

Newsletter

Edition 3, September 2008

EUROPEAN CITIES
AGAINST CHILD POVERTY



Second meeting of the Network: Milan

Delegates from the partner cities of the European Cities Against Child Poverty network will meet for the second time in Milan, on 24th-25th September. The event, organised by Italian partner Milano Metropoli, will focus on the second theme of the project, improving life chances for children and breaking cycles of deprivation through education.



Day one of the event will offer delegates the opportunity, in a policy workshop, to discuss and analyse best approaches and successful strategies in addressing social exclusion and low educational attainment among children, particularly those from disadvantaged groups. Following the workshop delegates will visit a successful local project, the [Talent Factory](#), to see the project in action

The second international conference of the project will take place on 25th September, focused on the theme of education and child poverty. Keynote speakers will include Laura Cassio, policy officer at the European Commission (DG Education and Culture, Lifelong Learning- Innovation and Creativity Unit); [Eurochild](#) Secretary General Jana Hainsworth; and [Unicef Innocenti Research Centre](#) Deputy Director David Parker. During the conference representatives of two successful local projects in Milan and London will have the opportunity to present their work.

More information on the Milan events will soon be available [here](#)

[The Talent Factory](#) supports the active participation of children in artistic activities, opening up the potential for building a positive image of themselves and acquiring the skills that are essential to their own personal development. The project's activities focus mainly on you people facing social exclusion or experiencing social and psychological difficulties. The project started in 2004, arising from co-operation between the Advisory Board of the Child Priority Foundation and the [Catholic University of Milan](#).

In this issue

- Second Network meeting
- Launch of the project website
- Upcoming events on child poverty
- Recent publications on child poverty
- News from other European networks

Contact us

againstchildpoverty@gle.co.uk
T: +322 650 0821
www.againstchildpoverty.com



Mutual Learning on Social Protection and Social Inclusion



This newsletter is supported by the European Community Programme for Employment and Social Solidarity (2007-2013).

Milano Metropoli

The Milan event is organised by the Network partner Milano Metropoli, the Agency for the promotion and sustainable development of the Milan Metropolitan Area. Supported by the Province of Milan and other local public authorities, this organisation promotes economic and social development in the area. One of Milano Metropoli's core activities is to facilitate the sharing of knowledge and experience between local public authorities and wider European networks. The European Cities Against Child Poverty project is particularly interesting for Milano Metropoli since child poverty is currently a key issue in greater Milan.



Although the development of strategies and policies against child poverty is not a direct responsibility for Milano Metropoli, the organisation works closely with local authorities that deliver social care and educational services. More information on the involvement of Milano Metropoli in the project is available [here](#).

Launch of the European Cities Against Child Poverty website

The official website of the project, againstchildpoverty.com, has been launched. The aim is to develop an online platform with useful resources and documentation on child poverty for experts, practitioners and key stakeholders.

Among the most relevant features of againstchildpoverty.com is the [what's working](#) section, where case studies of successful projects will be posted under each of the five themes covered by the project.

The website will be regularly updated with information on the future events of the network as well as news, reports and publications.

Child poverty events in Europe October- January 2009

○ [Ending Violence Against Children in Juvenile Justice Systems](#)

Brussels, Belgium, 1-3 October 2008

This international conference, organised by [Defence for Children International \(DCI\)](#), will analyse the problem of violence perpetrated against children in Juvenile Justice Systems. DCI aims to use the event to raise awareness, share best practice and build the capacity of NGOs to lobby their government to tackle these issues more effectively. The event's plenary sessions will be followed by thematic workshops and practical trainings.

○ [What does a child want?](#)

Tallinn, Estonia, 3 October 2008

The Conference, organised to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the re-establishment of the Estonian Union for Child Welfare, will discuss children's needs and current trends in Estonian society on children development.

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

Budapest, Hungary, 9-12 October 2008

Organised by [ISSA](#), an organisation of professionals working in the field of early childhood care and education, this conference will provide a forum for discussion and exchange of ideas and experience on how the promotion of democracy can affect the quality of children's life.

○ **7th European Round Table on Poverty and Social exclusion**

Marseille, France, 15-16 October 2008

The 7th Round Table against poverty and social exclusion will be held under the [French Presidency of the EU](#). The focus will be on the EU strategy on active inclusion and the preparation of the European Year for combating poverty and social exclusion (2010).

○ **Children as Victims and Witnesses. A question of law...and of rights!**

Sion, Switzerland, 14-18 October 2008

The conference will discuss the trauma experienced by child victims and witnesses of crimes. The event is organised by the [International Institute for the Rights of the Child](#), in collaboration with the [United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime](#), the [International Bureau for Children's Rights](#) and the [Innocenti Research Centre - UNICEF](#).

○ **Nutrition: a family matter**

Sofia, Bulgaria, 25 October 2008

During this seminar, the [Confederation of Family Organisations in the EU](#) will present the key recommendations from the report "Childhood obesity, the media and eating habits".

○ **Child in the City 2008**

Rotterdam, the Netherlands, 3-5 November 2008

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

- 1) Child friendly communities: in particular on the need to promote child-friendly strategies at the lowest scale.
- 2) Points of reference: an overview of the most useful indicators for defining a city as children-friendly.

○ **Eurochild Fifth Annual Conference**

Budapest, Hungary, 5-7 November 2008

The conference is co-hosted by the Hungarian Eurochild Member organisation [Family, Child and Youth, Family non-profit Association](#). Keynote speakers will include EU Commissioner Vladimir Spidla and national ministers from the Hungarian and Czech governments.

○ **Germany: child friendly?**

Berlin, Germany, 14th November 2008

Aimed at analysing and assessing the development of child friendly measures in German legislation, this conference will see to provide support and recommendations for the development of Germany's next national report to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (due in April 2009). The event is organised by the [National Coalition for the Implementation of the UN convention on the Rights of the Child in Germany](#) in collaboration with [the Child and Youth Welfare Association](#).

○ **Involving Disabled Children in Planning and Reviews**

Bristol, United Kingdom, 12 November 2008

The conference, organised by the [National Children's Bureau](#), will focus on the various communication techniques, from verbal to emotional, for improving engagement with children with disabilities.

o FEANTSA Annual European Conference: People who are homeless can be housed: An insight into successful practices across Europe

Cardiff, United Kingdom, 13-14 November 2008

The conference, organised in cooperation with [Shelter Cymru](#), will offer an opportunity for representatives from homeless organisations, policy makers, housing experts and researchers to discuss key approaches in relation to housing solutions for people experiencing homelessness.

o World Day for Prevention of Child Abuse

Worldwide event, 19 November 2008

This awareness raising campaign, launched in 2001, will involve more than 780 associations organising events and activities in 128 countries. The Women's World Summit Foundation launched this campaign in order to raise awareness, mobilise public opinion and disseminate successful child abuse prevention programmes.

o Including Me: Working with Children with Complex Health Needs

Reading, United Kingdom, 26 November 2008

This training has been designed for officers and professionals working with children and young people with complex health needs, in order to improve their access to education and childcare. In particular the focus of the training will be on strategies and techniques to ensure that the needs of this group of children are met in a co-ordinated and child-centred way.

o Promote integration of marginalized children and youth from a migration background

Verona, Italy, 27-28 November 2008

[EFSC](#), the European Federation for Street Children, in partnership with its Italian member organisation [Istituto Don Calabria](#), is organising a seminar to consider innovative and successful methods for promoting the active inclusion and integration of children and youth with a migrant background, who may be more at risk of social exclusion.

o Awareness day: Children in the Streets of Europe

Brussels, Belgium, December 2008

[EFSC](#), in partnership with the [European Roma Information Office](#) is organising an awareness raising conference at the European Parliament. The aim of the event is to raise awareness of the situation of street children in the EU. Particular attention will be devoted to Roma children residing in western European countries.

o Child Poverty and Disparities: Public Policies for Social Justice

Cairo, Egypt, January 2009

The Conference, sponsored by [UNICEF Egypt](#), aims at launching a platform for innovative thinking on social policy and child rights, by bringing together academics, policy makers, practitioners and university students. During the conference participants will have the opportunity to exchange experiences and discuss proposals for inclusive and child-sensitive public social and economic policies, aimed at reducing child poverty. The organisers of the event are accepting proposals for presentations from academics, researchers, policy makers and practitioners. For more information please contact [Dennis Arends](#).

Recent publications on child poverty

[O Raise your hand against smacking](#)

Council of Europe, June 2008

The [Council of Europe](#) launched a Europe-wide initiative against corporal punishment of children. The "raise your hand against smacking" campaign aims to raise awareness on the problem of corporal punishment of children, to promote more positive parenting attitudes and promote children's rights throughout Europe.

[O Annual Child Poverty Report from Northern Ireland](#)

Save the Children UK, June 2008

This publication, by providing a statistical breakdown of child poverty in Northern Ireland, illustrates how this phenomenon is influencing different aspects of children's lives. The report, by drawing together a wide range of quantitative and qualitative sources, illustrates that poverty impacts on health, education and life chances of large numbers of children in the region.

[O Child and Youth Participation Resource Guide](#)

UNICEF, June 2008

[UNICEF](#) has announced the launch of the online tool "Child and Youth Participation Resource Guide", a database of useful resources for practitioners and managers involved in promoting child and youth participation in government, community-based organisations, child-led organisations, NGOs and UN and donor agencies. The documents fall into four broad categories and 27 thematic areas, covering a wide range of activities in which children and young people are involved.

[O Delivering benefits, tax credits and employment services: Problems for disadvantaged users and potential solutions](#)

Joseph Rowntree Foundation, United Kingdom, June 2008

This publication provides a review of recent changes in the UK system of benefits, tax credits and employment services. The study provides an overview of the current problems with service delivery and potential solutions for these issues.

[O Parenting in ordinary families: Diversity, complexity and change](#)

Joseph Rowntree Foundation, United Kingdom, July 2008

The aim of this publication is to provide useful resources for policy makers and health and social service workers in their daily activities. The study includes an overview of key research undertaken in the last ten years on parenting, as well as providing case studies of successful strategies for parenting in early childhood.

[O Champions for Children](#)

Research in Practice, United Kingdom, July 2008

[Research in Practice](#) has published a series of briefings to support councillors and social workers in improving their services for children. These briefings cover a wide range of themes, from ensuring school inclusion for all children to promoting mental health for children across children's services.

○ **EARLY CHILDHOOD: Early childhood transitions research - A review of concepts, theory, and practice**

Bernard van Leer Foundation, The Netherlands, July 2008

The study, published in collaboration with the organisation [Young Lives](#), provides a review of the major research findings on early childhood transition. The publication includes as well several case studies where multidisciplinary collaboration and interventions resulted in better participation of both parents and children in crucial early childhood transitions.

○ **Homelessness in Europe**

FEANTSA, Belgium, July 2008

The summer 2008 edition of Homeless in Europe, [FEANTSA's](#) quarterly magazine, will discuss the current situation of homelessness in the EU New Member States. The publication illustrates how the fall of communist regimes has led to reforms and liberalisation policies in most new Member States that have radically changed institutional structures, and particularly social services provision.

○ **Special edition of Crinmail: Roma Children**

Child Rights Information Network, United Kingdom, August 2008

The Child Rights Information Network has issued a special edition of its newsletter, CRINMAIL, for raising awareness of emerging discrimination trends in Europe against Roma children.

○ **Deserving Dignity**

Independent Asylum Commission, United Kingdom, August 2008

The report, published by the [Independent Asylum Commission](#), calls on the UK government to undertake a comprehensive review of the treatment of asylum seekers. In particular the Independent Asylum Commission manifested its concerns for the critical situation of around 2,000 children facing detention measures each year.

○ **The media, poverty and public opinion in the UK**

Joseph Rowntree Foundation, United Kingdom, September 2008

The research, led by a team from the [Scottish Poverty Information Unit \(SPIU\)](#) and [Cultural Business Division](#) at Glasgow Caledonian University, examines the relationship between the UK media and the perception of poverty among the public. The study shows that there is a general misperception of poverty among the public in the UK, but media coverage could prove to be an effective mean for generating public support for anti-poverty initiatives, and particularly for addressing child poverty.

News from other European networks

Eurochild annual conference:

Including Children: a child rights approach to child well-being
Budapest, 5-7 November 2008

The Fifth Annual Conference of Eurochild will take place in Budapest, Hungary with the support of Eurochild's member organisation [Family, Child and Youth, Family non-profit Association](#). Keynote speakers will include the EU Commissioner for Employment and Social Affairs, [Vladimir Spidla](#), national ministers from the Hungarian and Czech governments and representatives from the non-profit sector. The programme for the three-day event is available [here](#).

Thematic workshops and working groups will be held during the three days, analysing and discussing the impact of EU Social Inclusion policies on national and regional strategies for tackling child poverty. Most of the attention will be devoted to three main themes:

- Early years education & care
- Family & parenting support
- Education and life-long learning

[Eurochild](#) is a network of organisations and individuals working to improve the quality of life of children and young people in Europe. Eurochild has 52 members in 27 European countries and is partly funded by the European Commission.

Eurochild and Euronet common position on Commission' draft impact assessment guidelines

Eurochild and Euronet (European Children's network) published a joint statement in response to the European Commission consultation on the draft impact assessments guidelines. In this position paper the two European Networks underline that the European Commission should take more into consideration the impact of legislative and policy proposals on fundamental rights, and in particular on children's rights.

To reach this goal the two networks list three key recommendations to the European Commission:

- Measure the impact of EU actions on fundamental rights.
- Measure the impact of EU actions on the rights of children, (as laid down in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child).
- Ensure the quality and effectiveness of impact assessment through stakeholders involvement.

The [European Children's Network](#) (EURONET), is a non-profit organisation promoting children's rights at European level. EURONET has currently 35 members, based in 24 different countries. The activities of EURONET are coordinated through a secretariat based in Brussels.

EAPN, CECODHAS and EPSU joint position against Energy Poverty

The [European Antipoverty Network](#) (EAPN), together with the [European Liaison Committee for Social Housing](#) (CECODHAS) and the [European Federation of Public service Unions](#) (EPSU), published in June 2008 a [joint statement](#) calling the European Parliament to adopt an EU definition and national action plans on Energy Poverty. The three networks also urged the European Parliament to better ensure the protection of vulnerable customer from excessive energy price rises and to strengthening the role of national regulating authorities.

The three networks argue that that the recent rises in energy prices in Europe have made it even more difficult for people in poverty to meet home energy costs; and that there has been a failure in the EU area to protect the most vulnerable customers from such price rises.