant children in Switzerland: protection, allowances, and participation.'** The Swiss Centre for Expertise in Human Rights, Valais's University of Applied Sciences, and their University of Social Work were partners for 2017's event. Among others, the Alliance for the Rights of Migrant Children (ADEM) and the Child Rights Network Switzerland also participated. Each day, some 150 people were present, including lawyers, medical and educational staff, police, representatives of minor courts, NGOs, social workers (in full force), as well as representatives from homes and centres for migrants, and both federal and cantonal administrators. Feedback from the event was widely positive. The lectures were of high quality and allowed attendees to learn about many issues that affect

migrant children, all while interacting with specialists from various different fields. The statements of two young migrants and a public debate also allowed this conference to have a wider reach and inform a larger audience.

The publication of the Symposium Acts 2016 on **New Forms of Parenting: Sharing time, but what about the child?** is upcoming.

## GENEVA SUMMER SCHOOL

The **Summer University on Children's Rights** began on the 5<sup>th</sup> of June, with 16 participants, and will continue until the 17<sup>th</sup>, as part of the **Geneva Summer Schools** programme, under the name *Children at the Heart of Human Rights*.

## TRAINING PROGRAMMES

### ABROAD

#### INDIA

From the 21<sup>st</sup> to the 24<sup>th</sup> of February, the IDE welcomed an Indian delegation, including Professor Srikrishna Deva Rao, Vice Chancellor of the National Law University of Odisha and Enakshi Ganguly, co-director of the NGO HAQ - Centre for Child Rights. An executive course in juvenile justice is in the works in collaboration with the Indian partners and the University of Geneva. It should begin before the end of the year.



#### PANAMA/LATIN AMERICA

Registration is still underway for the e-learning **Certificate of Advanced Studies in Juvenile Justice**, dispensed in Spanish and set up in Panama to benefit all of Latin America. The certificate results from collaboration between the IDE, the CIDE and Terre des Hommes. As of today, more than 30 people are enrolled. The first of five modules will begin in September. This programme is intended for professionals engaged in interventions regarding the rights of children in conflict with the law (victims or witnesses). These professionals include police officers, prosecutors, judges, lawyers, institutional and penitentiary staff, educators, psychologists, doctors

(ex. paediatricians, paedopsychiatrists), criminologists, migration professionals, researchers, etc. This certificate will later be translated into other languages.

### **'INSIDE-THE-WALLS' TRAINING PROGRAMMES**

In Switzerland, the IDE continues to train students and professionals (through tutelage and courses), dispensing diplomas under the aegis of the University of Geneva (CIDE).

The 9<sup>th</sup> edition of the **Master of Advanced Studies in Children's Rights (MCR)** began in February with 13 participants.

The 9<sup>th</sup> edition of the **Interdisciplinary Master's Degree in Children's Rights (MIDE)** on the other hand, began in September 2016, with 45 participants.

The modules of the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the Certificate of Advanced Studies (CAS) **Child Victims and Witnesses: Hearing Children in Justice Proceedings**, intended for socio-psycho-judiciary intervention professionals (child protection, mediation, magistrates, police and legal representatives), came to an end in May. Students are currently working on their dissertations until September. Steps are being taken in order to set up a potential 5<sup>th</sup> edition.

### **TAILOR-MADE TRAINING PROGRAMMES**

#### **👋 SOMALIA**

In Somalia, a country **ravaged by famine**, our partners (particularly the **RAJO Association**) dedicate themselves to implementing the Convention on the Rights of the Child, ratified in January 2015. They are doing remarkable work that the IDE is following closely, leading towards a strategic plan of action for the State, as well as the drafting of the first alternative report, which NGOs will present to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child.

**Documentation** and **a video** on this topic are available on the website of the IDE.

#### **👋 JOURNALISTS FROM BURKINA FASO**



In Burkina Faso, the Initiative for African Journalists for Cooperation and Development (IJACOD) requested that the IDE provide a workshop on the rights of the child and the ethics of journalism – particularly in cases of the worst kind of child labour. The workshop was attended by some 20 journalists from the country and took place from the 13<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup> of March, in Ouagadougou.

Aline Sermet, Paola Riva Gapany and Claire Brisset joined them in the field. The workshop was organised with the support of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and the collaboration of UNICEF. Thanks to the participating journalists, it benefited from wide-ranging media coverage in the country (ex. **Burkina24.com**, **lefaso.net**).

See the follow-up **video** of the programme.

#### **👋 BULGARIA**



In Bulgaria, the two first complementary modules (out of three) requested from the IDE by the Ministry of Justice, as part of the reinforcement programme of the juvenile justice system, took place from the 27<sup>th</sup> to the 30<sup>th</sup> of March (13 participants, learning how to train educators, with Paola Riva Gapany, Renate Winter and Jean Zermatten, in Veliko Tarnovo), and from the 29<sup>th</sup> of May to the 3<sup>rd</sup> of June (18 participants, on mediation in the juvenile penal system, with Aline Sermet, Michel Lachat and Gérard Demierre, in Varna). A module on child interviewing techniques will be organised later in 2017.

#### **👋 SAINT AGNES INSTITUTE**

Two **training workshops** on the rights of the child were organised for 35 professionals at the Saint Agnes Institute in Sion, from the 6<sup>th</sup> of February to the 14<sup>th</sup> of March. Celebrating 50 years in 2017, this institution, of which the IDE supports the Youth Parliament, welcomes children with learning difficulties, slight intellectual disabilities, or personality disorders, particularly autistic children.

From the 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> of May, pupils from the Institute participated in the **Radiobus**, which notably had a direct feed to the Head of the IDE. On the 16<sup>th</sup> of May, the IDE also took part in an event hosted by Jean-

Marc Richard on the subject of the rights of the child and education to citizenship.

## THE CITY OF GENEVA'S PERSONNEL

The City of Geneva undertook the task of training their personnel on the rights of the child and the importance they represent in their day-to-day work. Some thirty people attended the various workshops offered by the IDE, the CIDE and **Create** between the 7<sup>th</sup> of February and the 8<sup>th</sup> of June. These workshops covered subjects ranging from the participation of children, to what it means to be an inclusive city and even how to communicate with children.

## NETWORK

### ADEM

To celebrate the 20-year anniversary of Switzerland ratifying the CRC, the Alliance for the Rights of Migrant children (ADEM) began publishing a series on the rights of the Convention, with a special emphasis on migrant children. The first article was published on the 24<sup>th</sup> of February, in the form of an **interview with Rolf Widmer**, who has been active in helping children without the option of being raised by their birth families, for the past 40 years. A second article, covering the **legal representation of migrant children** was also published on the 28<sup>th</sup> of April.

During the first semester of 2017, the ADEM also took a stand on two different occasions. The first was against the canton of Aargau, whose **decision to suspend alternative care** for young UM asylum-seekers is very preoccupying. The second was in regards to the **Bernese vote** on the 21<sup>st</sup> of May, which shot down a credit that would have benefitted the care of unaccompanied migrant children.

Finally, don't forget to save the date of the ADEM's **2017 Symposium!** The event will take place on the 7<sup>th</sup> of December, in the BERNEXPO convention centre in Bern. The event is organised in collaboration with the Swiss Red Cross and the Support for Torture Victims group, and will address the topic of 'Overcoming Trauma: Prospects for children and young migrants.'

### CRNS

The **Child Rights Network Switzerland**, of which the IDE is a founding member, is involved in a series of transnational meetings with Austrian and German networks active in the rights of the child. The meetings take place from the 1<sup>st</sup> of September 2017 to the 28<sup>th</sup> of February 2018, in Vienna, Geneva and Berlin. On the agenda are ideas, methods and practices to help children participate in the drafting of a report intended for the Committee on the Rights of the Child. The IDE was present for the meeting held in Geneva, which took place from the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> of May.

At the time of the General Assembly of the CRNS in March, it was decided that the network's theme for 2017 would be protection against discrimination.

### SARAH OBERSON FOUNDATION

The **Sarah Oberson Foundation**, in collaboration with the HES-SO Valais-Wallis, has begun gathering quantitative research into missing children over three years, in the canton of Valais. The goal: to have all the relevant information in order to continue raising awareness on the subject among the authorities and on the necessity of broadening the scope of knowledge throughout Switzerland, by putting in place national annual statistics and by prioritizing scientific research.

Please note that the Foundation's **2016 activity report** is now available online.

### THE VEILLARD-CYBULSKI FORUM

After two years away, the **Veillard-Cybulski Fund Association** has the distinct pleasure to announce the return of their **Forum** in 2017. It will cover the topic of cannabis use among adolescents and will take place on the 7<sup>th</sup> of November, in Lausanne. The programme will soon be available on the website of the IDE.

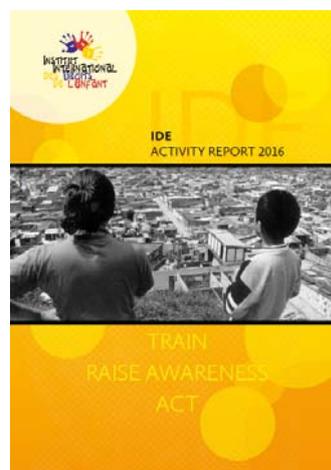
### IAYFJM

The International Association of Youth and Family Judges and Magistrates, thanks to whom the IDE exists today, published important **Guidelines on Children in Contact with the Justice System**. For the launch, the IDE co-organised a side event with IAYFJM, on the occasion of the 26<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice of the United Nations' Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of May, in Vienna.

Jean Zermatten wrote an **editorial** about this topic.

## PUBLICATIONS

The IDE's 2016 annual activity report has been published! It can be downloaded in **English**, **French**, and **German**.



In addition, do not hesitate to order the two most recent publications of the IDE: **Children in Valais, from 1815 to 2015** and **Juvenile Justice: the Fundamentals!** The English version of the latter will be available shortly.

Hoping that through your actions this summer will help shine the light on the lives of all the children around you! As far as possible!



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