

# Newsletter

Edition 2, June 2008

EUROPEAN CITIES  
AGAINST CHILD POVERTY



## The Network

Welcome to European Cities Against Child Poverty, a EU-wide network led by GLE, working together with the London Development Agency, London Councils and the cities of Amsterdam, Budapest, Helsinki, and Milan as well as several associate partners.



Supported by the EU PROGRESS programme, this two-year project addresses the root causes of child poverty in our cities through sharing practical experiences. Network partners will analyse and share successful approaches to tackling child poverty, developing a practical guide to help shape future policies and interventions.

You can keep in touch with our work by receiving thematic policy bulletins, newsletters, logging onto our interactive website and attending seminars and conferences, or become an associate partner. Please contact [Michele Corbetta](#) for more information.

## Launch of the network

On 11<sup>th</sup> April 2008 the European Cities Against Child Poverty (ECACP) Network was officially launched in London's City Hall.

The launch conference brought together a broad audience of local, regional, national and EU decision makers and third sector representatives. Keynote speakers were London MEP [Claude Moraes](#), European Commission official Marie-Anne Paraskevas and [European Social Network](#) director John Halloran.

Experts from the partner cities also provided overviews and debated the current situation on child poverty in ECACP cities. Madeleine Williams, GLE Consulting Managing Director stated that "GLE is proud to be leading this network which will help London meet its targets of halving child poverty by 2010 in really practical ways at a local level."

Click [here](#) for more information on the event and for the speakers' presentations.

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Mutual Learning on Social Protection and Social Inclusion



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## London workshop and study visit

The Network's thematic approach kicked off on 10<sup>th</sup> April with a workshop and study visit on the first policy theme of the network: promoting employment and training among parents. Over the day, delegates explored common challenges and successful strategies for promoting access to training and sustainable employment for parents in the partner cities.



During the policy workshop delegates had the opportunity to present and debate common successful strategies to address the main barriers to employment for parents. Experts from Helsinki and Copenhagen illustrated successful projects from their cities for facilitating the integration of workless parents into the labour market, especially focusing on minority communities and lone parents

The group also visited the [Islington Training Network](#) and the Faith Regen Foundation which provide training and support for facilitating employment among parents, especially from ethnic minority groups.

- The project [Childcare for work](#) is delivered by Islington Training Network (ITN). ITN is a membership organisation open to voluntary sector organisations and institutions providing pre-vocational and vocational training. Established in 1998, ITN is now a successful network delivering and managing a wide range of development projects funded by the European Social Fund (ESF), London Development Agency, Learning and Skills Council, Jobcentre Plus, London Councils and local regeneration partnerships

- The [Faith Regen Foundation](#) addresses poverty, regenerates deprived areas, and provides a range of enabling services, promoting a greater understanding between faiths and identifies solutions for encouraging positive relationships within a multi-faith society. Delegates were given an overview of projects aimed at promoting employment among lone parents.

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## Future Network events

**24<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> September 2008: Milan**

Partners will meet in Milan to analyse and debate common challenges and effective approaches for improving life chances for children and breaking cycles of deprivation, focusing on education.

Partners will also have the opportunity to visit successful local projects currently ongoing in the city and take part in a local event. For more information, please contact [Michele](#).

## Child poverty events in Europe July- November 2008

### O 16th European Social Services conference

Paris, France, 2-4 July 2008

The 2008 ESN annual conference will focus on the key role and common difficulties faced by social services in responding to the new social challenges of the 21st century (for more information, please see the related article in "News from other European networks").

### O Shelter Cymru annual conference 2008

Swansea, United Kingdom, 3-4 July 2008

The conference will discuss and provide key recommendations for the new Welsh ten year homelessness plan, that will be launched in autumn 2009.

### O Summer school on children's rights

Sion, Switzerland, 4-18 July 2008

The Kurt Bosch University Institute is organising this summer school focussing on children rights and analysing violence against children from a professional practice and empirical point of view.

### O Applied research with hidden and marginal population

Essex, United Kingdom, 4-8 August 2008

The course, organised by the University of Essex, provides an overview of current research methods in conducting research, both quantitative and qualitative, on marginal and hidden population, such as children, victims of trafficking, refugees and displaced people.

### O Impact of poverty and social exclusion on children's lives and their well-being

Bratislava, Slovak Republic, 8-9 September 2008

Hosted by the Institute for Labour and Family Research of Bratislava, this workshop is a follow-up of the 2007 "Children's experiences with poverty and social exclusion". The workshop will focus on how poverty and social exclusion affect children's lives and their well-being.

### O International interdisciplinary course on children's rights 2008

Ghent, Belgium 9-19 September 2008,

This course is organised by the Children's Rights Centre at Ghent University, the associated University College Ghent and the UNICEF Chair on children's rights at Antwerp University. The training course will focus on education, health, child protection, poverty, child labour and migration.

### O Children's Rights: From 20th Century Visions to 21st Century Implementation?

Swansea, United Kingdom, 19 September 2008

The conference, organised by Swansea University, will focus on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Leading international experts will have the opportunity to debate whether the expectations and aspirations related to this document and to its implementation have been fulfilled. This conference is particularly important as the UK Government is currently finalising its national reports for the UN Committee of the Rights of the Child.

o **IFCW World Forum on “Early intervention and Prevention”.**

Cardiff, United Kingdom 29 September-1 October 2008

The conference, organised by [Children in Wales](#), will focus on sharing knowledge and information on best practices of early intervention and prevention, in particular for young children at risk of developing learning difficulties.

o **What does a child want?**

Tallinn, Estonia, 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2008

To celebrate the 20th anniversary of the re-establishment of the Estonian Union for Child Welfare, this conference will focus on children’s needs and current trends in Estonian society on children development.

o **Active citizenship: Democratic practices in education**

Budapest, Hungary, 9-12 October 2008

This event, organised by [ISSA](#) (an organisation working in early childhood care and education) will provide a forum for discussion and exchanges of experiences on how the promotion of democracy can affect the quality of children's life.

o **Child in the City 2008**

Rotterdam, The Netherlands, 3-5 November 2008

The fourth annual conference of [Child Friendly Cities](#) will take place in Rotterdam, in cooperation with the Child in the City foundation. The conference will focus on two themes:

- 1) Child friendly communities, and the necessity to promote child-friendly strategies at the lowest scale.
- 2) Points of reference, overview on which indicators are most useful for defining a city children-friendly.

o **Eurochild Fifth Annual Conference**

Budapest, Hungary, 5-7 November 2008

o **20<sup>th</sup> annual Anniversary of CECODHAS**

Paris, France, 5-7 November 2008

o **World day for Prevention of Child Abuse**

Worldwide event, 19 November 2008

This awareness raising campaign will involve more than 780 associations organising events and activities in 128 countries. The Women’s World Summit Foundation launched this campaign to raise awareness, mobilise public opinion and disseminate successful child abuse prevention programmes.

## Recent studies on child poverty

**Child and teenage suicide in Europe: A serious public-health issue**

Council of Europe, March 2008

This new report shows that suicide rates among young people in Europe are significantly higher than in the rest of the population. The report reaffirms the necessity to tackle all forms of discrimination and also promote effective risk-detection and prevention strategies in order to successfully address this problem.

### **Challenging violence against children: a handbook for NGOs working on follow-up to the UN study**

Save the Children, United Kingdom, April 2008

This handbook provides practical methods for NGOs involved in monitoring national governments in fulfilling their obligation to safeguard children rights and tackle violence against youth. In particular, it focuses on strategies for promoting non-violent values, and effective approaches for involving children in research and advocacy projects.

### **The social situation in the European Union 2007 - social cohesion through equal opportunities**

European Commission, April 2008

This study explores the situation of poverty in the EU area. The report shows that children with parents born outside the EU are about twice as likely to grow up in poverty as those with parents born in the country of residence. The study also explores how fighting child poverty among children from a migration background has become a high priority in the EU area.

### **EURONET Position Paper EP Report on Fundamental Rights**

EURONET, Belgium, April 2008

The [European Children's Network](#) (EURONET) published a position paper on the European Parliament report on the situation of fundamental rights in the EU, and in particular on social rights. Together with several key recommendations for EU policy makers, EURONET stated its concerns for the current levels in the EU of violence against children and child labour, as well as detention of asylum-seeking children across the EU.

### **The impact of benefit and tax up-rating on incomes and Poverty**

Joseph Rowntree Foundation, United Kingdom, April 2008

The study analyses the British government strategy in raising benefits and tax allowances. The research shows how it will be impossible for the UK government to meet its targets on halving child poverty by 2010 if income benefits for families with children rise more slowly than average household incomes. The analysis demonstrates how, over 20 years, the consequences of current updating policies might cause a rise in the rate of child poverty from 18 to 33 per cent.

### **2008 TransMONEE database**

UNICEF Innocenti research centre, Italy, May 2008

TransMONEE is a research project led by UNICEF aimed at gathering information on social and economic issues relevant to the well-being of children and young people in central and eastern Europe countries and Commonwealth of Independent States. The data is updated on an annual basis through the collaboration between national statistical offices and the [UNICEF Innocenti Research centre](#).

### **Policy into practice - childcare and extended services briefing**

Issue 6.2008, United Kingdom

This publication provides an overview of the role of childcare in supporting the development and delivery of extended services in and around rural schools. The study illustrates practical approaches and solutions for addressing common barriers faced by schools and providers in rural areas.

### **Work in progress on child poverty- June 2008: progress since 2006**

Joseph Rowntree Foundation, United Kingdom, June 2008

In 2006, the Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) published the study "What will it take to end child poverty? Firing on all cylinders". Following this work, the JRF commissioned a series of essays on key policy areas relevant for eradicating child poverty in the UK. The June 2008 update on the progress in the fight against child poverty illustrates that despite new measures and resources adopted at national level to tackle this issue the government will be unable to meet its targets of halving child poverty by 2010.

## News from other European networks

### ESN annual conference - shaping the future of local services in Europe, Paris 2-4 July 2008

This conference will discuss and promote debate on the role of local services in best responding to new social challenges in the 21st century. The event will provide an overview of current developments in service partnerships with other stakeholders and will showcase best practices of how local services have been successfully restructured.

The conference, organised in cooperation with the [French Presidency](#), will gather more than 400 delegates from all over Europe, including keynote speakers, Employment and Social Affairs Commissioner [Vladimir Spidla](#), [Jan Andersson](#) Swedish MEP and chair of the [European Parliament Committee on Employment and Social Affairs](#), and Xavier Bertran, French Minister of Labour, Social Affairs and Solidarity.

### ESN and child poverty: a stronger focus over 2008-10

Children and young people are among one of the three themes that the ESN Board has chosen to dedicate a specific working group over 2008-2010. Four key issues identified are:

- Child and family poverty: focus on psychological and social poverty – not just financial poverty;
- Building partnerships with services, users and the community;
- Support for parents and families to respond to changing social and family structures;
- High-risk groups: ensure the provision of specialised services to vulnerable child groups, such as those with mental health problems, migrants, trafficked children, asylum-seekers, and children in public care.

Overall, ESN members underlined how child poverty is a complex and multi-faceted issue, in which EU and national strategies must take into consideration the challenges faced and the key role played by social services providers. Moreover, ESN underlined that the focus on child poverty should not just be oriented toward financial poverty but should see the problem as a multidimensional phenomenon, that requires a response including social, health, transport, housing, and education services.

The [European Social Network](#) is the independent network for social services in Europe. Its members are national associations or groups of directors of local authority social services, social protection and social welfare as well as regional and local authorities and research institutes. The network exchanges best practice and acts as a platform for policy engagement at EU level.

### CECODHAS General Assembly appoints new Presidents and adopts new vision

David Orr, Chief Executive of the [English National Housing Federation](#) has been elected president of the European Liaison Committee for Social Housing at CECODHAS general assembly. Orr illustrated two key priorities for the network over the next two years: preparation of the UNFCCC summit on climate change (Copenhagen, 2009) and launching the 2009 campaign for the European Parliamentary Elections.

The assembly has also approved a [document](#) listing the vision and priorities of the network - centred on the necessity for CECODHAS to continue to promote and lobby for the creation of socially, economical and sustainable neighbourhoods across Europe.

[CECODHAS](#), is a European network working for the promotion of integrated approaches to sustainable urban development and right for quality social services accessible to all. It has 46 regional and national federations representing over 39,000 public, voluntary and cooperative social housing enterprises in 19 countries.