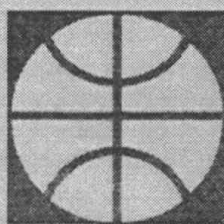


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FICE NEWS

FICE was founded under the auspices of UNESCO in 1948. It has developed into an international forum of practitioners and academics for the exchange of experience in the field of care and education for children and young people both within and outside their families.

FICE is engaged in all aspects of child and youth care – across international borders.

Fédération Internationale des Communautés Educatives International Federation of Educative Communities Internationale Gesellschaft für erzieherische Hilfen ONG – UNESCO/UNICEF/ECOSOC/CONSEIL D'EUROPE

..a resolution on the war in Kosovo

On its Federal Council meeting in Montecatini (Italy) in May, the delegates of FICE adopted a resolution on the war in Kosovo. Faithful to its beliefs as a United Nations Peace Messenger, FICE asked the parties involved in the conflict to stop the hostilities and to look for a peaceful solution. FICE also expressed its concern about the bypassing of the attributions and the procedures of the United Nations Organisation. FICE asked its members to do anything possible to help the victims of this conflict and to work for the re-establishment of peace and mutual understanding in this area of Europe. By two concrete activities, FICE wanted to demonstrate its willingness to contribute as an international body to these goals.

Fortunately, a political resolution of the conflict has been found and the text voted in May is no longer of relevance to the present situation. But it is obvious, that the reconstruction of peace will be a very long and difficult process. The wounds opened by the war will need a long time to heal. It would be a pity if the ethnic purification operations put into practice by some war criminals would definitely split the populations of former Yugoslavia. The multiethnic and multicultural society has to be preserved and the dialogue between people has to be restarted.

As a small international organisation, FICE is currently organising an international youth camp and a Balkan-Conference with young people from children's homes and care workers from the different countries of former Yugoslavia in October in Budapest, Hungary. The goal of the youth camp is to give young people the opportunity to live together for two weeks and to discuss, together with their care staff, current political issues. During the three days conference, young people and care workers will discuss together with experts the possibility of re-establishing peace and mutual understanding among the former enemies.

In a long term perspective, FICE plans to set up an organisation called "Educateurs sans frontières" using its network to mobilise care workers from its 30 member countries to be ready to help to establish acceptable living conditions for children and young people in emergency situations. By this, FICE wants to share its 50 years experience of working with children in trouble with other organisations having the same priorities.

Summary

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FICE-Europe Conference on Juvenile Delinquency, Dec.1998

On behalf of FICE-Europe, ANCE, the Luxembourg FICE-member organised in December 1998 an international meeting about "Juvenile Delinquency in Europe". The conference was organised under the patronage of the Minister of Family Affairs, the Minister of Justice and the Minister of Youth.

The 70 participants, 20 from abroad, met in the nice conference venue, the Jean Monnet Building in Luxembourg-Kirchberg. The conference papers were translated simultaneously in English, French and German thanks to the substantial support of the Representation of the European Commission in Luxembourg. Her Royal Highness, the Hereditary Grand Duchess of Luxembourg, Princess Maria Teresa assisted to the lectures of the first day of the conference and participated actively in the discussions.

The conference was supposed to treat three major issues on juvenile delinquency: **Prevention, Diversion and Protection of Rights**. After the opening speeches of Robert Soisson and Dr. Wolfgang Heusel from the Academy of European Law in Trier (Germany), Nigel Cantwell from the UNICEF International Child Development Centre in Florence (Italy) gave the key-note speech. Nigel Cantwell told the audience about his investigations in international standards on juvenile justice, the role of youth courts, the age of criminal responsibility, trends in the offences, arrest, pre-trial disposition and alternative procedures.

Masud Hoghghi, a former director of one of the biggest institutions for juvenile delinquents, the Aycliffe Centre for Children, told the audience about an emerging concept: parenting. In the UK, developing good parental skills becomes more and more important in the prevention of juvenile delinquency.

David Chesterton, a social worker and currently an Inner London Youth Court Magistrate gave some explanations about the originality of the UK juvenile justice system. Leslaw Pytka, professor at the University of Warsaw, made the point on current trends in the development of juvenile delinquency in Poland and in other former communist countries. The first conference day ended with a round table discussion on prevention of juvenile delinquency and later, participants met for a social evening in the hotel, where most of the foreign participants were accommodated. The second day started with a lecture of Valentin Schroll, General Attorney in the High Court of Justice in Vienna on the Extra-judicial Offence Mediation in Austria. Valentin Schroll strongly supports this new mediation technique and he was very enthusiastic about the results.

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