



A study session of Save the Children UK, UNICEF and the Council of Europe's Youth Centre in Budapest, in cooperation with the European Youth Forum and Euronet

# Towards a Children's Agenda *for Europe and Central Asia*

A consultation of young people in Europe and Central Asia in preparation for the United Nations Special Session on Children  
23 – 29 April 2001  
European Youth Centre Budapest, Hungary

## REPORT

Compiled by Carol Toms, *Save the Children UK*





## **Thanks**

To all the young people who participated in this consultation and who were a pleasure and a privilege to work with.

To the EYCB for hosting the consultation, and to their committed staff.

To the organisations which supported the activity.

To the members of the planning group who worked so hard to put the plans into practice and to make the activity such a success.



## **Disclaimer**

The opinions and views expressed in this report do not necessarily correspond to the official opinion of any of the organising institutions, their member states or their member organisations.

*This report was compiled by Carol Toms, Save the Children UK*

## Contributing Organisations

### **Save the Children UK**

Save the Children is the UK's leading international children's charity, working to create a better future for children. Save the Children (UK) started work in South Eastern Europe in 1919 and is now working in 70 countries throughout the world to make a reality of children's rights. It is an independent international non-governmental organisation (NGO) working directly with children and young people in their communities but also with partner organisations and governments.

Save the Children (UK) is also part of the International Save the Children Alliance which has 30 members throughout the world.

Save the Children UK  
17 Grove Lane  
London  
SE5 8RD  
United Kingdom

### **UNICEF**

For more than 53 years UNICEF has been helping governments, communities and families make the world a better place for children and young people. Part of the United Nations system, UNICEF has the mandate and mission to advocate for children's rights and help meet their needs. UNICEF now works in 161 countries, areas and territories on solutions to the problems facing poor children, young people and their families and on ways by which their rights might be realised.

UNICEF  
Palais de Nations  
CH-1211  
Geneva 10  
Switzerland

### **European Youth Centre Budapest**

The European Youth Centre Budapest (EYCB) is an educational establishment of the Council of Europe, which is an international organisation composed of 43 European states. The Council of Europe's primary goal is to promote the unity of the continent and guarantee the dignity of its citizens by ensuring respect for their fundamental values: human rights, pluralist democracy and the rule of law. The EYCB's participation is rooted in the tradition of the Directorate of Youth and Sport to associate young people with the decisions that influence them. Children's rights and young people's participation are thus two priorities that go hand in hand with each other in a centre for the young people of Europe.

European Youth Centre Budapest  
Zivatar u. 1-3  
1024 Budapest  
Hungary

### **European Youth Forum**

The European Youth Forum (EYF) is the representative platform of approximately 100 youth non-governmental organisations (NGOs); that is, organisations run by young people for young people. The European Youth Forum campaigns to ensure that the voice of young people is heard in the political decision-making process and it also works with its institutional partners, the EU, the Council of Europe and the United Nations, to develop forums where young people may give their views on the issues that affect them.

European Youth Forum  
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## Section I: Introduction

Towards a Future Children's Agenda for Europe and Central Asia was a joint activity between Save the Children UK, UNICEF and the European Youth Centre Budapest, in collaboration with the European Youth Forum and Euronet. It was a consultation of young people in Europe and Central Asia in preparation for the United Nations' Special Session on Children.

The consultation was held from April 23 –29 at the European Youth Centre, Budapest and brought together 51 participants aged 14 – 18 from 25 countries:

Albania, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Finland, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (including the UN-Administered Province of Kosovo), Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Moldova, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Spain, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Ukraine, the United Kingdom and Uzbekistan.

This was a unique event: the bringing together of a relatively young group of participants from so many countries in Europe and Central Asia by two international organisations in partnership with the Council of Europe.

### **Scope of the report**

This report fulfils several functions: it is not a political message in itself but it is a record of the process by which young people's views on their priorities for the next 10 years were agreed so that they could be presented at the Intergovernmental Conference on Children in Berlin in May 2001; it also reflects some of the flavour and quality of the group experience, given the range of cultures and opportunities for interpersonal exchange; it recognises the challenges faced in such events and records lessons learnt to inform planning for any future event; and it provides details of the educational content of the programme for the EYCB's reporting requirements.

The report contains samples of the participants' work; by no means all work is recorded here, the examples are purely illustrative. Editing of participants' work has been kept to a minimum except where communication is hindered.

## Section II: Methodology

### Selection of participants

The participants were nominated through the lead organisations – UNICEF, Save the Children UK, Euronet, the European Youth Forum and the EYCB. Not every country was included; for practical reasons nominations were sought from a sample of countries where the participating organisations had the capacity to support the preparation of the young people. There was also an attempt to balance representation from Western and Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Each country was asked to send one boy and one girl who were already involved in children's rights issues in their own country. Special effort was made to include young people who are from disadvantaged backgrounds or have not had the opportunity to participate in international events. Some countries went through a democratic peer selection process in order to identify their participants, for example by organising residential selection weekends. These young people could not claim to represent all their peers but were encouraged in their preparation in-country to familiarise themselves with the issues affecting other young people. In some cases this involved visiting Roma sites or meeting children in residential institutions. Adults accompanied each country's participants in order to offer support during the consultation.

### Planning process

Planning group members were based in London, Geneva, Brussels and Budapest. Before the consultation, two meetings of the planning group were held in Budapest. Three phone conferences were also held. The team arrived 24 hours before the start of the consultation in order to meet and finalise details.

The programme framework was that used by the European Youth Centre but adapted to the requirements of the consultation and the outcomes required for the Berlin Intergovernmental Conference. Simple background materials on the UN Special Session and the Berlin Conference were sent to participants prior to the meeting.

### The Programme

The aims of the consultation were:

- to prepare inputs and contributions from young people for the Berlin Intergovernmental Conference on Children in Europe and Central Asia;
- to empower participants and generally increase their understanding and competence in the area of children's rights issues;
- to foster solidarity and understanding among young people from different regions of Europe and Central Asia; and
- to provide a useful and positive experience of children's and young people's participation.

The expected outcomes were:

- for young people to prepare their contributions to the Berlin Conference and the UN Special Session on Children;
- to identify priorities for European and Central Asian governments, and to prepare a message for the plenary of the Berlin conference and the Special Session;
- to contribute to the production of a video which captures the spirit of the consultation and highlights the participants' priority concerns, ideas, and hopes for the future; and
- to identify opportunities for follow-up of recommendations in-country.

The programme was designed to maximise exchange and learning across Europe and Central Asia, starting with the sharing of issues in participants' own countries, building up to a discussion of 'sub-regional' issues – the points of commonality and difference – and then establishing European and Central Asian shared priorities. The design of the programme was intended to encourage analysis of the sources of problems, leading to a better definition of possible solutions. It also tried to encourage thinking about the different levels of influence that were possible, from governments down to personal action.

The planning group were aware that young people were being asked to provide a lot of information and to do a lot of thinking and communicating (often in their second or third language) and therefore wanted to ensure that participants were able to take something out of the process for themselves, to receive training and improve their skills during the week, as well as contributing to the consultation. A series of skills workshops was therefore included in the programme.

In planning specifically for the contribution to the Berlin Conference, groups were designed to replicate the workshops which would be held in Berlin. They used the same format and attempted to focus young people's recommendations on one or two key points so that their voices would be heard within large adult-dominated workshops. They were, in effect, a rehearsal as each workshop selected a young person to go to Berlin.

A special feature at the consultation was the making of a short video highlighting young people's issues, concerns and suggestions. The video was made and produced by young filmmakers from Kyrgyzstan and was shown at the plenary session of the Berlin Conference. This was a creative way to bring the young people's voices and messages to Berlin.

### Educational methods

The participants in this consultation were the youngest group to have been received by the EYCB. This, together with the language barrier of working with participants from 25 countries, led to an innovative mix of group work, drama, practical skills workshops, and plenary sessions. The consultation was conducted principally in English with simultaneous Russian translation available. The participants were able to give feedback and presentations in either English or Russian. Most of the young people had excellent language skills and were well able to cope with the demands of

the programme in English. However, some of the participants' level of English was insufficient for them to be able to participate fully.

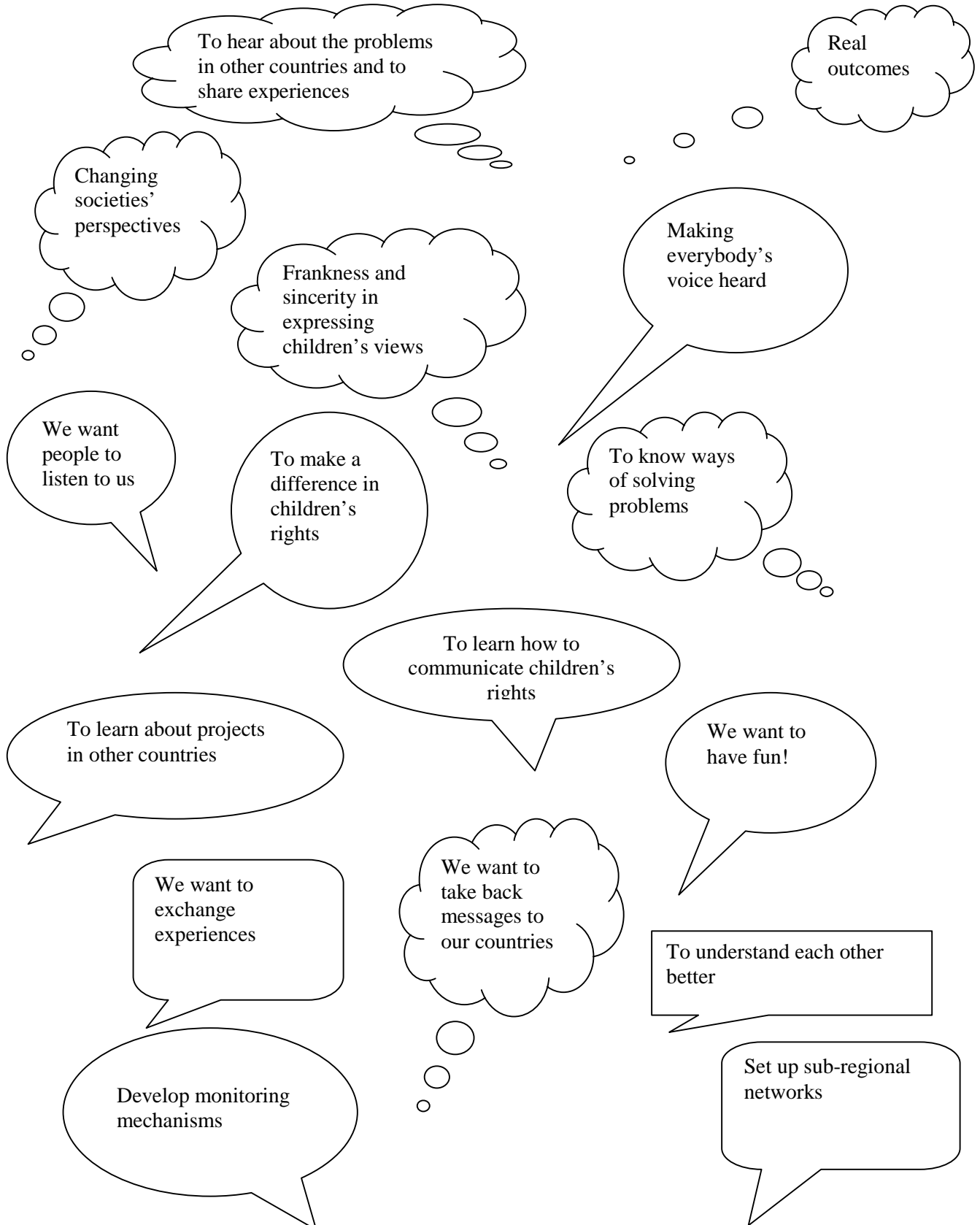
The group work sessions used different groups on most occasions in order to enable the participants to exchange their experiences with as many young people as possible. On some occasions the participants chose their own groups, while on other occasions they were allocated to groups randomly, or by country, or by sub-region. In addition, facilitation and chairing of plenaries varied – with some sessions facilitated by adults, and others run by young people themselves.

Groups were able to give feedback in whatever medium they chose – through art, poetry, drama or simple flipchart presentations.

“Home groups” were an important part of the methods used to work with so many young people from such diverse backgrounds. In order to provide ongoing feedback and evaluation and to give the young people a mechanism by which to feed into the planning group, the young people were allocated to “home groups” of 7 or 8 young people with a facilitator from the planning group. The groups met every evening with the specific aim of giving their views about how the day had gone, what went well and what could be improved. Accompanying adults were also in a home group facilitated by the course director. The planning group met later each evening and considered feedback from the groups as well as other items for the next day.

## Section III: Outcomes

### Participants' expectations of the consultation



## Sub-regional priorities

Young people were asked to brainstorm the issues they saw as priorities in their countries and subsequently in sub-regions.

### **☐ Central Asian Republics (this group fed back using drama)**

1. Poverty – children who leave orphanages are often forced into begging or crime because there is a lack of aftercare.
2. Children can't go to school because they haven't got shoes or clothes. They can't afford text books either.

The message from this group was that children should get together to solve problems.

“Children's rights – if we are united, we can do it.”

#### Other priorities included:

Nutrition

Healthcare (costs of access)

Addiction – alcohol and drugs

Lack of jobs leading to prostitution, theft and robberies

Discrimination against people because of their age, whether they live in the country or a town, if they are refugees, if they have disabilities

### **☐ Russia, Moldova, Belarus, Ukraine, Bulgaria**

1. Health of young people is deteriorating because of drugs, alcohol and bad sexual behaviour.
2. Poverty is causing difficulty in access to studying and to healthcare.
3. There isn't enough importance attached to spiritual life – there is a lack of moral values, spiritual ideals and motivation. This has an impact on families, and links between generations are lost.
4. There isn't enough participation in decisions in education. A lack of access to education hampers access to vocational training and therefore to jobs.
5. High youth crime rates and exploitation of youth (for example sexual abuse and pornography) are worrying.

### **☐ Hungary, Czech Republic, Latvia, Romania, Bulgaria**

1. Poverty
2. Lack of information about drugs, alcohol, children's rights, HIV/ AIDS
3. Poor quality and cost of education
4. Lack of non-formal education, lack of somewhere to talk about your problems, the lack of an alternative if mainstream school doesn't work out for you
5. Discrimination against people on the grounds of the ethnic background or religion
6. Isolation in rural villages; “small lonely places”
7. Lack of youth participation in making decisions

#### ❑ **Spain, Portugal Switzerland, Belgium**

1. There shouldn't be drugs, violence or discrimination
2. Children shouldn't work
3. There should be more emphasis on prevention
4. There needs to be more co-operation between active bodies – schools, politicians, NGOs
5. There should be more knowledge about other cultures.

#### ❑ **UK, Ireland, Germany, Finland**

1. Drug and alcohol abuse
2. Discrimination on the grounds of race, ethnic background (eg Travellers / Roma), religion, handicap.
3. Poverty – which leads to other problems such as poor housing
4. Poor healthcare
5. Violence – physical, sexual,

#### Keys to success:

#### **Groups highlighted “secrets” to successful youth projects – including:**

- Knowledge
- Motivation
- Communication, realistic, teamwork, empathy, opinion, tolerance, goals, fun, enthusiasm, preparations, responsibility, perseverance, pressure, self-confidence, to be reliable, open minded
- Prevention (information, communication, professional help)
- Co-operation between all the active bodies in the society (school, family, politicians, young people, politicians, NGOs)
- Greater knowledge about other cultures: mixed and small schools so no ghettos

#### Ten years on

The final phase of the exercise asked participants (in mixed groups) to imagine that it was 2010 and they were writing the end-of-decade review – what would they want to say has been achieved over the past 10 years? What would young people be excited about having achieved? What is our vision, how are we going to get to our vision and what are the keys to success? – What calls would they make for action from young people, NGOs, and governments? Participants fed back in a variety of ways including drama, and group or individual presentations.

One of the groups produced the following newspaper-style view of 2010.

**400 forints**  
**April 10, 2010**

## **End of decade summit held in Budapest**

### **Vaccine for AIDS found**

**Thanks to more money for research, better medical training and media campaigns, there has been a new breakthrough in development for HIV Aids vaccine. Vaccination has also wiped out curable diseases.**

### **Environment improved in last 10 years**

**With help from awareness through education and advertising, the environment has been regenerated and further protected. More recycling facilities have also helped improve the problem.**

### **No more child labour**

**Thanks to young people lobbying governments, young people no longer have to work and can enjoy their childhood.**

### **Youth participation never better**

**Due to school council and youth town councils more young people have a say in their lives.**

### **Discrimination what??**

**A big thank you to all of you. With help from education schemes we have peace and understanding in our world.  
WELL DONE!**

**WELL DONE**

## Skills development workshops

The objectives of the skills workshops were:

- To provide participants with an insight into certain skills and competencies relevant to enhancing their participation and leadership functions
- To give participants an opportunity to interact and to work together beyond the themes of the seminar and of the Berlin Conference
- To address issues relevant to youth participation from other points of view
- To increase participants' self-confidence, motivation and competence

Participants chose from the following workshops:

- Media
- Communication through drama
- Networking
- Teamwork
- Intercultural learning
- Health promotion

The workshops were also open to the accompanying adults. Participants were asked to identify any topics which were not covered in the workshops, which the planning groups could then try to address. None were indicated!

## Highlights of working group recommendations

The rapporteurs from each group listed below met to prepare the "Message to Berlin" formed from the common messages of the mixed groups. They presented a draft to the group the following day and asked for suggestions and changes. These were made and the final message was presented during the last session.

### **Working groups**

Participants selected one of six topics for a workshop: protection of children from violence; education & new technology; youth participation; environment and intergenerational justice; poverty; and health and social environment. The content and scope of these workshops corresponded to the working groups on these themes to be held at the Berlin Conference. Specialists in the fields chosen facilitated the groups. The workshops culminated in the preparation of reports on the discussions and recommendations to be shared in Berlin. The reports were presented in plenary.

## The Budapest message to Berlin

**Budapest, 28 April 2001**

Dear Friends

We are writing to you from Budapest, where 51 young people from 25 countries of Europe and Central Asia have been discussing the most important issues we face.

### **I How we see Europe and Central Asia**

Our world is a world that is far from our dreams. A world where many families live in poverty and some children cannot afford to go to school. A world where people are not treated equally and their rights are not always respected. A world where young people are pushed to turn to drugs and alcohol and don't get the support they need. A world where education systems fail to prepare us for life. A world where public health services are not always available for everybody. A world where our families are falling apart and where we are not protected from the dangers in our societies. A world where adults do not take us seriously. A world created by YOU, but experienced by US...

### **II The Europe and Central Asia we want to see**

This world is not good enough for us. We demand change. We have the right to a world where there is no more war, drugs or poverty. A world where:

- all young people finish secondary school;
- all young people have equal opportunities to develop their capacities;
- all young people have access to information they need;
- all young people can participate in political life and decision-making;
- all young people are protected from exploitation and abuse;
- all young people have safe places to go for recreational activities.

### **III What can we do?**

We as young people are willing to work alongside adults to help create this world. We invite you to cooperate with us to achieve the following goals by the year 2011:

- shadow youth councils in every local authority where young people can have a say in decision-making in their community;
- educational reform to make the curriculum more relevant to children and young people;
- the creation of a centre for young people in every major city where young people from different backgrounds can exchange ideas and share experiences;
- the establishment of non-judgemental services in every community for young people's physical and mental health;
- enhanced social support and mentoring programmes for vulnerable families.

**Young people are not only the future... we are the present. So let's start cooperating today!**

Report of the working group on protection of children  
from violence, exploitation and discrimination

This group will examine basic protection measures in situations of gross violation of human rights, such as violence, exploitation and discrimination. The topics will include violence related to war, through state institutions and family environment, the worst forms of child labour, including commercial sexual exploitation, and forms of discrimination based on ethnicity, citizenship, disability or economic status – resulting in social exclusion.

**What are the issues?**

*Underlying violence and discrimination are:*

*lack of understanding and communication; boredom; poverty; insecurity (financial and emotional); abuse of drugs and alcohol; media; history and religion.*

**What are the changes you wish to see?**

- *Opportunities for young people from different cultures and backgrounds to meet together - communication and understanding*
- *Integrated education for physically disabled young people*
- *Young people routinely consulted about decisions which affect them*

**Calls for action:**

**By young people - you and me**

- *Peer education*
- *Volunteering*
- *Co-operate with police*
- *Be active : find out about your rights, do not take drugs, speak out against discrimination*

**By NGOs**

- *Organising national and international meetings*
- *Organise training*

### **By government**

- *Create centres for young people*
- *Experimental schools for physically disabled and able bodied young people*
- *Youth Parliament in every country*
- *Consult young people in all decisions affecting them*

### **Media**

- *Discourage the portrayal of drug and alcohol abuse, discrimination and violence in ways that glamorise or make them appear acceptable*
- *Make TV programmes which feature minority groups*
- *Stop broadcasting programmes which are a bad influence on young people*

### **Conclusion**

- *Youth Parliaments (essential)*
- *Youth Centres*
- *Personal activity – volunteering, finding out about rights etc.*

## Report of the working group on education and the application of new technologies

This group will assess education policies and strategic actions consistent with the Education for All declaration, specifically highlighting factors limiting access to education and non-discrimination, constraints on learning in conditions of poverty, crisis and instability, the quality and relevance of education and the effective use of new technologies in education. This working group aims to draw a regional consensus for action to support the creation of safe and supportive educational environment goals consistent with the “World Fit for Children” global agenda.

### **What are the issues?**

*Poor conditions in schools, lack of equipment and facilities (eg cafeterias, sports halls) constrain learning*

*Poverty – problems in funding education, children can't afford school supplies, high drop-out rates from schools*

*Discrimination in education – against minorities, disabled children, children in institutions, children living in poverty*

*Quality and relevance of education: teaching can be too passive, big classes, lack of an individualised curriculum, lack of strategic direction*

### **What changes do you want to see?**

*Community schools encompassing a full range of facilities – sports, cafeterias, green spaces, counselling services, non-judgemental health services, IT suites: all with access all day, every day.*

*The wider community to be more involved in education – through seminars, discussions, sport events, exhibitions of children's work*

*An education system without corruption, where all are equal and there is no favouritism or discrimination.*

*A well-funded education system which promotes change and reform in co-operation with children*

*A tolerant educational environment*

### **What are your calls for action?**

#### **By young people:**

- *To participate actively in our own education (eg stand for school council, write or contribute to a school newspaper)*
- *Support each other and be a good example*
- *Respect and learn from each other*

**By NGOs**

- *Encourage the wider community (parents, business, media, governments) to be involved in education*
- *To establish, support and run children's centres*

**By governments**

- *To be responsible for their actions*
- *To promote change and apply it*
- *To monitor teachers' work*
- *To ensure financial control*
- *To listen to what children have to say and to act on it*

## Report of the working group on participation of children and young people

This group will discuss and assess strategic approaches to effective participation of children and young people in decision-making. It will focus on participation at municipal and local levels, including through schools, community councils, social services and non-governmental organisations. The discussions will also include a review of children and young people's participation at the national and political levels, including through parliaments, youth councils, and the media. At both levels, the collective participation of children and young people and their participation as individuals, particularly in judicial and administrative proceedings, will be covered. The expected outcomes from this group will be recommendations on how to enhance and expand opportunities for all children and young people to effectively participate in the decisions that affect their lives.

### **What are the issues?**

*Mechanism of decision-making*

*Education*

*Health*

### **What are your calls for action?**

#### **By young people**

- *To be responsible, reasonable, active, enthusiastic, persistent and critical*
- *To organise youth parliaments, councils, forums and consultations, child-to-child groups, school boards – in order to promote youth initiatives (to include children with special needs)*

#### **By NGOs**

- *Establish a mechanism of monitoring the organ described below*
- *Campaign to get children with special needs involved in the decision-making process*
- *Organise children's media centres*
- *Lobby for children's interests*

#### **By governments**

*To promote children's participation in matters which concern them by:*

1. *establishing a consultative organ of young people*
2. *making education more participative through legislation*
3. *lobbying and campaigning for more space in the decision-making process, promoting mass media campaigns on this.*

Report of the working group on intergenerational justice  
and environmental sustainability

This group will assess economic, environmental and social welfare policy issues and decision-making practices which will impact upon the lives of future generations of children throughout the region. Specific topics to be addressed include: the legacy of the national debt burden, the depletion and pollution of natural resources, and the legacy of violence and abuse perpetrated against children. The group will make reference to normative acts to reach a consensus on actions to build a social contract with future generations of children, consistent with the principles enshrined within the “World Fit for Children” global agenda.

**What are the issues?**

*Pollution (bombing, nuclear energy, acid rain)*

*Poor family environment*

*Better education*

**What are the changes you want to see?**

*The right to a clean environment, the necessity of participation, the necessity of having better education on global issues.*

**What are your calls for action?**

**By young people:**

- *To recycle*
- *To be part of decision-making*

**By NGOs:**

- *To provide more help for young people*
- *To work with the mass media*
- *To provide more information*

**By governments:**

- *To levy taxes on industries which cause problems*
- *To create a “cool image” for those people who recycle*
- *To support renewable energy*

## Report of the working group on poverty, transition and development approaches

Discussions will assess regional poverty trends and specific implications for children in both western European and transitional countries. Policy priorities and strategies will be proposed to generate financial and managerial resources to more effectively support the implementation of the “World Fit for Children” global agenda which will be launched at the Special Session for Children of the UN General Assembly in September this year.

### **What are the issues?**

*We discussed about poverty, especially about actions to fight against poverty. We also had discussions about the reasons for poverty development, as the increasing of poverty at every country’s level, unemployment, the decrease of the incomes, the symbolic allowance for children etc.*

*In what concerns the measures to be taken, firstly, we have to reach poor people and try to understand them. Then we should overcome the obstacles and implement the chosen strategies.*

### **What are the changes you want to see?**

#### ➤ **Basic income**

*There has to be a basic income for poor people so they can buy all necessary goods like clothes and food. And they should have access to specific services like health, education...*

#### ➤ **Information access**

*There should be information access for all people. The governments have to build information centres where specialised people teach social skills to poor people and schools have to participate in this activity too. Schools and information centres should give information about prevention of poverty, discrimination and drugs.*

#### ➤ **Efficient laws**

*People have to respect laws and children’s rights. Governments should change some laws with regard to children’s rights.*

#### ➤ **Mentoring programmes**

*There has to be mentoring programmes. Governments and social workers should not exclude the poor people, they also have to include them in the society.*

*There has to be an active process in order that all people share experiences.*

#### ➤ **Public funds**

*The governments must use the public funds in equal ways emphasising the poverty issue and visibility (=money shouldn’t get lost on the way to the population).*

## **What are your calls for action?**

### **Action by young people**

- *They must have shadow youth councils in order to see that the measures taken by the governors are implemented*
- *They should have better participation in mentoring programmes to get close to poverty issues*
- *They should be taught to accept and tolerate diversity between all groups of population*

### **Action by NGOs**

- *These organisations must organise debates related to poverty issues in which they should as a priority involve young people*
- *They have to organise training and social assistance programmes for poor people so that they can be integrated in the society. They should have the opportunity to learn and practice a job*
- *They should have counselling and family planning programmes*
- *They should organise mentoring programmes*

### **Action by the governments**

- *The governments should give basic incomes to poor people and they should provide social assistance.*
- *The governments have to provide information centres.*
- *The governments should change some laws about children's rights (for example: every country should give enough support to the families, and not only symbolic amounts)*
- *The governments must take the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child seriously, like a state law.*
- *The governments must use the public funds in equal ways emphasising the poverty issue and visibility (=money shouldn't get lost on the way to the population).*

## Report from the health and the social environment working group

Discussions will cover key emerging health issues including HIV/AIDS, children with disabilities, drug addiction including abuse of tobacco and alcohol, mental health and malnutrition, (including micronutrient deficiency), over-nutrition and eating disorders. Expected outcomes will include the formulation of sub-regional and multi-country strategies to address the emerging health problems of children and young people, with collaborative actions proposed by Governments and details of specific support required from the donor community.

### **What are the issues?**

- *Unhealthy lifestyles: HIV/AIDS, drugs, alcohol, smoking, early pregnancies and cancer among young people is increasing*
- *The consequences of war and conflict / violence (e.g. trauma, depression, suicide)*
- *The lack of available and non-judgmental health services*
- *The impact of the mass media on young people's physical and mental health / development*
- *Poor access to information needed for a healthy way of life, from family, peers and school*

### **What are the changes you want to see?**

- *Co-operation between governments, NGOs, church and young people*
- *Establishment of centres where young people have opportunities to cooperate, share their experiences, dreams and ideas, and practice different extra-curriculum activities*
- *Control of mass media and advertising directed at young people*
- *The promotion of a healthy way of life through the introduction of "healthy lifestyle" courses in schools, and psychological support for both teachers and students*
- *The creation of centres for young people and their families to provide information, support and counselling*

### **What are your calls for action?**

#### **Actions by Governments**

- *Governments must make priority decisions to provide improved health services for young people. There need to be laws that support these services, and health workers have to be trained to deal with psychological as well as physical problems*
- *Governments must institute a service to educate parents in order to present them with new strategies to support young people and respond to their needs, in order to prevent mistreatment of children / young people and end family violence*

### **Actions by NGOs**

- *NGOs have to continue to offer training for children, teenagers and young adults about healthy ways of life, not only in big cities but also in rural villages*
- *NGOs must offer to organise a “Day of Healthy Lifestyle” in communities, schools, neighbourhoods and organisations, to provide booklets that include the principle messages of the Convention on Child Rights and paragraphs about health and social environment*
- *NGOs can create a library containing reports, statistics and literature on the condition of the children, young people and mothers in their country, and in the world*
- *NGOs could organise festivals with young people in order to raise funds to promote young people’s health*
- *NGOs must develop a deeper collaboration with those organisations that have as a first objective the protection and development of children and young people (eg. Centres for Child Abuse Prevention, Centres for Children living with Disabilities)*

### **Actions by young people**

- *Young people must develop a strategy to influence the authorities to respect children’s rights at all levels, and make this a new attitude / value of the whole society*
- *Young people must enhance activities with parents for the dissemination of the information about non abusive ways of dealing with children and young people*

*We really do think that with these proposals we will be able to change our world for the better and provide a solid ground for the happiness of children.*

## Press conference

A press conference took place with the representatives of the consultation organisers and young people selected by their peers. The supporting organisations prepared the press release (see Appendix 4 for text) with the young people. The number of journalists who attended was small, but it was felt to be a valuable experience.

## Section IV: Next steps and follow up

### Other conferences

Eight young people were chosen by their peers to attend the Intergovernmental Conference on Children in Europe and Central Asia where they participated in the working groups using the reports above. Four young people were chosen to attend the Special Session in New York in September 2001.

### Follow-up

Sub-regional groups were asked to reflect on how they were going to follow up the work of Budapest, why and how they should stay in touch. Both the adults and the young participants took part.

Comments are summarised below:

1. Central Asian republics – summer camps for the region, parallel special session in September.
2. Russia et al – exchanged addresses, camp in Crimea in the summer to which they plan to invite FRY, Romania and Bulgaria.
3. Bulgaria et al – disseminate information to peers, write articles for magazines, create an e-group for information exchange and news
4. FRY et al – inform children and young people about Budapest, use existing structures to co-operate, look at good practice exchange for a regional youth parliament
5. Spain, Portugal, Switzerland and Belgium – disseminate findings from Berlin and New York, meet again in 1 to 2 years to review progress
6. Germany, Finland, UK, Ireland – use the internet, disseminate results from the consultation.

Each of the organisations represented in the planning group spoke briefly about how they could support ongoing work with the participants.

## Section V: Evaluation and lessons learnt

### Lessons learnt for future events of this kind

Although important lessons were learnt on how to improve the organisation of a meeting like this, it was felt that the meeting was a strong success as measured by the outcomes achieved, the participants' feedback and the observations of the organisers. The following list suggests positive lessons as well as areas we would hope to improve on in future.

#### **Positive lessons**

- Create a youth-friendly environment:
  - Find a venue with ample space for both large & small groups and informal talking; easy access to outdoors and, if possible, simple facilities for young people to organise their own free time pursuits (disco, computer room, games), and with staff comfortable with young people.
  - Foster an open learning atmosphere, allowing time for questions / discussions. Make sure adult facilitators are experienced in how to listen to young people.
  - Allow adequate programme time for getting to know each other and sharing experiences, using creative drama and innovative methods.
  - Building activities for cross-cultural exchange.
  
- Include a skill-building component

#### **Further suggestions**

- Assist youth discussions on specific areas (in this case, thematic topics to be covered in the Berlin Conference), by preparing two-page youth-friendly background papers on key topics, or hold 'expert' panels / debates prior to discussions.
  
- When youth consultation will involve selection of representatives for other meetings (in this case, for the Berlin Conference and the Special Session on Children), decide both selection criteria and methods for voting / selection as part of the pre-consultation planning process.
  
- When selecting participants, ensure that all have the necessary language skills to participate to the fullest.
  
- With multi-lingual groups, try to make the first day less demanding in terms of language skills. Provide prompts where possible (OHPs, PowerPoint, flipcharts).
  
- Allow time and facilities for any documentation produced during sessions to be translated immediately.

- Consider ways of involving accompanying adults more fully.
- Build sufficient time into the programme for daily organiser planning meetings.
- Organisational and planning decisions should be made in small groups.
- Decide policies (e.g. finance, child protection) to be followed early in the planning process.
- Consider a code of conduct for participants, including enforcement issues.
- Make arrangements to cover public liability and travel / medical insurance for participants.

## Participants' comments

I liked our group work

I hope that this kind of youth consultation will be part of governmental process in every country

I liked it that the voices of young people were taken seriously

Now I know that I wasn't completely mad to think this would be really successful and you're all going to go on and do really great things at home

I feel that this conference has been the best opportunity I've had

If you want to do something and you really feel like it you can do it

I hope that you continue to energise and inspire all the adults you've come into contact with in the same way as you've inspired me

I really liked that there young people from so many countries

I learned that adults and the organisation team can listen to young people and they can negotiate about issues

I learnt a lot about what young people are doing in Europe and Central Asia

I like that so many young people can come together and exchange so much experience

I hope that all this consultations will make a real impact on the situation for children in the region

I hope that the message of young people read in Berlin will be taken seriously by the government

# Appendices

## 1.Young participants

Albania	<b>Elton Ago &amp; Elda Musta</b> , Albanian Children's Alliance
Azerbaijan	<b>Nariman Topchibasev</b> , Yuva Humanitarian Centre
Belarus	<b>Ivan Karpovich &amp; Serhei Zyranau</b> , Belarusian National Youth Council, "Rada"
Belgium	<b>Valerie Dallemagne &amp; Sam van de Putte</b> , "What Do You Think?" UNICEF, Belgium
Bosnia-Herzegovina	<b>Ajdin Cancar</b> , Nasa Djeca Zenica B&H; <b>Eliza Kanterdzic</b> , Zdravo da ste
Bulgaria	<b>Stanislava Emilieva Simeonova</b> , Bulgaria Foundation, "Alternative Support"; <b>Kiril Petrov Isaev</b> , Child Rights Information Centre
Czech Republic	<b>Barbara Majickova &amp; Jiri Stasek</b> , Folklorni Sdruvzeni CR
Finland	<b>Evelina Kiema &amp; Hanna Suvanto</b> , Save the Children (Finland)
FRY (Kosovo)	<b>Arber Istrefi</b> , Group of Young Ecologists; <b>Dafina Kurti</b> , Kosovar Youth Council
FRY (Montenegro)	<b>Tea Krsmanovic</b> , Save the Children UK (Montenegro); <b>Marko Volkov</b> , Giraffe
FRY (Serbia)	<b>Jovan Kaurin &amp; Marina Zlatanovic</b> , Save the Children UK (Serbia)
Germany	<b>Jasmin Schön &amp; Jobin Vazhayil</b> , Herner Kinder – und Jugendparlament
Hungary	<b>Zsuzsanna Balai &amp; Elizabeth Rác</b> , Future of Europe Association; <b>Zsófia Szalai</b> , Association of Hungarian Girl Guides
Ireland	<b>Thomas Mills &amp; Muazzez Kolukisa</b> , Crosscare Aftercare Support Unit
Kazakhstan	<b>Erbol Zhangabylov</b> , Association of Young Leaders
Latvia	<b>Alise Zande</b> , Papardes Zieds
Moldova	<b>Diana Casapu &amp; Ion Sîrbuleț</b> , Centre of Information and Documentation on Children's Rights
Portugal	<b>Rodrigo Miguel Fernandes Gil &amp; Marta Sofia Rama Simones</b> , Drogo de Azambuije Association

Romania	<b>Vadim Alexandru, Irina Cristina Rupa &amp; Mara Georgescu</b> , Salvatii Copii
Russia	<b>Maria Kapustina</b> , Youth News Service; <b>Natalia Shmakova</b> , Perished Journalists' Children Club
Spain	<b>Sandra Delgado Redondo &amp; Jorge Valverde Rosales</b> , Platform of Children's Organisations; <b>Almudena Gomez Rodriguez</b> , UNICEF
Switzerland	<b>Mario Stübi &amp; Samantha Taha</b> , Jugendparlament der Stadt Luzern
Tajikistan	<b>Baratov Firuz</b> , Association of Young Leaders of Tajikistan
Ukraine	<b>Oleksandr Uribari</b> , Vidrada; <b>Kateryna Yasko</b> , Ukrainian Committee on Child Rights Protection
United Kingdom	<b>Claire Bradley</b> , Save the Children UK (Northern Ireland) / Children's Law Centre Belfast; <b>Jonathan Williams</b> , Save the Children UK (Wales) / Fernhill Youth Project
Uzbekistan	<b>Tursonoy Abidova</b> , Club for Youth of Uzbekistan, Unesco
<b>Film Crew</b> (Kyrgyzstan)	<b>Osadchenko Vadim Alexandrovich &amp; Kim Marina Alexandrovna</b> , Untitled Ltd; <b>Natalia Novikova</b> , Children's Media Centre

## 2. Accompanying adults

Albania	Gentiana Malo
Azerbaijan	Shahla Topchibasheva
Belarus	Aksionova Katsiaryna
Belgium	Charlotte van den Abeele
Bosnia-Herzegovina	Horic Selma, Aleksandra Strbac
Bulgaria	Eava Katarova
Central Asia – Kyrgyzstan	Aida Kazybaeva
Czech Republic	Svatava Staskova
Finland	Sami Lahdensuo
FRY (Kosovo)	Sphend Nura
FRY (Montenegro)	Ana Stojovic
FRY (Serbia)	Rasa Sekulovic
Germany	Olaf Kleffmann
Hungary	Eszter Tóth
Ireland	Evelyne Ward
Latvia	Astrida Millere
Moldova	Carmazan Gabriel
Portugal	Cristina Maria Lapas
Romania	Carmen Stoleru
Russia	Kurinoy Ivan
Spain	Elena Menéndez-Valdez Van Bockel
Switzerland	Beatrice Heeb-Wagner
Ukraine	Andriy Chesnokov
United Kingdom	Carol Toms

### 3. Programme

#### **Monday, 23 April – Arrival of participants**

8.00 – 9.15	Breakfast
12.30	Lunch
18.00	Meeting for the Accompanying Adults
19.00	Dinner
20.30	Welcome evening

#### **Tuesday, 24 April – Official opening of the consultation**

8.00 – 9.15	Breakfast
9.30	Official opening Introduction of participants Welcome speeches: <i>Ms. Antje Rothemund</i> Director EYCB <i>Mr. László Szabó</i> Hungarian Secretary of State for Youth and Sport
10.00	Getting to know each other
12.30	Lunch
14.30	The Road To the UN Special Session on Children Presentation about the special UN Session on Children in New York, September 2001
15.30	Break
16.00	Introduction to the programme of this youth consultation
16.15 – 18.15	Children’s Rights Challenges Work groups on present challenges in Children’s Rights
19.00	Dinner
20.30	International evening Participants share their traditional food and culture

#### **Wednesday, 25 April – Identifying priorities for the Agenda**

8.00 – 9.15	Breakfast
9.30	Introduction to the day
10.00	“Priority Issues” Groups per country identify most important Children’s Rights issues in their country
11.00	Break

11.30	Points of Commonality & Difference Sub-regional groups identify points of commonality and difference between countries in their sub-region
12.30	Lunch
14.30	Overall Central Asian and European issues Mixed groups discuss priority themes and proposed actions
15.45 – 16.15	Break
16.15 – 18.00	Regional priorities Working groups present their results and discuss the content of the message to Berlin
19.00	Dinner

### **Thursday, 26 April – Training and skills development**

8.00 – 9.15	Breakfast
9.30	Workshops: <i>1. Working with Media</i> <i>2. Communication through Drama</i> <i>3. Intercultural Learning</i> <i>4. Negotiating</i> <i>5. Conflict resolution</i> <i>6. Team work</i> <i>7. Health promotion</i>
11.00 – 11.30	Break
11.30	Workshops continued
12.30	Lunch
Free afternoon	
19.00	Boat trip A two-hour boat trip on the Danube with dinner

### **Friday, 27 April – Working towards the Berlin Intergovernmental Conference on Children, May 2001**

8.00 – 9.15	Breakfast
9.30	Introduction to the Berlin Intergovernmental Conference on Children by: <i>Mr. Christian Much</i> Representative of the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs Including a <i>Question-and-Answer</i> session
10.00	Preparing the recommendations for the Berlin working groups <i>1. Child protection</i> <i>2. Poverty</i> <i>3. Health and social environment</i> <i>4. Youth participation</i> <i>5. Environment</i> <i>6. Education</i>

11.00 – 11.30	Break
11.30	Preparations for Berlin continued
12.30	Lunch
14.30	Preparations for Berlin continued
15.45 – 16.15	Break
16.15 – 18.15	Finalising the recommendations The working groups formulate their recommendations for the Berlin Intergovernmental Conference and prepare a presentation for Saturday.
19.00	Dinner

### **Saturday, 28 April**

8.00 – 9.15	Breakfast
9.30	Presentations of recommendations Groups present their recommendations
11.15 – 11.45	Break
11.45	Next steps and follow-up Groups formulate their follow-up plans to the youth consultation
12.30	Lunch
14.30	Plenary discussion on next steps and follow-up
15.30	Break
16.00 – 17.00	Evaluation
19.00	Dinner
21.00	Farewell party

### **Sunday, 29 April – Departure of participants**

8.00 – 9.15	Breakfast
12.30 – 13.30	Lunch
19.00 – 20.00	Dinner

#### 4. Project descriptions

**Some of the organisations involved in the consultation provided details of their work, as follows:**

##### **Belgium**

###### **“What Do You Think?”, UNICEF Belgium**

“What Do You Think?” is an international project initiated by UNICEF which aims to open avenues for participation, allowing children to express their views directly and to suggest ways of improving respect for their rights and have them taken into account in the CRC report process. In Belgium, “What Do You Think?” is coordinated by UNICEF. A steering group of adults (from different organisations working with children and around children’s rights, such as government ministries) and a steering group of young people between 9 and 18 years old give shape to the project and help to decide the direction of the project. The aim for this year is to write an alternative report for the Committee for the Rights of the Child in Geneva written by children and young people, next to the official report of the Belgian government which will be examined at the beginning of next year. Starting material for this report is a collection of ideas and propositions of young people which were collected last year in the light of the march of children and young people which was organised by “What Do You Think?” on 19 November 1999. On this day, more than 2000 children and young people came to Brussels to express their views and to ask politicians to pay attention to the rights of children and young people.

##### **Bulgaria**

###### **Partners – Bulgaria Foundation “Alternative Support for Young People without Parental Care”**

The project provides young people in state care institutions with the skills and knowledge which the state fails to grant. The project includes extensive civic education for the participants. Participants are involved in training their peers in issues such as health education and human rights.

###### **Child Rights Information Centre**

This is also a project of Partners – Bulgaria Foundation. Examples of the projects include an initiative entitled “Peers Help Peers.” This involves providing peer-led human rights education in high school. The Centre trains young people to train their classmates in a number of areas such as human rights, discrimination and prejudice, dealing with authorities, etc.

##### **FRY Montenegro**

###### **Club for children and young people**

The club for children and young people in Sutomore started in July 1999 when the huge number of internally displaced people from Kosovo arrived in Montenegro.

Its aim is to help these children to socialise and to integrate into the local community with its anti-stress, psychosocial activities. It has developed and expanded over the past 2 years and now over 260 children and young people are involved in lots of different kinds of educative and creative programmes, and 7 clubs on children's rights, arts, drama and computers. Some of the members participated in the 10-day-long summer camp on Children's Rights in summer 2000 which was organised and prepared by SC UK in co-operation with the Centre for Children and Youth "Giraffe" for 160 children from three clubs in Podgorica, Sutomore and Ulcinj. More than 70% of the members of the club are internally displaced persons (IDPs) from Kosovo, and refugees from Bosnia and Croatia – the most vulnerable children in the region. They still live in very bad conditions and depend on humanitarian aid. Many are homeless and live in temporary settlements.

### **Centre for Children and Youth "Giraffe"**

CCY Giraffe is a non-governmental, non-profit, non-political organisation established as a result of the need of local society for one stable and recognisable NGO in the area of children's rights. The mission of "Giraffe" is to improve children's quality of living in Montenegro through promoting and protecting children's rights. The main intention is to stimulate the participation in decision-making of the children and youth in Montenegro through promoting the values of the organisation – openness, participation, non-discrimination and tolerance, developing self-confidence, creativity, culture and freedom of speech and opinion.

The oldest and biggest project of CCY Giraffe is the club which has grown out of a former SC UK club in Podgorica. It is a place for children and young people to meet and use their free time constructively. The participants are child IDPs, refugees, Roma, and children with special needs. The club organises a variety of workshops on topics such as children's rights, drama, music, and art, combined with issues like gender equality, religious and national non-discrimination, non-violent communication and conflict resolution. The club is also used as a venue for performances and exhibitions by club members.

Apart from the club, CCY Giraffe also runs projects exploring the needs of children and young people as well as a counselling office for children and young people. It plans to start a youth council soon, and run training in communication, conflict resolution, rights, and citizenship.

## **Germany**

### **Children and Youth Parliament (KiJuPa) of Herne**

The KiJuPa was started in the administrative and political area of Herne in 1992 because the mayor of the city wanted to hear the voice of young people. In the KiJuPa there are 125 children and young people from 9- to 19-year olds. 59 schools send 2 members each to the parliament. The KiJuPa has 2 meetings a year with the mayor and other politicians of the city. To prepare for the meetings, there are 9 working groups which meet every third week.

The KiJuPa also has 4 working groups for the districts of the town. Other working groups include ones on: preparing a newspaper, traffic in the city,

children's rights, and starting a children's museum. The parliament has 2 secretaries who are based in the town hall. The KiJuPa receives a grant of 10,000 DM annually for different activities. They have direct access to the city council, and when they want to say something, they can do so to the council and other politicians of the city.

## **Hungary**

### **The Future of Europe Association**

The Future of Europe Association was founded on September 29, 1990. The aim of the founders was to hold a one-week-long festival in Kecskemét for European children. They invited children from different European countries to Kecskemét where they could meet with local children of similar ages 10 months after the foundation (in the summer of 1991). The first International Children's Meeting was organised and it is now held every other year. Schools take part in the arrangement because each school in Kecskemét receives a group of children from different countries. During the festival, the participants live with families so they experience Hungarian culture. It doesn't matter if they can't speak Hungarian because the main thing is to have fun. There is only one thing they have to do – every group presents a short performance – music, dance or whatever they want, something that is typical of their country. The Association organises lots of activities for them. The number of participants is about 1200 children. In alternate years, children from Kecskemét travel back to other countries. The last meeting was held in 2000. Children came from 3 continents, 21 countries, and 36 communities. The next meeting will involve children from Australia, India and Venezuela will attend.

### **Girl Guide Movement**

The mission of the association is to enable girls and young women to develop their fullest potential as responsible citizens of the world. This gives members practical experience of children's rights in everyday life.

## **Moldova**

### **Centre for Information and Documentation on Children's Rights (CIDCR)**

The centre's aim is to promote the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and other national and international human rights legislation. The centre has many projects, including:

1. "All children have rights": approximately 30,000 children and teenagers from all regions of Moldova have participated in the activities of the CRC organised by the centre's volunteers.
2. Child-Friendly Centre: this opened in 2000. Around 80 – 100 children use this centre daily as a place for communication, information, recreation, social activities, and development of creativity and new skills.
3. Information bulletin – "Why? Child's Rights" – disseminates information about children's rights, activities and projects implemented by the CIDCR and other NGOs.

## **Romania**

### **Salvati Copii (Save the Children Romania)**

Salvati Copii runs projects on the dissemination of the principles of the UNCRC amongst children and young people. They are educational programmes and include workshops in schools on children's rights, competitions, a magazine called "Children's Thoughts and Voices", a summer camp, round table discussions and seminars. One of the projects is called "We also have rights": this is a workshop activity aimed at making children aware of their rights and of the decision-making processes related to children's rights. The workshops also aim to get children more involved in topics which actually influence their lives as future young people and adults.

The "Children's Participation" project aims to involve children and young people in decision-making processes and tries to make children and young people's voices heard at different levels (local, national, regional, international). The magazine "Children's Thoughts and Voices" is part of this programme.

## **Spain**

This group comes from different associations (FONAT, EKI) which are integrated into the Children's Platform of NGOs (Save the Children and UNICEF are also members). Both associations meet twice a week and work for the improvement of the quality of children's and families' lives; they also work to protect the environment and international development. At the meetings children talk about the issues which interest them. They also discuss some of the problems in their towns or villages and do small projects to improve their quality of life.

## **Switzerland**

### **Lucerne Youth Parliament**

Lucerne is a very child-friendly town and has a children and youth parliament. Samantha and Mario are members of the youth parliament representing young people. Everyone from 15 to 25 can join the parliament. As a result of the parliament's work, there is, for example, a night bus at the weekends until 3 in the morning. In 1999, the Swiss Youth Parliament organisation which co-ordinates the 50 Youth Parliaments in the country took place in Lucerne. Every year the parliament gets 20,000 Swiss francs from the government to spend how it wants, for example in supporting other youth organisations or putting an idea into practice. It can also give motions to the city parliament which they have to debate. The motions are also discussed in a commission in which two members of the youth parliament can take part.

## **UK**

### **Children's Law Centre, Belfast, youth@clc**

youth@clc is a group of young people from all over Northern Ireland from a variety of religious, social, ethnic and political backgrounds. They work alongside the staff at the Children's Law Centre, providing a voice for young people on issues that affect them. It does this by enabling young people to channel their voices through a variety of media such as video, in order to raise awareness of children's rights, encourage debate and to influence decision-makers.

## 5. PRESS RELEASE

### **For Immediate Release**

#### **Young People Prepare Message for the UN**

*Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> April, Budapest: More than 50 children from 27 countries across Europe and Central Asia are consolidating their views and opinions in an open letter to government representatives that will meet in Berlin next month to facilitate preparations for the UN Special Session on Children this September. Organised by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Save the Children and the Council of Europe's European Youth Centre Budapest (EYCB), this unique and historical event has brought together a diverse group of young people to discuss the most serious issues that affect the lives and future of young people themselves.*

*The problems, solutions and opportunities discussed by the young delegates, aged 14 – 18, covered a broad area ranging from poverty, drug abuse and HIV/AIDS to participation, unemployment, discrimination, and exploitation and abuse of young people. They also presented their views on the role of governments, non-governmental organisations and young people in tackling global poverty, improving education systems and fostering peace.*

*"This conference has been an amazing experience for everyone involved," commented Europe's Regional Director for Save the Children, Judy Lister. "Despite the fact these young people have just met, they have quickly formed a team and are creating workable suggestions for problems that affect them. This is something which few adults could accomplish under the same circumstances."*

*"The Special Session on Children will review governments' action and commitment since the 1990 World Summit for children, and will set future actions for children and young people in the next decade. The Special Session should by no means be seen as the end of a process but rather part of a continuing movement," UNICEF Senior Advisor, Leo Kenny, said. "It is important that policy makers listen to the messages formed by young people at the consultation in Budapest as well as other consultations taking place beyond the Special Session."*

*Claire Bradley, aged 17, from the United Kingdom said, "If I could change one thing about the world, it would be that children and young people are involved in all decisions that affect their lives. There should be a shadow youth council for all government councils so that young people can review and have an input in what goes on in their area."*

*Katya Yasko, aged 17 and from the Ukraine, found it interesting that so many people from many different countries care about the future of children. "To make this meeting successful, young people have to be united and this can be done through open discussion that will strengthen our commonalities and aspirations," she said.*

*Sixteen-year-old Siarhei Zyranau from Belarus and Jovan Kaurin, aged 17 from Serbia, were thrilled that there was no limit to what they could say at the conference. "We were free to present our ideas at any time," said Siarhei. "It was interesting to discover, through the various presentations, that different countries share similar problems," he said.*

*Participants took their role in the conference seriously and supported the process with hard work using creative approaches. They worked among themselves in small groups and fed on each other's experience. The young people were appreciative of their points of commonality and difference, critical about each others views, and quick to form friendly groups over the course of the last four days.*

*Host to numerous conferences chaired and attended by young people, EYCB Programme Administrator, Rui Gomes said, "This is one of the most challenging youth meetings that EYCB has ever organised and it will have a major impact in Europe and at world level."*

*"I hope that this network will be maintained so we can keep in touch and perhaps meet again next year to review what we have achieved," said 16-year-old Tursonoy Abidova from Uzbekistan.*

*The conference will wrap up on Saturday after finalising the open letter, which will be discussed in Berlin, 16 – 18 May.*

## 6 Summary of evaluation forms

### **Synthesis of evaluation forms**

Given below is a superficial impression of the response to the questions in the evaluation forms. The total number of respondents was 47. The interpretation of the semantics of the narrative (text) responses has been influenced by the evaluator; when reading and using the results of this synthesis, this should be taken into account. For the reader's information, the original responses have been collected together per question and are included at the end of this document.

### **Objectives**

In general all objectives were successfully met; all scored 80% or higher. This means that the consultation as a whole was a success. The respondents could give 1 to 6 points for each objective. There were in total 47 out of 51 respondents, which as such is a very good result (92% response). The evaluation can therefore be seen as representative of the whole group of young people. Accompanying adults were not given evaluation forms.

The text below gives short quantitative summaries per objective. This is followed by a table showing all results in exact numbers.

1. *To prepare input and contributions from young people for the Berlin intergovernmental conference*

With a total score of 233 (out of a maximum 282) the group of respondents felt that this objective was achieved by a factor of 83%. Although this received the third highest percentage rating from the respondents, it did however receive the most scores at the lower end of the scale (two 2s and two 3s; 1 is the lowest score possible).

2. *To empower and generally increase participants' understanding and competence in children's rights issues*

With a total score of 227 (out of a maximum 282) the group of respondents felt that this objective was achieved by a factor of 80%. Although it received the lowest score of any objective, nevertheless 66% of the respondents thought this goal was achieved at least quite successfully (awarding it 5 or 6 points).

3. *To foster solidarity and understanding among young people from different regions of Europe and Central Asia*

With a total score of 262 (out of a maximum 282) the group of respondents felt that this objective was achieved by a factor of 93%. With more than 95% of the respondents giving it a 5 or 6, this objective was seen as the most successfully reached objective of the youth consultation.

4. *To provide a useful and positive experience of children and young people's participation*

With a total score of 251 (out of a maximum 282) the group of respondents felt that this objective was achieved by a factor of 89%.

**Score table for the objectives**

*Score 1 = objective is not reached at all*

*Score 6 = objective very successfully reached*

Objective	1	2	3	4
Total score	233	227	262	251
Average score	5	5	6	5
Average % achieved	83%	80%	93%	89%
Total per score				
1	0	0	0	0
2	2	1	0	0
3	2	4	1	3
4	7	11	1	4
5	21	17	15	14
6	15	14	30	26
Total responses	47	47	47	47

**Expectations of the participants**

Participants were also asked to evaluate how far their expectations were met and the adequacy of the programme. However, they were not asked what their experiences were. The results therefore cannot be used for finding out possible improvements for the organisation and the contents of the programme. Nevertheless, it does give a limited indication as to how the consultation was experienced.

	Expectations met (%)	Adequacy of Programme and Methods used (%)
<b>Sum Total %</b>	<b>3495</b>	<b>3605</b>
<b>Average %</b>	<b>74%</b>	<b>77%</b>

On average, the respondents felt that 74% of their expectations of the consultation were met, which is not a bad score. Related to the adequacy of the programme, the respondents could write down any comments they had. Below is a short synthesis of their responses.

### **Comments on the adequacy of the programme**

The programme and methods were good, but could still be improved here and there. In particular, the methods used were positively evaluated. Among the few problems mentioned were: too little free time, an insufficiently youth-friendly approach to the topics of the six working groups on Friday, and insufficient time to think about some issues.

Based on the responses, it can be said that the overall programme was a positive experience and at the very least satisfactory for a large majority of the young participants.

### **Best moments**

The young people were asked to write down their three best moments during the whole consultation. The results are summarised and synthesised below. The responses have been grouped into general “moment themes” that can be easily found in either the content or the facilitation of the programme. For each theme, how many times a response was given that related more or less directly to that “moment theme” has been indicated.

There was no indication whether the order of best moments also indicated which best moment was the best of the three. However, we could perhaps assume that the first moment written down was the first one that came to mind and probably was the most memorable.

The results should therefore be interpreted with care and in respect to the above. The results are not further explained as they speak for themselves. The total number of times mentioned is not equal to the total number of respondents, as not everybody answered this question. Additionally, some respondents gave more than one answer.

### The overall best moments

Moment	1	2	3	Total score
Communication and working together	9	13	14	36
Boat trip, Budapest and other	5	9	11	25
International and/or welcome evening	5	5	7	17
Working groups on Friday	7	2	4	13
Workshops on Thursday	8	4	1	13
Priority groups on Wednesday	4	5	1	10

### The most difficult part for the young participants

The young participants were asked to indicate what was the most difficult part of the consultation. The responses have been grouped into general themes that can be easily found in either the content or the facilitation of the programme. For each theme, how many times a response was given that related more or less directly to that theme has been indicated.

The results should be interpreted with care. The results are not further explained as they speak for themselves. The number of times mentioned is not equal to the total number of respondents, as not everybody answered this question. Additionally, some respondents gave more than one answer.

Most difficult part	Number of times mentioned
Working together, communication, staying focused	12
English language	10
2 <sup>nd</sup> day/long speeches	7
Creating the message for Berlin on Friday	4
Priority groups on Wednesday	3
Workshops on Thursday	2
Total responses	38

An interesting fact is that the responding group as a whole experienced working together and communication on the one hand as the best moment (see section on ‘Best Moments’) but on the other hand as the most difficult. This possibly shows that young people like the challenge of intercultural learning.

However, it is hard to tell if this is really the case. There is no information on responses that indicate both working together and communication as respectively one of the best moments as well as the most difficult moment. The results are generally representative for the group as a whole and cannot be seen as a representative for the young participants individually. This is the case with all results of this summary of the evaluation forms of the consultation.

### **Follow up by the participants**

In general two groups can be identified among the respondents:

1. Those who will promote Children's Rights, raise awareness, share and present their experiences from the consultation and/or who will write reports/articles
2. Those who will implement their experiences in their own organisation through seminars, training, etc..

In general the young participants are very willing to raise awareness of and promote respect and implementation of Children's Rights and Children's Rights activities in their home countries.

### **Conditions provided by the European Youth Centre Budapest**

The young people were asked to evaluate the conditions provided by the youth centre, such as food, working conditions and their rooms. Below is a synthesis of their response. General themes have been identified, based on what the young people said.

The total number of times mentioned is not equal to the total number of respondents, as not everybody answered this question. Additionally, some respondents gave more than one answer.

<b>Conditions</b>	<b>Number of times mentioned</b>
Everything was good	17
Food was a problem	14
Other small problems (sports facilities, disco, ...)	4
Rooms need a television	3
<b>Total responses</b>	<b>38</b>

### **Other**

In general the "other" remarks were very diverse. As much as the responses allowed, a synthesis has been made. Two general issues could be identified:

<b>Other remarks</b>	<b>Number of times mentioned</b>
Hard work but good experience	11
Repeat the meeting, want more similar activities	5
Programme could be improved (election not realistic or representative, topics not good)	3
<b>Total responses</b>	<b>19</b>

### **"For me the consultation was ..."**

The responses to this question have been left untouched as much as possible, since they were sometimes too elaborate and personal to summarise. Exact double answers have been reduced to one answer with an indication of how many times the answer was given.

- ... A very interesting experience
- A big learning step and something we can all learn from also a lot of people
- a great experience / a great chance to meet new friends / very enlightening, much information / inspiring
- a nice and exciting experience
- A really good time! I've got so many experiences and I have also learnt of other countries and culture. SO, I get a lot of friends, fun and entertainment so it was GOOD!!!
- a very good experience for my work in Save the Children. This consultation gave me an opportunity to understand other regions' problems. I gained very good experience for implementing CR in my work with children and young people. I have got a strong feeling of the need to have a follow-up
- All right but the week was very compact and tiring, so I think it should have been spread out so all the other people could work to their full ability. More money for Ireland
- An absolutely fantastic experience! Youngsters from all over the region working together as some experts! That one thing was brilliant, because proposals were sensible and very clear and the teamwork was fun, informative and efficient. I'm so glad that I was given this opportunity to come here and participate. Budapest was also worth visiting and the weather will always be remembered. Facilitators were just great. :)
- an interesting experiences. Now I have get much more friendships!!
- an opportunity to develop some communication skills (speak in English) and also to meet new young people. I hope we'll stay in touch for future collaboration
- For me the consultation was full with new experiences, fun and new friends. And I got to know the problems and "good things" of other countries
- For me, the consultation was enjoyable, informative and had a relaxed atmosphere. I have had the time of my life here, I will remember it and talk about it for a long time. I have really enjoyed meeting other delegates from other countries... they are all lovely people. The adults were great too, not patronising and let us have our opinions. Thank you for a brilliant week.
- For me, the consultation was the best thing that has ever happened to me in my life!!
- Good
- Good, but everyone has to be heard
- I didn't like so many young people smoking so much
- I liked it very much, I'm very happy with everything. I made a lot of friends.
- I really enjoyed it. I've got the possibility to know many other people from very different countries and cultures as well as to exchange our culture and

experiences. I think it was really helpful and I enjoyed the working method. It gave me a good opportunity of interesting Budapest. This consultation gave me the possibility to make so many friends. I will never forget.

- In the first part a bit boring and difficult (English) but in the second part it was GREAT
- Inspiration
- Interesting but I couldn't say everything I wanted because there were not enough translators and unfortunately I don't know English. The rest was very good and what I liked most is to know and meet so many people from different countries. Good-bye and thanks.
- It was very interesting because I learn a lot about other countries and I improve my English and I learn other people's point of view about children's rights and other countries' problems
- It was very interesting; I found out a lot this week about people and their problems. The way they live and get treated in their countries and I thought it was bad where I lived but there are worse ones and I think they need help. Thank you for giving me the chance to say what I wanted to. Thank you.
- J'étais très heureuse d'avoir l'occasion d'y participer encore mais avec du français aussi car ce n'était pas facile pour moi car je n'ai pas pu énormément participer parce que je ne comprenais pas tout.
- Perfect, meaning that: I met new friends from different nationalities; I got more knowledge on human rights especially children rights. Except these issues I also liked Budapest and some other places (ancient ones). I liked games here and workshop, way of learning, all these things and I know that I am going to miss them.
- Really interesting and good!!
- So good, and it's my pleasure because it was in Budapest
- The consultation was much more successful than I expected. I learned a lot about other regions and their concerns and it was so good working together for our own benefit. It was so friendly and hope to continue with this kind of cooperation.
- The great experience, new friends, nice service. Especially Aniko, Laura, Kriss, Clair and AA: Olaf, Rasa and Leo
- This was the example how young people can participate. This was nice meeting and exchanging possibility. I find here many friends.
- Very fruitful.
- Very good (2 times mentioned)
- Very successful (2 times mentioned)
- Very useful experience in communicating with people, a lot of serious work and a great fun!
- Well experience of international cooperation, I got many new friends in other countries; learn the problems of other countries

### **Follow up to the consultation**

- Building the results of the event into the training scheme
- Getting children and yp in my country aware of all this GME + getting COE closer to youth organisations
- I promote the event in my school class
- I solve problems in university connected with my absence (joking). I became more active I have a lot of thoughts and projects about CR.
- I will exchange experience with the others. I will probably go on press conference, and I will stay in touch with the others
- I will give a presentation to my accompanying students in my school and to foreign ministry of Finland with Hanna Suvanto
- I will keep in touch and do a report
- I will present it (videos, pictures...)
- I will try to improve my work with children
- I will try to keep in contact with others in order to exchange experience
- I will try to make better knowledge of CRC in my country
- I will work in order to increase my contributions on children issues in my country
- I will write in my school's magazine about this meeting. We are also going to foreign ministry to talk about the issues discussed here. I will also contact Finnish UNICEF and some other associations.
- I will write some articles in newspaper and write the report to UNICEF
- I'll share my experience with children in my country to cooperate with other countries, promote it in my country (press-conferences)
- I'll spread the information as much as I can. I think first of all we'll organise some meetings at local and national level
- I'll try to exchange experiences which I got here with my friends at home and to achieve goals which were set up here and to stay in contact with the other participants
- I'm going to look if the rights of the child are being respected. I hope that West, North and South Europe can have conferences too!! We have also a voice.
- I'm going to present my experiences in the next plenary from my youth parliament (video, material, photos)
- inform the children of Bulgaria. Keep in touch with other participants
- Informer les jeunes et les enfants de mon pays de se qui s'est dit, fait ... ici, et continuer le travail qu'on fait pour les droits de l'enfant. Si je peux, aider les autres pays, ca m'interesse
- Keep in contact with others and report back to my organisation and write a report about it
- keep in touch with the majority of the young people
- new projects

- press release. Presentation to my own youth groups and others and my school
- Share information with others, my friends from Save the Children, and take a part into "Saves" activities
- Spread the word in Spain
- Spread this information I got here. Go on with other regional meetings. Use in my country the experiences I got here
- summer camps
- To present what we did here, link with others, give initiative
- To stay in contact and not give up. To cooperate and make different activities together concerning CRC
- To try to do same things in my country, I mean seminars and to make know through medias this consultation and children's rights.
- trainings
- Use the experiences, share with yp at (my) home. Try to set up a youth council
- We are just working with the media, start some projects with other country, start a promotion to get more participants
- we will refer about our meeting. We will write to newsletter
- we will try to promote establishing youth council and we will contribute to website
- Write a report on the conference

### **Other comments**

- Always ready to cooperate on international level
- Always UN Children's Rights! What about other topics?
- can we repeat this?
- Election, not too realistic
- I have had a really brilliant time here, and met wonderful people. Budapest is great. I don't want to go home!
- I think that in the future is needed a more accurate selection of the participants that attend such meetings like this, because frankly some of the young people that participated at this conference weren't familiar with basic knowledge about CRC.
- I think that it was so good organizing, it was so fun because Budapest is so beautiful country
- I would like to come again to a meeting like this.
- It looks like it was a meeting for Asia and West-Europe. They have to take the first step while we already taken it.
- J'ai passé une bonne semaine mais je suis désolée de ne pas avoir tout compris. J'aurais aimée pouvoir plus participer.
- no comments. Thank you!
- no more chicken please
- No more chicken, but over all it was good (not the food)

- organising team was very, very good!
- Overall it was very informative and very enjoyable
- Thank you, it was a great job!!
- this was nice possibility to meet each other
- waiting for similar consultations and seminars in other countries
- Well: it was a hard job, we had to work with hours, so I think that's a little bit boring