

# Newsletter

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EUROPEAN CITIES  
AGAINST CHILD POVERTY



## Tackling Child Poverty – what works best?

### Seminar in Brussels, 9<sup>th</sup> December 2008

On 9<sup>th</sup> December 2008, delegates from the five partner cities and representatives from over a dozen regions across Europe came together to discuss effective practical ways to increase access to employment for parents and the role of education to help break cycles of deprivation. This built on the findings of the conferences and seminars held in London and Milan.



This practical workshop featured presentations of successful projects from Amsterdam, Copenhagen, Helsinki, London and Milan. Delegates were then given the opportunity to discuss why these projects worked and consider whether they could be transferred to their region

We were fortunate also to hear from representatives from DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities about the [PROGRESS fund](#) and about [2010](#) – the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion.

#### What makes a project successful?

- **Flexibility** – ability to tailor the project to individuals
- **Positive branding** – motivating participants to commit
- **Individual support** – addressing particular needs
- **Evaluation** of impact and value for money
- Involvement of **role models** and “adults who care”

More information will soon be available on [www.againstchildpoverty.com](http://www.againstchildpoverty.com)

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Mutual Learning on Social Protection and Social Inclusion



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## The role of education in improving children's life chances

### Policy workshop and conference in Milan: 24<sup>th</sup> -25<sup>th</sup> September 2008

The network held its **second policy workshop** in Milan, attended by representatives from London, Amsterdam, Helsinki, Milan, Budapest, Solna and Vasteras. Delegates explored the role played by education in improving children's life chances and reducing social exclusion; in particular they:



- Exchanged knowledge about strategies and projects in place in partner cities which successfully engage disadvantaged children in educational projects to prevent them from becoming excluded from school or involved in anti-social behaviour – three of these projects were also presented at the seminar in Brussels in December;
- Discussed the role played by local government or other organisations working with this target group;
- Considered how cities can learn from each other and build on these examples of successful projects or strategies to improve children's life chances.

The **international conference**, held at Università degli Studi in Milan, included speakers from Unicef, the European Commission and Eurochild as well as two case studies:

- Talent Factory – Milan
- Rewind Project – Royal Borough of Kingston-upon-Thames, London

### Conclusions from Milan

The consequences of poverty and social exclusion can be tackled by the following interventions:

- **Run tailored programmes** and free pre-school and extra-school programmes which can be easily adapted to suit the different needs of individuals or communities.
- **Combine vocational training with basic education** in school and workplace settings. This special combination is best delivered by trained personnel with experience of working with youth at risk.
- **Train up and involve members of the public** as mentors or community workers. Their involvement can provide an important support network for young people and help to tackle wider social problems.
- **Improve students' motivation, self-esteem and commitment through informal learning.** Projects which address other problems faced by young people in informal, often creative, settings have successfully tackled barriers associated with a lack of language skills or a lack of confidence.
- **Integrate education and other services** to tackle social exclusion more effectively, especially when social services, local community organisations and the police are involved.

For more information and to download a policy bulletin, please [visit the European Cities Against Child Poverty website](#).

## Next meeting of the network: 26<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> February 2009: Policy workshop and conference - Budapest

### The impact of homelessness and poor housing on children



REGIONAL SOCIAL WELFARE  
RESOURCE CENTRE  
BUDAPEST

The fourth meeting of the network will be held in Budapest on 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> February 2009. The event will be hosted by the [Regional Social Welfare Centre of Budapest](#) and will look at the impact of homelessness and poor housing conditions on children. More information will be available on our [events page](#) in January 2009. If you are interested in attending, please contact us at [againstchildpoverty@gle.co.uk](mailto:againstchildpoverty@gle.co.uk)

## 2010: European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion

We were grateful to hear from Jevgenija Muhina at our seminar in Brussels on 9<sup>th</sup> December about the priorities for the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion. The European Year demonstrates the European Commission's dedication to fighting against poverty. It will focus on four main objectives:

- **Recognition** means recognising the right of people in a situation of poverty and social exclusion to live in dignity and to play a full part in society
- **Ownership** implies increasing public ownership of social inclusion policies, emphasising *everyone's* responsibility in tackling poverty and marginalisation
- **Cohesion** spells out our vision for Europe: a more cohesive society is one where no one doubts that everyone will benefit from the eradication of poverty
- **Commitment**: we can only eradicate poverty as a result of a substantial and consistent effort that involves all levels of governance, at EU and national level

The total budget proposed is **€17m**, of which €6.5m is to be spent in 2009 on preparation and communication activities. A total of €9m is available for co-financing of national, local and regional activities.

For more information email [2010againstpoverty@ec.europa.eu](mailto:2010againstpoverty@ec.europa.eu)

## European Cities against Child Poverty in the press: ERLAI

The meeting of the European Cities Against Child Poverty in Milan was covered in the ERLAI Autumn 2008 newsletter. ERLAI – European Regional and Local Authorities on Asylum and Immigration – focuses on key immigration issues facing certain regions.

The article focuses particularly on the ways in which European cities are tackling social exclusion among immigrant children through educational projects. Case studies of successful projects from Budapest, Amsterdam and Helsinki are mentioned.

[Download the ERLAI Autumn 2008 newsletter](#)

## Future child poverty events in Europe

December 2008 - February 2009

### o 50th Committee on the Rights of the Child

Geneva, Switzerland, 12-30<sup>th</sup> January 2009.

This conference is hosted by the [Officer of the High Commissioner for Human Rights at the United Nations](#)

The Committee will examine reports from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Malawi, Republic of Moldova, Netherlands and Republic of Chad on their implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

In addition, the Committee will review reports on the implementation of the Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography (OPSC) from the Maldives and the Netherlands and reports on the Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict (OPAC) for the Maldives, the Republic of Moldova and Tunisia.

[Visit the dedicated CRC news page](#)

### o Child-centred approaches to HIV/AIDS: A Child-to-Child Approach

United Kingdom, 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2009

This course, hosted by the [Consortium for Street Children](#) will focus on applying Child-to-Child methodologies to HIV/AIDS programming.

### o National Equalities Events

Sheffield, United Kingdom, 10<sup>th</sup> February 2009  
London, United Kingdom, 26<sup>th</sup> February 2009

Following the Secretary of State's Report on progress towards disability equality, the [Department for Children, Schools and Families](#) is holding two national equalities events for schools and local authorities. The aim of the events is to share the learning from the [2008 Secretary of State report](#) and the Department's

[Disability Equality Scheme](#).

### o Living and Learning Together

Cardiff, United Kingdom, 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> February 2009

Entitled "Living and Learning Together: Support for Children in Adoptive Families", this conference is hosted by [After Adoption](#) and will focus on the support needs of children and their adoptive families from the perspectives of all involved. Through a series of talks and workshops participants will be able to share best practice and develop a wider understanding of need and provision for children who have come to adoption following difficult experiences. [Visit the After Adoption website](#)

### o Children and online sexual violence

Stockholm, Sweden, February 12<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> 2009

This conference brings together child professionals, researchers and policy makers to share knowledge on different programmes and efforts to assist children and young people who have been sexually violated via the Internet and related technologies.

The conference will focus on good practices developed assisting children that have come to harm, on research that have looked into how these harms are inflicted and knowledge that have been developed on how children can be assisted to make sense of their experiences.

### o Child Poverty and Disparities

Cairo, Egypt, January 15<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> 2009

Within the framework of the First International Forum for the Developing Countries Think Tanks, the [United Nations Children's Fund in Egypt \(UNICEF\)](#) is organising an international conference on "Child Poverty and Disparities: Public Policies for Social Justice". The conference serves as a platform for innovative thinking on social policy and child rights that will bring together academics, policy makers, practitioners as well as university students to exchange experiences and discuss proposals for inclusive and child-sensitive public social and economic policies that aim to reduce child poverty and are based on scientific evidence.

## Past events on child poverty events in Europe

### October - November 2008

#### o Eurochild Fifth Annual Conference "Including Children: a child rights approach to child well-being"

Budapest, Hungary, 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> November 2008

The conference gathered more than 200 participants, including high level representatives from Member States and the European Commission, government officials, NGOs and children, to discuss the EU social inclusion process and its impact on national and regional policies to combat child poverty and exclusion.

The event agenda, presentations and other information is available to download [here](#). The final report summarising the conference will be available on the Eurochild website soon.

#### o Ending Violence Against Children in Juvenile Justice Systems

Brussels, Belgium, 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> October 2008

This international conference, organised by [Defence for Children International \(DCI\)](#),

analysed the problem of violence perpetrated against children in Juvenile Justice Systems. DCI, by organising this international event, aimed to raise awareness, share best practices and build the capacities of NGOs to lobby their government to better address these issues..

[View a press release summarising the findings of the event](#)

#### o 7th European Round Table on Poverty and Social exclusion

Marseille, France, 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> October 2008

The 7th Round Table against poverty and social exclusion focussed on the issue of active inclusion in the light of the Commission recommendation and experiments undertaken by the French government in this area.

The work of the Round Table will also contribute to the preparation of the [European Year of combating poverty and social exclusion in 2010](#). For the first time, an informal ministerial meeting on the fight against poverty immediately followed the event. It aimed to strengthen political commitment from Member States in this area, and make recommendations to feed into the December Council on active inclusion.

Conclusions from the Council of the European Union meeting in Brussels on 17<sup>th</sup> December can be found [here](#). This meeting built on the results of the Round Table.

## Recent Publications on child poverty

### Eurochild responds to Unicef report on childcare

[The Child Care Transition](#) report, published in December 2008, looked at whether the trend towards more children being placed in childcare will represent an advance or a setback for today's children and tomorrow's world. The report called for closer monitoring of the quality of child care services.

A [press release](#) from Eurochild praised the report for bringing the issue of quality back into the debate on childcare. Eurochild state that one of their key aims is to look at how early years care can help to break the poverty cycle and this report helps to open the debate on whether this is being achieved across Europe.

[Eurochild](#) is a network of organisations and individuals working to improve the quality of life of children and young people in Europe. Eurochild has 57 members in 27 European countries and is partly funded by the European Commission.

### Religion, Beliefs and Childcare Practices

Universities of Sheffield and Warwick in partnership with Bradford Local Safeguarding Children Board. United Kingdom, November 2008.

Religion has the potential to influence many aspects of parenting. For this project, researchers asked young people and parents in Bradford, predominantly from Christian and Muslim backgrounds, how their religious beliefs and practices affected family life.

### Why do people think inequality is worse than poverty?

Joseph Rowntree Foundation, United Kingdom, December 2008

The [JRF's](#) recent public consultation revealed a strong sense of unease about some of the changes shaping British society. This Viewpoint continues the discussion about modern 'socialevils' on the theme of 'inequality'. Jeremy Seabrook argues that, in the face of extraordinary imbalances in society, the myth that accumulating wealth is the supreme human purpose needs to be replaced before any improvement will occur.

### Five types of inequality

Joseph Rowntree Foundation, December 2008.

Ferdinand Mount takes a wide view of the causes and possible cures of injurious inequalities, looking at five overlapping types of inequalities and how to remedy them.

### Can work eradicate child poverty?

Joseph Rowntree Foundation, United Kingdom, November 2008

This report examines the extent to which work can contribute to the eradication of child poverty, and identifies a number of issues that necessarily arise if work is seen as the best route out of poverty.

### Away from Home: Protecting and supporting children on the move

Save the Children, United Kingdom, November 2008

Drawing on the experiences of children themselves, Away from Home provides vital insights into why children move and the risks they face. It looks at how policy-makers and service-providers can support children who are on the move, including tackling the worst forms of children's movement and exploitation. It argues that child protection systems and other services, as well as migration policies, need to be adapted so that they work for children on the move.

### What future for immigrant families in Europe

Migration Policy Group, November 2008

The Migration Policy Group launches the first of its MIPEX Policy Impact Assessments: "What future for immigrant families in Europe - the high road back to Tampere or the low road on from Vichy?"

It uses the MIPEX to re-tell the history of the family reunion directive. It forecasts how proposed modifications would bring the EU closer to, or further from, its vision of promoting integration and how each initiative would concretely raise or lower integration standards in national legislation in 25 Member States.

### Making the road as we go

Bernard van Leer Foundation, Netherlands, November 2008

"Making the road as we go: Parents and professionals as partners managing diversity in early childhood education" discusses the experiences of the Parents and Diversity project, carried out in the Netherlands by the consultancy and training company Bureau MUTANT. The project, which ran between 2003 and 2005, focused on the two complementary subjects of 1) building partnerships between childcare providers and their children's parents and 2) childcare providers meeting the differing needs of the increasingly diverse population of parents and their children.

### Parental qualifications and child poverty in 2020

Joseph Rowntree Foundation, United Kingdom, November 2008

This report looks at how the anticipated changes in qualifications and in the occupational and sectoral distribution of employment will impact on the incidence of child poverty by 2020.