



REGERINGSKANSLIET



The Rights of Children in Institutions in the Region of the Baltic Sea States

Права детей в детских учреждениях в Регионе Балтийского Моря

Improving Child Participation, Monitoring and Post Placement Assistance

Участие детей в принятии решений, мониторинг и постинституциональная поддержка

A Conference organised by the Working Group for Cooperation on Children at Risk (WGCR) in cooperation with the Swedish Ministry of Health and Social Affairs and the Swedish Presidency to the CBSS

Конференция организована Рабочей группой по сотрудничеству в вопросах детей группы риска (WGCR), Министерством Здравоохранения и Социальных Дел Швеции и Советом Государств Балтийского Моря под председательством Швеции

Stockholm 14th to 15th of November 2006

Стокгольм 14 - 15 Ноября 2006

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Programme

”The Rights of Children in Institutions in the Region of the Baltic Sea States”

Improving Child Participation, Monitoring and Post Placement Assistance

For Senior Officials, Researchers and Practitioners from: Belarus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Russian Federation, Sweden and Ukraine.

Radisson SAS Royal Park Hotel, Stockholm, Sweden

Tuesday the 14th to Wednesday the 15th of November 2006

Tuesday the 14th of November:

12.00 Lunch

13.00 Afternoon session

Chair: Ms Gunilla Malmberg, Director, Swedish Ministry of Health and Social Affairs

13.05 Welcoming Address

Ambassador Christer Persson, Chairperson of the CBSS, CSO for the presidency of the CBSS.

13.15 Welcoming Address

Mr Björn Bredesen, Deputy Director General, Ministry of Children and Equality, Norway. Chair of the Working Group for Co-operation on Children at Risk, WGCC

- 13.30 Plenary Presentation:**
Ms Mona Sandbaek, Researcher, NOVA, Norwegian Social Research, Norway. Former seconded Norwegian national expert to the Council of Europe. **“Council of Europe Child Policy; Building a Europe for and with Children”**
- 14.00 *Session I: Supporting boys and girls leaving institutional care***
Chairperson Ms Gunilla Malmberg, Director, Swedish Ministry for Health and Social Affairs.
- 14.00 Plenary presentation:** Professor Mike Stein, University of York, UK.
“Resilience and Young People Leaving Residential Care”
- 14.45 Coffee**
- 15.15 Panel of experts. Ms Sandra Sicilie Hansen and Ms Ruzzel Abueg**, Norwegian Union for Children in Care. **Mr Nuri Can and Mr Ziad Abuali**, Swedish Organisation K.A.M.P. (Renunciation of Criminality Motivated by Friends), **Ms Natalya Malysheva and Mr Kunal Vennikov Kumarovic**, Russian NGO Souchastie v sudbe (Participating in your destiny). Young persons’ views on post placement assistance. Moderated by **Dr Carolina Överlien**, Save the Children Sweden.
- 16.15 National experiences**
Dr Annette Munch, Danish Child and Adolescent development Centre.
“Young persons leaving care”
- Ms Galina Semyia**, Researcher, Moscow University, Russia:
“Guaranteeing of the rights of children in institutions and care-leavers in Russia”
- Mr Alexander Petrynin**, Director, Khabarovsk town psycho-pedagogical Centre, Russia:
“Guaranteeing the rights of children with deviant behaviour in educational institutions”
- Dr Yvonne Sjöblom**, Stockholm University, School of Social Work, Sweden.
“Leaving Care”
- Ms Tamara Uliasz**, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, Poland.
“Paths to self- reliance of children residing in care institutions in Poland”.
- 17.30 Question and Answer session**
- 17.45 Summing up of the first day**
- 19.00 Dinner hosted by the Swedish Ministry of Health and Social Affairs.**

Wednesday the 15th of November

9.00 ***Session II: Monitoring institutions taking stock of the CRC and other applicable international conventions and recommendations.***

Chairperson **Mr Björn Bredeesen**, Norwegian Ministry for Children and Equality. Chairperson of the WGCC

9.00 **Keynote speaker: Dr Roger Morgan** Children's rights Director,
UK

“Children's voices as a part of monitoring residential care”.

9.45 **Mr Eric Backer Røed**, Senior adviser, County Governor of Hordaland, Norway: **“The new Norwegian monitoring system. Implemented changes and lessons learned”.**

10.15 **National Experiences:**
Mr Geert Jørgensen, Managing Director, LOS - The National Organisation of Residential Homes and Special Schools, Denmark:
“Accreditation of Private Residential Homes and Special Schools”

Ms Ieva Zumente, Ministry of Children and Family Affairs, Latvia: **“The state children rights protection inspectorate”**

10.45 **Coffee**

11.15 **National Experiences:**

Mrs. Liudmyla Volinets, Director, State Department for Adoption and Protection of the Rights of the Child, Ministry of Ukraine for Families, Youth and Sports, Ukraine. **“Reforms in the Field of Institutional Care in Ukraine”**

Mr. Bragi Gudbrandsson, General Director of Government Agency for Child Protection, Iceland. **“Residential Care in Iceland: monitoring and the “best interest of the child”**

Ms Laima Nausedaite, Chief Specialist at Foster Care Unit / State Children Right and Adoption Service / Ministry of Social Security and Labour. **“Monitoring Child Welfare in Lithuania”**

12.15 **Questions and answer session**

12.30 **Lunch**

- 13.30** ***Session III. Child participation in all aspects of institutional care.***
Chairperson: Dr Gabriele Kötschau, Director of the Secretariat of the Council of the Baltic Sea States.
- 13.30** **Keynote speaker: Nigel Cantwell, Child Protection Consultant**
Initiatives to improve monitoring and supervision to increase transparency and openness in institutions.
- 14.00** **Panel of experts. Ms Sandra Sicilie Hansen and Ms Ruzzel Abueg:**
Norwegian Union for Children in Care. **Mr Nuri Can and Mr Ziad Abuali**, Swedish Organisation K.A.M.P. (Renunciation of Criminality Motivated by Friends), **Ms Natalya Malysheva and Mr Kunal Vennikov Kumarovic**, Russian NGO Souchastie v sudbe, (Participating in your destiny). Young persons views on child participation in the region. Questions from the floor. Moderated by **Dr Carolina Överlien**, Save the Children Sweden.
- 15.00** **National Experiences:**
Mr Elmet Puhm, Deputy Director, SOS Children’s Village, Estonia:
“Report from research on Children’s voices”
- Ms Kristiina Laiho**, Development Manager, Social Centre of Expertise Pikassos Oy:
“Child participation and the Finnish bill of welfare act”.
- Mr Georgiy Butrim**, Head of Department of Social and Upbringing Work of Ministry of Education:
“Intervention on the Belarusian Situation of Children in Institutions”
- 15.30** **Plenary discussion**
Summing up and future action. For the WGCC: Mr Björn Bredesen, Chairperson and, Mr Lars Lööf., Head of the Children’s Unit
- 16.00** **End of the Conference**



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Программа

”Права детей в детских учреждениях в Регионе Балтийского Моря”

Повышение участия детей, мониторинг и постинституциональная поддержка

Для старших должностных лиц, исследователей и практикующих специалистов из: Белоруссии, Дании, Эстонии, Финляндии, Германии, Исландии, Латвии, Литвы, Норвегии, Польши, России, Швеции и Украины.

Radisson SAS Royal Park Hotel, Стокгольм, Швеция

Вторник 14 - Среда 15 Ноября 2006

Вторник 14 ноября:

12.00 Обед

13.00 Послеобеденная сессия

**Председатель: Г-жа Гунилла Мальмборг, Директор, Министерство
Здоровья и Социальных Дел Швеции**

13.05 Приветственная речь

**Посол Кристер Перссон, Председатель СГБМ, CSO Шведского
председательства в СГБМ.**

13.15 Приветственная речь

**Г-н Бьёрн Бредесен, Заместитель Генерального Директора,
Министерство Детства и Равенства, Норвегия. Председатель Рабочей
Группы по сотрудничеству в вопросах детей группы риска, WGСС**

13.30 Пленарные Презентации:

Г-жа Муна Сандбэк, Исследователь, NOVA, Норвежская Организация Социальных Исследований, Норвегия. Бывший Национальный Эксперт Норвегии в Совете Европы. **“Политика Совета Европы в отношении детей; Строим Европу с детьми и для детей”**

14.00 Сессия I: Поддержка мальчиков и девочек, покидающих детские учреждения

Председатель Г-жа Гунилла Мальмборг, Директор, Шведское Министерство Здоровья и Социальных Дел.

14.00 Пленарные Презентации: Профессор Майк Стейн, Университет Йорка, Великобритания. **“Способность быстро восстанавливать физические и духовные силы. Молодые люди, покидающие детские учреждения”**

14.45 Кофе

15.15 Группа экспертов. Г-жа Сандра Сисили Хансен и Г-жа Руззель Абуг, Норвежский Союз Детей в Детских Учреждениях. **Г-н Нури Кан и Г-н Заид Абуали**, Шведская Организация К.А.М.Р. (Отказ от преступности, мотивированной друзьями), **Г-жа Наталия Малышева и Г-н Кунал Венников Кумарович**, Российская неправительственная организация «Соучастие в судьбе». Взгляд молодых людей на постинституциональную поддержку. Управляется Доктором **Каролиной Ёверлиен**, Шведская Организация Спасите Детей.

16.15 Национальный опыт

Доктор Аннет Мунк, Центр Развития Детей и Подростков Дании. **“Молодые люди, покидающие детские учреждения”**

Г-жа Галина Семья, Исследователь, МГУ, Россия: **“Соблюдение прав и интересов воспитанников и выпускников в условиях институционализации в России”**

Г-н Александр Петрынин, Директор, Хабаровский городской психолого-педагогический центр, Россия: **“Обеспечение прав детей с проблемами в поведении в образовательных учреждениях”**

Доктор Ивонн Шёблум, Университет Стокгольма, Школа Социальной Работы, Швеция. **“Покидая детские учреждения”**

Г-жа Тамара Уляш, Министерство труда и социальной политики, Польша. **“Пути к самостоятельности детей, проживающих в детских учреждениях”**

17.30 Сессия вопросов и ответов

- 17.45 Подведение итогов первого дня
- 19.00 Обед, организованный Шведским Министерством Здоровья и Социальных Дел.

Среда 15 ноября

- 9.00 **Сессия II: Мониторинговые учреждения в контексте CRC и других применимых международных конвенций и рекомендаций**
Председатель Г-н Бьёрн Бредесен, Норвежское Министерство Детства и Равенства. Председатель WGCC
- 9.0 **Ключевой докладчик: Доктор Роджер Морган**
Директор по правам ребёнка, Великобритания
“Мнения детей как часть мониторинга детских учреждений”
- 9.45 Г-н Эрик Бакер Рёд, Старший Советник, муниципальное правление Хордаланд, Норвегия: “Новая Норвежская мониторинговая система. Внедрённые преобразования и полученные уроки”
- 10.15 **Национальный опыт:**
Г-н Геерт Ёргенсен, Управляющий директор, LOS – Национальная Организация Детских Домов и Специальных Школ, Дания:
“Аккредитация частных детских домов и специальных школ”

Г-жа Ева Цументе, Министерство Детства и Социальных Дел, Латвия:
“Государственная инспекция защиты прав детей”
- 10.45 Кофе
- 11.15 **Национальный опыт:**

Г-жа Людмила Вольнец, Директор, Государственный департамент усыновления и защиты прав детей, Министерство Семьи, Молодёжи и Спорта Украины. “Реформы в области институциональной заботы в Украине”

Г-н Браги Гудбрандссон, Генеральный Директор правительственного агентства защиты детей, Исландия: “Детские учреждения в Исландии: мониторинг и “интересы ребёнка”

Г-жа Лайма Науседайте, Главный специалист отдела семейной опеки/Государственная Служба по Правам Ребенка и Усыновлению/Министерство Социальной Защиты и Труда: “Мониторинг положения детей в Литве”



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”The Rights of Children in Institutions in the Region of the Baltic Sea States”

Improving Child Participation, Monitoring and Post Placement Assistance

Stockholm the 14th to 15th of November 2006

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Conference on “The Rights of Children in Institutions set in a Human Rights Perspective”, Stockholm, 14-15 November 2006

Speech by Ambassador Christer Persson

Chairman of the CBSS Committee of Senior Officials

- On behalf of the Swedish Minister for Elderly Care and Public Health Maria Larsson, who unfortunately could not attend today’s conference, and as chair of the CBSS steering group, the Committee of Senior Officials, I warmly welcome you all to Stockholm and to this conference on the rights of children in institutional care.
- Sweden holds the presidency of the CBSS from July 1st 2006 – June 30th 2007. Besides Energy and Environment and Trade and Investment, Civil Security is one of the Swedish priorities during our presidency. The objective of this priority is to promote democracy, human rights and social security, stability, security and prosperity in the Baltic Sea region. Concrete and result-orientated activities are organised by the Swedish presidency to meet the objectives of our priorities.
- Members of the CBSS are the 11 Baltic Sea countries and the EU COM. 7 countries are observers to the CBSS. More detailed information on our priorities and activities together with further information on the countries taking part in the co-operation can be found in our presidency pamphlet (visa upp) available to you all.

- The Working Group for Cooperation on Children at Risk within the CBSS framework proposed (asked) (to) the Swedish presidency to host this conference as a follow up of the conclusions from the meeting of ministers responsible for children's issues hosted by the Norwegian minister for children and family affairs in May 2005.
- Since children at risk is one of the priorities within the field of Civil Security, the Swedish presidency of the CBSS was honoured and is very pleased to host this conference.
- This conference will be an important step to further proliferate (spread information about) the Council of Europe recommendation (Rec 2005:5), through discussions and lectures on improving national monitoring of the situation of boys and girls in institutions.
- A conference such as this is not to be seen an end to itself but may lay the necessary ground for intensified cooperation in the region to improve the respect for the rights of children in institutions. The Swedish presidency of the CBSS will continue to keep close contacts with the WGCC's work within this field.
- All countries in the Baltic Sea Region face the important and challenging task of ensuring the best possible care and rehabilitation to children that have been sexually abused, physically violated or exploited in any way.
- The Co-operation on Children at risk within the CBSS, is a platform where countries in the region may share best

practices and use each others experiences, and expertise by involving actors, researchers and experts that might otherwise work only on a national level.

- The Swedish CBSS presidency is in particular pleased to welcome also experts from Ukraine and Belarus to take an active part in this endeavour.
- Children at Risk is one of the priorities in the co-operation within the Council of the Baltic States. The mandate for the Working Group for Cooperation on Children at Risk, the WGCC, applies to all forms of neglect and abuse, marginalisation and exploitation of children and young people below the age of 18, including sexual, mental and physical abuse. Examples of target groups are street children, institutionalised children, unaccompanied children, and children who have been trafficked for purposes of exploitation, abandoned children, and juvenile delinquents.¹
- The objective of the co-operation on children at risk is to fully implement the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child where every boy and every girl has been recognised the right to be heard, and where every child, no matter what her or his experiences are, have a right to develop in accordance to her or his potential.
- Within the field of Civil Security the Swedish presidency also has as a priority to combat trafficking. It has become even more obvious during the recent years for most

¹ The WGCC was established on the basis of a decision taken by politicians and senior officials from ministers responsible for child matters in Stockholm on October 31st 2001. At the meeting, it was also decided to establish a unit to support the cooperation on children as a part of the CBSS secretariat.

countries in the region that trafficking of children is a growing problem. Some of these minors come to the attention of the authorities since they are sexually exploited by others due to the fact that they are suspected to be involved in organized crime. Information concerning prevalence and how these children are cared for is lacking. The WGCC has accordingly also taken on to promote the development of measures to improve care, identification and the reintegration of victims of sexual exploitation.

- The fact that girls and boys are victims of trafficking and that they are affected in different ways need to be taken into account in all activities aiming at reducing and preventing prevalence of child sexual exploitation. The complexities of these crimes committed against children and young people call for an increasing collaboration between child welfare agencies, non-governmental organizations, customs authorities and law enforcement agencies within our region.
- Let me say a few words on our Swedish experiences. The regional aspects of combating trafficking in human beings have been evident in Sweden for a long time. The now terminated work within the Nordic Baltic Task Force against Trafficking in Human Beings has therefore been valuable.
- The Swedish CBSS presidency has contributed to the establishment of a new Task Force against trafficking focusing on adults within the CBSS. The task force will carry out concrete and hands on work in close cooperation with the WGCC and other CBSS

structure/bodies, national and international organisations, active in this area.

- Hereby, all the CBSS countries have the possibility to take an active part in this important work. This is thoroughly a positive step forward.
- The Swedish Presidency and the CBSS as a whole sincerely hope that this conference will contribute to increased knowledge on how to monitor the situation for boys and girls living in institutions, and how to best support boys and girls leaving institutional care to be prepared for life outside the institution. Furthermore we sincerely hope that international conventions and recommendations will be included in all monitoring mechanisms, and that young boys and girls are included in all planning of their care.
- Last but not least, one main lesson learnt from regional multilateral co-operation, is that co-operation between a smaller group of countries facing the same challenges like the CBSS, has an evident added value and potential to succeed in making a real difference for its citizens, being within the CBSS or in another regional structure, already existing, or in one that has not yet seen the light of the day, enhancing the co-operation towards concrete and practical results in the Baltic Sea region.
- Good luck and thank you very much for your attention!

The Rights of Children in Institutions. Improving child participation, monitoring and post-placement assistance.

WGCC – conference in Stockholm 21-22 November 2006

Opening address by Bjørn Bredesen

It is my pleasure also to welcome you all to this conference with a special focus on Children's rights and their situation living in different Institutions in our Region. I also welcome the participation of professionals from Ukraine and Belarus who are facing more or less the same challenges with children at risk as many of our member states.

This conference is taken place within the framework of Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS) and has been made possible by great support from the Ministry of Social Affairs in Sweden in cooperation with the Swedish Chairmanship of the CBSS. As Chair of the Working Group for Cooperation on Children at Risk I bring forward my grate thanks to Sweden for giving this impotent and challenging question such a high priority. It is also a grate support to the work of our expert group on children at risk. It's also a great honour for me to welcome young people from Russia, Sweden and Norway. Theirs or other young people's experiences and views are of great value to the forthcoming discussions how we in our region can secure and strengthen the rights of children in institutions especially in accordance with UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, The recommendation NR. 5 – 2005 on rights of the child living in institutions from the Council of Europe and other relevant international or national regulations.

The Working Group for Co-operation on Children at Risk, WGCC, was established as a permanent and formal Working Group within the CBSS structure in January 2002 after having adopted its terms of reference at its first meeting in Vilnius the same month. One part of the term of reference was the development of an annual report. The development and agreement on a priority paper was another and the development of an activity plan for every year was the third. You can find all theses documents on our web side. The Children's Unit has been functioning since June the same year and financed by earmarked contribution from member states.

The WGCC has continuously developed activities within its competence and within the terms of reference agreed on at the time of constituting the group. All activities and information focus on children at risk and are anchored in political decisions. The ministers responsible for children's issues met in Oslo last year. The outcome of the meeting gave unanimous and full political support to the

ongoing work that I have just mentioned. This was approved by The Baltic Sea Summit in June this year. The summit communiqué emphasis among other children at risk topics on full implementation of the rights of the children in institutions, development of alternatives to institutional care and focus on increasing the quality of care in institutions (and that is why we are gathered here these two days to follow up this decision).

Further more the ministers meeting in Oslo decided to maintain a continued strong emphasis on children that have been trafficked and are unaccompanied in the countries in the region followed by a decision to prolong The WGCC Plan of Action on Unaccompanied and Trafficked Children until 2008. They also reiterated their support to the development of the Childcentre website. The website has an increasing dissemination of material of interest for professional in the region and is a practical tool to make contact and exchange of views on children at risk issues.

The ministers also agreed to encourage the WGCC to well inform and make good use of the Baltic Sea Regional Study on Adolescent Sexuality. This unique material is based on a cross border research cooperation made possible through the children at risk network. The results from the study, built on questionnaires responded to by more than 20 000 young persons from the region. The plan is to present and publish the results before Christmas.

This is just a short overview on our core activities for 2006 and 2007 and with relevance to our topic on this conference. Before I end I want to emphasise the importance of strengthening our efforts to secure the rights, the safety and wellbeing of children and young persons living in institutions.

Out- of home placement in institutions in Europe and in our region varies a lot. It is a complex picture and difficult to compare figures, because the legislation and criteria for placements are different, access to social rights and family support varies to mention some factors. Based on questionnaires among its member states and other sources, the Council of Europe identified three distinct categories: states with high rate of child residential care coupled with large institutions located to Central and Eastern Europe, states with low rate of residential care and large institutions (South Eastern Europe) and finally states where the process of de- institutionalisation, prevention efforts and family support and alternative care has already though in various degree (more affluent European states such as the Nordic countries.)

This tells us that there are an enormous variation and scope of the situation in relation to out of home placements in our region. But our common challenges are to improve the situation to all children that are placed in institutions even if

they are small or large, to develop institutions or alternatives to institutions that are functional and that shows to be helpful and meet the child's needs, preventive work and good family support and access to social services. We have through the WGCC a good and functional structure to learn from each other, to exchange good practice and to develop adequate policy and efforts based on our own experiences, from NGOs and not at least from children and the young persons themselves.

This holistic approach also include developing good monitoring systems, regular audit of institutions and child welfare services, developing work and research and legislation to secure the safety and rights of children and their families.

To improve the situation for children in institutions in our region and the need for strengthening the monitoring system was some of the conclusions that were highly approved by child experts on a meeting in Yaroslavl Child centre in Russia last year, hosted by our Russian colleagues and in cooperation with the WGCC.

Let me conclude with some, from my point of view, crucial and impotent principles dealing with children placements and preventive work. They are partly reflected in the Council of Europe report” Children in institutions: prevention and alternative care” edited by Mr. Bragi Gudbrandson and in Recommendation nr. 5 (2005) on Children rights in institutions approved by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe.

- a) **The right of the Child**: Repeated researches reveal that the child's voice is often not a primary concern in the placement process. Consultation and collaboration with the child should be ensured from the start especially in decision making around care plans. A dialog with the child - to inform the child, to offer explanations, to learn of the child's feelings and desires – should be the guiding principle of every placement procedure.
- b) **Family support**: Every effort should be made to support families and the child. If placement becomes necessary, every effort should be made to maintain the child's link with her/his parents. Whatever the circumstances, the child's parents should be shown respect and dignity, and partnership and empowerment of the family should be promoted in the best interest of the child.
- c) **Care plans**: Individual care plans should reflect the aim of promoting physical and mental development and autonomy of the child. In particular, an emphasis on educational development should be stressed as it is well

documented that educational achievement plays a crucial role in the future opportunities of children in placement.

- d) **Social integration**: Placement should encourage full participation of the child in society, including leisure and cultural activities. All effort should be made to prevent social exclusion and stigmatisation.
- e) **Minority Ethnic Groups**: It is well known that children from ethnic minorities are over-represented in the care population in many countries. Consideration should be given to the ethnical, cultural and religious background of the child. Special measures should be taken to prevent discrimination and social exclusion.
- f) **Code of Ethics**: It should be recommended that codes of ethics should be established in order to set out the standard of practice for professionals working with children and families. The codes of ethics should be consistent with the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- g) **Post placement plan**: Studies on post-placement support show that specific programmes that are providing appropriate housing and enhancing life skills, further educational achievements and strengthen positive self-image and social integration, are most likely to produce positive results for children leaving care.

It is my hope that the discussion we will have these two days will give positive contributions to the WGCC's work on formulating strategies and efforts to implement Rec. number 5 and relevant paragraphs in The Convention on the Rights of the Child. We will to morrow give you a draft on suggestions for further action.

We have a common interest in improving better conditions for children at risk in our region. I am certain that you will contribute to reach that goal. It will be better for the child concerned, for society and the future for the region. I wish you a good conference.