



FICE International

ANNUAL REPORT

2019



Prof. Emmanuel Grupper
FICE International
Co-President



Rolf Widmer
FICE International
Co-President

Dear FICE members, supporters and friends,

We are happy and even proud to present to you the Annual report of FICE International for the year 2019. While living these unusual days of the Covid-19 pandemics, it is almost difficult to think that only a few month ago we lived our usual personal, professional and public life completely differently. However, this is the reality and we cannot escape it.

This report of FICE members in different parts of the world is a strong reminder, that there was life without the Corona virus...

The big and central FICE event in 2019 was the 34th World Congress of FICE in Tel Aviv, Israel in October 2019. More than 500 people from almost 40 countries came together to share knowledge and celebrate our commitment for children's rights all over. Naturally, this big and successful event receives an honorable place in this report. We wish to extend our thanks to FICE Israel team for the excellent realization of this very special event. However, there are also other important

developments that are reflected in this report. One of them is the policy of FICE Executive Committee to strengthen the development of the FICE Regional Networks. The European Network, that was the first to reflect this policy, had gone through difficult times in the last years but hopefully will become again soon an important body for FICE European members. Meanwhile, the FICE Africa network is making a good progress. The decision to hold the next 35th FICE World Congress in Senegal, Africa, should hopefully be an impulse for further developments of the Africa Network.

FICE Brazil is the first National section in Latin America. We are looking forward to seeing other Latin America countries to join FICE International and integrate also in the regional network.

Our new FICE National section in Japan is reporting for the first time about their important activities. We do hope, this will be an opening in the future for the development of a FICE Asia regional network.

Another new member reporting for the

first time is Himaya organization from Lebanon. Himaya is a Lebanese NGO, dedicated to making child protection a right across Lebanon especially in its refugee camps.

Unfortunately, FICE USA and our members in Canada are not present in this annual report. May be the Covid-19 pandemic is the reason. We are looking forward to see a report of FICE North America network in 2020.

This year we will start collecting the annual reports after the fall in order to enable all members to be ready with their reports on due time.

A big thank you to our Technical assistant Katerina Ivanova for her dedicated and creative work while designing and editing this FICE annual report 2019.

We do hope you will enjoy reading these reaches and large-scale activities in the 2019 report. These are mainly activities undertaken by FICE members for the sake of better future opportunities and well being for children and youth in need of out-of-home care around the world.

Sincerely yours

Prof. Emmanuel Grupper and Rolf Widmer
Co-Presidents of FICE-International

FICE INTERNATIONAL IN 2019

Continuous development despite turbulent times

Federal Council and professional seminar in Bucharest

Over 35 people from 18 countries took part in the Federal Council in Bucharest. The events took place from 10 to 13 April 2019. A professional seminar was held on 11 April at the Palace of Parliament of Romania on the topic "Services for children from disadvantaged areas and environments" while 12 and 13 were reserved for Federal Council meetings and meeting of the continental platforms of FICE.

The professional seminar was moderated by Gabriela Crețu – Senator, President of the European Affairs Committee and Vice President of FICE Romania. The topics covered a wide range of social services and projects for improving the wellbeing of children and youth from disadvantaged backgrounds – youth at risk, care leavers, unaccompanied minors, children from ethnic minorities, children from very poor or rural areas, children and youth with delinquent behavior, etc. Furthermore, some of the speakers presented interesting research results. The speakers in the professional seminar came from various professional backgrounds and had different experience, although they all possessed outstanding knowledge on the topic and presented various good practices and research on the seminar topic.

The Federal Council of FICE International took

place on 12 - 13 April in the Yesterday hotel in Bucharest. The format of the Federal Council of FICE International was quite different from the usual Federal Councils, as it consisted of a broad discussion of the future of the organization. The usual pleasant and productive atmosphere could be felt again this time. FICE members were asked to work in smaller groups to discuss the current most important topics for national sections and FICE International. The topics of the future thematic and organizational developments of FICE were also brought to the discussion table.

Further, new developments were brought to the meeting – the use of online conferencing methods to include members who were unable to join the meeting. The experiment was generally successful, although more advanced technology should be used in future to ensure the valuable input of everyone who is interested in the meeting.

Federal Council and General Assembly in Ben Shemen Youth Village, Israel

On 28 October, FICE International carried out its General Assembly and Federal Council meeting in Ben Shemen Youth Village in Israel. A total of 30 participants from more than 15 countries took part.

According to the Statutes of the organization, the General Assembly meets once in 3 years

(together with the FICE Congresses) in order to elect a new president. Although, due to the insufficient number of candidacies, the General Assembly had to vote whether the current co-presidency of Rolf Widmer (Switzerland) and Emmanuel Grupper (Israel) would be continued for another year.

The members of the General Assembly voted for the joint presidency to be continued for one more year when an extraordinary General Assembly will meet to elect the next president of the organization.

The co-presidents presented their ideas for maintaining the stability of the organization in this one-year period and fostering the development of a new and modern organizational structure. In this regard, the co-presidents have promised to support the working group "Quo Vadis" that was started in the beginning of 2019 by a group of volunteers among FICE members.

Furthermore, the co-presidents will support the continuing development of the existing continental networks - FICE Europe and FICE Africa, as well as the consolidation of FICE North America and possibly the establishment of other regional platforms, for example in Latin America and Asia.

In terms of partnerships, FICE International will continue to work together with SOS Children's Villages International on several projects. SOS Children's Villages International and SOS Children's Villages Regional Office in Asia were represented at the FICE General Assembly and Federal Council.

A presentation of the next FICE Congress (Senegal, 2022) was carried out by Mr. Djibril Fall, president of FICE West Africa.



The Future of FICE working groups

At the FICE Federal Council meeting in Ben Shemen Youth Village in Israel FICE members collaborated in a workshop offered by Anna Schmid (FICE Switzerland) and Martine Tobé (FICE Netherlands) and to discuss potentials and ideas of development to lead FICE International successfully into the next years. The workshop was based on the earlier work of the "Quo Vadis Group" and was designed in collaboration with its other two members Merle Allsopp (FICE South Africa) and Susanna Hoikkala (formerly FICE Finland) and counted with excellent support and input from Katerina Ivanova and several FICE representatives who led subgroups in preparation for Israel. Discussions were most animated, the energy was strong, and there were important results.



The Group continues the collaboration and development until the next meeting. The goal is to have concrete next steps and, most importantly, persons who will together lead and run FICE in the next period of presidency which starts with the Extraordinary General Meeting in 2020.



34th FICE International Congress in Tel Aviv, Israel

Delegates from 35 countries who took part in our congress and each and every one of them have highly contributed to its success.

The Congress in Israel took place in the central Campus of the Ono Academic College near Tel Aviv. This is where the Congress Chair and FICE co-president, Emmanuel Grupper works as Deputy Dean of Humanities.

510 participants registered to the congress, and many of them presented pieces from their work or research, therefore the congress offered a rich and varied program prepared by the scientific committee headed by Prof. Shalhevet Attar-Schwartz, from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. The morning sessions were organized in the plenary hall and after lunch all participants had the chance to choose between 13 parallel sessions.

The quality of presentations was good and the



The quality of presentations was good and the variety of countries participating gave the sessions a real flavor of international and intercultural exchanges.

There were also artistic presentations by young people living in different residential care settings in Israel. In the opening session, the philharmonic orchestra of the youth villages gave a short opening concert. A short video prepared by young people living in residential care gave the participants the flavor of being in care in Israel. During lunch break, a group of children from Ahava child and youth village gave a drum concert.

The second day has been dedicated to "care leavers". The highlight was a panel of Israeli care leavers who spoke about their own personal perspectives and their needs in this crucial transition process.



The Congress Gala was organized in the Hakfar Hayarok (green village) youth village. The children and youth living in this youth village had prepared a beautiful artistic program including a performance. First, their orchestra with 40 young musicians, and later a choir composed of small children together with adolescents that sang beautifully. The whole evening was monitored by young people from the International School. Congress Participants had also the opportunity to dance a little bit, so everybody went home happily after the dinner.

Tuhinul Khalil Islam, giving an overview of residential care around the world, started the last day of the congress with an illuminating presentation. A panel of Israeli Welfare Ministry presented the new policy concerning out-of-home care they are trying to implement. In the closing ceremony, there were some artistic presentations by Ethiopian youth from Youth villages and students from the Music Faculty of Ono Academic College.

The FICE Award was officially granted to the Kenyan project "WEAVING THE SAFETY NET" by the Apollo Foundation. The purpose of the project is related to empowering mothers.

Friday Morning, after the formal program of the congress was over, field visits were offered to participants who chose to take part in them. One bus went to the direction of Jerusalem and visited residential care facilities in the neighborhood of Jerusalem. A second bus went to the North, visiting Ahava children's youth village (whose director is Yoav Apelbaum). On the way back they visited also the city of Haifa. A third Bus went to visit Shfeya youth village and the old city of Caesarea. All participants were very satisfied from these enriching and interesting visits.



FICE African Network in 2019

NATIONAL CHAPTERS PARTICIPATING IN FICE AFRICA

Active participants in FICE Africa are: Zambia, Kenya, South Africa and Lesotho

The following countries have not been participating regularly: Ghana, Uganda, West Africa and Ethiopia, Zimbabwe and Namibia

Recently joined: Mozambique and Ghana have shown an interest in becoming members of FICE Africa

MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES HELD

One face to face meeting was held in July 2019 in Durban – South Africa. There were three webinar meetings. Holding meetings through webinars has proven to be a cost effective form.

PROJECTS

FICE Africa identified training as a critical need for the national chapters. Efforts were directed to securing financial resources and that still continues.

DOCUMENTS TO SUPPORT THE WORK OF FICE AFRICA

The following documents have been created to support the work of FICE Africa:

- CYCW Association Guidelines
- FICE Africa marketing document
- FICE Africa funding concept document
- Model for the development of the child and youth care workforce for child protection services in Africa

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN

A fundraising initiative for the training of people in Child and Youth Care Work in Kenya is still underway.

FICE Europe Network in 2019

NATIONAL SECTIONS PARTICIPATING IN FICE EUROPE

FICE Austria; FICE Bosnia and Herzegovina; FICE Bulgaria; FICE Croatia; FICE Czech Republic; FICE England; FICE Finland; FICE Germany; FICE Hungary; FICE Israel; FICE Luxembourg; FICE Macedonia; FICE Netherlands; FICE Romania; FICE Serbia; FICE Spain; FICE Switzerland; International centre for therapeutic care, UK; NENESZ (Hungary)

MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES HELD

The network held two meetings in 2019.

A General Assembly of FICE Europe Network took place during the FICE International meeting in Bucharest, Romania on 12 April. The Activity and Financial reports for the 3 preceding years were presented and approved. Discussions were held regarding the future of the organization as well as ideas how to revive its activities.

Another meeting of FICE Europe was held during the FICE International Congress and General Assembly in Israel on 28 October.

WEBSITE AND NEWSLETTER

The website of FICE Europe network was restored: www.fice-europe.com

Furthermore, in 2019 FICE Europe managed to send out 2 Newsletters, containing information about the projects and activities of the Network's members.

DOCUMENTS TO SUPPORT THE WORK OF FICE EUROPE

Policy paper: The Future of FICE Europe.

After the workshop held in Bucharest, the Task Force of the Policy Paper about the Future of FICE Europe prepared a draft Paper which was discussed at the meeting in Tel Aviv. The next step would be for FICE Europe National sections to present the paper to their national membership.

The document will be further discussed and voted on at the next FICE Europe General Assembly in Belgrade.

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

David Astiz (former FICE Spain president) participated in the final work of the Opening Doors II campaign on behalf of FICE Europe Network. The campaign was a partnership between 5 international organizations and civil society organizations across 16 European countries, aimed to support national efforts to develop child protection systems that strengthen families and ensure high quality family and community-based alternative care for children.

The closing event took place on 15 January 2020 in Brussels. It was attended by the national coordinators of the campaign from FICE Austria, FICE Croatia and FICE Spain.



FICE AUSTRIA IN 2019

Bettina Terp and Christian Posch, co-presidents

FICE Austria was founded as a formal association in Austria in 1968 and is an active member of FICE Europe and FICE International. The key objectives and activities of FICE Austria are outlined in the statutes (in German language) but including the following:

(1) **To defend, represent and promote the rights of children and young people**, as defined in the United Nations Convention and in the official documents of the Council of Europe and the European Union, particularly the rights of children and young people who are most disadvantaged and vulnerable.

(2) **To further develop, secure and improve the quality of care for children in the family and the quality of educational help** in the area of social education, particularly in the interest of children and young people who do not live in their families of origin (alternative care) or especially educational help and support are needed.

(3) FICE Austria **sees the child holistically with its biological / family background** and its integration into the closer environment, into the social systems (kindergarten, school, etc.) and with all private and public support and support systems.

(4) **The association's activities are carried out in cooperation with all stakeholders involved in child and youth welfare** for the benefit of children / young people, parents, specialists and the organizations and authorities involved. These activities are not

for profit.

The Board has currently 10 active board members, including the two presidents of FICE Austria who are leading the organization. You can find more information at the webpage (in German): www.fice.at

The organization has 23 members. Five new members joined in the past year, both organizational and individual new members. In 2019 FICE Austria held a General Assembly meeting. It took place in May 2019. The key topic was the renewal of the Board of FICE Austria. A shared board presidency was set-up and some new board members were elected and joined the organization.

Projects and activities in 2019:

The FORUM project (Austria)

In 2019, FICE Austria continued with the implementation of the FORUM project (EU funded project). The FORUM project, which was implemented also in other European countries, **aimed to develop foster care services for Unaccompanied Migrant Children in Europe**. Too often the range of solutions in European States was and is limited to residential care without considering as a priority the best interest of the child.

Activities in the project included: **1) Advocacy** at local, national and European level for foster care services development; **2) Transfer**



of specific knowledge from more experienced partners to the less experienced ones (with the establishment of interdisciplinary expert groups); and **3) Trainings** based on existing knowledge and new tools. The implementation of the trainings were a focus in 2019 which was the last year of the project.

The Leaving Care Project - An Integrated Approach to Capacity Building of Professionals and Young People.

Under the international project led by SOS Children's Villages International, FICE Austria continued with the implementation of the EU-funded Leaving Care Project in 2019 (project ended in April 2020). In collaboration with 6 other international project partners in **Bulgaria, Estonia, Hungary, Italy and Romania**) this project **aimed to train care professionals on how to apply a child rights-based approach in their work with young people leaving care and works to strengthen support networks for young care leavers.**

The activities of the project were planned and based on findings from the Prepare for Leaving Care project (2017-2018) and included:

a) Set-up of a National Project Steering Group; b) Set-up of youth participation processes and a National Youth Expert Group c) Delivery of national care leaver trainings for care professionals; d) Delivery of trainings for master trainers (in order to ensure project sustainability).

In 2019, FICE Austria mainly focused on the implementation of the Leaving Care trainings that were organized in different Austrian regions together with active FICE partner organizations. In June 2019, FICE Austria participated in and contributed to the European Leaving Care Conference "Be the Change" which took place in Bucharest, Romania and brought together policymakers, practitioners, and professionals

to strategize and exchange on good practices. Also, preparation started for the formal establishment of the first Care Leaver association in Austria (which was then officially founded in 2020). More (English) information about the Leaving Care Project can be found [here](#).

International Careleaving Dialogue Austria

The EU project "**CareLeaving Dialog**" is an Erasmus+ project in the category "Structured Dialogue".

The leading organization was **FICE Austria**, project partners were the BJV; Federal Youth Council - Coordination Office for Youth Dialogue and the DÖJ, umbrella organization of Austrian child and youth welfare institutions.

In this project adolescent and young adult "Care Leavers" **were empowered to evaluate their own situation, opinions and wishes with regard to their transition into a socially and professionally integrated and independent life.**

Based on the needs and the necessary support, **the young people develop proposals for solutions and demands and discussed these in direct dialogue with experts and political decision-makers.**

The dialogue process was prepared and organized with the Care Leavers at state and federal level.

In the 1st part there were **three participation workshops held in Innsbruck, Klagenfurt and Tulln**. Afterwards the County dialogues took place and in the "**result-workshop**", the experiences were collected and nine universal demands to the government as well as a brochure for the presentation of these were



elaborated.

At the final conference of the project, the Care Leavers were once again able **to enter into dialogue with the relevant decision-makers from politics and the professional world with their concrete demands and suggestions.**

In addition, experts and care leavers from **Germany and the Netherlands** were invited to **present and discuss best practices** from the EU region.

Additionally, the young people took part in a **Media-Workshop** and **created poems and took photos** to reflect their situation and demands, **which were exhibited in the House of the European Union** and shown to the politicians and participants during conference.



Care Leaver meeting as part of the Leaving Care Project



Conference, part of the CareLeaving Dialog project



FICE Austria's biggest achievement in the year 2019 was the finalization and presentation of the **Quality Standards for professional Out-of Home Care of Children and Youth in Austria**.

Since 2017, FICE Austria has initiated a cooperative process for the development of quality standards for professional alternative care settings in Austria and **19 child and youth care organizations actively participated**. In May 2019, the final 66 quality standards were presented to a professional audience, accompanied by a press conference and public media coverage.

The standards were printed in a book format and were distributed across Austria. During the second half of 2019, regional roundtables and events were organized by local organizations in partnership with FICE Austria in order to discuss and promote the implementation of the 66 quality standards in Austria. The process is ongoing in 2020 and efforts are done **to set-up professional trainings**.

The project was funded by the **Fonds Gesundes Österreich**. The handbook "Quality Standards for professional Out-of Home Care of Children and Youth in Austria" (currently available in German only) can be ordered at office@fice.at More information: www.fice.at



Regional round tables/events: Quality Standards for professional Out-of Home Care of Children and Youth



FICE BRAZIL IN 2019 (NECA BRASIL AND THE NATIONAL MOVEMENT FOR FAMILY AND COMMUNITY LIVING RIGHT)

Isa Guará and Patrick Reason, presidents

The Brazilian National Movement for Family and Community Living Rights has a Steering Group of **10 institutions** (2 per macro region) and approximately **60 member organizations** across Brazil. In 2018 the decision was made to associate the Brazilian National Movement with the FICE International Representative in Brazil, the Institution NECA, to form FICE Brasil.

NECA - Association of Researchers from the Centers for Studies and Research on Children and Adolescents, founded in 2005 and based in southeastern Brazil in São Paulo, is a group that offers training, develops projects, research and consultancy, and also promotes seminars and conferences on the rights of the child and care methodologies.

The National Movement for Family and Community Living Rights is a result of a sustained process headed up by a number of NGOs that led to the publication of the Brazilian National Plan for Family and Community Living Rights in 2006. The Movement works in two fronts: Technical Incidence and Political Incidence.

In 2019 FICE Brasil promoted 4 of a total of 10 2-day workshops in Sao Paulo, Campinas, Curitiba and Palmas-Tocantins as well as promoting the VI Annual Quality in Alternative Care Seminar with approximately **300 participants**.

FICE Brazil works to improve the capacity of professionals in the fields of law courts, social services, governmental and NGO run institutions and programs across Brazil for the promotion of family and community living rights for children in three areas: prevention, alternative care practice and child centers, adoption. In 2019, the Movement, as a member of FICE Brasil, promoted four out of a total of ten two-day workshops in São Paulo, Campinas, Curitiba and Palmas-Tocantins. In 2019, NECA held three seminars: 1- III Seminar on Social Work with Families, 2- VI Seminar on Quality of Alternative Care and 3- II Seminar on Social Education for adolescents involved in offenses. In total, more than 500 participants attended these events. In its courses and advisory services, the NECA reached social protection professionals in 2019 in more than 50 municipalities.

In 2019 the organization did not hold a General Assembly meeting. 4 Regional meetings were the only possibility in 2019 due to financial restraints and the vast territory. The FICE Brasil Steering Committee met online and discussed the need to continue to feed the website with material translated from English into Portuguese, promoting knowledge sharing and visibility of FICE International. The decision to search for funding for work towards a Care leavers' Association was agreed.



Due to the effective campaign "Family and Community Living - A National Priority" Federal Government commenced a national revision of Alternative Care Policy in Brazil in a strategic partnership with FICE Brasil. At the 34th FICE International Congress in Tel Aviv-Israel, Patrick Reason was able to represent Brazil, in the absence of the presence of the FICE BRASIL coordinator. The theme chosen by FICE-INTER as strategic for the international debate - Care leavers - will be the subject of an action by FICE Brasil for debate.

At the VI Annual Seminar on Quality in Alternative Care, coordinated by the associate Dayse Bernardi, there was a panel on adolescents who leave child and youth care services. Amongst the many stories there were two of particular note.

- A young woman who currently lives with her mother after several years in institutional care, visited her mother when she was in prison. At the time, his mother revealed that she was the only person to receive visits from her children among the female population in prison. *Mother and daughter spoke of the value of this contact and the possibility of staying together after the mother served her time in prison.*
- An elderly caregiver spoke of his traumatic experience when he was forcibly removed from his parents as a child by the police. *He spoke of his complete lack of understanding of what was happening and why it was happening, highlighting the humiliating experience of being chased by the police to be taken from his parents.*

On the program of the VI Seminar on Quality of Alternative Care, there were many topics of interest for FICE members, among which:

1- Issues of generation, gender and race/ethnicity in child and youth care services. Gender issues and violence in social protection services. The experience of motherhood in adolescence lived by young people placed in child and youth care services. Ethnic-racial issue in everyday institutional care

2- Leaving care and autonomy: challenges and proposals. "And now Joseph and Mary?" The meeting with the (civil) society after a Life in Institutional Care. Social pedagogy and autonomy. Networking experience of Affective Sponsorship as emotional support for young people without family support

3- Adolescents on the streets and in compliance with socio-educational measures in child and youth care services. Street Children and Adolescents: the fragmented view of policies for this subject of rights. Methodological subsidies for the care of Street Children and Adolescents in reception services. The Individual Assistance Plan (PIA) for Adolescents in Reception Services and for young graduates. Adolescents fulfilling socio-educational and protective measures. An important aspect of this Seminar was the preparation, participation and seminar exhibition of adolescents and young people attended by the Observatory of Violence in Sapopemba (a large neighborhood in São Paulo) who live in a residential care services.



FICE BULGARIA IN 2019

Dashenka Krалеva, Chairperson of the Board

FICE-Bulgaria is a Bulgarian NGO, which was founded in 2001. FICE-Bulgaria is a membership organization. Its members are professionals working in the field of child and youth care, a total of 20 individuals, public bodies and organizations – social services for children and families, non-governmental organizations, psychologists, teachers, social workers, students.

The highest body of the organization is the General Assembly of the members. The functions of the General Assembly include: defining the strategic plans and program of FICE-Bulgaria; election of the Board of Management; acceptance and exclusion of new Members; revision of the statutes; approval of the annual activity and financial reports, etc.

The Board of Management consists of 3 people, among which a president is selected.

FICE-Bulgaria has a long-term experience in international and national training of professionals, working in the field of child care. It has accomplishments in advocating for a change in the legislation in Bulgaria regarding children, youth and their families. The mission of FICE-Bulgaria is to work actively for improvement of the quality of life of the children in Bulgaria. To achieve this

mission, FICE Bulgaria adapts and develops new methodologies for working with children at risk (children without parental care, with disabilities, with educational difficulties, from disadvantaged backgrounds, from minorities, young people in transition to adulthood, young people facing unemployment and social exclusion, etc.), provides training, supervision and consultations to professionals working with children and families at risk, develops and participates in projects for exchange of knowledge and good practices with organizations from Europe and the whole world.

FICE Bulgaria is a licensed professional training provider. It currently provides training for professionals working with children on various topics, such as: Case work and case management; Children with challenging behaviour; Remelka - Maths and social competences educational programme for children with educational difficulties (also adapted for refugee and migrant children); personal and professional counselling to refugees and other vulnerable groups of people.

In August 2019 the organization held a General Assembly. The main topics that were discussed were as follows:



- Acceptance and exclusion of members;
- Election of a new Board of Management;
- Presentation and acceptance of the Financial and Activity reports;
- Presentation and acceptance of the Audit reports;
- Discussion about the future strategy of the organization; etc.

Project “CYCLES - Child and Youth Caretakers Financial Literacy and Entrepreneurship Skills” 2017 - 2019, FICE-Bulgaria was one of the partners in the “CYCLES” project under the “Erasmus+” Program. The leading partner was FH JOANNEUM (University for applied sciences, Graz, Austria), and among other partners were: IKJ (Germany), Groupe SOS Jeunesse (France), Therapeutic Communities (Austria), Fundacja Samodzielni Robinsonowie (Poland). The project aimed at improving the knowledge and abilities of professionals, working with children and youth in the area of finance and entrepreneurship by developing an innovative training on these topics for Child and Youth Care Professionals (CYCPs). The idea was that after being trained, professionals would act as multipliers, transferring this knowledge and abilities to the children and young people they work with and could prepare them for an independent life. The main output, developed during the project is the training program. It will consist of 4 modules (<http://cycles.fh-joanneum.at/downloads/>). The members of the consortium worked together for its creation by sharing the specific experience in the field.

Project “New horizons for the children of Ihtiman” funded by the International women's club - Sofia. The project was realized in 2019 and aimed to increase the capacity of professionals working with

with special education needs in the town of Ihtiman. A total of 26 professionals will be trained on how to use the Dutch methodology “REMELKA” on Maths and social competence.

In 2019 FICE-Bulgaria started the implementation of **Project “Inclusion without borders”** funded by the Erasmus + Program of the EC. Under this project 5 Bulgarian professionals will be trained in Pamplona Spain by the partner Koine Aequalitas Foundation on the topic “Community development and mediation. Social and labor counselling of children and youth from disadvantaged backgrounds”. Project duration: June 2019 - December 2020

FICE-Bulgaria was one of the partners in a **project, funded by the Erasmus + program, led by the “Lifebook for youth”** Foundation, the Netherlands. Among the partners were organizations from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Croatia. A camp was organized for young people aged 16 to 20 in October 2019. Besides from the youth camp, a professional conference was held for professionals working in child and youth care who use the “Lifebook” method in their daily work.

In the framework of a project, funded by the National Network for Children, FICE-Bulgaria in partnership with the Gender Education Research and Technologies Foundation, developed a **“Methodology for preventing violence and building social competences for children aged 3 to 18, parents and teachers”**. 8 trainings of trainers were carried out in different parts of Bulgaria.

In 2019 FICE Bulgaria **trained 400 professionals** in a total of **30 training sessions**. Besides from the topics that FICE-Bulgaria already offers, in 2019 the



organization introduced two new trainings: "Quality of child and youth care services" and "Individualized parent capacity assessment tool". Besides from trainings, FICE-Bulgaria continued to provide supervision and consultations to several child and youth care services.



Highlights



In 2019 FICE-Bulgaria realized several activities which had a huge impact on the child and youth care field. Although, the team of FICE-Bulgaria is very proud that it was granted a the prize "I guarantee a happy childhood".

The prize is annually granted by the State Agency for Child protection to organizations, social services, institutions and individuals with outstanding achievements in the field of child and youth care, who contribute to the realization of the rights of the child.

The prize was granted during a special ceremony on the 20 November, the day the Convention on the Rights of the Child was accepted. FICE-Bulgaria received the prize in the category "Significant partnership" for its long-term partnership with the Complex for social services for children and families in Roman. The partnership between FICE and the Complex is based on mutual professional development. The professionals working in the Complex have received trainings on several topics throughout the years, therefore increasing their professional competences. On the other hand, the Complex acted as a "professional lab", where innovation, good practices and methodologies, developed or adapted by FICE-Bulgaria were tested and introduced in practice.





FICE CZECH REPUBLIC IN 2019

PaedDr. Jana Koubová, President

FICE Czech Republic aims to actively participate in the development and improvement of care for children and youth raised outside their own family, to promote their rights in the sense of the Convention on the Rights of Child in the Czech Republic and internationally. The organization collects the latest domestic and international theoretical and practical knowledge of pedagogy, psychology, sociology and other scientific disciplines related to education of children outside their own family and transfers it to its members. FICE Czech Republic realizes educational and methodological activities in the form of seminars, lectures, publications, informatics and counseling services to assist child and youth care professionals, working in out-of-home care facilities.

FICE Czech Republic has 95 individual members, 16 institutional care facilities with a total of 525 employees, 2 non-profit organizations and 6 honorary members. In 2019, 2 individuals and 7 organizations became members of FICE Czech Republic.

In 2019 the organization held a General Assembly meeting, attended by 108 people. The main topic for discussion was "How to improve the quality of care for vulnerable children."

Biggest achievements in 2019

- The victory of children from the Czech Republic at international sports games in Hungary
- Organization of the Beloved Concert of children from children's homes.
- Cooperation with the Ministry of Education and non-profit organizations – for example: Participation in the "Persist" project, which deals with integration of children from children's homes into society.



FICE CROATIA IN 2019

Ljiljana Ban, president

FICE Croatia was founded in **November 2016** with the aim to **improve the quality of life of children, youth, families but also professionals and communities.**

Its vision is to **create a network of associations** on a national and international level aiming to **constantly improve the quality of social services** through their **cooperation and experience and expert exchange.**

Currently the organization is chaired by **Ljiljana Ban**, experienced educator and international project manager.

FICE Croatia has 7 members, both individuals and organizations.

In 2019 the organization held a **General Assembly** meeting, attended by 5 participants. The main items in the Agenda were **to report about the activities, implemented in 2019 and to develop the strategy for 2020.**

The main activities realized by FICE Croatia in 2019 included:



- **Organisation and implementation of Care Leavers Participation Groups** in different cities in Croatia thanks to which national recommendations for improvement care system in Croatia were developed.
- **Distribution of national recommendations** to all relevant stakeholders
- Active role in editing the platform for care leavers - www.careleavernetwerk.eu
- **Organization of a national event with a focus on the participation of children in out of home care** in which we marked and celebrated the **30th Anniversary of the Convention on the rights of the Child**
- **Implementation and/or coordination of education and support for professionals** working with children in care in beautiful cooperation with other FICE members and other organizations who take care of children and youth around Europe
- Presentation of projects of good practice at a conference organized by the European Commission, named **"Moving towards independant living and community-based care"**.
- Participation in **final year of the Opening doors campaign**



HIGHLIGHTS

"This year was marked with a lot of beautiful and fruitful cooperation with other organizations around Europe thanks to which we learned so much and did so much for children and professionals in the child and youth care system" - Ljiljana Ban

The highlight of 2019 for FICE Croatia was the organization of the international youth exchange in Zagreb in September 2019. 40 care leavers from 7 European countries participated in the event and made recommendations for improvement of the quality of life of care leavers in Europe which will be presented in the final conference in Brussels in February 2020.





FICE FINLAND/CENTRAL UNION FOR CHILD WELFARE (CUCW) IN 2019

Professor Pentti Arajärvi, Chairman of the Board

The **Central Union for Child Welfare**, founded in **1937**, is a central organisation that works as an active and uniting force in matters relating to **children's rights** on a national and European level. The CUCW's supreme decision-making body is the **General Assembly**, held twice a year. It elects board members and a chairman and approves the annual report, operational plan, budget and financial statement.

The board consists of **the chairman and 12 members**. Each member has a personal deputy. The board **manages, monitors and develops organisational matters** together with the **executive committee** which consists of **the chairman of the board, one of the deputy chairmen and two board members**. The executive committee **prepares matters for the board and supports the work of the office**, work groups and advisory boards. The responsibilities of the meeting, the board and the executive committee are stated in the rules.

The organization has a total of 137 members. Two new members joined CUCW in 2019.

Biggest achievements in 2019

- CUCW has been actively promoting the development of Child's rights-based Child strategy in Finland. During 2019 Prime Minister Sanna Marin's government (and former Prime Minister Antti Rinne) has committed to developing a **national strategy for children, based on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child**.
- **Non-Violent Childhoods – Action Plan for the Prevention of Violence against Children 2020–2025**. The action plan was published and implemented by Ministry of Social Affairs and Health. The objective of the action plan on Non-Violent Childhoods 2020–2025 is to **prevent violence against children aged 0–17** in different growth and operating environments. The action plan deals with **the rights of the child, inclusion, factors that protect against violence as well as risk factors and their consequences**. The aim is to improve the position of the child victim in the current service, care and crime systems, also taking into account those children who are at risk of ending up using or have already used violence. [Read more](#)
- CUCW has been **actively promoting the raising of the age limit for aftercare services from 21 to 25 years**. In 2019 together with partners CUCW proceeded with a statement to support the important changes. **The Finnish government accepted the proposal and the age limit for the completion of aftercare raised from 21 to 25 on 1.1.2020**.
- [The European Committee of Social Rights](#) has ruled on a complaint filed by the CUCW in 2016 on the limitation of subjective right to



early childhood education made by the former prime minister Sipilä's government. In its decision, the Committee on Social Rights **emphasizes that high-quality early childhood education contributes to the well-being of the child and to equal opportunities in children's lives.** The Finnish government's austerity measures were targeted at groups that are otherwise vulnerable. The change **violated the rights of the unemployed and children of persons on maternity, paternity or parental leave and placed families in an unequal position.** Current Minister Marin's government have canceled the limitation before the Committee's decision.

Most important activities in 2019:

- Two main **national seminars** gathered altogether about **1700 participants.** As part of them, CUCW organized workshops for young people and experts by experience as well as two experience libraries in which young experts by experience were borrowable books.
- Held other **national and international seminars and trainings on various issues related to child and family policy and child welfare** together with other NGOs, public authorities and other networks. Coordination programs organized seminars and network meetings.
- Took part in **"Child budgeting in Finland - a roadmap to implementation of the Rights of the Child in the budgetary process"** -report. The report will be published in **spring 2020.** The report was carried out as part of the Finnish Government's research program and its purpose was to find out:
 - 1) International and national **examples of child budgeting and population-based budgeting**
 - 2) **what results have been achieved** so far in child budgeting and population-based

budgeting and how the examples can be applied as part of the Finnish budgeting process

3) what kind of **child budgeting tools** can be modeled on the basis of examples

4) how municipal, provincial and state actors **can be supported in the implementation of child budgeting**

5) how budget analysis for services for children, young people and families **enables successful and efficient services** at the interface between the municipality and the province.

- Coordinated two grant programmes funded by **STEA (Funding Centre for Social Welfare and Health Organisations):**

1) Coordination programme **Kaikille eväät elämään** ("Opportunities in life for everyone", 2017–2020) includes **23 programmes of NGOs working with children and families.** The aim is **to promote equal opportunities for children and families, to reduce inequality and to prevent over generational exclusion.**

2) **Perheet keskiöön!** ("Families to the centre!", 2018–2020) is a coordination programme for **54 NGOs.** It aims **to link the support activities and services organized by NGOs to the family centres around the country.** The programme supports local development work with six NGO county agents.

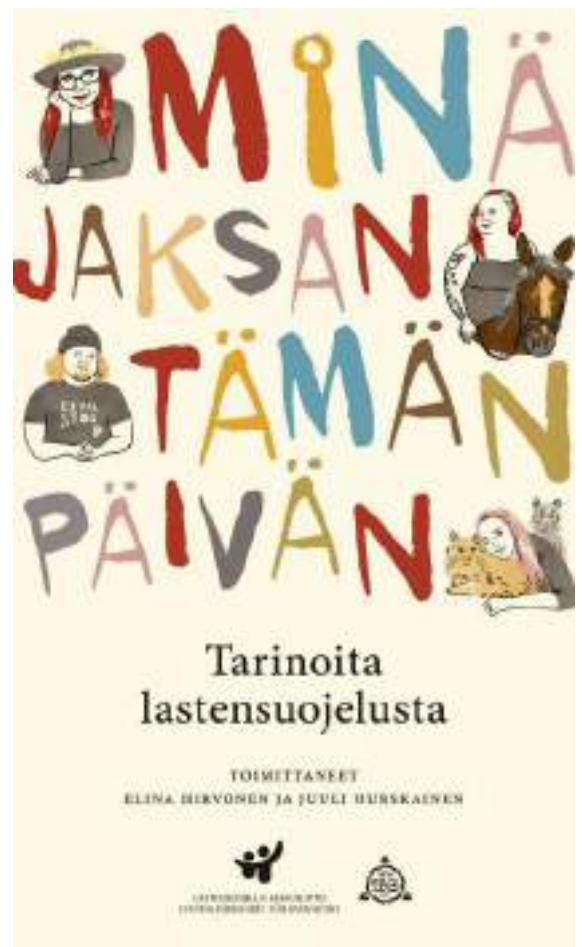
- **CUCW coordinated the national network on the communication of children's rights.** The main responsibilities of this network include **the compilation of up-to-date information about children's right on the www.lapsenoikeudet.fi website,** coordination of communications regarding children's rights, sharing knowledge of children's rights through campaigns as well as planning and organising the Children's Rights Week events.
- Coordinated and consulted a project in



Karelia, Russian Federation funded by Vahvelainen foundation. The aim of the project was to develop a family work concept to support families at an early stage. The goal was also to proceed with the school health enquiry to cover all the pupils from 8th and 9th grades in Petrozavodsk district schools.

HIGHLIGHTS

CUCW has issued a book "I can make it through this day" (edit. Elina Hirvonen & Juuli Hurskainen) written by the young people that have been placed into out of home care. In the book they share their stories and experiences about the child protection system. The texts were created in workshops organized by the CUCW.



FICE GERMANY/IGFH IN 2019

Dr. Hans-Ullrich Krause (chairman), Prof. Dr. Dirk Nüsken (vice chairman),
Petra Hiller (vice chairman), Josef Koch (manager)

The **IGfH (Internationale Gesellschaft für erzieherische Hilfen)** is the German national section of FICE (Fédération Internationale des Communautés Éducatives). The IGfH is **a lobby for the rights and needs of young people in public care**. The organization is not oriented towards parties, politics, nor religion. Private persons, administrations, and educational institutions can apply for membership. The organizational approach of IGfH is **to bring together various professionals, researchers and care receiving children, young adults, parents and families themselves to discuss issues regardless of status and institutional interests**. The association's intention is to find solutions and to initiate innovations in the field of child and youth care which are in the interest and according to the needs of children and youth.

The goals of the organization are:

- to bring the conditions and needs of young people in public education into consideration,
- to accept the needs of children and their families without questioning them,
- to accept various lifestyles and arrangements of individuals or groups and not to force them to one educational norm,
- to find flexible and various solutions for children's needs,
- to support family education without supporting it as the only accepted setting,
- to develop and support educative communities,
- to support democratic structures in the area of child and youth care,
- to support the network of professional social

work and self-help groups.

The IGfH is also a **platform for professionals, researchers and social workers in the field**. FICE Germany organizes seminars, conferences and educational trips, publishes books and a magazine ("Forum Erziehungshilfen") and is often involved in political lobbying. There are different ways to get involved in the organization:

Topic oriented groups: These groups meet twice a year and work constantly on issues in specific fields such as girls' and young womens' education, day care, foster care, residential care, ambulant services and community-orientated, social-spatial flexible forms of care. The topic orientated groups organize seminars, publish articles and do lobbying for their specific field.

Regional groups: With regards to topics and working fields, these groups are thematically diverse and consist of interested members who want to discuss regionally specific issues with colleagues. The regional groups are clustered among federal states and metropolitan areas in Germany.

Delegates: Members can be elected by the General Assembly. The meeting of the delegates which is held twice a year decides on the activities of IGfH.

Managing Committee: Members of the managing committee are elected by the delegates. They are responsible that the working programme is realized.

**Most important activities in 2019:**

Care Leaver Projects: Well supported into adulthood. Transition management during and after residential care. Development & transfer (2016 – 2019)

In Europe and ‘western’ societies most young people leave care between 16-18 years of age, although there is a large variation. In comparison to young people in the general population, most young people leave care at a younger age and **have to cope with major changes in their lives in a far shorter time.** Their journey to adulthood is more accelerated and compressed. The pathway from care to adulthood is also less supported and more linear – where as in the general population most young people ‘yo-yo’ between birth families and independence.

Against this background, IGfH has launched three consecutive projects on the subject of Leaving Care in the German context. Based on a cooperation with the University of Hildesheim starting in 2014, all three projects have been focusing on the situation, demands and needs of Care Leavers when being in transition from residential or foster care into adulthood.

While Project I (2012-2014) dealt with the question of „**What happens after out of home care?**“ and **Project II (2014 - 2016)** tried to shed light on the aspect of „**Rights in the Transition Process - support and participation of Care Leavers**“, Project III – which was concluded in 2019 – **shed a light on transition management into adulthood and aimed at developing professional concepts and reliable structures of transition to supporting young adults when leaving care.**

Project III evaluated professional practices and approaches of accompanying young people

into adulthood and **tried to identify practices which have been marked as helpful - or successful.** Through a comparison of professional practices in three different German cities, the first step was to consolidate and evaluate already existing professional ways of support for Care Leavers. Based on that, the overall-aim was **to improve professional concepts and practical approaches of guiding and structuring transitions and to promote the implementation of an inclusive transition management into professional support, planning and case management.**

This also implied to support networks and platforms of self-organizations for Care Leavers, to promote Care Leaver associations and to facilitate socially supportive infrastructures for young adults beyond the youth care system.

Previous results and advanced professional conceptions have been already presented, discussed and reflected at a **final symposium in Berlin which took place end of March 2019.**

These results were then transferred into **practice-oriented guidelines and examples** for an inclusive transition management.

More information on the IGfH website:
<https://igfh.de/projekte/projekt-gut-begleitet-ins-erwachsenenleben>

Summary of materials and afterthoughts referring to the symposium:
<http://uebergangsstrukturen-careleaver.de/nachlese/>



HIGHLIGHTS

Dialogue Forum "Foster(Child)Care"

In 2012 approximately **50 of 10.000** children and adolescents under the age of 21 lived in full-time foster care. During the years 2008-2012, the provision of full-time services in the field of foster care **grew by 20%**

Along with this gain came manifold initiatives to conceptually and professionally advance **the sector of foster care**. Against this background, IGfH organizes and hosts the **Dialogue Forum "Foster(Child)Care"** which is a discussion platform to for experience and knowledge exchange including professionals, experts, social scientists and former clients. Running since 2015, the forum is supported by the German federal ministry of family affairs, senior citizens, women and youth. The aim is to identify professional and legal development needs based on the clients' perspectives and other cross-cutting topics **to improve qualification of professionals, to raise quality and to further develop foster care for children and their families in the German context.**

Furthermore, in 2019, the dialogue forum has published a diverse sample of practice-orientated brochures, recommendations, guidelines and professional statements. Here, a special focus has been put on cross-cutting topics such as **migration, unaccompanied minor refugees, children and adolescents with disabilities, Leaving Care and transitions into adulthood, guardianship and participation/cooperation with birth parents in the context of foster care.**

Further Information via <https://www.dialogforum-pflegekinderhilfe.de/>

**Biggest achievements in 2019:*****Governmental reformation process of the German child and youth care act - Comments, Positions and Statements on several topics of the draft law***

IGfH was involved in a very complex governmental reformation process of the German child and youth care act which involves issues such as leaving care, inclusion, child protection and flexible, community-orientated forms of care. To do so, IGfH bundled up all their statements and positions concerning these issues and results from their projects, cooperated with all their members and topic oriented working groups and self-organizations to bring their perspectives in the interest of the children affected into the draft act. The goal is to reach an inclusive act for all children and families and a broader understanding of inclusion which also takes migration, asylum-seeking, socio-structural barriers, poverty and inequality into account.

Future Forum on residential care

The future forum on residential care is a federal discussion platform to consolidate current developments in residential care, examine professional and socio-political discourses on residential care and to suggest advancements and requirements in the field of residential care with regards to its future. Starting in 2019, the initiative is supported by the German Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth while being organized and presented by IGfH.

Why is there a need for a future forum on residential care? Different forms of residential care and other ways of out-of-home care referring to § 34 SGB VIII (German child and youth care act) can be regarded as one of the most intensive forms of socio-pedagogical interventions in the life-course of young persons and their families in the field of educational support.

This implies a special responsibility for the legislature, society and professional actors to constantly reflect and to openly discuss the question what residential care is able to provide for children and youth with regards to their current and future needs.

It is noticeable that past and current discussions in the field of residential care are dominated by conceptual unclarities and professional uncertainties and that debates of modernizing the German family care system (e.g. through community oriented work, systemic approaches, participation) are only rarely/slowly transferred and practically implemented in the field of residential care.

The future forum on residential care aims at providing a discursive framework or space to identify core structural characteristics and development needs in the field of residential care and to discuss ideas for alternative and resourceful advancements - always based on experts', professionals' and clients' diverse perspectives which are united in different formats such as participatory workshops, expert-rounds and hearings with addressees.

Important statements and positions regarding the situation, accommodation of and care for unaccompanied young minors/refugees with critical positions against the government's migration policies were also developed by IGfH as well as statements and legal claims with care leaver self-organizations to abolish or diminish the financial contributions for young adults with an income after having received care.



NENESZ, HUNGARY IN 2019

Edina Anna Szántó, President

Within the framework of the activities of the NENESZ association, it is intended to give children and their companions living cross-border and cross-border child protection care the opportunity to spend their free time usefully, overcoming difficulties due to geographical conditions and watching theatrical performances and productions that will represent values in their lives and development in the long run.

In the domestic target group of the NENESZ association, out of nearly 24,000 children in child protection specialist care, there are 89%, 21,400 minor children and 11%, 2,500 young people with aftercare, under the age of 24, who are still studying. For two-thirds of minor children, the NENESZ association provides programs through the foster parent network, considering that most of the children under 12 live in foster care. The other children, especially those over the age of 12, are brought up in children's homes and residential homes. In connection with the programs the Association maintains contact with them through the heads of institutions and educators.

NENESZ association, is the only organization that aims to help, nurture and improve the lives of children in child protection care, while providing social and child protection professionals with professional workshops, organizes trainings, crisis management and mediation, further develops and disseminates the achieved professional results through international cooperation.

Cultural flowers - Education through culture

The NENESZ association implements its cultural activities and cultural education series in accordance with the specifics of the target group of the person concerned. For children and youngsters, people's lives, everyday experiences and behavior are largely determined by the circumstances that culture provides for them. The upbringing and care of growing children is present in all cultures, however, the form in which upbringing takes place, the child's place in the community, depends to a large extent on the culture, generally accepted norms and values of the given group.

Transmission and reception of pedagogical value, the purpose and essence of education through theater

Education with theater involves many elements, it is a very complex process. On the one hand, it is a creative process when professionals create a performance with children - for pedagogical purposes. On the other hand, watching the lecture and meeting all its mediators is an educational tool. The tools and media that appear in the educational process are the actor, the director, the play itself, the value-accepting spectator, who can also be a player as a participant in the creative process. Whether the child participates in the theater as a participant in the process or as a spectator, value creation, value transfer and acceptance take place in both cases. The value of the educational process is the pedagogical value itself.

**Culture - Theater - Children's Home**

Within theatrical culture, a child can learn many things, as there are rules for theatrical appearance and behavior. This way, they also learn etiquette, dress and behavior culture while having “fun”. Through theatrical performances, they receive values that they did not receive before or did not receive enough. In many cases, children, placed in orphanages, have not received in their biological family, the kind of education that a theater requires during their socialization. After mastering theatrical behavior, integration into society also becomes easier for the child, as his or her knowledge expands, both through the play of the theater and by learning the “rules” of conduct. Children's interests are also expanding.

Education through culture implemented by the NENESZ association

During the programs, NENESZ managed to help more than 3,000 children and their companions to go to theatrical performances from many parts of the country. They also came from disadvantaged areas from which, without this opportunity, they would almost certainly not have reached performances in the capital.

Taking into account the fact that 15,000 children live in state-run institutions in specialized child protection care (0-24 years old), NENESZ was able to reach to more than 3,500 children under the NENESZ “Education for Culture in the Child Protection Sector and Social Area” program, more as 20% (in terms of total staff), it can be stated that the program was successfully completed in 2019 as well. NENESZ would like to continue the Cultural Flowers program series in 2020 and, of course, in the years that follow.

A taste of the cultural programs of NENESZ

In primary school age, theater groups were given the opportunity to present their productions at the József Attila Theater.

It was the first of the theaters in the capital to launch the Feast of Adams and Eves for the first time in the 2014/2015 season. The NENESZ association joined the program series for the third time.

March 2019

In 2019, the unforgettable March Flowers program series was held for the 8th time for children living in child protection care in Budapest, which provided free cultural and leisure program opportunities for children in March. By joining the initiative, children living without their families were supported by cultural institutions as well as public and private actors. The primary goal of the event was to strengthen social responsibility in the field of child protection.

March 21, 2019

On the occasion of World Down Syndrome Day, a sensitizing program was organized by the NENESZ and the Association for Jászszenlászó with the participants of the Rainbow Camp at the Faculty of Teacher Training of János Neumann University. Faculty students and prospective educators were able to gain insight into the everyday difficulties experienced by people with Down syndrome through a variety of training exercises. The goal of the program was to learn to live, collaborate and love together with Down Syndrome people. Sensitization exercises were realized, through which participants could step in the shoes of a person with Down syndrome. Nearly 120 participants attended the event.

March 25, 2019

IX. Budapest Child Protection Day at the Budapest Zoo and Botanical Garden, which takes place on the last Monday in March each year. As part of this, based on the practice of recent years, a cultural program awaited the children, and then the young people could participate in an interactive animal show. 150 children took part in the morning program, but



more than 400 children and young people arrived at the Zoo free of charge in our organization. March 26, 2019 Film screening premiere with Hungaricom March 27, 2019 Feast of Adam and Eve at the József Attila Theater The goal of the program was to introduce the primary and secondary school age group into theater - this time, however, not only as spectators but also as creators. The love of theater, working together, thinking together helps the process, the primary purpose of which is for students to try being on stage. Applicant school groups each year learn, try, and then perform a "piece" that they prepared for themselves. In addition to each team and its leading educator, the Theater provides professional help and a mentor, who is a well-known actor and helps with the preparation.

May 11, 2019 IX. Magic Drops National Competition

October 2019 Hungarian National Circus tour station in Budapest

October 18, 2019

Zita - the last Hungarian queen at the Turay Ida Theater Establishing co-operation between the Theater and NENESZ in the social and child protection sector, especially education in culture, promoting values that strengthen the community, and providing program opportunities outside the institution in an organized form. The lecture was attended by 200 children.

November 10, 2019

Hungarian National Circus anniversary gala show

December 06, 2019

NENESZ Santa Claus

December 08, 2019 Kings on Ice ice show

The Kings on Ice ice show was held in the Tüskecsarnok in Budapest, which was attended by 50 children living in child protection care, as well as the leaders and members of the NENESZ association. The main character of the special

ice show was Edvin Marton, who has already played the violin with ice dancers at the Eurovision Song Contest.

December 21, 2019

V. NENESZ Christmas Eve at the József Attila Theater. The Christmas Eve event is traditionally held every year at the József Attila Theater. The children were able to enjoy the story of Krisztián Sárkányölő in an interactive performance, which aroused great enthusiasm among them. After the performance, we waited for the kids with delicacies, while the balloon clown dazzled them with all sorts of surprising balloon animals. At the end of the event, all the children left with a gift package.

Sport for children - Programs for sport

The use of sporting events, sports camps and leisure time provide security, continuity and nurturing talent for children and young people growing up in child protection. In 2019, several sports camps were organized. The locations were determined by the possibilities of providing football and water sports, as well as the number of children participating in the camp: in Pest county (Délegyháza, Kistarcsa), Somogy county (Balatonszárszó), Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén county (Kazincbarcika), Bács-Kiskun county (Kiskunmajsa) and Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg county (Szatmárcseke). The camps took place in 4- 7 day shifts. The daily programs consisted of a lot of movement, morning gymnastics, technical training, preferably water programs, but the kids loved craft classes and skill games. Additionally they couldn't miss the daily football matches and the exciting evening number wars either. In the evenings, stewing, frying bacon and singing together led the sporty workouts around the fire.

At the initiative of NENESZ, jointly organized with MTK, September 27-29, 2019, 40 young people living in child protection care were able



to spend three days in Délegyháza. The children were led by professionals, led by Gábor Pölöskei, a former football team, and the young people took part in professional trainings.

In December 2019, the NENESZ association and MTK signed a cooperation agreement, with the main objective to support children without families and to nurture talent through football.

October 16, 2019 - I. Sports for Children Soccer Cup

The UTE Athletics Stadium hosted the 1st Sports Cup with Sport for Children on 16 October 2019. At the initiative of NENESZ, five teams competed in the competition, which was created with the help of UTE's organizational director, Árpád Trakperger. The national team of children in care, MTK, UTE, the BKSZC (students of the Budapest Complex Vocational Training Center) and the National Team of Actors competed. During this time, the children acquired competencies that added a lot to the development of their personality.

October 2019 - MTK home matches

Thanks to the MTK management, the children were able to attend MTK's domestic matches and cup matches from week to week. They could get to know the newly rebuilt stadium and feel the fan atmosphere. Personal acquaintances (children met NB 2 footballers at the football cup) further deepened children's passion for football. In addition to creative and rewarding sports and leisure, it is important to emphasize that the competencies acquired on such occasions also have a positive impact in other areas of life. Such learned behaviors, perseverance and discipline; the development and maintenance of team dynamics, the birth of co-thinking, and the maintenance of diligence and motivation are especially important in the case of young people growing up in children's homes.

November 2019 Sport for children Soccer Camp - Kiskunmajsa

The 3-day training camp was implemented with the participation of the leading coaches of MTK Budapest. In addition to the many trainings held by the selected Hungarian football coach Gábor Pölöskei, the children had the opportunity to "military training" at the cadet course of the Pál Tomori Catholic Grammar School in Kiskunmajsa, take part in a bathing program at the Jonathermál Bath, watch movies and evaluate them, and About thoughts related to All Saints and the Dead. At the end of the camp, they compared their knowledge with the students of the local school in a friendly match.

December 14, 2019 Sport Freestyle football championship with world champion Ádám Szabados

Education for a healthy lifestyle, spiritual support, career orientation, talent management

August 2019. Spiritual practical camp

The motto of the camp was "In the palm of God" in XXVIII. Bugac Spiritual Training Camp between 4 and 11 August on the "Faith Farm" between Móricga and Bugac in Bács- Kiskun County. The motto of the camp - "in the palm of God" - was to express that we can count on the help of the caring God even in difficult situations.

October 08, 2019. "SzakMázz! Festival at Hungexpo

NENESZ was invited to the already traditional autumn career choice exhibition, where they appeared for the first time with a separate stand. Those interested could get help with a career orientation topic, and with the help of our partner, the Budapest Complex Vocational Training Center, there was also a big discussion about the treatment of children with SEN. At the exhibition, NENESZ conducted a questionnaire among young people about



Internet use and Internet addiction.

The aim of the research was to get a more accurate picture of Internet addiction and its complex background, consequences and use of the Internet in the case of high school students, as well as among teachers, with the help of a questionnaire survey. 6000 research papers were prepared with the support of NENESZ.

November 15, 2019 "Don't Go Alone" Vocational Development Conference

NENESZ organized a professional development conference on child protection on November 15, 2019, entitled "It doesn't go alone". Some of the speakers included: Prof. Dr. Emőke Bagdy, Father Feri Pál, Zsuzsanna Szurovecz, Irén Kézi. The location was provided by the Budapest Mechanical Vocational Training Center, a partner of NENESZ.

Participation in international activities

Creating Futures

The NENESZ association has been working in cooperation with Dr. Katharina Schmid Anna, a management and social policy researcher, for years. Together they implemented a collaborative project between child and youth care homes in Switzerland and Hungary called "Creating futures".

A "Young expert exchange" program was implemented in Hungary. Its aim was to increase the chances that children will be able to fully integrate into the society. At the heart of this goal is the decision of children and young adults. To take their lives in their hands and take responsibility for their lives. The exchange program was implemented in collaboration with NENESZ with the future vision that the program could help thousands of young adults growing up in child protection to be able to dream and achieve their goals. Children's and youth homes in Switzerland and Hungary (Cseppekő and Mátészalka), as well as

the Faculty of Law of the University of Pécs, FICE Switzerland and FICE International and the NENESZ Association have launched a joint project to promote innovation.

October/November 2019 - 34th FICE INTERNATIONAL WORLD CONGRESS 2019 - Better Future Opportunities for Children and Young People in Multicultural Societies - Tel Aviv, Israel

NENESZ was represented at the congress by Mrs. Lászlóné Kézi and Mr. László Kézi, the international directors of the NENESZ association.

[NENESZ Facebook Page](#)

[NENESZ Full Annual report](#)



FICE ISRAEL IN 2019

Professor Emmanuel Grupper, president

FICE Israel is organized as an **Umbrella Organization of residential programs and NGOs active in the field of out-of-home care**. Whenever a youth village or a residential care is joining as member, the whole professional staff are automatically becoming members of the National Section.

The **main objective** of FICE Israel is to **expose and involve residential care professionals from Israel to international activities**. This could be bi-lateral exchange programs with other national sections like Romania, Austria, Germany, Hungary and others; involving them in seminars and congresses via the activities of FICE International and FICE Europe.

The organization has **700 members** and **at least 100 new members joined the organization in 2019**.

In 2019 FICE Israel held a General Assembly which was attended by **45 participants**. The main topics were related to the preparation of FICE international **34th world Congress in Israel in October 2019**.

Most of the activities in 2019 were geared towards the successful organization of FICE World Congress. FICE Israel participated in FICE Federal Council in Romania in **April 2019** and organized in Israel **the second Federal Council for 2019 in Ben Shemen youth village in October 2019**.





A.'s story and how AHAVA helped him

*"AHAVA" CHILDREN & YOUTH VILLAGE -

The association for the advancement of children and youth at risk

Therapeutic family group homes boarding school

Emergency center for at-risk children and youth

Therapeutic day-care school

Post-hospitalization home

Residential facility for the over-18's

Special education school

Director: Yoav Appelboim



A., now 17 years old. His family's background is **extremely difficult, both in terms of family relationships and financial situation**. A. is the youngest child out of five brothers and sisters. At the age of 11 he was taken to an **out of home residential care** and arrived to AHAVA. A. refused to go to school, and in a psychological diagnosis, it turned out that his **anxiety from the learning framework completely paralyzed him**. In a therapeutic conversation with his personal therapist, he turned out to be very animal-loving. It was decided to work with A. by **using animal therapy (among others)**. Instead of attending school in the morning hours, A. was given **therapeutic sessions at the pet zoo (mostly with rodents)**. At his request, his activities at the pet zoo were expanded, and he arrived there also at noon, where he faced difficulties and chores that did not involve direct contact with animals, such as cleaning cages, brushing horses and cleaning them etc. At a later point, he also asked to join a **therapeutic riding group**. At this stage, his integration into the group was conditioned in his **incorporation into school for several hours a day**. The combination of animal therapy, therapeutic horse riding and the condition to integrate into school turned out to be a successful move. **A. became very socially active, and after two years he became an assistant of the riding trainer, working with young children**. Today we intend to refer A. to a **Riding Instructors Assistants course**, and later to a **Riding Instructors course**. At the same time, his **academic performance improved** and he **succeeded in reaching academic achievements**. The main thing is that we are on the right track in the process of advancing A.



M.'s story and how AHAVA helped him

M., now 17.5 years old, came to AHAVA when he was 11 years old. His family's background is **extremely difficult**. His father passed away from AIDS and his mother, who has been a weak woman all her life, suffered from chronic depression, which led to **immense difficulty in family conduct**. M., who was the third child in his family, was taken out with four of his brothers to **out of home residential care** and arrived AHAVA with **severe anxiety and a low self-esteem** as well as in **a condition of being underweight and and having suffered malnutrition**. M. joined a **family residential care home**, in which most of the children were young, and the caregivers were very warm. One of his biggest difficulties was **trusting the adult world**, and therefore the trust was first built between him and the family residential care home caregivers, a process that required a great deal of energy investment in conversations, accompaniment and at one point it was decided to incorporate M. in **a unique therapy group** that dealt with **self-image and personal empowerment**. The group has been **guided by a psychologist and art therapist**. In the group work process, M. turned out to have very **good creative skills**. After a while, it was decided to transfer M. to **the art workshop**. Joining the workshop led to a **tremendous development** in two directions: The first one was a **bursting creativity**, which was expressed in amazing results and the presentation of M.'s works in a **special exhibition** held at AHAVA. A second result of this process was that M. **felt much better, when he received an appreciation from his surroundings**. His level of **self-confidence increased and he became closer, both to children his age and to the adults**. In high school, M. chose **computer graphics** as a major subject and was considered one of the **outstanding students**. In the diagnosis towards his army recruitment, M. **asked to serve as a graphic artist** also in his military service, and we will encourage him and stay in touch with the military authorities to allow him further development in this creative world. We have no doubt that the process that M. has gone through, and is still going, is a process done with **the utmost attention to the child, his abilities and needs**. **Such a process forms the basis of our work with all children.**





FICE JAPAN(JAPANESE SOCIETY OF SOCIAL PEDAGOGY) IN 2019

Shigeyuki Mori, President of Japanese Society of Social Pedagogy

Japanese Society of Social Pedagogy has ca. 45 members at the moment.

Conferences in 2019

The 2nd conference

Venue: Konan University, Kobe

27th of January 2019,

Participants: 53

Some titles of sessions:

“Social pedagogy and FICE International”

“Report on the visit to Germany” “Social

pedagogy and residential care” Symposium,

“Reports and discussions based on a research on children under foster care and residential care in Tokyo area”

The 3rd conference

Venue: Showa Women's University, Tokyo

14th of July 2019

Participants: 45

Some titles of sessions:

“The concept of social pedagogy: report on a research trip to the UK” Symposium, “The 3Ps and the shift to small group homes”

The 4th conference

Venue: Konan University, Kobe

26th of January 2020

Participants: 32

Some titles of sessions:

“Report on the Tel Aviv conference” “Children's living environment: from a viewpoint of an architect working for residential care facilities” Symposium, “Living environment of children under residential care”

Board meetings

27th of January 2019, at Konan University

23th of April, Web meeting

27th of January 2019, at Showa Women's University

Tel Aviv conference

Six members participated at the conference and contributed with two presentations.

Other activities

Research trip to the UK

Some of our members (including myself) have made a research trip to Glasgow (CELCIS and other institutions, 17th to 21th March) and London (Prof. Cameron and others, 22th to 26th March) to look into present situation around social pedagogy in the UK. We are going to visit Norway in this March.

Contributions to the 25th Conference of Japanese Society for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (JaSPCAN), Kobe.

Basic Lecture, Shigeyuki Mori, “On Social Pedagogy”

Lunch time discussion, “On Social Pedagogy”

Shigeyuki Mori, Atsushi Ito, Noriko Shiota, Takahiro Hoshino



FICE KENYA IN 2019

Simon Peter, President,
Willis Okatch, Chief Executive Officer

FICE Kenya is governed by a **board** headed by **the President**, democratically elected every **three years** by all member organizations of FICE Kenya. The board consists of **7 members**.

There is also the office of the secretariat headed by **the chief executive officer** who is an ex-officio member of the Board.

Functions of the board:

- Approach and invite Kenyan child and youth care organizations with the concept.
- Develop promotional materials
- Identify funding partners and develop fundraising strategies
- Clarify official channels of communication in all member organizations

Vision:

- Create networks across the Country to support actions and people working with children in communities for prevention and early intervention, at-risk children, children with special needs, children and young people in and out-of-home care.

Principles:

- The core focus is **the development, capacity building and professionalization of child and youth care workforce** in Kenya
- Promoting the **active participation of children and youth**
- Promoting **female leadership opportunities in Kenya**
- Utilizing an **adult learning approach** to training and development with focus on the

Kenyan context

- Reclaim and promote **African approach to child and youth care practice**
- Reject **all forms of discrimination**

Objectives:

- Support endeavors focused on the **rights and development of children, youth and families, particularly children with special needs, living in institutional care and children at risk**
- Promote **international exchange of knowledge and experience in the field of child and youth care**
- Organize on-going **capacity building of child and youth care workers through training courses, meetings, seminars, international symposia and projects**
- Participate in limited **relief efforts in cases of war and catastrophes**

Main Target Groups:

- Children
- Adolescents
- Youth

Area of Coverage:

FICE Kenya is **national organization** but currently has presence in 5 Counties thus:

- 1) Nairobi County
- 2) Kisumu County
- 3) Homabay County
- 4) Siaya County
- 5) Vihiga County

The **president** of the organization is **Simon Peter** and **Willis Okatch** is the **Chief Executive Officer**.



The organization has 36 members, 2 new members joined the organization in 2019. FICE Kenya held a General Assembly meeting in 2019 attended by 33 participants. The items of the agenda and the decisions were as follows:

Agenda item:

Debriefing on the 34th FICE International Congress in Israel.

Resolution:

Kenya to send a bigger delegation to Senegal in 2022.

Agenda item:

Planning/Strengthening for 2020

Resolution:

- Domesticate the FICE International Presidents' agenda to suit Kenyan situation
- Visibility to be enhanced through representing FICE Kenya in national events such as DAC, World Orphans Day, World Aids day and other county planning meetings.
- Develop a strategic plan

Agenda item:

Planning for Team Building

Resolution:

Strategic plan for 2020 to be developed during team Building

Most important activities in 2019:

- Participation at the **NACCW Bi-annual conference in Durban South Africa**
- Participation in the **FICE International 34th Congress in Israel**
- Participation in national events and commemorations in Kenya such as **the day of the African child, World Orphans day, world Aids day, 16 days of Activism against sexual and gender based violence, World contraception day, NGO week, world menstrual hygiene day, International women day**
- Training of pupils and teachers on the **importance of water conservation and the planting of 10,000 seedlings** within the communities of Homa Bay County

- Held **12 radio talk shows on local radio station with a national coverage delivering adolescent sexual reproductive health and rights (SRHR) information and messages**
- Held **45 Participatory Educative Theater** in 27 public schools on **SRHR (Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights) and SGBV (Sexual and Gender Based Violence)**
- Held **2187 school health club sessions** in 27 public schools with pupils and students on **SRHR, SGBV, hygiene, assertive decision making, goal setting**
- Launched **Viral Load Suppression Project** targeting **Children Living with HIV/AIDS (CLHIV)** in Kisumu County. Currently supporting **700 Children living with HIV/Aids.**
- Launched **Gunny Bags project aimed at combating food insecurity and malnutrition** in Kisumu county. **Distribution of Sanitary pads to adolescent girls and young women**



**Biggest achievements in 2019:**

- **FICE International Award**

Apollo Foundation, the winner of FICE Intentional Award is a member of FICE Kenya

- **Four day training in Uganda:**

FICE Kenya was honored to have been contracted to offer training of psycho-social support counselors and peacemakers in Bweyale – Uganda focusing on SGBV and HIV/AIDS.

- **Official Opening of Angola Health Centre**

The health centre which was funded by Make Me Smile Kenya in Kolwa East, Mayenya, Kawese Village was officially opened and handed over to the County Government of Kisumu. The opening ceremony was presided by the Governor, Hon. Prof. Peter Anyang' Nyong'o.

- **Opening of a Second Youth Friendly Centre:**

Make Me Smile opened its second youth friendly centre in Angola after the health facility had been opened. The Centre offers sexual and reproductive health and rights services to adolescents and youth between the ages of 10 – 24 years old free of charge.





Joyce (not real name) is a **grade 6 pupil**, left with her mother after her father passed away when she was in grade 3. Her mother was **forced into wife inheritance** by her in-laws as **per the Luo* culture and traditions**. She was inherited by a man from another ethnic community. The man **began to make sexual advances towards Joyce**, something that **even the mother seemed to tolerate** for fear of offending him if she goes against it.

This **affected the girl's schooling and general health** and she eventually **ran away from home** to stay with her grandmother. Things worsened when the man who culturally is supposed to be her father went looking for her up to the grandmother's house and demanding for sex. **The girl escaped** but finally told the grandmother **who later informed the school. The school then informed Make Me Smile community paralegals about the matter.**

Through the help of the paralegal, **the case was reported by the grandmother to the police, the girl taken for medical examination and an arrest order issued.** Eventually the man was arrested and charged in court. The case is still on, **the abuser is still in custody and the girl is now free to concentrate in school without fear of being followed.**

*The Luo people are an ethnic group in western Kenya, northern Uganda, and in Mara Region in northern Tanzania.



HIMAYA IN 2019

- Lama Yazbeck, Executive Director

Himaya is a Lebanese NGO founded in **2008** and officially registered in **2009**.

Himaya's **mission** is to promote an environment suitable for the development of children and ensure their global protection via fighting and preventing violence against children on Lebanese ground.

Himaya is an organization **dedicated to making child protection a right** across Lebanon. It aims to break the silence and change society's attitude towards children throughout its activities. Himaya offers children the **life skills they need to protect themselves** but also **supports survivors of violence and gives them the psycho-social support** they need to overcome their experiences.

In order to be as effective as possible, Himaya works with **children, their families, and surroundings as a whole**. It strives to make a change on a national level with the help of its two main programs: **the prevention and resilience programs**. It covers the entire Lebanese territory with offices in Zahle, Mount Lebanon, North Bekaa, Sidon and Tripoli.



Himaya is governed by a **Board of 27 members** who are all volunteers. A team of **120 professionals** works in the different units of the organization. In 2019 the organization held a General Assembly, attended by all 27 Board members. .

Lama Yazbeck has been in charge of the organization for more than 7 years. She is an experienced executive director with a solid background in Special Education.



Biggest achievement in 2019

Himaya's **prevention program** has implemented a new approach this year to reach a bigger number of children. In fact, the main objective was not only to raise awareness on child protection, to help children build self-protection skills and life skills, but also to identify and refer cases of child abuse to the resilience program, the intervention program of Himaya.

This is why, Himaya created and constructed **a network of child protection agents spread out across Lebanon**. In fact, Himaya's front liners have trained:

- **Animators** who are now handling all **17 safe parks in Lebanon** and delivering recreational activities to children coming to these safe spaces
- **Caregivers and community based organizations' staff** who are now delivering awareness activities on child protection to all children living in their communities, through several techniques such as LEGO, sports and numerous others.
- **725 community members were trained to become active** agents of protection within their communities and were able **to reach more than 7770 child and 15506 caregivers**

This way, the child protection network grew progressively throughout the year of 2019, and trained members showed a great motivation and will to reduce child abuse and to capacitate community members with skills that help them protect themselves. These members also took the initiative to create partnerships with local stakeholders within the community, to organize events, to attend trainings related to child protection and to always coordinate and collaborate with other communities.

Most important activities in 2019

1. In 2019 only Himaya was able to work with **1984 cases** of which **1669 were cases of violence against children. 969 cases were successfully closed**, with a **success rate of 55.5%** for 2019 for the Resilience Program.

2. After 2 years of working on Alternative Care in Lebanon and training the teams on the topic, Himaya's **Resilience Program** alongside the **Legal Protection unit** were able to refer only **53 cases out of the 1844** cases to residential care services which is a significant and positive impact. Extra effort was also put to take children out of residential care services and placed back within their families or placed in foster families. In 2019, Himaya was able to take **16 cases** out of the residential care system.

3. During the scarce economic period which hit Lebanon following the Lebanese protests, Himaya worked in collaboration with municipalities and organizations across Lebanon to bring joy and happiness to vulnerable Lebanese families. With the support of their donors and partners, Himaya held events for children and parents across Lebanon during the holiday season.





Himaya's trained animators **helped organize fun, entertaining activities including games, parades and clown shows, while their partners were distributing food kits and small gifts to families** who are strongly affected by the current economic crisis. The events and activities reached **650 Lebanese families** and the team members of Himaya are very grateful to have been able to spread smiles and laughter during these difficult times. Through these initiatives, Himaya's team shared awareness messages and was able to detect cases of children who might have been affected by the situation.

For more information about this activity, watch the video:

<https://youtu.be/8mIKVMDYmZ4>

Those initiatives were organized with the support of **local municipalities, local and international NGOs with the support of Unicef Lebanon, International Social Service Switzerland, UNHCR and Plan International.**

4. Through different programs, departments and units, Himaya was able to reach **1,679,086 individuals in 2019 alone.**



Inspiring story from Himaya's work in practice

During a **parenting session on children's rights**, Himaya's prevention team and the caregivers participating in the session, were discussing the challenges they face when it comes to meeting their children's need. The discussion inspired a mother to share how, in times when she is **feeling overwhelmed**, she resorts to **using physical and emotional violence** against her children. She admitted that she **does not always respect her children's rights to express themselves and be heard**. Her eldest daughter who is also married and was also participating in the session, added that she does not feel close to her mother and does not feel she could turn to her in times of need.

It **took a lot of courage** for the mother to talk openly about her hardships and even harder for her daughter to admit the distance which is present in the relationship between herself and her mother.

After the session, **the facilitator spoke with the mother in private** who explained that she was feeling very **stressed and overwhelmed but she is willing to do the needed work to put an end to the violence**. She was directly referred to the resilience team, where she **received support** to care for herself and for her children's needs.

Following a full cycle of psycho-social sessions, the mother informed us that **she has observed a huge difference in her own attitude and the way she deals with her children**. She **no longer resorts to using violence**, and has become more aware of her actions and what she says around them. Her daughter also feels her mother is much more attentive to her needs. They both understand it's a long way to go but are still exploring the newly and greatly improved communication between them.



FICE NETHERLANDS IN 2019

"For years, FICE Nederland has been working on ways to get member organizations to benefit more from the expertise within FICE's international network. This year we found a way to do it!"

- Martine Tobé, president

FICE Netherlands was **founded in 1978**. The organisation has **34 members**, both individuals and organizations. The president of FICE Netherlands is **Martine Tobé**, a young and ambitious professional with a background in youth work and NGO management.

In 2019 the organization held its **General Assembly**, attended by 6 participants.

FICE Netherlands is based on the International Convention on the Rights of the Child. It wants to contribute to the quality of care for young people in their own country and in FICE countries, in accordance with the Convention. It does so by using **its international network in order to give staff, professionals and young people in care the opportunity to look beyond borders**. Literally by **stimulating and facilitating international exchange** and figuratively, by **linking innovative knowledge from other countries** to practice in the Netherlands.

FICE Netherlands is **actively involved in FICE Europe and FICE International** to support and develop:

- a new strategy for FICE Europe
- relaunching and spreading the FICE Europe newsletter
- the future of FICE inter
- Code of ethics for FICE Europe and FICE International.

For years, FICE Netherlands has been working on ways to get member organizations **to benefit more from the expertise within FICE's international network**. How can members become more involved? How can international knowledge and expertise be shared in an accessible manner? And how can foreign countries inspire and help the Netherlands to accelerate the desired transformation? **The idea of FICE masterclasses was born....**

At the beginning of December, FICE Nederland invited **Lama Yazbeck (CEO Himaya) from Lebanon** to share her story with Dutch professionals and policy makers. During two masterclasses in Arnhem and Leiden, more than **150 Dutch people** were introduced to the way in which Yazbeck built the organization, the programs that they are currently implementing in Lebanon and various fundraising strategies.





FICE ROMANIA IN 2019

Toma Mares, President

In 2019, FICE Romania has made a constant effort in organizing the already established actions for protecting the rights of children, continuously improving and informing FICE members and supporters in the direction of working with children, especially those in difficulty, who encounter obstacles in solving some existential personal or family problems. It has also initiated other projects of community interest, including the National Project for Social Debate and Intervention. In 2019 FICE Romania realized various activities in partnership with the Ministry of National Education, the Ministry of Labor and Social Justice, the Ministry of Interior - the National Anti-Drug Agency, the National Agency against Trafficking in Persons, the Association of Municipalities of Romania, the Association of the Directors of the General Directorates of social work and child protection.

In 2019, new communities in counties and new branches of FICE Romania were set up: Suceava, Bacau, sectors 2, 3, 4 Bucharest.

Projects & activities

The National Book Festival "The Joy of Reading", included in the National Educational Activities Calendar of the MEN, has proposed, as in previous editions, to motivate them students to read. More than 65,100 children and 1950 teachers from 36 kindergartens, 337 secondary schools, 214

high schools and colleges, 6 day centers and children's palaces (182 units being rural and 213 units participated in the 2019 edition of the National Festival "Joy of reading") from the urban area) from 38 counties and from the 6 sectors of Bucharest. There were organized stages of the competition at local and national level and the National Gala at the National Children's Palace in Bucharest.

The Campaign **"19 days of activism to prevent abuse and violence against children and young people 2019"**

Over 285,000 students from over 1000 schools from all counties in Romania and Bucharest participated in the 2019 campaign (we attach the list of schools participating in the Campaign). Also, over 35,000 teachers, psychologists, policemen, social workers, journalists, doctors and parents participated. 19-day campaign to prevent abuse and violence against children and young people in data and figures:- over 100 workshops, round tables, debates, participation in local, regional and national television programs- over 8000 direct activities carried out with and by the children in the kindergartens and participating schools- over 700 activities carried out with parents or grandparents and family members of children (in cases where parents go to work abroad)- over 4000 meetings with specialists (policemen, doctors, psychologists, priests, etc.)- more than 100 compassion circles- forum theater sessions and puppet theater (puppets) FICE Romania also continued in 2019,



with the approaching winter holidays, the tradition of Solidarity Colegiale tradition, the initiative of the organization, enrolled in the fundamental activity of concrete support of children, of contribution to education, to the prevention of school dropout. FICE Romania organized, in September 2019, in Barlad, together with DGASPC Vaslui, a regional debate on "The opinion of children and young people in the child protection system matters", as the preamble to the national project "Adolescents, where?", The new project for social debate and intervention that FICE Romania will officially launch in schools in Romania in 2020.

The event was attended by children from the protection system and specialists from the DGASPC from Suceava, Botosani, Neamt, Iasi, Bacau, Vaslui and Vrancea counties, along with representatives of the City Hall of Barlad, the Local Council of Barlad, the Social Assistance Directorate of Barlad and you have some non-governmental organizations. A similar activity was organized, together with DGASPC Constanta, in November 2019, with adolescents and specialists from Braila, Galati, Tulcea, Ialomita, Buzau, Vrancea, Calarasi and Constanta counties. The project is running between February and October 2020 (during February-June 2020 there will be debates / actions at local, county / regional level and during September - October 2020, a national debate on Adolescents, where?

Scientific events, professional training, publicising

FICE Romania hosted, from 10-13 April, 2019, in Bucharest, the Federal Council meeting of FICE International, which also included the seminar on **"Services for children from disadvantaged areas and environments"**. The seminar was organized together with the

Association of Municipalities of Romania (ACoR) and the Association of the Directors of the General Directorates of social assistance and child protection in Romania (AD-DGASPC), under the high patronage of the Senate of Romania, the Commission for European Affairs. The event was held on April 11, 2019, at the Palace of the Parliament of Romania. The full works of the presenters were published in the volume "Services for children from disadvantaged areas and environments", (Bucharest Signs Publishing House).

The national conference "O.N.U. on the rights of the child - a Magna Carta of human dignity" took place in November 2019. It was organized under the high patronage of the Senate of Romania (Commission for European Affairs) in partnership with the Association of Communes of Romania (AcoR), the National Authority for the Protection of the Rights of the Child and Adoption (ANPDCA), the Ministry of National Education, the National Anti-drug Agency (ANA), the Association of the Directors of the General Directorates of Social Assistance and Child Protection (AD-DGASPC), the International Anti-Drug Alliance (AIN) and continued the series of events initiated. by FICE Romania raising the awareness on its ongoing concerns in the field of education, protection and promotion of children's rights in Romania, of improving and professionalizing services for children.

The conference took place on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the adoption of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (on November 20, 1989) and analyzed how the fundamental rights of children are respected and promoted in Romania. The action was addressed to professionals in the field of child protection, education, health, justice, local authorities, religious cults, etc., meeting the needs of improving public policies, actionable practices on child and family protection. From October 29 to 31



2019, a group of FICE Romania specialists participated in the work of the 34th FICE International Congress, organized in Tel Aviv, Israel in collaboration with Ono Academic College. Within this very important scientific event, the FICE Romania delegation presented a scientific work circumscribed to the professional theme (Better future opportunities for children and young people in multicultural societies) and for the constant activity and professionalism demonstrated in the almost 30 years since the establishment, FICE Romania received a laudatio.

In 2019, the magazine Child Social Protection, published by FICE Romania at University Publishing House, appeared with two thematic issues, focused on issues of scientific interest in the field of education and social protection.





FICE SERBIA IN 2019

- Zeljka Burgund, President

The **mission** of the "FICE Srbija"(FICE Serbia) is to **develop professional competencies as well as to develop different missing social services for children and families in the local community, as well as to support the families and children of those who work in family and youth care.**

The **vision** of "FICE Srbija" is **better world for the families and the children, especially those who are deprived of the care of their biological family.**

The **goals** of FICE Serbia are:

- Support in achieving the best interests of children;
- Protecting the rights of children and families;
- Supporting children and young people deprived of parental care;
- Supporting children from at-risk groups and their families;
- Supporting the improvement of professional competences of professionals who work with children.

FICE Serbia has **29 members** (organizations and institutions in the child and youth care field). It has the following structure: Assembly of the members, Main and Supervisory board and working groups.

In 2019 FICE Serbia realized activities at the national, regional, and international level, according to the plan that was developed in advance. The organization had many activities which were realized with very little funding and resources, many of them on volunteer basis. The organization signed more memorandums of collaboration and organized more events (alone or in partnerships with other organizations) than in the previous year. FICE Serbia supported its members (29 organizations and institutions in the field of Child and Youth care). Many trainings, conferences, round tables, professional exchanges etc. were organized in 2019.

The activities of FICE Serbia were focused on:

- **LEAVING CARE**(Sailing Camp in Poland)
- **Biography work with Children and Youth-LIFE BOOK FOR YOUTH Training**
- Education Program for improving professionals competencies in child and youth care (**AKADEMIA program**)

All those activities were assessed by the participants as **interesting, educative and interactive, improved the competencies** of professionals, but, also the youth who took part.

- **"PRIDE Program for foster care and adoption"** (FICE Serbia has the copyrights for using his Program on national level) 2 trainings were organized in 2019, for managers and decision makers, as well as for professionals, working



in foster care organizations. It was strongly demanded by interested groups in the foster care field in view with the ongoing crisis in this area of child protection

- FICE Serbia established closer cooperation with the **Chamber for Social Care Serbia**, and have plans for future joint activities. Further, FICE Serbia collaborated with **UNICEF Serbia**, the **Association of professionals in the social care field**, **The Center for Children's Rights Serbia** etc. This way, FICE Serbia was able to widen its network of associates.

FICE Serbia (Zeljka Burgund as representative) took part at FICE Europe meetings held in Germany, Romania and Israel (outcomes and results: a new president of FICE Europe is elected, the web site is redesigned and working, a newsletter is developed and sent out every 3-4 months, the complex financial situation is defined in a better way. (Reports are available). A General Assembly meeting of FICE Europe is planned for **September 2020**, and will be held in **Belgrade**.

At the Annual Federal Council of FICE International, held in **April 2019**, in **Bucharest**, Romania, FICE Serbia participated in a discussion about the new strategy of FICE International and future of organization.

In Bucharest, the president of FICE Serbia held a presentation in the International Seminar regarding **"Services for children from disadvantaged areas and environments"**. One of the decisions of the CF in Bucharest was that FICE Serbia is going to be host of next FICE International CF Meeting in May 2020.

FICE Serbia participated in **the Anniversary of FICE North Macedonia, in May 2019**, with the goal to support their activities and represent FICE Europe at the meeting.

At the international level, the most important event was 34 th Congress of FICE International held in Israel, where representatives of FICE Serbia took part as well. **"SOS Children Villages Serbia" Foundation, a member of FICE Serbia held a presentation about Children rights and alternative care in Serbia. The president of FICE Serbia, together with Master PRIDE trainer Europe, Rob van Pagee, held a presentation on "The PRIDE Model of Practice, an Approach to Develop Professional Skills in the field of Alternative Care** (the Acronym PRIDE means Parental Resources for Information, Development and Education).

2019 was a year filled with many activities, but with modest incomes; anyway FICE Serbia managed to close it without financial losses. The year 2020 is going to be committed to providing support to the members, trainings, and the organization of annual FICE International CF Meeting.

Of course, FICE Serbia will continue organizing national activities, conferences, round tables, activities with youth, and will continue to develop all the knowledge and good practices that it has gained throughout the years of membership at FICE International and FICE EUROPE, in order to improve the quality of life of the children and young people in Serbia.

The theme of the planned FICE Serbia National Conference (as part of FICE International CF in May 2020) is going to be **"Alternative care in the 21st century – Development of good practices for children and families."**

FICE Serbia would like to take the opportunity to thank all friends and supporters who share their mission and vision and who are working hard to make the world better place.



FICE SOUTH AFRICA IN 2019

- Elwin Gallant, President

FICE SOUTH AFRICA was founded in 1993 and is locally constituted as the **National Association of Child Care Workers (NACCW)**. As a professional association and membership-based organization, the NACCW has nine Provincial structures across the country led by the **Provincial Executive Committee** elected by the provincial membership. The national executive committee is formed by the **Chairpersons of the Provinces**.

The NACCW is an independent Non-Profit Organisation (NPO) in South Africa which provides **professional training and infrastructure to promote healthy child and youth development and improve standards of protection, care and treatment for orphaned, vulnerable and at-risk children and youth in family, community, educational and residential group care settings**.

Main activities

- Skills Development;
- Developing and replicating models;
- Mentorship and Consultancy;
- Professionalizing the field;
- Membership;
- International Liaison;
- Knowledge development and dissemination;
- Advocacy.

FICE South Africa has a total of 2500 members. In 2019 it was joined by 154 new members.

In 2019 NACCW held an General Assembly, attended by 1497 people. A number of topics were covered during the breakaway sessions. A few of them were:

- Coming full circle: Young adults reflect on their experiences in care, their transition to independence and how they find their place in the world
- Implementing a multidisciplinary approach in substance abuse treatment for adolescents
- Innovative Solution for safeguarding children
- The Roles of Practitioners in Multi-Disciplinary Team Discussions in a CYC
- Supporting Institutional Homes to Create a Sustainable Future for Children and Youth without Parental Care
- Keeping our Youth Safe from Negative Societal Issues: Human Trafficking, Violence and Prevention Strategies
- Cross-Cultural Storytelling Practices in Child and Youth Care: Canada and South Africa
- Monitoring children's participation in child protection in South Africa and other countries
- Innovations in building community-based structures for prevention sexual violence against children
- South Africa Human Rights Commission - UNICEF
- Adaptations of Trauma-Informed Residential Care to Deaf Culture



The youth forum continued to operate in all nine provinces of South Africa. The youth forum currently has **6884 members** across the country. As with the Practitioners structure, the youth forum has a national structure led by the **national chairperson** and the **provincial structures elected by the youth**.

The youth forum had a variety of activities that were implemented. One of the activities was focused on **addressing climate change** where they started conversations on the **danger of littering and burning of waste**. They encouraged other young people to plant trees.

FICE South Africa is **the secretariat of FICE Africa** and continues sharing its resources and knowledge in the development of child protection models. A Development model of the child and youth care workforce for child protection services in Africa was elaborated and presented at the **FICE Africa meeting in July 2019**. The model was accepted and approved by FICE Africa for implementation.

In partnership with **UNICEF** FICE South Africa is exploring **replicating the Isibindi model to Mozambique**. A meeting was held with the former first lady of Mozambique, the model has since been presented to the **African Child Policy conference in Maputo**.

Good practices from South Africa

Responding to the HIV/AIDS crisis as it has affected children, the NACCW) has developed a community-based care and protection intervention option for children, named 'Isibindi' – '**courage**' in IsiZulu. Isibindi enables poorly resourced communities to adopt an evidence-based approach to the provision of integrated welfare services, and rapidly develop effective and informed local care and protection services for children.

The **Isibindi Ezikoleni (which means Isibindi in schools)** is an offshoot of the Isibindi model founded designed by NACCW. Unlike the original Isibindi model the services are rendered in schools and where necessary children receive home visits. The model **received support from the National Department of Education who signed a Memorandum of Understanding with FICE South Africa**. The model is currently being implemented in five of the nine Provinces in South Africa.

Isibindi Without Borders has been designed to **respond to the needs of children in refugee centres**. In 2019, FICE South Africa, UNHCR and Greece government held negotiations to initiate a programme to service the refugee children in Athens and Ioninia.

FICE South Africa further designed a model called **Isibindi Impilo (translated as Isibindi programme with focus on health)**. Isibindi Impilo is designed to **respond to the health challenges facing youth especially girls using the child and youth care approach**. As with Isibindi Ezikoleni, Isibindi Impilo is also an offshoot of the Isibindi model. Isibindi Impilo was implemented in the Western Cape and KwaZulu-Natal Provinces. The aim of the programme is to work with children and youth encouraging them to be tested and to support those that are HIV positive.



FICE SPAIN IN 2019

Monica Concepcion, President

WHAT IS FICE SPAIN?

FICE Spain, founded in 2010, is the Spanish section of the International Federation of Educative Communities, FICE International. FICE Spain is a federation open to all entities based in Spain that work towards ensuring comprehensive care for children and young people in social risk.

Mission

FICE Spain is a network of 10 non-profit organizations that aim to **improve the quality of life for children at risk and their families by promoting flexible and complementary models of family care and support both at community and residential level.**

Vision

· Through its member organizations in the different territories, FICE Spain **develops community based services addressed to children and youth at risk and their families.**

· It acts as the Spanish **network of reference before the European organizations** working with children at social risk.

· It generates common activities in all Spanish territories through a **shared model that is person-centred and community based.**

General and specific objectives

· **General objective: Improve the quality of life of children at risk** attended by the Spanish protection system and their families.

· **Specific Objective 1:** Support residential care

models **based on quality standards and that ensure a proper transition to adult life.**

· **Specific objective 2:** Promote **new, flexible and personalized models of family support and / or foster care that are focused on the child's needs.**

Strategic objectives 2019-2021

· To develop **prevention, intervention and family support programmes** to promote child and juvenile care in a suitable family environment.

· **Promote community care. To support the transition process from a residential care to community based care.**

· **Improve the quality of residential care.** Application of models of **desirable operating practices and criteria for assessing the quality** of the services, either through the **development of standards or best practice guidelines.** It involves developing guidelines general enough to be used by a wide range of agents and that allows creating professional quality actions that are consensus-based.

· **Establish strategic alliances at European level.** To develop synergies aimed at promoting the impact on European and national policies in the field of children and youth.

· **Establish a network of professionals.** To create a space for exchange between member institutions and other stakeholders, both at national and international level.

FICE Spain is composed of 10 member organizations representing 10 different autonomous communities of Spain. FICE Spain is governed by a Board, composed of a President, a vice-president, a treasurer, a secretary.



In 2019 FICE Spain held **two General Assembly meetings**, attended by 15 participants. The main topics that were discussed were **the new strategic plan for the organization** (currently under development) and the development of a **FICE Spain portfolio with community based services**.

FICE Spain was involved in the following activities:

- 2 FICE Spain **General Assemblies**
- Advocacy** at regional, national and European level.
- Meetings and activities related to the **closure of the Opening Doors Campaign**.
- Co-organization of the **Conference on Social Mentoring held on 2-3 December in Gran Canaria** (Canary Islands) - [Read more](#)

THE HIGHLIGHT OF 2019:

In 2019 FICE Spain participated in the closure process of the **European Opening Doors Campaign** (www.openingdoors.eu) in which FICE Spain was actively involved. Further, knowledge transfer among FICE Spain members was done in the field of **social mentoring for children and youngsters at risk**.





FICE SWITZERLAND IN 2019

Clara Bombach and Christoph Keller, Co-Presidents

FICE Switzerland has always been organised as an association with members and a board with a presidium and board members. For two years now, the Presidium has been under the shared responsibility of **Clara Bombach (child and youth welfare research) and Christoph Keller (child and youth welfare practice)**.

The main activities of FICE Switzerland include:

- Networking with professional organizations in Switzerland;
- Representing FICE at UNICEF Geneva and UNESCO;
- Organizing seminars and conferences on visionary topics; initiating discussions on practical and theoretical issues;
- Cooperating with other organizations to build a platform for the Rights of the Child;
- Collecting and making accessible specific know how, functioning as a hub for professional exchange.

It has a total of **97 members**. In 2019 the organization held a General Assembly, attended by 14 people. The main items on the Agenda included: **the annual report, budget, annual goals**. Following the annual meeting, the participants in the meeting had discussions on the content of a study supported by FICE Switzerland (Creating Futures).

FICE Switzerland and Quality4Children welcomed **school classes in Bern in November 2019** and discussed with them **the rights of children who cannot grow up at home**. The event was organised by UNICEF, Pro Juventute and many others.

[Further information](#)

Since some years now, a **Bachelor seminar** has been taking place at the **Zurich University of Applied Sciences, Social Work**, on topics related to **child and youth care around the world**. In October 2019 FICE Switzerland had the great pleasure of welcoming Merle Allsopp from South Africa. Everyone learned a lot and are happy about the great successes of **ISIBINDI and Safe Parks**. Thanks to the international network of FICE, the students were able to conduct interviews with colleagues from **Brazil, the US, Jordan and Finland**. The students gained **insights into country-specific challenges of social work and got to know the similarities of challenges and commitment**.

After a break of one year, a **professional exchange programme** with a slightly different concept will be held again from **22 April to 8 May**. **Roland Stübi** represents FICE Switzerland as a member of the board in the preparation and implementation of the programme: www.cif-switzerland.ch

Since 2000, FICE Switzerland has been professionally involved in South-East Europe through the project **"Dialogue South-East Europe"**, participation in the organisation of the



FICE World Congress 2006 in Sarajevo and various follow-up projects, including the World Congress in Bern and the CIF programme. It also provides **financial support to committed colleagues to enable them to participate as delegates of their FICE sections in the meetings and congresses of FICE International and FICE Europe Network.**

Furthermore, the members and management of FICE Switzerland are very pleased that they are finally **tackling the generational change** in the Executive Board in very concrete steps and are planning specific occasions for **the inclusion of new Executive Board members and for generating new focal points or making existing ones more concrete.**

Creating Futures

Under the direction of **Dr. Anna Schmid**, a study has been underway since 2019, in which young people in **children's and young people's homes in Switzerland and Hungary** participate in research into the **future prospects of children and young people in Care.**

FICE Switzerland is following the work in the study with great interest and supports them with professional exchange. FICE Switzerland is particularly pleased about the exciting insights into the **participatory work with children and young people.** A discussion on the content of the study with the members of FICE Switzerland was held at the General Assembly in November 2019.

For more information: www.fice.ch



THE MULBERRY BUSH IN 2019

John Diamond, CEO

The Mulberry Bush is a charity that exists:

To provide specialist therapeutic services to meet the social, emotional and educational needs of emotionally troubled and traumatized children, their families and wider communities.

The mission of the organization is to transform the lives of all those affected by childhood trauma through specialist therapeutic services.

The organization has a total of 120 members.

The Mulberry Bush services have developed from its practice base of The Mulberry Bush School, an outstanding residential special school and children's home for up to 31 primary aged boys and girls with severe social, emotional and mental health difficulties.

The Charity Ambition is to reach more children, families and communities. ACEs or Adverse Childhood Experiences are stressful events occurring in childhood. Recent research has shown that as the number of ACEs increased in the population studied, so did the risk of experiencing health conditions in adulthood. The Mulberry Bush school provides for children with the highest level of need, those with ACE scores of 4-7. However the organization wants to reach those children, families and communities before they need this intervention.

The Outreach services work with children in mainstream and specialist services who have ACE scores of between 2 and 4.

The Mulberry Bush services are comprised of:

- **The Mulberry Bush School**, a non-maintained residential special school and children's home providing integrated 38-week and 52-week specialist residential therapeutic care, treatment and education for traumatised children aged 5-13 and their families from across England and Wales.
- **The Mulberry Bush Learning and Research Centre**, based at Linden House, Standlake, Oxfordshire, comprised of **The Mulberry Bush Outreach**, outreach and training department, **The Mulberry Bush Research** and the free alliance **The International Centre for Therapeutic Care**.
- **The Mulberry Bush Third Space (MB3)**, an indoor and outdoor space in Toddington, Gloucestershire, for events, conferences and workshops, incorporating the **Planned Environment Therapy Archive** and **The National Childcare Library**. The Mulberry Bush Third Place was acquired and developed in 2019.

For further information:

<https://mulberrybush.org.uk/>



FICE WEST AFRICA IN 2019

Dr. Djibril Fall, Executive Director

The structure of the organisation is as follows:

- Executive Office
- Director
- Director of Operations and Administration/
Finance – Both oversee the Operation and
Finance teams

The main focus of the organisation can be put into 3 main strategic axes namely:

- Knowledge Management
- Community and Social Work Institute
- Observatory
 - Services
- Transnational Case Management
- Alternative care
- International Social Work
- Advocacy
 - Resources
- African Fund for child protection
- Time Bank

The mission of the organization is: a holistic protection of children, especially those who have left their families and countries for various reasons and find themselves in difficult situations, through the delivery of quality, transnational and national social work that is individualized and based on rights and needs.

The values/goals of FICE West Africa are:

FICE West Africa is a multidisciplinary team whose principles are solidarity and reciprocity following a quality approach oriented towards

the positive impact on the rights and lives of children for whom it claims to be an ambassador.

Main target groups: Vulnerable children and youth, Families, communities

Areas where of work: regional, national and community level in 15 ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States) countries + Mauritania.

In 2019 FICE West Africa held a General Assembly, attended by 50 people. The main topics of discussion included:

- Efforts made by ECOWAS to ensure the free movement of people and goods throughout its area. Additionally, some points in the ECOWAS protocol that could be improved in terms of considering issues related to the mobility of children and young people were identified.
- Reproduction, promotion, and dissemination of ECOWAS Regional Child Protection Signage.

In 2019 FICE West Africa has been able to impact positively and 2791 children and young people at least benefitted from at least one service of care and support including follow up.

Highlights

FICE West Africa supported a number of Internally Displaced children to go back to school. The insecurity affecting the Sahel has left hundreds of thousands of people displaced, including many children and young people. In the "9th" district of Ouagadougou in Burkina

Faso, some large families are settled and live in precarious conditions, with food, economic, sanitary and housing problems. Sensitive to the situation of internally displaced children and young people and faithful to its commitment in their favour, ISS-WA, through WAN, set up in December 2019, as a matter of urgency, an initiative to promote the rights to education called INITIATIVE 1-2-3. A total of 123 of them have been supported in an educational project.

FICE ZAMBIA/ ZAMBIA ASSOCIATION OF CHILD CARE WORKERS (ZACCW) IN 2019

Pastor Charles Mwambo, Board Chairperson

The Zambia Association of Child Care Workers (ZACCW) is an Association of Child Care professionals whose **aim is to promote Child Welfare through quality service provision in Zambia**. The Association was founded in 2005, inspired by the Minimum Standards of Care which were initiated by the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services (MCDSS) through the Child Care Upgrading Program (CCUP).

The formation of the Association was premised on the understanding that the implementation of the Minimum Standards can only be fully realized by providing appropriate skills to child care-givers in Zambia. As a reflection of the association's commitment to the vision and considering the fact that children are often vulnerable to abuse and exploitation, ZACCW places highest importance to protection and safety of children in all its dealings. **Protection is a right of every child in every given society or community.**

ZACCW is working with over 2,000 Child and Youth Care Workers (CYCWs) who have been trained country wide and have in return established **chapters in five provinces of Zambia** which are **Lusaka, Eastern, Southern, Copperbelt and North-Western Provinces**. The Association has a board that regulates its operations and a Secretariat that does the day to day running of programs.

Vision: A well-coordinated professional body promoting standards in child care services in Zambia.

Mission Statement: The association acts as a Child and Youth Care professional body coordinating and promoting standards in child and youth care, through **capacity building and advocacy**.

Core Values: ZACCW operates according to the following core values:

1. Child Centeredness: All programming will be child centered to maximize the benefit to the children. This will ensure that quality of care for children remains the main purpose for the existence of ZACCW.

2 Professionalism and Excellence: ZACCW is committed to the **promotion of quality childcare service provision** through the introduction and exercise of professionalism in the child care sector. Professionalism, pursued together with excellence result in an organization that consistently **delivers superior performance, achieves impact and retains the confidence of all its stakeholders**.

Commitments: ZACCW commits to comply with the standards for child protection, designed to safeguard children from exploitation, neglect, sexual and physical abuse. ZACCW will continually examine the need to reduce the risk of children being exploited in its settings.



It further commits itself to the upholding the children's rights enshrined in the United Nations' Convention on the Rights of the Child, (UNCRC).

Thematic Areas of Focus:

- 1: Capacity building
- 2: Advocacy
- 3: Networking
- 4: Organisational Strengthening, Monitoring & Evaluation
- 5: Awareness Raising

The organization has a total of 2000 members, 131 new members joined the Association in 2019.

The Association held a General Assembly in 2019, attended by 200 people.

Main topics:

- Professional Development
- UN Guidelines on the care of unaccompanied and separated children and the Role of CYCWs in Child Protection in Zambia
- Child Protection in Practice
- The Alternative Care Services
- Building Membership and Partnerships
- Sustainability of ZACCW

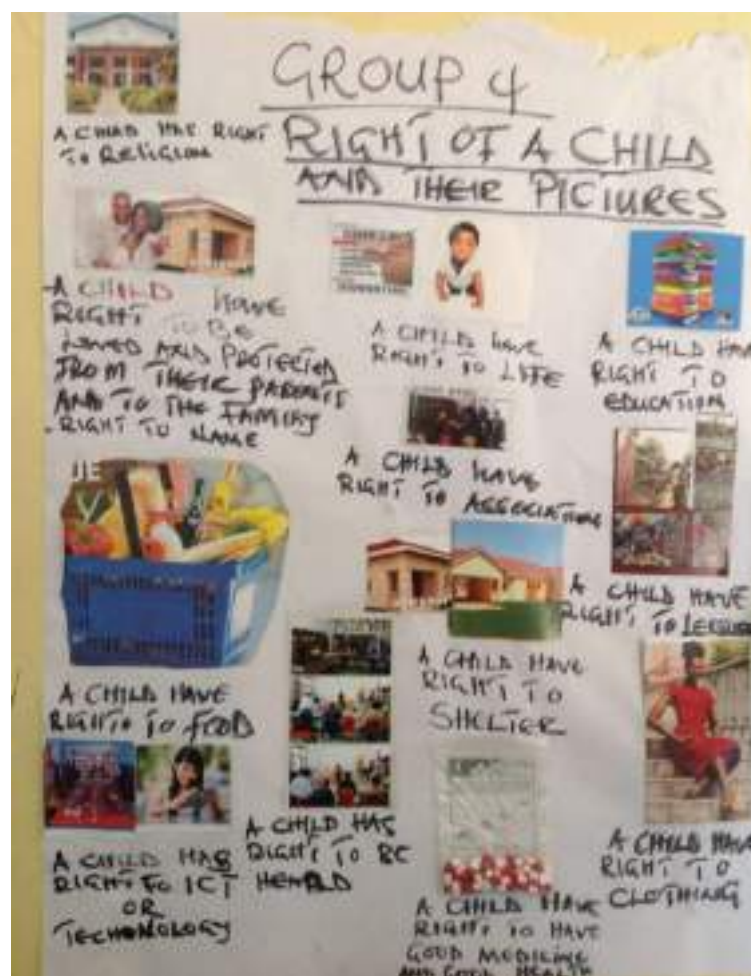
Outcomes:

- A better understanding of acquiring skills befitting Child and Youth Care Work profession
- A better understanding on the care of unaccompanied and separated children and youths
- Knowledge and connectivity of the rights and guidelines of children and youths
- An understanding on what to look for in Partnerships

In 2019 ZACCW has attracted many stakeholders in the work with children living on the streets and have shown desire to partner with the Organisation in the activities throughout the cities.

Most important activities in 2019:

- The successful holding of the Tri-Annual National Leadership Conference, saw a new team of leaders being democratically elected in the Board at national level.
- The Continued holding of Professional Meetings by ZACCW members in all the five chapters sustains the membership and provides a learning platform.
- The development of a three year ZACCW Strategic Plan, running from 2020 to 2022 is a key milestone in activity implementation of the Association



Biggest achievements in 2019:

- ZACCW has continued to work and partner with the government line ministries in the implementation and monitoring of the minimum standards of child care.
- The training and graduation of 131 CYCWs throughout the country was a great achievement for the Association; a high demand was seen for the training by stakeholders and members of the public. Notable new inclusions in the training were the UNHCR in Matapala Refugee Camp in the Northern part of the country and SOS Children's village staff in Lusaka.
- Approval and commencement of training of CYCWs by the University of Zambia for higher courses in child and youth care work; certificate, diploma, degree up to a master's level.
- The engagement of Rockview University will provide another opportunity for learning not only for CYCWs but even for the country as a whole.
- Five ZACCW members attended the Bi-annual Conference of the NACCW in South Africa and learnt many lessons and experiences.

Additionally, the Association retrieved two American citizen children who had been trafficked from the USA into Zambia due to misunderstandings of the their parents; one of whom was a Zambian (lady) and a Liberian father. We involved the American Embassy in repatriating the children back to USA and both father and mother were happy to have their children back, the children were overjoyed to be reunited with their parents.



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