

GROWING with children's rights
GRANDIR avec les droits de l'enfant
ODRASTANJE uz prava djece



GROWING with children's rights

A Conference on the implementation
of the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights
of the Child 2012-2015

Speakers and Moderators biographies

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Republic of Croatia
Ministry of Social Policy and Youth

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Sandra Artuković Kunšt



Sandra Artuković Kunšt is Deputy Minister of Justice in Croatia since 2012. She is also Judge at the County Court in Zagreb, Second instance civil department and a postgraduate student of civil and family law at Faculty of Law, University of Zagreb. She was member of a work group in the procedure of verifying European Convention on the Exercise of Children's Rights and a member of a work group in the procedure of verifying European Convention on Jurisdiction, Applicable Law, on Recognition and Enforcement of Decisions concerning Custody of Children and on Restoration of Custody of Children. She created educational materials and workshops for education of judges on topic „Child as a subject in the procedure of deciding which parent to live with and a decision on meeting and socialising with the second parent“, organised by the Judicial Academy. Her professional interests are in the field of family law, she participated in different studies, held lectures and made analysis in the field of legal protection of children.

Maria Kaisa Aula



Maria Kaisa Aula (52) is Finland's first ombudsman for children. She holds a Licentiate of Political Sciences degree from the University of Helsinki. She is also Honorary Doctor of Social Sciences from the University of Jyväskylä (2013) and has studied earlier at Harvard University, USA (1990). She has acted twelve years as a Member of Parliament (1991 - 2003). During 2004-2005 she chaired the Central Union for Child Welfare in Finland. Her term as Ombudsman began 1 September 2005 and will end in the April 2014. In her work she has encouraged adults and decision makers to use children's experience in evaluating the quality of services such as school, child protection and alternative care.

Juan Barata



Dr. Joan Barata Mir is the Principal Adviser to the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media. Before that he was a Professor of Communication Law and Vice Dean of International Relations at Blanquerna Communication School (Universitat Ramon Llull, Barcelona). He was also a Professor at the University of Barcelona (2001-2005), the Open University of Catalonia (since 1997) and the Universitat Pompeu Fabra (2010-2011), as well as visiting scholar at the University of Bologna (Italy) (2003) and the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law (New York) (2003-2004). His writings and research interests include topics such as freedom of expression, media regulation, public service broadcasting and political and legal media transitions. He has provided assistance to several institutions and organizations regarding these issues in countries such as Thailand, Morocco, Tunisia, Lebanon, Jordan, Albania, Hungary, Dominican Republic, Colombia and the United States. He has been Head of

President's Cabinet (2005-2009) and Secretary General of the Catalonia Audiovisual Council (2009-2011). He has also provided assistance to the OSCE (2004) and the Council of Europe (2012 and 2013).

Sue Berelowitz



Sue Berelowitz is Deputy Children's Commissioner for England and Chief Executive of the Office of the Children's Commissioner, a role which enables her to focus on her passion for improving children's lives by promoting and protecting their rights. As well as human rights, Sue's areas of expertise include child protection, child sexual abuse and exploitation, children's mental health, youth justice and family court proceedings. She is chairing a national inquiry into the sexual exploitation of children in gang and group contexts. Sue sits on a number of national bodies and advisory boards including the Family Justice Council and the Ministerial Board on Deaths in Custody, and regularly briefs government ministers, members of the House of Lords and MPs on key issues concerning children and young people. Other key appointments include: Chair, Children and Young People's sub-group, UK National Preventative Mechanism for the Prevention of Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment, UN Optional Protocol Against Torture and independent adviser to the CPS' historical cases review panel. Sue is a member of the Children and Young People Now editorial board. Sue trained as a speech and language therapist before gaining her Masters in Social Work from Sussex University. Sue has extensive local government experience and was previously Deputy Director of Children's Services before taking up her current post. Sue is a regular contributor to the media and keynote speaker at national conferences on children and young people's issues. Sue is a Visiting Professor in the Institute of Applied Social Research at the University of Bedfordshire.

Gordana Buljan Flander



Gordana Buljan Flander is a psychologist and psychotherapist, currently working as a Director of the Child Protection Center of Zagreb. She has been working with children for thirty years and was among the first professionals in Croatia who recognized the importance of the issue of child abuse and neglect. In 1997 she founded the Brave Phone, help-line for abused and neglected children, and in 2002 initiated foundation of the Child Protection Center of Zagreb. She was rewarded many times for her work, but the most significant reward is that of ISPCAN for Centre's multidisciplinary team in 2008. Alongside to her direct work with children and families, she is also continuously active in the scientific field. She wrote 7 books and many scientific papers regarding child development, parenting and child trauma. She also works as a lecturer at University of Zagreb and Osijek, and is court expert for psychology, interested in sharing her experiences with other professionals in Croatia and worldwide.

Nikola Dedeić



Education: 2000, graduated at the Faculty of Law, University of Montenegro; *Work experience:* 2001-2004, the apprenticeship at the Regional Misdemeanour Authority in Podgorica; February 1, 2004 – February 1, 2005, worked as the Senior Officer for legal and general affairs in joint stock company Podgorica Express in Podgorica; July 2005 - September 2008, worked as the Senior Advisor for general affairs in the Department for general affairs and finance in General Secretariat of the Government of Montenegro; September 2008 – December 2009, worked as the Senior Advisor of the General Secretariat of the Government and Secretary of the Government Commission for Appeals. December 29, 2009, Secretary General of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare appointed by the Government. *Consultancy and other activities:* 2010-2012, Chairman of the Steering Committee of the project "Labour Market Reform and Workforce Development II" funded by the European Union; 2010-2013, Chairman of the Steering Committee of the Employment Agency of Montenegro; Participated in numerous working groups for drafting the legislation governing the field of public administration, defence, labour and social welfare.

Bernard De Vos



Since March 2008, Bernard De Vos is the General Delegate (Ombudsman) of Children's Rights in the French Community of Belgium. He is the current Chairman of ENOC, the European Network of Ombudspersons for Children, (September 2013-September 2014). Bernard De Vos has been Director of a special service provided to young people in Brussels during more than 15 years. He has also created several innovative services in the field of youth protection and assistance and he is the author of several books and articles on childhood and youth issues.

Jacques Fierens



Jacques Fierens, de nationalité belge, est né en 1954. Il est docteur en droit et licencié en philosophie. Il est professeur extraordinaire à l'Université de Namur, professeur à l'Université de Liège et professeur à l'Université catholique de Louvain. Il enseigne la philosophie du droit, le droit de la famille, le droit de la jeunesse et le droit de l'aide sociale. Il est membre du Centre interdisciplinaire des droits de l'enfant (CIDE), qui regroupe diverses ONG ainsi que des chercheurs ou enseignants de différentes universités belges. Il est membre de la Commission nationale des droits de l'enfant et membre du Conseil scientifique de l'Office de la naissance et de l'enfance (ONE). Il est avocat honoraire au barreau de Bruxelles, au sein duquel il a exercé pendant 36 ans.

Cédric Foussard

Cédric Foussard is Director of International Affairs of the International Juvenile Justice Observatory (IJJO). He has coordinated different International and EU initiatives with the aim of promoting a juvenile justice in accordance with international standards. He has made a notable contribution to strengthening the exchange of knowledge, and good practices, between professionals, administrations, universities and international bodies involved in juvenile justice. He is qualified with a Degree in Public Management from the University of Aix-en-Provence - France and has a Master in International Relations - Spain.

Saida Gicić



Since May 2012 I become active member of CURE Foundation. I started to work in CURE Foundation because I wanted to actively participate in something that will improve the status of women in Bosnia and Herzegovina. First I was involved in the project that relates to the increase number of women in decision-making position. I worked as a project coordinator on the project Young women -agents of positive changes. I actively participated in all activities of CURE Foundation street actions, march, workshops, conference concerning the status of women in all sectors of society.

Rolf Gollob



Prof. Dr. h.c. Rolf Gollob is Co-head of the Centre IPE (International Projects in Education) at Zurich University of Teacher Education in Switzerland. His professional career he started as a primary school teacher before studying cultural anthropology at University of Zurich. After obtaining his Master's degree he concentrated on ethnological research before he became lecturer at Zurich University of Teacher Education. He has focussed his efforts on democracy education and intercultural pedagogy. Since 1996, he has repeatedly travelled to East/South East Europe Asia and Africa as an expert in general teaching methodology, human rights and civic education. In the Centre IPE (www.phzh.ch/ipe) he is responsible for the acquisition and realisation of projects in the field of Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education. Since 2008 Rolf Gollob is the Swiss National Coordinator for Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights for the Council of Europe. For his 20 years engagement for teacher training and Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights in South East Europe he received in December 2013 a Doctor Honoris Causa from University St. Kliment Ohridski Bitola, Macedonia.

Sigve Gramstad



Lawyer by education, working mainly with administrative law. In Norway, I have been Director General of the Culture Department in the Ministry of Culture, Director General of the independent Norwegian Media Ownership Authority and I have been State Archivist. Presently I am advisor to the National Archivist. In regard of international protection of minority languages I was chair of the ad hoc committee that finalised the draft of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, and I was chairing the Expert Committee the first eight years. At present I am vice chair of the committee.

Bragi Guðbrandsson



Mr Bragi Guðbrandsson is the Director General of the Government Agency for Child Protection Iceland. He has been actively involved nationally and internationally in children's rights, child abuse and neglect issues for two decades. Mr Guðbrandsson has worked extensively within the framework of the Council of Europe (CoE). Currently he serves as the Vice-Chair of the Lanzarote Committee. He is the author of the CoE publication on "Children at Risk and in Care" (2006) and co-author of the CoE publication "Protecting Children from Sexual Violence" (2010). Mr Guðbrandsson is a member of the Expert Group on "Children at Risk" within the Council of the Baltic Sea States

since 2002.

Jana Hainsworth



Jana Hainsworth joined Eurochild as Secretary General in January 2006. She is responsible for the day-to-day running of the network, which brings together over 100 member organisations from across Europe. Eurochild is the key civil society network promoting children's rights and well-being in Europe. Jana leads the Eurochild team's efforts to keep children's well-being and the fight against child poverty high on the EU agenda. She has also nurtured Eurochild's growing expertise in the fields of early childhood, family support and children in alternative care. Throughout its work, Eurochild aims to ensure that the voices and experiences of children themselves are

heard. To this aim, Jana has played a key role in expanding Eurochild's child participation activities, notably developing the 'Speak Up!' project which focuses on understanding how children, particularly those who are vulnerable through circumstance or characteristics, view and experience their own rights. Jana previously worked in a Brussels-based communications consultancy where she focused on social affairs and anti-discrimination issues. She has also managed a network of organisations promoting long-term voluntary service in the youth field and has worked for several years in private research and consultancy. She has a Masters degree in environment, development and policy from Sussex University and an Honours degree in Natural Sciences from Durham University in the UK.

Maria Herczog



Dr.(habil) Maria Herczog, Ph.D is an associate professor at the Eszterházy Károly Teacher's College, visiting lecturer at the ELTE Budapest University Doctoral School, and at the ELTE Law Faculty post graduate course on family law, Chair of the Family Child Youth Association since 2005. Maria Herczog has been doing research on child welfare, child protection and on child rights, family matters in the last 30 years, author of several books, book chapters and journal articles. She has been teaching child welfare and protection at different university courses for over 20 years. She was elected as a member to the UN CRC Committee in 2007 and re-elected in 2010, and as a rapporteur of the Committee in 2013. She was a member of the EU Economic and Social Committee between 2004-2010 as a representative of the Hungarian civil society. She was one of the founding members of Family, Child, Youth Association in 1992 and has been actively involved in its work since then in different positions. She was elected member of the Management Board of Eurochild in 2009 and president in 2010, re-elected in 2013.

Pilar Hilarion Madariaga



Pilar Hilarion is the Director of the areas of Social Care, Mental Health, and Dependency Care at the Avedis Donabedian Research Institute (FAD) in Barcelona. Degree in Nursing and Teaching degree in Social Area. She has worked for the last 20 years in projects to improve safety and quality programs addressed to vulnerable people, including infants and teenagers who are in risk and need protection to guarantee their rights in different services of the General Direction of Childhood in Catalonia. For the last three years she has worked to promote a collaborative project to improve children's emotional welfare at pediatric hospitals.

Alexander Hoefmans



Alexander Hoefmans holds a law degree from Ghent University (Belgium) and holds both a postgraduate degree in international relations and conflict management (Catholic University of Leuven) and in Eastern European and Russian studies (Ghent University and Catholic University of Leuven). In 2004 he joined the Belgian Ministry of Justice as a Human Rights Advisor and in that capacity he primarily dealt with the negotiation of international human rights treaties or instruments, their implementation at national level as well as the reporting procedures before the UN and Council of Europe committees. He was national liaison officer to the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance of the Council of Europe as well as to the Fundamental Rights Agency of the European Union. He was also Co-Agent of the Belgian government to the European Court of Human Rights and dealt in this capacity with the Belgian case law before the European Court. He has extensive experience in setting up national independent committees in the

field of human rights (children's rights, prevention of torture, national human rights commission). In 2010 he presided over the Working group on Fundamental Rights of the Council of Ministers during the Belgian EU Presidency preparing, among others, the EU's position in the negotiations on the EU accession to the European Convention on Human Rights. He was also part of the Presidency team that concluded the negotiations on the ratification of the UN CRPD by the EU. From 2012 to mid-2013 he was an advisor to the Belgian Minister of Justice, among others on human rights, privacy and non-discrimination issues. Since 1st September 2013 he is a seconded national expert in DG JUST of the European Commission where he is a legal and policy officer in the Unit responsible for Fundamental Rights and Rights of the Child. He joined the Research group on Fundamental Rights and Constitutionalism at the Free University of Brussels (VUB) in 2008 as a freelance researcher. His main areas of interest are the internal fundamental rights policy of the European Union, the case law of the European Court of Human Rights, human rights and counter-terrorism measures, national and regional monitoring mechanisms and more recently the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Solveig Horne



Ms Solveig Horne is the Minister of Children, Equality and Social Inclusion, representing the Progress Party. Earlier she was a Member of the Norwegian Parliament (Stortinget, since 2005). From 2009 to present she was First Vice Chair on the Standing Committee on Family and Cultural Affairs. In the previous period she has been a member of the Standing Committee on Justice. As a MP she has been substitute member of the delegation to the Nordic Council and the delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. She has also been a member of the Progress Party Group Steering Committee in Parliament. In 1995 she started her political career as a member of the Sola municipal executive council (in Rogaland County), and she was a member until 2007. Between 1995 and 2004 she held several positions as member/chair of the Progress Party, organizations, committees and commissions at local, county and national level. From 1999 to 2005 she was a member of the Rogaland County council, and the last two years as member of the Executive Committee.

Latif Hüseyinov



Born 1964. Graduated in 1986 from Kiev State University, International Law Faculty. Since July 2002, Professor of Public International Law at Baku State University. Since March 2004, member of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT), and since March 2011 President of the CPT. In January 2010 and March 2005 appointed as ad hoc judge at the European Court of Human Rights. In July 2004 appointed as UN Independent Expert on the human rights situation in Uzbekistan. Since December 2003, member of the Venice Commission (European Commission for Democracy through Law), and from March 2001 to December 2007 was a member of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI). Author of

more than 50 publications in the field of International Human Rights Law and International Criminal Law.

Helena Inkinen



Helena Inkinen, age 22. Former youth in care. Part of the group called Survivors, that is a focus group of young people, who have different experiences from care. The aim of Survivors is to develop child welfare in Finland and abroad and it is part of the organization called Pesäpuu ry, a nationwide child welfare association bringing expertise to the field of child welfare. Nowadays studying in Helsinki region for Hotel and Restaurant Management in University of Applied Sciences.

Philip D. Jaffé



Philip D. Jaffé is Professor at the University of Geneva's Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences. He is also the Director of the University Institute Kurt Bösch (IUKB) in Sion, Switzerland, which specializes in Children's rights (www.iukb.ch). Along with Jean Zermatten, he is responsible for the sector Child and youth policy within the Swiss Center of Expertise in Human Rights and serves on its Board. Trained in Geneva, New York and Boston, he worked several years as a clinical and legal psychologist in Massachusetts' maximum security prison mental health system. After returning to Geneva, in addition to part-time academic duties at the University of Geneva and later on at the IUKB, he continued working in the prison system and developed a private practice as a psychotherapist and a court expert. Areas of interest: children in conflict with the law, child-friendly justice, and the field of Children's rights.

Thorbjørn Jagland



Mr Thorbjørn Jagland is the 13th Secretary General of the Council of Europe. The Secretary General has the overall responsibility for the strategic management of the Organisation. Mr Jagland was elected in September 2009. The former Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Norway, Thorbjørn Jagland, aged 63, was also the President of the Storting (Norwegian Parliament) and the leader of the Norwegian Labour Party. He is currently the Chairman of the Norwegian Nobel Committee, which awards the Nobel Peace Prize.

Antanas Jatkevičius



Born in 1975. Master in criminal law and criminology at the Law Faculty of Vilnius University. In 2003 defended the doctoral thesis “Prevention of Juvenile Violent Crime”. Former scientific associate at the Children and Youth Law section of the Criminological Research Department of the Lithuanian Institute of Law; administrator of the Juvenile Justice Programme at the Centre for Crime Prevention; scientific assistant at the Criminal Law Department of the Law Faculty of the Vilnius University. Currently – head of Penal and Administrative Law Unit of the Legal Department of the Office of the Seimas (Parliament) of the Republic of Lithuania; research fellow at the Lithuanian Institute of Law; member of the Commission for Examination of Candidates for Prosecutors; member of the Lithuanian Association of Criminology; member of the working group of the Council for Penological Co-operation (PC-CP) of the Council of Europe.

Mila Jelavić



Mila Jelavić is the Ombudsperson for Children in the Republic of Croatia since 30 March 2006. She holds a Bachelor degree in law. In her entire work she has been dealing with the protection of children and family rights, as well as the rights of persons incapable of work. From 2001 to the date of appointment to the Ombudsman for Children Office, she worked as the Head of the Department for Protection of Children, Families and Guardianship of the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare. She actively participates in the work of ENOC (European Network of Ombudspersons for Children) and CRONSEE (Children’s Rights Ombudspersons Network in South and Eastern Europe). She publishes papers on topics related to children's rights and participated in numerous conferences and expert meetings in the field of children’s rights.

Regína Jensdóttir



Regína Jensdóttir is the Council of Europe Co-ordinator on Children’s Rights and the Head of the Children’s Rights Division in the Council of Europe. She is of Icelandic nationality and holds a law degree from the University of Iceland where she specialised in Human Rights and a post graduate degree (D.E.A.) from the University of Strasbourg in international public law. She has been working for more than 16 years for the Council of Europe in many areas including protecting and promoting minority languages, developing legal norms in the area of public and private law, including the guidelines on child friendly justice.

Ursula Kilkelly



Professor Ursula Kilkelly of University College Cork (Ireland) is an international children's rights scholar who has published widely on children's rights in Europe. Her work is concerned with the implementation of children's rights including in the areas of juvenile justice and healthcare and she has also published extensively on the European Convention on Human Rights and children. She has undertaken commissioned research for the Ombudsman for Children in Ireland, UNICEF UK and the International Juvenile Justice Observatory and she has worked closely with the Council of Europe - the CPT, the Commissioner of Human Rights and the Children's Rights Division on child-friendly justice, detention, participation and child-friendly healthcare issues. She is currently undertaking a two year project on child rights advocacy funded by the Atlantic Philanthropies with particular emphasis on use of the law to advance children's rights. At UCC, she teaches Child Law, Juvenile Justice and Children's Rights and she is director of the Child Law Clinic at UCC, a legal research service that enables students to support lawyers to litigate children's rights issues nationally and internationally.

Csilla Kollonay Lehoczky



Csilla Kollonay Lehoczky, (Dr. habil.) is a professor of the Legal Studies Department of the Central European University (a post-graduate international university) was also a Professor of the Faculty of Law of Eötvös Loránd University (Budapest). Her academic areas are labour and social law, including European labour law, gender and law, equal opportunities. She was a visiting professor in the US at Stanford Law School and at the University of Illinois, at the Johann Wolfgang Goethe University in Germany, and she was teaching for shorter courses in Italy, France, Austria. From 2001 she served, for twelve years as a member of the European Committee of Social Rights, the independent expert body of the Council of Europe, judging the conformity of the law and practice of the States Parties to the European Social Charter. Member of the TTUR (Transnational Trade Union Rights) group, active, among others in organizing academic events and publishing in the field of human rights of workers under the Council of Europe human rights treaties (the ECHR and the ESC), under EU law and the ILO conventions.

Hanna Birna Kristjánsdóttir



Hanna Birna Kristjánsdóttir is the Minister of the Interior, former mayor of Reykjavík and 1st MP on the Independence Party list for Reykjavík. She led the city of Reykjavik through the financial crisis in 2008 with new methods of democracy and cooperation. She is also the vice chairman of the Independence Party since February 2013. From 2002 she has been Reykjavík City Councillor for the Independence Party and was Mayor of Reykjavík 2008 to 2010. Kristjánsdóttir served in various committees such as president of the Reykjavík City Council, chairman of the Reykjavík Town Planning Council, board member of the Union of Local

Authorities in Iceland and member of the Reykjavík Cultural Affairs Committee. She holds a BA in Political Science from the University of Iceland and M.Sc. in International and European Politics from the University of Edinburgh. Hanna Birna Kristjánsdóttir was born 1966 in Hafnarfjörður. She and her husband, Vilhjálmur Jens Árnason, a graduate in Philosophy and a business consultant, have two daughters.

Stella Kyriakides



Ms Kyriakides was elected member of the Cyprus Parliament in June 2006 and May 2011. She is currently Deputy Chairwoman of the House Standing Committee on Health Affairs and member of the House Standing Committee on the Human Rights and on Equal Opportunities for Men and Women. She is also Head of the Cyprus Delegation of the House to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) and General Rapporteur on Children of the PACE. Between 1979 and 2005, Ms Kyriakides worked for the Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Mental Health Services, Ministry of Health.

Gerison Lansdown



Gerison Lansdown was the founder director of the Children's Rights Alliance for England, and is now an international children's rights consultant and advocate who has published and lectured widely on the subject of children's rights. She was actively involved in the drafting of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, is an Honorary Fellow of UNICEF-UK, a visiting scholar at Queen's University, Belfast, an associate of the International Institute for Child Rights and Development in Victoria, and Chair of the Child-to-Child Trust. Publications include: *The Evolving Capacities of the Child*, UNICEF, 2005; *A Human Rights Based Approach to Education for All*, UNICEF/UNESCO, 2007; *Every Child's Right to be Heard: A Resource*

Guide on the UNCRC General Comment 12, Save the Children/UNICEF, 2011

Jean-Claude Legrand



Jean-Claude Legrand has been working with UNICEF since 1993, mainly in the field of child protection. He worked for a UN Special representative from 1991 to 1993. From 1985 to 1991 he worked for NGOs, mainly in situations of emergency and armed conflicts; AICF, MSF France, International Rescue Committee and Oxfam-UK (in Sudan, Malawi and Mozambique). Before that he was a sociology lecturer in France. He has been the senior advisor for children in armed conflict for UNICEF, based in New York for 1997 to 2001 and UNICEF Regional child protection advisor for West and Central Africa from 2002 to 2007. Currently he is UNICEF senior child protection advisor for CEE-CIS

since October 2007 and works mainly on the right of children to live in a family environment, on the right of children to get equitable access to justice and on the right of children to be

protected from abuse, violence and exploitation. His academic background is sociology and law. He is a French national, married, three children.

Dejan Levanič



Dejan Levanič was born on 9 May 1981 in Ptuj, where he finished high school. He graduated from the University of Maribor as a professor of sociology and philosophy. At the time he was an active member of the SOU Maribor. Today he continues training in postgraduate studies at the Faculty of Social Sciences. After graduation he worked as an intern in the Human Resources Department of the Talum company d. d., Kidričevo, and in 2008 was elected to the National Assembly. In the National Assembly he was a member of the Committee on Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Disability, a member of the Committee on Education, Culture, Sport and Youth and a member of the Committee on Foreign Policy. He was also a chairman of the Subcommittee on Youth and a Chairman of the friendship with the U.S. and Brazil. He was a member of the Parliament until the end of 2011, but then he was re-employed by the Talum d. d., Kidričevo, where he worked as consultant for public relations. He is a father of two children and lives in Ptuj. He spends his freetime with his family, friends and people who need help. Dejan Levanič is a State Secretary in the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities from 1st April 2013.

Ton Liefwaard



Prof. Dr. Ton Liefwaard holds the UNICEF Chair in Children's Rights at Leiden University, Law School. He teaches children's rights, child law and juvenile justice and has published widely on the meaning of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and related instruments for the position of children at the national level. He currently supervises a book project analyzing the use of international children's rights standards in international, regional and domestic jurisprudence and works as an expert on violence in juvenile institutions for the Council of Penal Co-operation, Council of Europe. He regularly works as a consultant for international organizations, including agencies of the United Nations, the Council of Europe and the European Union, on issues related to children's rights, juvenile justice, child friendly justice, child protection and alternative care, and violence against children. Ton Liefwaard is furthermore a deputy juvenile judge at the District Court of Amsterdam.

Anne Lindboe



Anne Lindboe is currently serving as the Norwegian Children's Ombudsman. She was appointed by the Government of Norway for a six-year term in 2012. She obtained the cand.med. (MD) degree at the University of Oslo in 2000, and was approved as a specialist in paediatrics in 2011. She also holds an MBA in Management from the Norwegian School of Economics. From 2008 to 2011, she was a medical expert for the police in cases about violence and abuse, and from 2010 also a researcher at the Norwegian Institute of Public Health.

Emily Logan



Emily Logan is Ireland's first Ombudsman for Children. She was appointed to this position by the Head of State, Her Excellency, President Mary McAleese, following an open competition and interview process involving fifteen children and three adults. As Ombudsman for Children, she is directly accountable to the Houses of the Oireachtas (Irish Parliament). Emily has been working for 30 years with or on behalf of children. She originally trained as a paediatric nurse, and spent ten years in the UK working at the internationally renowned Great Ormond Street children's hospital. Her interest in casework affecting children began in the UK where she was appointed to a team undertaking an investigation into clinical risk to children in Great Ormond Street following the death of four children at Grantham Hospital in 1991. In Ireland for six years preceding her appointment as Ombudsman for Children, she held two senior positions in public administration. As Ombudsman for Children her office has dealt with more than 6,500 individual cases of complaints affecting children. Key thematic areas of work include: Multi-agency review of child death; Systemic investigations in the area of child protection; Children without parental care, in particular children in care, separated children and children deprived of their liberty; Since her first year in Office she has championed for an amendment to the Irish Constitution, a referendum in November was won by a narrow margin. In 2008, she was appointed by her peers to the position of President of the European Network of Ombudsmen for Children, a network of 40 Ombudsman for Children Offices across Council of Europe member states and remained on the executive until September 2011. In December 2013, Emily was appointed to undertake a Special Inquiry into the actions of An Garda Síochána (Irish Police Force) into the taking into State care, two Roma children from two Roma families. Academic background: LLM Human Rights Law/ MBA Health Services Management/ MSc Psychology.

Liliane Maury Pasquier



Liliane Maury Pasquier, Switzerland (SOC), originally trained as a health professional (midwife) became a member of the Grand Council of the Geneva region in 1993 and was elected to the National Council in 1995, where she was Chairperson in 2002. In her capacity as National Councillor, she visited South Africa and intervened in favour of Nigerian women threatened with stoning. She became a member of the Committee of external politics of the Council of States, as well as of the Committee of Social Security and Public Health and of the Committee of Science, Education and Culture. At the European level, Ms Maury Pasquier has been a member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe since January 2008. She became Chairperson of the Committee on Social Affairs and Family which was changed into the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development in 2012 where she pursued as Chairperson until the end of 2013. Since the beginning of her European mandate, Ms Maury Pasquier has been the rapporteur for several reports (putting an end to coerced sterilisations and castrations; protecting patients and public health against undue influence of the pharmaceutical industry, draft Council of Europe convention in Trafficking in Human Organs). Most recently, she was appointed rapporteur on "Protecting patients and public health against undue influence of the pharmaceutical industry". As PACE member she has always actively contributed to the ONE in FIVE Campaign of the Council of Europe for which she has also chaired the network of contact parliamentarians for several years (as Committee Chairperson). Thanks to her commitment amongst others, Switzerland can be counted as the 31st country having ratified the Lanzarote Convention (in March 2014).

Eugenia Maxim



Eugenia Maxim was the National Coordinator and Youth Motivator for the YPP Project in 2009-2011 period. In these roles she has supported 15 schools in their effort to combat CSEC. She also participated in a project that deal with the issue of human trafficking in 2007 and helped organize a day for children with disabilities in Ialoveni in 2009. Eugenia has served on student council and as a member of the Council of Young People in Ialoveni. In February 2009, Eugenia participated in "Safe Internet Day." From 2012 until present day she is Youth representative for Eastern Europe and CIS region in the ECPAT International Child and Youth Advisory Committee (EICYAC), that is a group of young people from all over the world, committed to the fight against commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC). These young people come from member organisations affiliated with the ECPAT network.

Peter Newell



Peter Newell coordinates the Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children (www.endcorporalpunishment.org). He has worked closely with the Council of Europe on its target of achieving universal prohibition across the 47 Member States. Peter was a member of the Editorial Board for the UN Secretary General's Study on Violence against Children. He has been Adviser to the European Network of Ombudspersons for Children (ENOC) since its inception in 1997 and chairs the Council of the Child Rights International Network (CRIN).

Peter is co-author of UNICEF's Implementation Handbook for the CRC, now in its third edition.

Aoife Nolan



Aoife Nolan is Professor of International Human Rights Law, School of Law, University of Nottingham. She has published extensively in the areas of human rights, particularly in relation to children's rights and economic and social rights, as well as on constitutional law. She is academic lead of the Children and Childhood Network and the Human Rights Law Centre Summer School on the Rights of the Child, both based at the University of Nottingham. Aoife has worked with and acted as an advisor to a wide range of international and national organisations and bodies working on human rights issues, including the Council of Europe, several UN Special Rapporteurs and the Office

of the Council of Europe Commissioner of Human Rights. Amongst other activities, she has is an advisor to UNICEF UK, the Children's Commissioner for England, the Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and the Right to Education Project.

Milanka Opačić



Mrs Milanka Opačić is a graduated political scientist. During her 20-years long political carrier, she has been dealing with many issues of the national importance. As a member of the Croatian Parliament Mrs Opačić held many important positions: President of the Credentials and Privileges' Commission, President of the Gender Equality Committee, Deputy President of the Committee on the Work, Social Policy and Health, President of the Committee on the Family, Youth and Sports, etc. Mrs Milanka Opačić is Deputy President of the Social Democratic Party. Currently, holding a position of Deputy Prime Minister for Social Activities, and position of Minister of Social

Policy and Youth, Mrs Opačić deals with wide range of issues: she is in charge of resolving issues related to the protection of the interests and improvement rights of the vulnerable people, such as family, children, elderly people, and people with disabilities. Also, all these efforts of Mrs Opačić, which are aimed at improvement of the positions of these groups in society, would not be possible without developing the social welfare mix model, respecting the principle of the subsidiarity, as well as the quality standards and individualisation of the services, informatisation and networking of the social care system. She has also been actively

involved in many activities of NGOs - she was a member of an association called „Brave Phone“ dealing with abused and neglected children.

Miroslav Papa



Mr Miroslav Papa currently holds the post of the Permanent Representative of Croatia to the Council of Europe in the rank of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary. He joined the Croatian diplomatic service in September 1994. During his diplomatic career he held a number of posts in the Croatian Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, including the Head of the Office of the Deputy Minister (2003) and the State Secretary for Political Affairs (2004), the Head of Department for International Organisations and Human Rights (2011-2012) and the Director for UN, Global Issues and International Organisations (2012-2013). He held mandates in the Permanent Representation of the Republic of Croatia to the Council of Europe (1999-2002) and the Mission of Croatia to the EU (2004-2007). In the period 2008-2010 he joined the Regional Cooperation Council Secretariat in Sarajevo as the Chief of Staff of the RCC. Mr Papa was born in Zagreb, Croatia, on 14 March 1970. He holds a graduate degree in law (with honours) from the University of Zagreb as well as the M.I.L. degree from the University of Lund (1997). Besides Croatian, he is fluent in English, French and German. He is married and has one child.

Natia Partskhaladze



Natia Partskhaladze, MD, MSW. Earned degrees from the leading schools in the United States, Europe and Georgia. She is presently working on PhD research on the Quality of Life of Deinstitutionalized Children in Alternative out-of-home Care in Georgia. Natia Partskhaladze has 15 years of experience in the field of child care and social protection system strengthening work, both at the policy and programming level. Dr Partskhaladze is a founder and current Chairperson of the Georgian Association of Social Workers - professional organization supporting the development of the social work profession and social services in different fields and uniting over 500 social workers and other social service professionals. Dr Partskhaladze has worked in UNICEF Child Protection for over 7 years. As a senior national child protection specialist in Georgia, she has contributed towards developing child protection system and successful implementation of child care system reform, resulting in development of preventive and alternative care services and deinstitutionalization of the system. Dr Partskhaladze has a proven track record of providing strategic support to government partners in developing and implementing sustainable programmes to reach highly vulnerable groups, convening and effectively coordinating work of state and non-state actors in child care and social protection sectors.

Elena Georgiana Pascu



Elena Georgiana Pascu (Romania) worked since 2003 to establish an Independent Monitoring Mechanism based on unannounced visits to the public-funded care facilities for children and youth with disabilities. Through this mechanism supported by the Centre for Legal Resources, Mrs Pascu has documented, in the last 10 years, numerous cases of abuse against children and youth in institutions and has helped to prevent further abuses by forwarding legislative proposals, training staff and raising awareness. One of the most striking cases she has documented is that of a young adult who lived with HIV, intellectual disabilities, and chronic illnesses, who was an orphan in the care of public institutions. In order to be protected from physical or sexual abuse by adults, his caretakers left him locked in a warehouse, where he died shortly after Mrs Pascu saw him during a monitoring visit. His case, *Campeanu Valentin vs. Romania*, was brought before the ECtHR and was heard by the Grand Chamber in September 2013. If admitted, the case will represent a milestone in the world of children's rights and youth with disabilities without legal representative. Mrs Pascu holds a degree in Sociology from the Bucharest State University, a postgraduate degree in nonprofit management and training in human rights. In 2002 she was awarded a scholarship by USAID, to be a visiting researcher with the Public Policies Institute from Georgetown University from where she holds a certificate in Child development and Public Policy. The same year she enrolled in a program of George Washington University, where she was awarded a certificate in governing non-profit organizations and lobbying. Mrs Pascu took part in conferences and working meetings in the field of advocacy and protection of persons with disabilities held in USA, Finland, Slovakia, Malta, Germany, Hungary, Bulgaria, Belgium France, and Moldavia etc. In 2005 she attended the WHO Ministerial Conference held in Helsinki as an observer on behalf of human rights organizations and was invited to be part of the UN working group on UN Global study on the Violence against children. Her work at the Center for Legal Resources in Bucharest has contributed to the improvement of the protection of the rights of children and youth with disabilities who are institutionalized in Romania.

Elise Petitpas



Elise works for the END FGM European Campaign of Amnesty International since 2010. As the Advocacy Officer, she monitors the developments at the European institutions in relation to gender-based violence and female genital mutilation. She ensures that the European Union develops relevant instruments on both issues and adequately implements its legislation and policies. This entails work in various areas: from gender equality, health and criminal justice to international protection, development and the EU external action. Elise holds a Masters degree in Human Rights Law from the University of Strasbourg. She has worked with the Brussels office of the International Planned Parenthood Federation. Prior to that, she spent some time in Bosnia-Herzegovina where she worked on the implementation of a new legislation on gender equality as an external collaborator for the French Embassy.

Astrid Podsiadlowski



academic journals.

Dr Astrid Podsiadlowski is Head of Sector of Rights of the Child and project manager of the children and justice project at the Fundamental Rights Agency of the European Union, Equality and Citizens Rights Department. Her specific areas of expertise include questions of discrimination and social inequalities, migration and integration and research methodologies (both quantitative and qualitative with a focus on child participation in research). She previously held academic research and teaching positions in Europe as well as New Zealand and the USA, and has been the project leader of several international research projects. She is a psychologist by education and training, and has published a number of book chapters and articles in

Marie-Pierre Poirier



UNICEF Representative to Namibia, in December 2000 Representative to Mozambique, and in 2004 Representative to Brazil. MS. Poirier holds a Master's Degree from the National Institute of Oriental Languages and Civilizations (Sorbonne Nouvelle). She also graduated in Economics from the University of Paris in 1981, after having studied a year in Harvard. She is the mother of Stefanie and Luc.

Marie-Pierre Poirier is the UNICEF Regional Director for Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CEE/CIS) since 1 February 2012. Based in Geneva, she brings to the position 30 years of experience in Asia, Africa, Europe and Latin America in developing partnerships for children with governments, civil society and the private sector. Her career with the UN began in October 1984 at UNICEF Headquarters in New York working with child poverty and exclusion in urban areas. She moved to Geneva in 1989 to head the Child Rights Section at the time of the final negotiations on the Convention on the Rights of the Child. From 1995 she served in Islamabad, Pakistan, in 1998 she was appointed

Kélig Puyet



Kélig Puyet is a graduate in Law, with a specialisation in Human Rights and Democratisation. In the last 18 years, her focus area as a volunteer and as a professional has been the rights and well-being of children and youth, in Europe and worldwide. In the last 11 years, Kélig has been working in Brussels, firstly for the European Youth Forum and currently for SOS Children's Villages International, mainly dealing with children in alternative care, family strengthening and youth leaving care policies. Since 2003, she's been cooperating with the Council of Europe on various processes and projects. Kélig is also a member of the Management Board of Eurochild as well as of

the Brussels based Child Rights Action Group, the European Expert Group on the transition from Institutional to family and community-based care and the EU Alliance for Investing in Children.

Neven Ricijaš



Neven Ricijaš, PhD works as an assistant professor at the University of Zagreb, Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Sciences, Department of Behaviour Disorders, where he teaches juvenile delinquency, alternative/community sanction and phenomenology of behaviour disorders. His main research interests are developmental theories of risk and delinquent behaviour, implementation of evidence-based community interventions in welfare and justice system for persons who commit crime and different types of youth risk behaviour. He was a head of two national research projects, one on juvenile probation in Croatia and one on youth gambling activities. Dr Ricijaš is also involved in conducting community sanctions for young offenders, as well as different commissions in the Croatian Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Social Policy and Youth in implementation of successful interventions for offenders.

Apolonio Ruiz Ligero



After studying economics in Madrid University, Mr A. Ruiz-Ligero entered the Spanish Administration where he worked for thirty years and played a role of highest responsibility during more than twenty years in various functions. He was Secretary of State at the Spanish Government on two occasions, Secretary of State of Commerce from 1988 to 1991 and Secretary of State for External Trade from 1993 to 1996. During both periods, he was also Chairman of the Spanish Institute of Foreign Trade and Chairman of the Aid Development Fund Commission. He participated in all the Bretton Woods Organizations (World Bank, International Monetary Fund and specialized agencies) as Deputy Spanish Governor. He was Governor for Spain in the African Development Fund and Deputy Governor in the Interamerican Development Bank, the African Development Bank and the Asian Development Bank. He participated as Minister of Trade in the General Affairs Council of the European Union. He participated in the negotiations between the European Union and the ACP countries, signed in Mauritius Island in 1995. In addition, he was General Director of Exports, General Director of Commercial Policy, Deputy Chairman of the Spanish Institute of Foreign Trade, and for three years Vice-Chairman of Iberia Airlines. From 1985 to 1996, he has played a relevant role on the development of Spanish commercial and cooperation policy in different fields. He taught International Economics at the Universidad Complutense in Madrid and was professor for the Master's programme in international trade. From 1996 to 2001, he was General Director of the Economic and Commercial Office of the Spanish Embassy in Paris. Mr Apolonio Ruiz-Ligero was elected Vice-Governor on 19 June 2001, re-elected on 15 September 2005 and on 10 June 2011.

Snežana Samardžić-Marković



Ms Snežana Samardžić-Marković is since 2012 Director General of Democracy at the Council of Europe, in charge of the Organisation's action promoting democratic innovation, governance, participation and diversity. Her responsibilities include the policy areas of education and youth, local democracy, cultural policies, election assistance, the protection of human dignity, gender equality, children's rights, and the rights of minorities, societal defences against discrimination, democratic citizenship, social cohesion, intercultural dialogue and democratic responses to crisis situations. Previously, Snežana has held numerous positions in the Serbian Government including as Deputy Director in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for Neighbouring Countries; Assistant Minister of Defence (2005-2007) and Co-President of the Serbia-NATO Defence Reform Group; member of the Foundation Board of WADA, Minister of Youth and Sports (2007-2012) and President of the Fund for Young Talents.

Kirsten Sandberg



Chairperson of the UN Committee on the Rights of the child from May 2013, member 2011-2015. Professor of Law at the Department of Public and International Law, University of Oslo, teaching child law, public administrative law and social welfare law. Has published a number of articles and books within child law and children's rights, especially on children's right to be heard, discrimination of children, the rights of asylum-seeking children and child protection law. Headed a research project on the CRC in judicial and administrative practice and is co-editor of a book on the implementation of the CRC in Norway. She was Acting Justice in the Supreme Court of Norway for three months 2010-2011, has served as a judge in the County Court and the Court of Appeal and has worked in the Legal Department of the Ministry of Justice.

Marta Santos Pais



Marta Santos Pais was appointed as Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) on Violence against Children as the first SRSG on Violence against Children on May 1st, 2009, and took her position on September 1st, 2009. As a high level global independent advocate, Marta Santos Pais promotes the prevention and elimination of all forms of violence against children in the justice setting, in the home, in institutional care, in schools, in the workplace and in the community. She acts as a bridge builder in all regions, and across sectors and settings where violence against children may occur. Since her appointment, she has been strongly committed to mobilizing action and political support to maintain momentum around this agenda and to achieve steady progress across the world. Marta Santos Pais has more than 30 years' experience on human rights issues, engagement in United Nations and intergovernmental processes. She is the author of a large number of publications on human rights and children's rights. Before

her appointment as SRSG on Violence against Children, Marta Santos Pais was the Director of the UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre, a position she held since 2001. She joined UNICEF in 1997 as Director of Evaluation, Policy and Planning. Previously, she was the Rapporteur of the Committee on the Rights of the Child and Vice-Chair of the Coordinating Committee on Childhood Policies of the Council of Europe. She was a Special Adviser to the UN Study on Violence against Children and to the Machel Study on the Impact of Armed Conflict on Children. She was also a member of the UN Drafting Group of the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child and of its Optional Protocols and participated in the development of other key international human rights standards.

Helmut Sax



Second Vice-President of GRETA - CoE Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, Head of Team "Child Rights/Women's Rights/Anti-Trafficking" at the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights, Vienna. Member of the Child Trafficking Working Group of the Austrian Task Force against Human Trafficking. Engaged in national and regional child rights organizations and networks (Austrian Child Rights Coalition, ECPAT Austria, Eurochild). Completed legal studies; lecturer at University of Vienna.

Madi Sharma



Madi is an Entrepreneur who founded and runs the Madi Group, a group of International private sector & not for profit companies, and NGOs. The philosophy is to create innovative ideas tailored to local action which can achieve global impacts beneficial to a sustainable society. She is also a member of The European Economic and Social Committee in Brussels. Madi is a public speaker internationally, particularly in the field of entrepreneurship, female entrepreneurship, diversity; gender balance and her passion for corporate social responsibility CSR. Her presentations, spoken from the heart, motivate and inspire and seek to make others consider their ability to affect change. It is now tagged #MadiEffect

Aynur Sofiyeva



Sofiyeva Aynur Mammadiyya was born in 1970 in Gakh city of Azerbaijan Republic .In 1986, she entered the faculty of journalism of Baku State University and then she got education in the faculty of law as a second education. First of all, Aynur Sofiyeva became famous as professional sportswomen outside country. She started to play chess since 1974. She became champion of USSR when she was 16. In 1990, she is the first international grand master of Azerbaijan and the first international grand master among women in Islamic world. She was the

president of The Azerbaijan Chess Federation during the period 2002-2007. During the period between 1998- 2000 she worked as lawyer in the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of Population of Azerbaijan Republic, and further as a senior lawyer. A. Sofiyeva elected to the Parliament of Azerbaijan Republic for the period of 2000-2005 years. Being parliamentarian she was also a member of working group of the Inter-parliamentary Relations. Since 2007 she appointed to the position of Deputy Chair of the State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs of Azerbaijan Republic. A. Sofiyeva has been supervising over the family and children problems in The State Committee. In this area, she has attended both republic and international level conferences and sessions. She is a leading expert in fulfilling of some researches carried out by the Committee, as well as social investigation with regard to "Early marriages: violation of children's rights" (2009); wide and comprehensive research named as "Family and Marriage Institute in Modern Azerbaijan: Sociological Analysis" (2009); statistical investigation with regard to "Investigation of cases of early marriage of girls and out of marriage births" in cities and villages of the country (2010). She was a deputy chairman of Organizational Committee of I and II Children Forum held in 2009 and 2011 in Azerbaijan. Currently, works are carried out on preparation of III Children Forum. Married, 2 children.

Herdís Thorgeirsdóttir



Dr Herdís Thorgeirsdóttir is an attorney at law in Reykjavík. She was appointed professor of constitutional law and human rights at the Faculty of Law, Bifrost University in 2004. Since 2003 she has been a member of the Network of Legal Experts that ensures the European Commission is kept informed in relation to important legal developments in the field of gender equality at national level, and the impact of these developments. She was elected President of the European Women Lawyers' Association (EWLA) in 2009 and re-elected in 2011. Prior to that she had been Vice President since 2005. She was appointed member of the Venice Commission, the European Commission for Democracy through Law in 2010 after having been substitute member on behalf of Iceland since 2003. She was chairman of the Sub-Commission on Human Rights of the Venice Commission from 2011 to 2013. In December 2013 she was elected Vice President of the Venice Commission. She is on the Board of Trustees of the European Academy of Law since 2012. Born and raised in Reykjavík, Herdís Thorgeirsdóttir studied psychology at the University of Aix-en-Provence, journalism at the College of Journalism in London, has a B.A in political science from the University of Iceland, B.A. in law from Reykjavík University, M.A.L.D degree in international law and politics from the Fletcher School of Law at Tufts University and is doctor of laws (Dr. Jur) from the Faculty of Law from the University of Lund in Sweden.

Johan van den Hout



Johan van den Hout, Netherlands (R, SOC) is member of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, he sits in the Chamber of Regions. In September 2013, the Congress Bureau approved his nomination as Thematic Spokesperson on Children. In the Netherlands, he has been a member of the Provincial Executive of the Province of Noord-Brabant with the Ecology and Enforcement portfolio since September 2011. Having studied sociology (specialist development sociology, healthcare, Latin America) at the Universities of Tilburg, Leiden and Amsterdam, he went on to do a postdoctoral research programme in "Development and International Relationships" at the Facultad Latino-Americano de Ciencias Sociales (Latin American Social Sciences Faculty (Unesco)), Havana, Cuba.

Bruno Vanobbergen



Bruno Vanobbergen (1972) got his PhD in Educational Sciences at Ghent University (Belgium) in 2003 with a research on the commodification of childhood. He published several articles in international journals on (the history of) childhood. He was professor at the Rijksuniversiteit Groningen (The Netherlands) and visiting scholar at Rutgers University, Camden (USA). In June 2009 he was appointed by the Flemish Parliament as the Flemish Children's Rights Commissioner. As a Commissioner he is responsible for monitoring children's rights in Flanders by mediating, investigating complaints and giving policy recommendations. He is a member of the European Network of Ombudspersons for Children (ENOC). Vanobbergen is also guest professor childhood studies at Ghent University.

Ana Vukadinović



Ana Vukadinović was born on 27 April 1974 in Podgorica, where she completed elementary and high school. She graduated from the Faculty of Economics in Podgorica in 1999 in Finance management, and completed her Master degree MSc International Business Management at the University of Surrey, School of Management in Guilford, UK, in 2005. Since February 2011, she is Ambassador of Montenegro to the Council of Europe, Head of the Permanent Mission of Montenegro to the Council of Europe, seated in Strasbourg, France. As representative of Montenegro, she is member of the Council of Europe Bank (CEB) Governing Board, the Executive Committee of the North-South Centre, and of some other bodies of the Council of Europe of which Montenegro is member (GRECO, GRETA, European Audiovisual observatory), etc. Since February 2013 she is the Chair of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers Rapporteur Group for Social and Health Issues (GR-SOC). From September 2009 she was Foreign Policy Advisor to the Prime Minister of Montenegro. In the period December 2006 - June 2009 she was the Secretary (Head) of the Secretariat for European Integrations, institution in charge of coordination of European integration process

and donor assistance. From middle of 2003 she was Advisor to the Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Policy and Development. In the period 2000-2003 she worked as an Economic Advisor at the European Commission Food Security Programme (EC FSP), program of financial support of European Commission for structural changes. She began her professional carrier as intern at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Montenegro in September 1999, working mostly in the Sector for Economy, Multilateral Relations and Stability Pact. During 1999 she was being engaged as temporary as translator for website at NGO medioclub, interpreter and organizer for foreign media (ZDF, the Daily Telegraph, Reuters, il Corriere della Sera, the National Post), and in April 1998 as media analyst for the OSCE Mission Election Observers. She organized and participated in large number of conferences, seminars, events in the country and abroad. She speaks English, French and Italian, and is learning German.

Christina Weber Khan



Mrs Christina Weber Khan is since 2012 Head of the Department Authorities & Courts at the Kinderanwaltschaft Switzerland, in charge for the promotion and implementation of the Guidelines on Child friendly Justice by 2020 in Switzerland. Previously, she held varies positions (2003 – 2012) in NGOs and in governmental organisations in the sector of child protection and in the justice system (1991-2002). Her responsibilities included children's rights in the field of education, child protection, their right to be heard and specifically in the justice system. Further areas were to promote child rights based approach in organisations and in national and international cooperations. She is the President of the Network Child Rights Switzerland, a national coalition for the implementation of the UN-CRC in Switzerland. From 2005 – 2013 she was member of the Federal Commission for Children and Youth / Commission fédérale pour l'enfance et la jeunesse in Switzerland. She works also as child rights expert and consultant for NGOs, governmental organisations and for the Council of Europe.

Veronica Yates



Veronica Yates, Director, has worked for CRIN for just over ten years. She has a passionate commitment to children's rights and achieving real change for children. She is highly ambitious for CRIN's developing advocacy role and believes that small, focused organisations can make a disproportionate impact - but is well aware of the challenges. She is Co-chair of the International NGO Council on violence against children, convenes the NGO Working Group on Mainstreaming. She sits on the Board of Child Soldiers International, Approach Ltd., and was recently appointed to the Advisory Committee of Human Rights Watch's Child Rights Division.