



Childhood without Abuse – towards a better child protection in Eastern Europe

Newsletter
December 2008 - February 2009

Welcome to the second issue of Childhood without Abuse Project Newsletter providing information on the project's activities and initiatives undertaken in Eastern Europe in the field of child protection. Please distribute this Newsletter widely within your organization and to your partners. If you like to be placed on mailing list, send information to dorota.gajewska@fdn.pl. Newsletter is also available at www.canee.net.


About the Childhood without Abuse Project

Childhood without Abuse Project aims to raise East European public's and professionals' awareness and expertise in relation to the problem of child abuse and neglect. In 2008 social campaign encouraging to report cases of physical violence against children was run in 6 project countries. Child protection professionals' competences were improved by a number of trainings and supervisions, devoted particularly to development of **interdisciplinary approach** in professional assistance to abused children and their families. In 2009 activities in the frame of the project will be focused on the **situation of children in institutions**.


Childhood without Abuse Project has been successfully implemented since 2005 in Bulgaria, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Moldova, Poland and Ukraine, and is financed by the OAK Foundation. [read more](#)

Project partners profiles

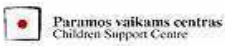
Bulgaria

 **Social Activities and Practices Institute (Институт по социални дейности и практики)** is dedicated to the welfare and protection of children at risk. The organisation's mission is to develop social work as a helping profession enhancing the social inclusion of vulnerable groups in the social life of Bulgaria. www.sapibg.org


Latvia

 **Center Against Abuse "Dardedze" (Centrs Pret Vardarbibu "Dardedze")** provides holistic assistance to children who have suffered from abuse and to their families. Professionals working in the Center offer intensive treatment aimed at reducing emotional, physical and social effects of violence on the child. www.centrsdardedze.lv

Lithuania


 **Children Support Center (Paramos Vaikams Centras)** ensures psychological well-being of children, adults and whole families affected by violence or sexual abuse. The organisation works simultaneously in different fields, ranging from providing psychological guidance and counselling, through developing interdisciplinary training and cooperation programmes for professionals and volunteers, to raising public awareness. www.pvc.lt

Macedonia

 **First Children's Embassy in the World "Megjashi" (Прва Детска Амбасада во Светот "Меѓашу")** defines its task as child protection and preventing cases of child abuse for sexual or economic purposes. "Megjashi"

works on developing the public's awareness of children's rights by organizing social and educational campaigns and by strengthening the NGO movement for children's rights. www.childrensembassy.org.mk


Moldova

 **National Center for Child Abuse Prevention (Centrul National de CN PAC Prevenire a Abuzului Fata de Copii)** works for reducing the level of violence towards children through prevention and education. NCCAP familiarizes the society with the main problems of abused children by publishing and disseminating awareness-raising materials and by organizing social campaigns promoting children's rights. www.cnpac.org.md

Poland

 **Nobody's Children Foundation (Fundacja Dzieci Niczyje)** provides a broad scope of assistance to abused children. The Foundation's activities are targeted at physically, emotionally, and sexually abused and neglected children, their parents and guardians, as well as professionals dealing with cases of child abuse. www.fdn.pl

Ukraine

 **Child Well-Being Fund (Український фонд "Благополуччя дітей")** provides various kinds of services aimed at improving the situation of children in Ukraine. To develop their full potential, CWF trainers organize educational activities targeted specifically at children and youth, and work on creating favourable conditions for their protection. www.childfund.org.ua

Recent project activities

“See it, Hear it, Say it” - social campaign



During the last three months partner organizations were actively involved in carrying out “See it, Hear it, Say it” campaign, aiming to raise public sensitivity to physical abuse of children and to enhance the engagement of witnesses of violence against children in efforts to reduce it. The campaign was originally created and conducted in Poland in 2007 by the Nobody’s Children Foundation. The images were created on pro bono basis by the advertising agency DDB Warsaw, and adapted by DDB local branches in Bulgaria, Latvia, Macedonia and Ukraine.

Bulgaria



In Bulgaria the campaign started in November with a variety of events held in 11 towns, Shumen, Pazardjik, Pleven, Novi Pazar, Razgrad, Veliko Tarnovo, Trjavna, Stara Zagora, Gabrovo, Targovishte, organized by **Social Activities and Practices Institute** and its local partners. On this occasion the goals of the campaign and problem of physical abuse of children were presented to professionals, media and local communities. On 3rd December “See it, Hear it, Say it” campaign was officially inaugurated in Sofia with a press conference featuring Social Activities and Practices Institute, State Agency for Child Protection, UNICEF Bulgaria, and Center Nadia Foundation, all taking part in implementation of the campaign. The initiative gained wide support from national and local organizations and institutions active in the field of violence prevention. In the frame of the campaign a special website www.vij-chui-razkaji.bg was also created.

Latvia



In Latvia the campaign was launched during the national conference for child protection professionals and media representatives, that took place on 5th December in Riga. The conference was opened by the vice Mayor of Riga City Council, who gave his patronage to the campaign. Council of Europe, Children’s Rights Inspectorate, as well as Ministry for Children and Family were also participating in the coalition supporting the campaign. The campaign lasted for one month, and during that time **Center Against Abuse "Dardedze"** was opened for any individual to come and consult in child rearing approaches and methods. Moreover, telephone consultations for child protection professionals seeking advice were held. Intervention telephone number was made available to the public and proved to be needed, as many people reported their concerns about child abuse cases. News about the campaign were broadcasted by several Latvian and Russian TV channels and radio stations.

Lithuania



In Lithuania the campaign began at the end of November and was carried out by **Children Support Center**. Children’s Rights Ombudsman, Children’s Rights Protection Office, and Ministry of Social Security and Labour were among institutions taking part in the campaign. Children’s Rights Ombudsman offered the Ombudsman’s helpline to be used during the campaign. The initiative included distribution of leaflets and posters in Vilnius, Kaunas, Klaipeda, Panevezys and Siauliai. Moreover, educational seminar for parents and a series of free psychological consultations for victims of violence were carried out. Activities were accompanied by a special website www.vaikystebesmurto.lt.

Macedonia



Macedonia was the first project country to inaugurate the campaign with a press conference held on 7th November. The conference, organised by the **First Children’s Embassy in the World – Megjashi** and AVA DDB advertising agency, gathered representatives from a number of TV operators and daily newspapers. On 10th December the campaign was closed and it’s results summed up. The main indicators considered were the number and type of calls to free SOS Helpline for Children and Youth run by Megjashi. It appeared that the number of calls from victims or witnesses of child abuse has risen significantly. Only during one month from the beginning of the campaign 51 calls were received, with 36 of them reporting violence against children. The number of e-mails received in connection to physical abuse of a child was also on the rise.

Moldova



The goal of the campaign in Moldova was to encourage the population and specialists responsible for child protection to report cases of child abuse in the family, to promote non-violent education, but also to influence decision-makers in order to create mechanisms for reporting cases by specialists. The campaign was implemented by the **National Centre for Child Abuse Prevention** in partnership with Ministry of Social Protection, Family and Child and the Alliance of NGOs active in the field of social protection, child and family. The campaign was launched at a press conference that aroused great interest among the mass media. Three press clubs have been established to

maintain contact with the press and gather journalists from three different regions of Moldova. Two radio spots encouraging the population to report cases of child abuse have been produced. The campaign will last till March 2009. At the second stage a booklet for parents promoting non-violent education and offering alternatives to beating will be published and two more radio spots will be produced.

Ukraine



On 4th December Ukrainian campaign was initiated with a press conference organised by **Child Well - Being Fund** and the Ministry of Family, Youth and Sports Affairs. The campaign has been carried out in the regions of Volyn, Dnepropetrovsk, Donetsk, Makeyevka, Zaporozhye, Ivan-Frankivsk, Lugansk, Crimea, Sevastopol, Khmel'nitskiy, Cherkassy, Kharkiv. A number of institutions and organisations, including State Social Services for Family, non-governmental organizations, medical and educational institutions, have been involved in organizing seminars and round tables on child abuse prevention, and distributing posters and leaflets in the frame of the campaign. La Strada Centre contributed by providing an intervention number for witnesses and victims of violence.

In each country leaflets, posters and citylights were developed and widely distributed to the public through social services, medical facilities, schools, custody courts, trainings, seminars and conferences. The campaign activities got positive feedback and high visibility in the project countries. Campaign visuals and more information about the activities conducted in particular countries can be found [here](#).

Supervisions and trainings

Bulgaria

Two **trainings** for Bulgarian social workers, teachers, psychologists and pedagogues were organised by **Social Activities and Practices Institute**. The trainings focused on facilitating interdisciplinary groups working on child abuse cases and presenting different approaches and techniques allowing to help abused children in the most effective way. **Supervision** for representatives of local authorities and organizations in Pazardzhik was an opportunity to analyze a case of child abuse from the current practice of the local Complex for Social Services.

Macedonia

Training for social workers, pedagogues, lawyers and psychologist was organized by the **First Children's Embassy in the World – Megjashi**. Participants were provided with information on recognising symptoms of child abuse and neglect and establishing contact with a child affected by traumatic experiences. **Supervision** for nurses dealing with cases of violence against children in their practice was also conducted.

Subregional training for participants from Bulgaria and Macedonia took place in Samokov, Macedonia. Main theme of the training was interdisciplinary approach in work with abused children. The training was led by Stanislav Petkovski, specialist in medical psychology and Kevin Browne, professor of forensic and child psychology.

Latvia

Center Against Abuse "Dardedze" carried out two **trainings** on the topic "Challenges of interdisciplinary cooperation while working with cases of child abuse". Among the participants there were social workers, medical staff, police officers and child protection services representatives from different parts of Latvia. Representatives of these institutions were also invited to take part in **supervisions** devoted to interdisciplinary cooperation.

Lithuania

In December primary and kindergarden teachers participated in **training** on the topic "How to recognize child sexual abuse and first interventions". This was a pilot seminar of a training programme recently designed by **Children Support Centre**.

In December **Children Support Centre** also organized **subregional training** for social workers and non-governmental organizations' representatives from Latvia and Lithuania. The training was devoted to the problem of assessing and improving safety of children in families. The trainers were Erna Petkute and Linas Slusnys from Children Support Centre.

Moldova

Supervision organised by **National Centre for Child Abuse Prevention** in was attended by 18 journalists specialized in covering social issues. Focus of the event was on the coverage of violence against children in the media from the viewpoint of multidisciplinary approach.

Ukraine

Supervision with international expert, Ausra Kuriene, organised by **Child-Well Being Fund** focused on the Lithuanian experience in child abuse prevention. Representatives of State Social Services, Children Affairs Services, as well as non-governmental organisations were present. Another **supervision**, led by Natalya Zymivets and Tatyana Tsuman, allowed representatives of different institutions to analyse their current practice in interdisciplinary cooperation in dealing with cases of child abuse in the family.

Other initiatives in the East European region

“Child as a Witness” campaign in Bulgaria



Social Practices and Activities Institute has carried out the second stage of the “Child as a Witness” campaign, conducted under the slogan „Your Honour, I have the right not to be scared”. First stage of the campaign was conducted in 2007 in all Childhood without Abuse Project countries.

The Gown poster, originally prepared for the Nobody's Children Foundation by advertising agency VA Strategic Communication Poland, was adopted to Bulgarian and exposed in legal institutions. Moreover, two booklets were published in Bulgarian, "I will be a witness in Court" and “UN Guidelines on justice in matters involving child victims and witness of crime”. The purpose of the first publication is to help children and youth to get prepared for taking part in testifying in court. The campaign activities were part of the "**Coalition for child-friendly interviewing**" Project financed by Trust for Civil Society in Central and Eastern Europe. You can download the booklets in pdf on www.canee.net.

“Did you talk to your child today?” campaign in Macedonia



First Children's Embassy in the World - Megjashi started with third edition of their responsible parenthood campaign. This time the leading slogan has been "Did you talk to your child today?"

For that purpose, six motives for billboards with different family situations have been made, some representing parents who are too busy and have no time to talk to their children, and others with parents who pay attention to their children and talk with them about everyday activities. The visuals will be placed all over Macedonia. [read more](#)

Preparation of National Action Plan for prevention of violence against children under way in Bulgaria

On 15th and 16th December in Sofia a group of fifty child protection professionals from governmental and non-governmental institutions participated in a consultative meeting organized by **Social Activities and Practices Institute** and UNICEF Bulgaria, with support of State Agency for Child Protection. The main objective of the meeting was to prepare a draft National Action Plan for prevention of violence against children. It will be presented to National Council for Child Protection for approval, and implemented in practice by the State Agency for Child Protection. [read more](#)

Forum of children’s rights protection organizations in Ukraine

On 19th - 20th February forum gathering organizations working in the field of children rights took place in Ukraine. The event was a joint initiative of **Women's Consortium of Ukraine** and **Save the Children Sweden**. The topic of the event was "Children's rights: twenty years of work" and it was organized on the occasion of 20th anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. [read more](#)

Keeping the door open: Assistance to children leaving care in the Baltic Sea Region

The report by **Working Group for Cooperation on Children at Risk of Council of the Baltic Sea States** describes situation of children leaving institutions in the Baltic Sea Region. It refers to inadequate support and lack of sensitivity regarding the rights of young people leaving care. The report is available on the working group's [website](#).

Safer Internet Day 2009 celebrated in Poland



On 10th February the **Nobody's Children Foundation** and **NASK**, organizations implementing the European Union's Saferinternet.pl project, organized the Safer Internet Day in Poland. To highlight the occasion, a press conference devoted to the safety of the youngest Web users was held, a campaign related to the problem of cyber violence was launched in the media, and local initiatives were undertaken nationwide to enhance the safety of children online. [read more](#)

Announcements

Daphne III Programme

The European Commission has launched call for project funding proposals under Daphne III Programme. The aim is to prevent and combat violence against children, young people and women and to protect victims and groups at risk. Programme encompasses comparative research, raising awareness activities, exchanging best practices and expertise, developing new support programmes for victims of violence or intervention with perpetrators. Project can last 12 or 24 months. The deadline for submission of proposals is **22nd April 2009**. [read more](#)

Fundamental Rights and Citizenship Programme

The European Commission has issued a call for project proposals under the Fundamental Rights and Citizenship Programme. This year's priority themes include protection of the rights of the child and training and networking between legal professions and legal practitioners. Projects should last up to 18 months and have to be presented by at least two eligible organizations. The deadline for submission of proposals is **22nd April 2009**. [read more](#)