



Annual Report 2008

The Separated Children in Europe Programme

The Separated Children in Europe Programme (SCEP) was established in 1997.

A commitment to the full implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child is fundamental to the work of SCEP.

SCEP seeks to realise the rights of all separated children entering or travelling across Europe; that they will be protected, that their well-being and development will be promoted, that they will have opportunities to develop their full potential and that they will participate in a meaningful way in the development of policies and practices that impact upon their lives.

Separated children

Separated children are under 18 years of age who are outside their country of origin and separated from both of their parents or previous legal/customary primary caregiver.

All separated children are entitled to international protection under a broad range of international and regional instruments.

According to data collected by SCEP 20,220 separated asylum seeking children arrived in 23 countries in Europe in 2008. (SCEP Newsletter, no. 31, 2009)

Staff

Lise Bruun is the Programme Coordinator assisted by student Anne Sofie Lund. Terry Smith is the Programme Adviser.

Steering Committee

The SCEP is led by a Steering Committee and was in 2008 formed by 4 representatives from Save the Children organisations and 2 NGO Network representatives:

- Louise King, Save the Children UK, Chair
- Eva Larsson-Bellander, Save the Children Sweden
- Janne Raanes, Save the Children Norway
- Bente Ingvarsen, Save the Children Denmark
- Thomas Gittrich, Bundesfachverband UMF, Germany

- Magda Faltova, Counselling Centre for Refugees, Czech Republic
- Christoph Braunschweig, Fondation Suisse du Service Social, Switzerland, NGO substitute

The Steering Committee held 3 meetings during 2008.

SCEP NGO network

The programme aims to realise the rights and best interests of separated children by establishing a shared policy and commitment to best practice at national and European levels. Therefore the programme has set up a network across Europe with NGOs working for and with separated children. The NGOs are democratic, stable and not-for-profit organisations. In 2008 the network consisted of:

- Albania: Save the Children Albania
- Austria: Asylkoordination Österreich
- Belgium: Plate-forme Mineurs en exil / Service droit des Jeunes, DCI Belgium
- Bulgaria: Bulgarian Helsinki Committee
- Croatia: Centre for Social Policy Initiatives
- Czech Republic: Counselling Centre for Refugees
- Denmark: Save the Children Denmark
- Estonia: Estonian Union of Child Welfare
- Finland: Central Union for Child Welfare
- France: Défense des Enfants International, DEI France
- Germany: Bundesfachverband UMF
- Greece: International Social Service, ISS Greece
- Hungary: Menedek Hungarian Association for Migrants
- Ireland: Irish Refugee Council
- Italy: Save the Children Italia
- Latvia: Latvian Red Cross
- Lithuania: Lithuanian Red Cross
- Luxembourg: CARITAS
- Malta: Organisation for the Integration and welfare of Asylum Seekers, OIWAS
- Netherlands: Defence for Children International the Netherlands, DCI Netherlands

- Norway: Save the Children Norway
- Poland: Nobody's Children Foundation
- Portugal: Portuguese Refugee Council
- Romania: Salvati Copiii / Save the Children Romania
- Slovak Republic: Slovak Humanitarian Council
- Slovenia: Slovene Philanthropy
- Spain: Save the Children Spain
- Sweden: Save the Children Sweden
- Switzerland: Fondation Suisse du Service Social, ISS Switzerland
- United Kingdom: Save the Children UK and the Refugee Council

Strategic plan

A new strategic plan has been elaborated in order to develop the SCEPTO network as a key European platform in the protection and promotion of the rights of separated children. Consultant and programme advisor Terry Smith was contracted to assist in this comprehensive task including a revision of the SCEPTO structure.

In March, Four Task Teams, composed of Steering Committee members and NGOs, met for a 2-day workshop to discuss and link their proposals regarding future structure, working modalities, financial sustainability and strategic alliances. The outcome of the workshop was fed into a Framework paper for SCEPTOs strategic development that was circulated to all SCEPTO NGOs and discussed at a Network meeting in Vienna June 17-19. At the Network meeting a high degree of consensus was reached and the plan was finalised and approved.

The new strategic plan will guide the work of the SCEPTO for the 5 year period 2009 to 2013 inclusive. Implementation starts January 2009.

Thematic groups

The new strategic plan introduces a change agenda with 6 main objectives: Guardianship, Detention, Dublin II, Age assessment, Trafficking and Return. At an NGO network meeting in Oslo in October, thematic groups according to the objectives were established. The long term goals for the thematic groups were discussed.

Membership

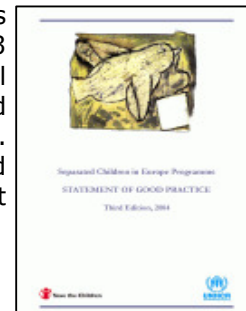
As a part of the strategic plan, the steering committee has proposed a new framework structure with two levels of NGO network membership, known as *member* or *associate member*, to be established from January 2009.

SCEPTO programme activities in 2008

Statement of Good Practice (SGP)

The Statement of Good Practice sets out the policy and practices that SCEPTO believes should be applied to all separated children in Europe. It provides a comprehensive set of principles giving a common standard for work across all countries, informed by the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The document has a high profile throughout Europe where awareness of its key messages is high amongst both policy makers and practitioners. The present edition of Statement of Good Practice has been translated into 23 languages that will ensure its widespread dissemination and use. The Statement of Good Practice can be found at the SCEPTO website.



SGP Revision

To ensure that the Statement of Good Practice continues to be updated, a revision started in September 2008 and will be finalized in 2009. The revision is led by the programme adviser, with support from network members and their practice and experience.

Project "Networking with Youth to Combat Violence against Separated Children"



The 2 year project aims to strengthen youth participation in preventing violence against young migrants and asylum seekers, by supporting a European forum of separated children and youth, as well as to raise awareness about the importance and value of youth participation by exchanging good practice. It aims to give separated children and youth a voice in matters that affect them, and it creates a ground for them to help other separated children and youth around Europe. The project is financed by a grant from the EC Daphne II Programme running from February 2007 to February 2009. At the end of 2008 an external evaluation was undertaken. An evaluation report is available at the website.

Workshop youth network

In Alsmeer, the Netherlands, 17 separated children and youth from 12 different EU Member States gathered, June 13-15, 2008. The purpose of the workshop was to explore the interest and purposes for establishing a European separated youth network, to build

capacity around children's rights, advocacy and network skills. Since then the Network has grown to 23 active participants living in 15 different European countries.



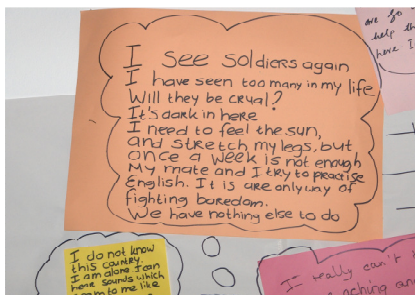
Exhibition on the rights of separated children in Europe

Brussels, Dec 2, 2008

The goal of the Scep youth network is to make their voices heard and use own experiences as a source to advise and inform relevant EU actors and professionals.

At an interactive exhibition in Brussels, the European Network of Separated Youth formulated important messages and had creative, inspiring and impressing ways to present them. The exhibition was opened by MEP Ms Renate Weber.

The exhibition was an opportunity to ask youth about their views on how to improve asylum practises and reception of separated children and youth. 11 Scep NGO partners were present at the exhibition and attended a joint meeting with the youth on December 3 to discuss future cooperation.



More information on the Scep Youth network can be found at the website

www.scepyouth.eu

NGO Network meetings

Scep aims to have biannual network meetings. The first meeting was held in Vienna June 17-19, 2008. It was mainly addressed to the issues concerning the strategic process and

future structure, but also informed about and discussed the evolving Scep Youth Network.

The second meeting was held in Oslo October 29, 2008. It contained among other things a capacity building workshop on interaction between EU and national legislation and policies, and how to advocate at national and EU level in relation to Scep's objectives.

Scep open seminar 'UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) mainstreaming in the protection and care of separated children in Europe'

Oslo, October 30, in cooperation with Save the Children Norway. The Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs supported the event financially. The seminar was concerned with the fulfillment of the rights of separated children, focusing on legal and regulatory differences, as well as differences in practice throughout Europe.

Cooperation with UNHCR



Scep has a regular communication, cooperation and exchange with UNHCR, and the coordinator participated in two joint meetings with Save the Children Brussels Office, UNICEF and UNHCR in 2008.

Additionally the coordinator communicated with UNHCR to further explore possibilities for cooperation on issues concerning separated children.

Cooperation with Save the Children Brussels Office



Scep cooperates on a continuing basis with the SCBO Policy and Advocacy Officer on asylum, migration and trafficking. The officer informs the Scep NGO network about EU policy and legislative developments and is provided national input and case stories by the Scep NGO Network.

The Scep coordinator participated in the Save the Children Brussels Office reference group on trafficking on May 5.

Scep participation in seminars and conferences

- **Raising the Voices of Young Refugees: One Step Forward to Organize Ourselves' Budapest, February 10-16**

The Scep coordinator participated as observator. The seminar was co-organised by the Greek Council for Refugees, Community Development Centre

(Montenegro), Hi-Neighbour (Serbia) and the Lithuanian Red Cross Society, with the support of the European Youth Foundation and UNHCR.

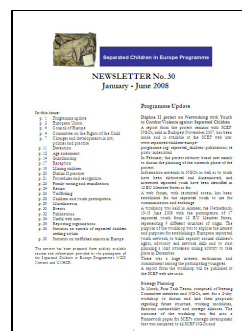
- **Protecting Undocumented Children - Workshop on the Protection of Undocumented children in their access to basic social rights, organised by PICUM, Brussels, April 4**
The SCEP coordinator attended and chaired a workshop.
- **Children and Migration: identities, mobilities and belonging(s), organised by and held at University College Cork, Ireland, April 9-11**
The SCEP coordinator and the consultant on the Daphne II Youth Network project Yvonne van't Oever, attended the conference and gave 2 presentations on the Daphne II Youth Network project and child participation.

Publications

- SCEP Annual Report, 2007
- Letter to the members of the European Parliament about the proposal for a directive on common standards and procedures for returning illegally staying third country nationals. Separated Children in Europe Programme and Save the Children, June 2008
- Report from workshop with separated youth, June 2008
- Convention on the Rights of the Child - Mainstreaming in Protection and Care of Separated Children in Europe. Report from seminar in Oslo, October 2008
- Separated Children in Europe Programme and Save the Children submissions on the Revision of the Dublin II Regulation, November 2008
- Separated Children in Europe Programme and Save the Children submissions on the Revision of the EC Reception Directive, November 2008
- Reporting from exhibition and meeting that took place November 30 – December 3, 2008 in Brussels as part of the project 'Networking with Youth to Combat Violence against Separated Children', December 2008
- Children's participation within the SCEP NGO Network – mapping and identifying of initiatives to date, December 2008

SCEP Newsletter

The SCEP Newsletter is published biannually and contains information about the SCEP programme activities, UNHCR, EU policy and legislative developments as well as reporting on developments and changes in the situation for separated children in the 30 European countries covered by the SCEP. The information is primarily provided by the NGO partners and the UNHCR SCEP Focal Points. The newsletter also provides statistical data on arrivals of separated children across Europe, and it brings information on events and new publications. The newsletter can be found at the website.



Website

The website, www.separated-children-europe-programme.org, is available in four languages. The site provides information about the programme, contact information, the Statement of Good Practice in 24 languages, the Newsletter, and other resources. In 2008 the use of the website was:

Language	Visits	Hits
English	11.138	44.374
German	862	2.214
French	1.081	3.702
Spanish	743	2.575

Contact

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Separated Children in Europe Programme

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