

2009 Survey

2009 was particularly rich in activities for IDE, with the completion of numerous projects in this year celebrating the 20 years of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

Summary :

● 20 years CRC :

- On November 20th and 21st, six partners active in the field of children's rights have set up a large-scale event in Martigny (venue CERM). The three key moments were the Friday 20th thematic day gathering more than 650 professionals and students; the evening party with a birthday ceremony, and the charity fair on Saturday 21st, welcoming 54 associations involved in promotion and advocacy of child rights to present their activities, along with 30 artistic or sport performances. About 5'000 people attended this second day.
- Other celebrations took place, like the exhibition and playground near the Grande-Dixence dam (Valais), organized by IDE and HES/SO students.

- **China Programme** : The second phase of the "China and Children's Rights" programme has been launched, with the following developments to come : enlargement of the website in Chinese, continuation of the programmes initiated with UNICEF, developments of partnerships with Chinese Universities, IDE representation during the Shanghai 2010 Universal Expo (Swiss Pavilion).

- **Nepal Programme** : From March 30th to April 4th, a delegation was in Kathmandu for the 1st phase of the new Programme "Introducing children's rights in the Nepalese Constitution". Awareness-raising sessions were held for Members of Parliament, of the Constituent Assembly and for journalists. Training sessions were set up for magistrates, lawyers and NGO representatives.

- **Summer University** : The fourth module of this children's rights course for young professionals from French-speaking countries took place from July 20th to 24th, 2009. Taught by high-level panelists, the course dealt with "Childhood and Poverty" and was attended by about 20 participants at IUKB headquarters in Sion.

● Other international training modules

- **Russian Federation** : In the mark of a Switzerland-Russian Federation agreement on bilateral cooperation, and on request from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Political Division IV), a delegation of Russian officials active in penitentiary administration, made a study-visit to IDE on April 8th and 9th, 2009.
- **Belarus** : IDE, in collaboration with UNDP, UNICEF-Belarus and concerned Ministries, gave a training session in Juvenile Justice, to a delegation of officials in Minsk.

- **West-Africa** : In the mark of the PAO Programme run with ISS- Geneva (International Social Service), a training course in children's rights was set up for child protection services officers from various countries of the sub-region, from February 7th to 13th, 2009 in Abidjan.
- **Fight against FGM in Switzerland** : After the adoption by the Parliament's legal Commission, of a draft amendment of the Criminal code in order to criminalize FGM committed in Switzerland and abroad, IDE launched a lobbying campaign to repeal the notion of consent attached to it. In collaboration with several partners, IDE has moreover published an interdisciplinary didactic handbook for professionals in Switzerland, entitled : "*Manuel d'information et de réflexion sur les Mutilations Génitales Féminines : Approches, Enjeux, et Recommandations à l'usage des professionnels en Suisse* ».
- **New training** : In April 2009, a new certifying training course on the word of the child has seen its inception « *Enfants victimes, enfants témoins : la Parole de l'Enfant en Justice* ». Meant for magistrates, lawyers, and policemen in French-speaking Switzerland, the interdisciplinary postgrade course will be conducted in seven modules, until July 2010.
- **Information activities** : The website www.childsrights.org is developing further with the opening of new pages (flashnews) and constant updating in the form of exclusive editorials twice weekly. The posting of documentation resources for training programmes is also up to date.
- **Publications** : Apart from the Handbook on FGM mentioned above, IDE has published the following books in 2009:
 - *Children as Victims and Witnesses : A Question of Law... and of Rights* (IDE 14th Seminar, 2008)
 - *Le droit des enfants de participer - Norme juridique et réalité pratique : contribution à un nouveau contrat social*, J. Zermatten & D. Stoecklin, Eds
 - « *Handbook on the Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography* ».
 - 3 Working reports
 - Finally, IDE has produced a 3rd film, « *Pramont : Une deuxième chance* », showing a closed educational facility, from the perspective of its concept of care, and of the opportunity given to the youths to fit back into society. It brings forward the better results of an educational, rather than repressive, system, and allows youths residents in Pramont to express themselves and share their life projects. The film was realized by Ms Carole Roussopoulos, whose untimely death on October 22nd has left us in grief. Her radiant memory will remain with us.