

CSPI
Centre for Social Policy Initiatives

10000 Zagreb, Berislavićeva 4/II, Croatia

Tel.: +385 1 4817 734; 4817 735; Fax: +385 1 4819 984; E-mail: cisp@zg.tel.hr

R/Programe.doc

Program
"Separated Children in Europe"
(Alliance Save the Children - UNHCR)

CROATIAN NATIONAL REPORT

Report prepared by:

Danijela Balentović

Aleksandra Selak Živković

Translation to English:

Jasminka Lučić Lavčević

Zagreb, September 2000

CONTENTS

CROATIA	3
ASSESSMENT PERIOD	5
RESPONDENTS (CONSULTED AGENCIES, CONSULTED DOCUMENTS)	5
CONSULTED AGENCIES/INDIVIDUALS	6
DOCUMENTS USED OR REFERRED TO	7
DEFINITION OF THE TERM “SEPARATED CHILD”	8
1. ACCESS TO THE TERRITORY (C1)	10
TRAFFICKING (C1.2)	11
2. IDENTIFICATION (C2)	11
3. APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN OR ADVISOR (C3)	12
4. REGISTRATION AND DOCUMENTATION (C4)	14
5. AGE ASSESSMENT (C5)	16
6. DETENTION (C6)	16
7. RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE (C7)	19
8. FAMILY TRACING AND CONTACT (C8)	19
9. FAMILY REUNIFICATION IN A EUROPEAN COUNTRY (C9)	20
10. INTERIM CARE (C10.1)	22
Health Care (C10.2)	22
Education and Training (C10.3)	23
11. REFUGEE DETERMINATION PROCESS (C11)	24
12. DURABLE SOLUTIONS (C12)	27
a) Reunification in country of origin	27
b) Reunification in host country	27
c) Integration	27
d) Adoption	27
SUGGESTIONS	28
LITERATURE	33

COUNTRY: CROATIA

Croatia is a Central-European and Mediterranean country of **56.538** square meters and according to the last census there are **4.784.000 citizens** living in the country (some **1.187.213** persons are in the age group from 0 to 18).

During the last decade (1990-1999.) the Republic of Croatia went through historical changes. In 1991 Croatia became an independent state. At the same time there was a war on the Croatian territory (1991-1995).

During the nineties Croatia started the process of transition towards a market economy and the parallel process of alleviating war damages.

After the war broke out in the neighbouring Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1992, there was a serious influx of refugees from BH to Croatia. The Government established an Office for Displaced Persons and Refugees to enable a more efficient coping with the refugee situation. Since 1991, when this Office was established, it took care of and registered more than 556.000 displaced persons and 500.000 refugees from Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Some 30% of the total displaced and refugee population were children. Specially and additionally endangered refugee groups were children separated from their parents due to war circumstances. This group needed special attention, and the project “Unaccompanied Children in Exile” since 1993 as an NGO initiative in co-operation with governmental structures and international organisations (UNHCR and ICRC) had the mandate to implement complementary social and legal protection of unaccompanied refugee children. The basic aim of the “UCE” project was to register and document the unaccompanied children in exile, to trace parents and facilitate family reunification in accordance with the best interests of the child.

In the period 1991 to 2000 the Republic of Croatia started to rebuild its whole legal system and the first step during this process was to create a new Constitution. This document contains a constitutional regulation whereby the comprehensive international legal acts (i.e. Convention on the Rights of the Child) have a legal status above the local laws.

Besides the Convention on the Rights of the Child that Croatia incorporated in its laws by ratifying it in 1991, Croatia also accepted a number of regional and general international documents, especially those concerning children. Croatia also signed and ratified the Hague Convention on Private International Law on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction from 1980 and has communicated its intent to sign all the Hague documents

concerning children's rights like the Conventions on maintenance obligations towards children, adoption, etc.

Besides the new Constitution, the Republic of Croatia also drew up a number of new laws that concern children and families, i.e.:

- *The Law on Social Welfare*
- *Family Law*
- *Penal Law*
- *The Law on Juvenile Courts,*
- *And the Asylum Law is in drafting process*

Appreciating the importance of the promotion of the rights of the child in 1993 a Working Group for children's rights was established at the Commission for Human Rights and the Rights of Ethnic and National Communities and Minorities of the House of Representatives of the Parliament. Since 1995 this Working Group is active inside the Committee for Family, Youth and Sports, trying to conform all the existing laws to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

The first Croatian Report on the implementation of the CRC was submitted in 1993 and the UN Committee for the Rights of the Child discussed it in 1996.

The same year the Government established a National Committee for drawing up a National Activity Program for Children in Croatia that was finished in 1998. The Program was developed in co-operation with national governmental and non-governmental structures concerned with children, as well as UNHCR and UNICEF. The Program anticipates a number of activities promoting the protection of children's rights in Croatia for the period 2000 - 2005.

It was established that a co-ordinating body for the protection of children's rights was lacking, and therefore a Council for Children was established within the Institute for the Protection of Family, Maternity and Youth. This Council is supposed to promote children's rights, monitor the implementation of the UNCRC in Croatia and to co-ordinate all national programs for children.

During the war in Croatia there were 75 NGO's and more than 130 Projects concerned with children's issues.

A field research on NGO's was carried out (V. Vizek-Vidović, A. Žižak, Centre for Social Policy Initiatives, UNICEF, 1999.) to identify a network of NGO's concerned with children's issues or the promotion of the rights of children in the Rep. of Croatia" (CSPI/UNICEF 1999.).

ASSESSMENT PERIOD

The report on separated children that have left their country of origin and have been identified in Croatia concerns the period of 1999 and the first 6 months of 2000.

Since Croatia did not have much experience in this area (according to the submitted reports), the report will take into account the war experience in Croatia, gathered when Croatia was taking care of refugee and displaced children, as well as unaccompanied children.

RESPONDENTS

This report has been carried out by the Centre for Social Policy Initiatives. CSPI has been established in 1994, after starting the implementation of the Project "Unaccompanied Children in Exile" in 1993.

CSPI has been since 1998 in the network of the project "Separated Children in Europe" – in the EU countries.

The National Report for Croatia is part of the project activities being carried out in the countries of Central Europe: Slovenia, Hungary, Bulgaria and Turkey, and in the Baltic countries: Poland and the Czech Rep.

The Project "Separated Children in Europe" is a joint initiative of UNHCR and Save the Children Alliance, whose goal is the promotion of theory and practice of protection of the best interests of the child and children's rights in Europe.

All countries included in the Project have been asked to produce a national report on the situation of the rights of children that have been separated from their parents. In each country where the Project is implemented NGO's have been responsible for the national reports.

In May 2000, the representatives of Croatia (Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare. UNHCR and centre for Social Policy Initiatives) took part at the Seminar in Budapest. At the Seminar the methodology, Questionnaire and Statement of Good Practice were

introduced. In the process of developing the National Report CSPI invited the representatives of the ministries and NGO's - Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, County Court of Zagreb, Ministry of Education and Sports, Ministry of Health, Ministry of European Integration, Government Office for Displaced Persons and Refugees, Croatian Red Cross, Caritas, UNHCR, UNICEF, OESS to provide CSPI with relevant information by the end of June 2000. Besides the co-ordination of the reports interviews with separated children as well as with professionals working with them were planned.

The first draft of the report was revised after the meeting held on Sept. 14, 2000. The second draft of the Report represents the basis for discussion and presentation of an activity plan for the protection of children's rights for separated children in countries other than their domicile country for 2001.

CONSULTED AGENCIES/ INDIVIDUALS

By the end of June 2000 the following organisations, agencies and institutions submitted the reports:

NATIONAL

- *Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare*
- *Ministry of Health*
- *Ministry of the Interior*
- *Caritas – Archbishopry of Zagreb and*
- *The Governmental Office for displaced Persons and Refugees*

INTERNATIONAL

- UNHCR

Consequently the national report on "separated children" is based on the following:

- *data submitted by the mentioned governmental and non-governmental organisations, national and international*
- *on the present legislation of the Rep. of Croatia regulating the rights and obligations of children and families*
- *experience of the Project "Unaccompanied Children in Exile " and*

- *the experience of taking care of displaced and refugee children of the Governmental Office for Displaced Persons and Refugees.*

According to the submitted reports Croatia had up till now very little experience with “separated children”.

But, the experience during the war when the rights of children to life and family have been grossly violated has pointed out the specific needs of displaced and refugee children, especially children without parents and children in exile separated from their parents. The Project “Unaccompanied Children in Exile”, implemented by the Centre for Social Policy Initiatives contributed greatly to the care of children separated from their parents because of the war. The methodological approach developed during the implementation of the Project turned out to be applicable for later implementation outside of Croatia (project implementation in the Federation of B&H 1995-1996, Albania 1999).

DOCUMENTS USED OR REFERRED TO

Researches performed in Croatia during the war reflected that the symptoms of anxiety in unaccompanied children are stronger and that such children suffer more often of depression, sadness, enuresis and anxiety than those children that are in exile with their mothers.

The research “Social and Legal Protection of Children in War” (Hrabar, Selak-Živković, UNICEF, Zagreb, 1992) on 100 unaccompanied children placed in collective shelters and host families proved that the care of children in host families was much better than the care in collective shelters. More than 50% of those children did not have appointed legal guardians.

The Project “Unaccompanied Children in Exile” identified 5.000 unaccompanied displaced and refugee children in 13 countries that were the countries of exile of children from Croatia and B&H; in Croatia, Macedonia, Austria, The Czech Rep., France, Great Britain, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, The Netherlands, Turkey, Pakistan and Malaysia. Since October 1995 to November 1996, using the methodology of the Project “Unaccompanied Children in Exile”, the Centre for Social Policy Initiatives, as UNICEF implementing partner in the Federation of B&H, managed to register and document in co-operation with

the centres for social welfare 1163 beneficiaries, actually 1163 internally displaced unaccompanied children.

The basic goal of this Report, besides the presentation of the situation of the rights of the child in Croatia is to point out the specific needs of children separated from their parents or guardians that have left their countries of origin and have been registered in Croatia. The experience of the neighbouring countries indicates that their number is increasing.

By getting to know the specific needs of separated children outside their countries of origin, by proposing measures for their protection and by developing the Plan of Activity Croatia will be ready to protect the rights of this specially vulnerable group of children. In this respect it is of great importance to establish a partner relationship between the governmental and non-governmental organisations that are concerned with children and to identify this special group of children.

DEFINITION OF "SEPARATED CHILD " (A 2.1)

a) The term "**separated children**" is not the term that could be easily recognised under the circumstances. The Croatian legislation does not include even the term "minors without parental escort", except in the new proposal of the Asylum Law (Art. 14. – minors without escort).

We would like to stress that the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees from 1951 and the Protocol from 1967 do not contain special regulations concerning the status of minors. The same definition is used for all individuals regardless of their age.

b) No data related to the siblings over 18 being treated as separated children.

c) The term "**child**" the Croatian legislation uses in accord with the Convention on the Rights of the Child according to which a child is considered to be a person younger than 18 years of age.

The Croatian Constitution (Art.63) pays special attention to "minors without parents or parental care".

According to the Penal Code (Art. 10.) a child is a person that has not reached the age of 14 at the time of the criminal offence and is not responsible for the offence.

The Law on Juvenile Courts is a part of the new Croatian penal legislation and is in force since 1998. The Law contains a regulation concerning young persons committing criminal

offences (minors and younger adults), regulations concerning courts, penal procedure and the execution of sanctions and regulations concerning penal and legal protection of minors. The law defines the term "**minor**" making a distinction in accordance with the age and the type of sanction:

Younger minor (age 14-16)

Older minor (age 16-18)

Younger adult (age 18-21)

A minor younger than 16 can only be committed to a detention sentence and those younger than 18 may in exceptional cases receive a sentence to juvenile imprisonment (Art. 4).

According to the Croatian legislation a person is a child up to the age of 18, when the minor becomes an adult, and has business liability, and has the right to vote and to get married, as well as to obtain a drivers licence and can be recruited into the army.

The obligations of legal guardians terminate at that age.

There are some exceptions that enable a child under 18 to:

- *work (with 15 years of age)*
- *marry (with a special approval of the court when the child reaches the age of 16)*
- *give consent (if 12 years of age or more) to: a change of name and adoption, and when 14 recognition of maternity or paternity*

Since July 1st, 1999 a new Family Law is in force that in accordance with the Convention (CRC) introduces new legal institutes and standards in the family legislation, i.e. the best interests of the child and the well being of the child. By this law special protection of "**children without adequate parental care** " is foreseen, and the best interests of the child is respected in cases when the child is placed for care taking and upbringing, parental care after reaching adulthood, in cases of adoption and guardianship, etc. The Family Law defines the child's rights and duties (Art. 86-89) and speaks of "**children without adequate parental care**", and defines guardianship as a form of protection of children without adequate parental care (Art. 153 and 154).

The Law also enables children to have the possibility to ask for protection of his/her rights from the authorities in charge (Art. 88). The Family Law defines **children without adequate parental care** that are in process of receiving guardianship (Art. 177) as minors whose parents are:

1. *dead, missing, unknown, unknown residence for at least a month*

2. *have been deprived of business liability and have been deprived of parental rights*
3. *minors – and have not reached business liability in accordance with Art. 121 of this Law*
4. *not present and are not able to take care of their child, but they have not given the child to another person, that is capable of becoming a caretaker, to take care and bring up the child* **Children without parents** are children whose parents have died, disappeared (i.e. in war) or are unknown.

d) Changes are needed in relation with policy and practice of treatment of separated children - the Asylum Law that is in process of being brought can improve both policy and practice in this regard.

1. ACCESS TO THE TERRITORY (C1)

1.a) The report of the Ministry of the Interior relies on the legislation in force regulating the issues of access to the Croatian territory (The Law on the Control of the State Borders), the refugee status (The Law on Movement and Residence of Aliens), regulations concerning criminal offences of minors (The Law on Juvenile Courts).

The report of the Ministry of the Interior mentions the co-operation with the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, when a foreigner is found for whom it is assumed or has been stated that he/she is a minor, and when it is necessary to inform immediately the local social welfare centres.

Contrary to the above mentioned situation access of the refugees from B&H to the Republic of Croatia as well as their transit through Croatia (transit to third countries or return to B&H) was, from the beginning of the war in B&H, regulated and monitored by the Office for Displaced Persons and Refugees. Conditions for access to the territory of the Republic of Croatia has had different forms due to the development of the situation in B&H.

1. b and c) Croatia has been drafting the Law on Asylum which will regulate the procedure related to the access to the territory of Croatia (in the Law and in its implementing guidelines and protocols) This will also regulate access to the territory of separated children.

1. d) No information was available related to the “carrier liability legislation”.

TRAFFICKING (C1.2)

1.e) The Ministry of the Interior reports that during the first three months in the year 2000 two criminal offences were reported concerning the "establishment of slavery and the transport of slaves" according to Art. 175, of the Criminal Law of the Rep. of Croatia that involved two minor girls. These were two minors from Romania.

1.f) OSCE in Croatia formed a special Task Force to fight against illicit transfer and possible trafficking of people. It is to be expected that establishment of these special forces will strongly affect the reduction of these situations.

We would like to stress that Croatia has ratified the Hague Convention on Civil International Child Abduction that obliges all the parties to establish a central authority that will deal with the requests for the return of abducted children. In Croatia this authority is the Ministry of Justice as the professional authority and The Ministry of the Interior in co-operation with the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare as the central authorities. Since this Convention was ratified the Croatian authorities receive approximately 5-6 requests yearly for the return of children that are in Croatia.

2. IDENTIFICATION (C2)

2.a) Identification, namely the establishment of the identity of an individual, is regulated by a Temporary Act of the Ministry of the Interior where the identity is checked on the basis of an identification card, passport, or some other document with a picture on it.

In cases when a person does not possess such an identification document, the police undertakes a number of actions in order to establish the true identity of a person (i.e. dactyloscopy, personal description, drawing, and identification by other persons, etc). Art. 206 of the Temporary Act regulates that the procedure in cases of minors should be processed with great care taking in account the minors age and psychological situation.

During the police procedure a social worker from the social welfare centre* on the municipality level should always be present.

2.b) the law, policy and practice do not conform to the Statement in the sense that there is no existing Asylum Law.

* each municipality has a local social welfare centre (social services)

2.c) During a court procedure (if it comes to that) we are of the opinion that a team of professionals, consisting of a paediatrician, psychologist and social pedagogue, is needed to establish the chronological and mental age of a child,

During the implementation of the Project “Unaccompanied Children in Exile”, as a NGO initiative, identification of children was performed on the basis of the interview with the child and in the presence of adults that were temporarily taking care of the child (in cases of very young children). The UCE Project and UNHCR in communication with the Office for Displaced Persons and Refugees tried to suggest that the Form for registering displaced persons and refugees should contain a special set of questions that would enable an immediate identification of unaccompanied minors. Distant family members or friends often accompanied children and there are some serious indications that many were not identified as unaccompanied refugee children without parents. The information on children’s location were gathered from different sources: through local centres for social welfare, local centres for displaced persons and refugees, non-governmental organisations in local communities, UNHCR, ICRC, etc. After the interview with the child or an adult caretaker of the child, the unaccompanied minor was registered and documented. The UCE interviewers were professionals from helping professions.

3. APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN (C3)

3.a) Guardian is appointed to identified separated minors.

3.b) The role of the guardian is to protect the best interests of the child.

3.c) Guardian is appointed within 24 hours after the child had been identified. Municipal social services have on duty 24 hours social worker in charge to take care of the best interests of the separated child. Social workers from local social services are appointed for the guardians to separated children.

3.d) guardians are professionals/social workers from local social services.

3.e) Policy practice and law do not conform to the statement in the sense that there is no Asylum Law in Croatia.

3.f) The changes are needed in policy and practice related to the interpretation of the best interests of the child. The present policy and practice almost exclusively interprets the best interests of the child as being in his/her country of origin.

Additional information

The report of the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare reflects that no procedure involving a minor (status issues or magistrate court cases) may start without an appointed guardian. The minor is not placed in collective shelters for aliens, but the social welfare centre in charge finds a suitable placement for the minor.

Guardianship is a form of protection of children without adequate parental care (Art.152). The appointment of guardians to minors should substitute parental care (Art. 153). **The Family Law** regulates the procedure of appointment of guardians to minors. The relevant social welfare centre may place a minor under guardianship for upbringing and care in the family of the guardian, in a foster family or in an institution. (Art. 178).

A guardian is the legal representative of a child and the law regulates his competence and responsibilities. The guardian must conscientiously take care of the child, the child's rights and responsibilities, and must protect the child's interests. Before undertaking any important measures concerning the protection of the ward or the ward's property the guardian must take into consideration the ward's opinion, when the ward is capable of understanding the measures (Art.161)

The characteristics of the guardian should be: a person is appointed to be a guardian who has the characteristics and capability for acting as a guardian and the person must agree to become a guardian. If circumstances are such, the centre for social welfare may appoint as a guardian a staff member of the centre without the person's consent.

The experience of the UCE Project shows that the role of the non-governmental sector is "to fill the gaps and voids in the system of social and legal protection" of children. Such was the role of the UCE Project at the time, which has initiated, speeded up, and helped the social welfare centres to find and appoint guardians to unaccompanied children in exile (1994-1998). It is necessary to point out that some of the children were accompanied by their adult siblings or were placed in families of some relatives. Sometimes their older siblings, a relative or a friend of the family were appointed to be guardians, but sometimes staff members of the social welfare centre were appointed as guardian.

4. REGISTRATION AND DOCUMENTATION (C4)

4.a) The Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare through the social welfare centres registers and documents children separated from their parents in a country other than their country of origin. According to data on separated children on the territory of Croatia in the year 2000 received from the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare it is obvious that the migration tendency of the population from Middle and Far East is accompanied also with an adequate number of separated children (table 1 and 2).

When the police finds a minor crossing the border, the police immediately informs the competent social welfare centre. The social worker on duty must immediately respond, at least in the period of 24 hours, and must come to be present during the interrogation.

The practice up to date reflects that most often a procedure starts the same day in front of the Magistrates Court, since the child was found without a residence permit.

According to the report of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare the minor is most often reprimanded according to the regulations of the Law, but very often the minor is returned back to the country where he/she came from or receives a fine. In such a case the centre for social welfare must appoint a guardian for special cases for the protection of the child's rights and interests.

Table 1. Children and youth separated from their parents or guardian who left their country of origin and have been found on the territory of Croatia

PERIOD	Children and youth
1999.	132
I.-VI. Month of 2000	99
TOTAL	231

Table 2. Country of origin of the children-aliens found in Croatia during the first 6 months of the year 2000

COUNTRY	No. of CHILDREN
Romania	27
Hungary	2
Serbia/Yugoslavia	9

Turkey	16
Macedonia	6
Albania	1
Bosnia and Herzegovina	9
China	5
Moldavia	3
Bangladesh	15
Slovenia	1
Iran	5
Total	99

During the war the Project “Unaccompanied Children in Exile” registered and documented children separated from their parents. On the basis of a questionnaire an individual plan was made for each child that included urgent interventions, and short-term and durable solutions meeting the best interests of the child. The UCE Project provided regular follow-ups of this population (period 1993-2000.) and the individual plans were changed in accordance with the needs of the child and objective circumstances in which the best interests of the child could be protected. The UCE Project developed a special database to enable an up to date follow-up of the child’s situation. From the very beginning of the program implementation the questionnaires containing all the data on unaccompanied children (also members of their family and the circumstances of their separation from parents) were shared with the centres for social welfare with the aim to keep the confidentiality of the data. Unaccompanied children in exile formally had the same treatment as the local children without adequate parental care. Registration and documentation of the unaccompanied children by the UCE Project was a preventive measure against potential abuse. The UCE Project and the information system were introduced in the Federation of B&H in 1995/1996 where the project was implemented in co-operation with UNICEF and the Ministry of Social Welfare of the B&H Federation, and in 1999 the same methodology was implemented in Albania/Tirana during the Kosovo refugee crisis.

4. b & c) The system of registration needs to be upgraded related to the electronic media, as well as by developing a system of data basis for the groups of children with special needs. Separated children are definitely one of the groups of children with special needs.

5. AGE ASSESSMENT (C5)

5.a) During the process of writing the report we have not been able to get information on the implementation of special methods when establishing the age of a minor separated from the parents outside their country of origin and found on the Croatian territory.

5.b) It does not conform to the Statement.

5.c) Changes are needed in order to ensure the best interests of the child.

6. DETENTION (C6)

6.a) According to the penal law in Croatia, persons younger than 14 are not responsible according to the penal law. Detention or imprisonment of minors (over 14) is regulated by the:

- *Law on Interior Affairs (Art. 35.)*
- *Law on Juvenile Courts (Art. 48, 67, 73, 74)*
- *Law on Penal Procedure (Art. 94-97, 102, 178)*

The enforcement authorities are authorised to arrest a minor when the minor is doing a criminal offence; when there is a suspicion that the minor has committed a criminal offence and there are reasons for detention; when executing a summoning order or when executing a detention decision.

The enforcement authorities are obliged to take the minor immediately to a Juvenile Court.

The judge is obliged to inform immediately the parents or guardians.

The judge can pass out an order to detain the minor up to 24 hours.

The Judge can also decide to put the minor in detention if there are reasons for detention according to the Law on Penal Procedure. Detention is considered to be the final measure that should be used, but in accordance with the seriousness of the committed criminal

offence, and when the expected sanction is expected to be implemented in the shortest possible period, and when the aim cannot be achieved by a cautious measure or by temporary placement.

Temporary arrest may last for the longest period of one month according to the decision of the judge for minors or it can be prolonged for another month by the order of the council of the juvenile court, and it can be prolonged for another month by the final decision of the council of the juvenile court. Temporary arrest may last the most 3 months.

A minor has to have an attorney when in temporary arrest, but otherwise also when questioned for the first time by the police for any criminal offence for which the penalty is more than three years of arrest.

At the Municipality Court of Zagreb, the Youth Department, that is in charge of all the cases of minors for the area of Zagreb and the Zagreb County, during 1998, there were 12 requests for starting a preparatory procedure against 12 separated minors; two (2) from Serbia, two (2) from B&H and eight (8) from Romania. During 1999 only one request was received against a minor from Romania.

In all the mentioned cases the minors had a defence attorney appointed to them and all were brought in front of the court accompanied by their guardians that were appointed to them by the centres for social welfare. During the procedure the minors had an interpreter present at all the stages of the procedure. When assessing their individual and family situation as well as the best interests of the minor a court professional was present (social pedagogue or social worker). The minors were not detained for longer than a month, and the possibility of placement in the Zagreb Resocialization Centre for Minors was used.

When the court established a criminal offence against property or forging of documents the court imposed a correctional measure on the juvenile and the measure of expulsion from the country. The practice in Croatia (as well as the policy of Croatia) reflects that the minors are detained only exceptionally and as the last measure only for the shortest possible period of time. According to the report received from the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare the enforcement authorities inform the centres for social welfare about every separated child found on the territory of Croatia, and the relevant centre immediately implements protective measures in the best interests of the minor. Such a minor is placed for care and upbringing in an institution for children without adequate parental care or a welfare institution for children and youth with behavioural problems (institutions that are part of the social welfare system). A guardian is appointed to protect the interests and the

rights of the child. All institutions that are part of the social welfare system are of the open type. When a justified doubt is present that the minor will repeat the deviant behaviour, referring to a minor found vagrant or committing criminal offences, or if there is an objective danger that the minor might become an object of sexual offence or some other offence against him or her (by some other – adult persons) then the minor can be temporarily placed in a department with a more intensive treatment or increased protection. This placement is possible only for minors from 14 to 18 years of age. As a rule the children are placed in institutions for children of the open type or institutions managed by Caritas or some other organisation of this type.

The minors are kept in those institutions for the shortest possible period (only while the procedure of checking is lasting with the authorities of their country of origin).

IN PRACTICE detention lasts only while the arrangements are made for the minor's return, while the contacts are made with the parents or authorities in the countries of origin. The minor is accompanied and handed over by the guardian, and if needed by the police. The expenses are covered by the Croatian Budget.

The Penal Law in the Republic of Croatia is implemented on minors committing criminal offences in accordance with the Law on Juvenile Courts and the same treatment is implemented on foreign as on local minors.

The principle of appropriateness is used (for all criminal offences where a penalty is foreseen up to 5 years of prison) namely the state attorney does not start a criminal procedure in those cases.

In cases of all other children and youth separated from their parents, measures of family legal protection are implemented and an urgent return to the country of origin.

In cases when a child is expelled from the Croatian territory, the police accompanies the child to the border. The appointed guardian must take part in the procedure. Namely in cases of appointment of guardians for special cases, the guardian has the following responsibilities: representing the minor in front of governmental institutions and accompaniment to the border. The Ministry of the Interior solves the issues concerning the crossing of borders without a passport (if the separated child does not have a passport), "in order not to postpone the implementation of protective measures".

6.b) Policy and practice conforms to the Statement.

6.c) No changes are necessary.

7. RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE (C7)

7.a) A child in Croatia has the right to ask for the protection of his/her rights (Art. 88 of the Family Law) although the majority of children are not aware of it. The child also has the right to express his/her opinion about with whom s/he wants to live with (in cases of divorce and if the child is older than 12) and to decide independently about the change of his/her name, adoption, paternity cases and testament (with 12).

A child also has the right to know that he/she is adopted and to receive all the needed information about his/her predicament, as well as information for the future. If the child wishes, or if it is in the interest of the child, it is of great importance to enable contacts with the parents.

The Project “Unaccompanied Children in Exile” paid special attention to the realisation of the right of the child to participation and expressing his/her own opinion (Convention on the Rights of the Child, Art.12) in the process of deciding of the child’s future. This was respected in the process of family reunification. Such situations were dealt with in co-operation with the relevant centre for social welfare in the country of origin and the relevant centre for social welfare in the country of exile. The child also took an active part in making decisions about change of placement as well as in other situations that were relevant for the child’s life situation (Convention on the Rights of the Child, Art.12).

7.b) Policy and practice conform to the Statement in the context stated in 7a, still there is NO Asylum Law in Croatia.

7.c) The new Asylum Law will affect the policy and practice related to separated children.

8. FAMILY TRACING AND CONTACT (C8)

8.a) According to the information received from the representatives of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, for the purpose of family tracing and establishing contacts with the child’s family outside the country of origin, contacts are established with the diplomatic missions of the country of child’s origin, and the child is in accordance to the received information returned to the country of origin.

The Project “Unaccompanied Children in Exile” implemented family tracing activities and establishing contacts with families while some parts of B&H were completely under siege (1993,1994) through radio amateurs and local media. During this period the family tracing activities were implemented in co-operation with UNHCR, ICRC, local organisations of the Red Cross, Save the Children UK, and local centres for social welfare.

8.b) Policy and practice do not conform to the Statement since there is no Asylum Law in Croatia.

8.c) The Asylum Law should be adopted.

9. FAMILY REUNIFICATION IN A EUROPEAN COUNTRY

(C9)

9.a) The Constitution of the Rep. of Croatia and other laws concerning family protection stress the importance of the family for the upbringing and development of a child. The Croatian legislation is in this respect in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Art.10).

In Croatia the procedure of family reunification outside the country of origin is as follows. After the police and the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare/social welfare centres have identified, a guardian is appointed to the child. Through Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare and diplomatic channels, the relevant authorities in the country of origin are informed about the implemented, temporary measures for the protection of the child and they receive the decision concerning the appointment of a guardian. If the child’s country of origin does not have a diplomatic mission in Croatia, the centre for social welfare contacts the international Red Cross. All possible data are asked for on the family situation that are necessary to make a decision concerning the status of the child and for making durable plans for the child, and special attention is paid to the best interests of the child. The mentioned procedure of family reunification is the same for all countries.

The experience of family reunification that was gathered by the project “Unaccompanied Children in Exile” reflects different practice in different European countries. The Project had in the European countries the basic function to help out the local (regularly governmental) social services to speed up the procedure of family reunification and collecting the needed documentation for family reunification. For this purpose there were

13 UCE offices outside of Croatia in 1994. The advantage of the UCE Project was that the project co-ordinators were of Croatian origin and they could communicate with the children and help the local social services when assessing the best interests of the child and fulfilling the needs of the child. The co-ordinator for The Netherlands held for example seminars for local social assistants on the cultural, demographic and geopolitical characteristics of the countries of origin of the Croatian and B&H refugees. These seminars were organised by the Dutch governmental social services. The co-operation was very efficient in Sweden where the rights of unaccompanied children in exile to family reunification were very much respected (children in exile were encouraged/informed by local Swedish social workers and other professionals to contact relevant authorities and put forth a request for family reunification in Sweden). The UCE Project managed to realise 50 family reunifications in Sweden.

The UCE family reunification procedure went on in the following way: on the basis of individual plans for each child family tracing was organised for every child that lost contact with parents or whose parents disappeared in the war. The efforts were focused on shortening the period of family separation. In the procedure of family tracing and reunification the UCE Project co-operated with the governmental institutions of social welfare in all 13 countries, with other local structures, UNHCR, ICRC, IOM, etc.

During the period of 1993 to 1998 UCE Project managed to help in 642 cases of family reunifications and the following has been noted:

- *In many countries family reunification is not an explicit right*
- *The right to reunification is respected when spouses requesting reunification or when small children request reunification with parents, but not when parents forward the request (the Swedish example is an exception)*
- *All Nordic countries can be pointed out where the level of social rights is the highest, so that in Sweden in one year there were 30 family reunifications (the total number was 50)*
- *Different visas and permissions that have been introduced by many countries postpone the process of family reunification*
- *The process is slower because of the lack of guardians (for minors), and the process of appointment of guardians is often slow and long-lasting*
- *A Commission within the Governmental Office for Displaced Persons and Refugees solved the entrance requests during the aggression on Croatia and B&H. This*

Commission solved the requests for entrance in Croatia, temporary residence permits, and transit through Croatia. Although burdened by administrative procedures, the Commission gave priority to cases of reunification of families with their children (or parents) that were in Croatia with a refugee status. The parents coming to pick up their children in Croatia were issued entrance permits and temporary residence permits.

- *When searching for parents or other family members for reunification purpose UCE Project supported host families/foster families (teachers, etc) in the family reunification procedure*
- *The assessment of measures to be undertaken in the best interests of each child was made through team and interdisciplinary work with the participation of the child*
- *During the reunification procedure activities concerning accommodation, transport and escorts were also organised by UCE, while special attention was paid to the socio-economic situation of a family (the parents often did not have money to pay for transport expenses when picking up the child, etc.).*

9.b) The policy and practice conform with the Statement - but only under the circumstances that there is no Asylum Law in Croatia.

9.c) The Asylum Law should be adopted.

10. INTERIM CARE – HEALTH - EDUCATION AND TRAINING (C10)

HEALTH CARE (C10.2)

10.2. a) The report of the Ministry of Health cited some of the relevant laws that define the rights to health care in Croatia. These are: The Law on Health Care, The Law on Health Insurance and the Law on Health Care for Aliens in Croatia. According to this Law aliens are "minors – aliens – that are in Croatia without parental care". In accordance with Art.2, item 1 of this law, their health care is provided in a way and under the same conditions as health care for Croatian citizens, and this health care is financed by the State Budget.

10.2. b) Policy and practice conform with the statement.

10.2. c) Practice should be upgraded but not only with separated children but the system of health care is passing through a transformation that is reflected on the total child population in Croatia.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING (C10.3)

10.3.d) The compulsory education for all children in Croatia lasts 8 years (primary school) and includes children in the age group 6,5-15, consisting of 4 years of class education (I-IV grade) and 4 years of subject education (V-VIII grade). Further education in secondary schools depends on the results achieved in the primary school and the type of secondary school.

Children that do not have Croatian citizenship do not receive certificates but confirmations that they have attended and passed a certain grade.

Secondary education is not compulsory; therefore it is not accessible for foreign students if there are no International Agreements concerning it. The students may be inscribed as “guest students” with tuition fees. Each child inscribed in a school for regular education has a right to accommodation in secondary school dormitories. Then special attention is paid to:

- *Achievements during previous education and*
- *The socio-economic situation of the families*

Priorities for getting accommodation in dormitories have:

- *Children without parents*
- *Children from big families*
- *Children with developmental problems*
- *Children from poor families*

10.h) Policy and practice conform to the Statement in the above mentioned situation (10.3.d) – but related to the separated children education it is not in place until the adoption of the Asylum Law (which is in process).

10.i) The new Asylum Law will affect the policy and practice related to separated children.

11. REFUGEE DETERMINATION PROCESS (C11)

Access to normal procedures (C11.1)

11.a) The procedure for receiving refugee status in Croatia is regulated by the Law on the Movement and Residence of Aliens (Art.31-38). The Law defines in Art. 31 the refugee as “an alien that has left the country of origin, or the country where he enjoyed a permanent residency as a person without citizenship, to escape prosecution because of political opinions or because of nationality, race and religion.

It is important to mention that the recognition of the refugee status does not make a person a refugee but just declares him/her as such.

The Law does not especially mention children except Art. 34 where it is said, "that the child of an alien with a refugee status has the same rights as the parents " and Art. 54 explains that "the request for an identification card may be submitted by an alien younger than 18, who has married or is employed". According to the Law on the Movement and Residence of Aliens the Ministry of the Interior is authorised to carry out the procedure for determining refugee status.

Due to a large number of refugees during the aggression on B&H, it was very hard to follow the regulations of the mentioned Law (Art. 31-38). The status of refugees from B&H as well as the cessation of the status was regulated by Decrees of the Office for Displaced Persons and Refugees. Besides the status issues, the Office also took care of the refugees in which UNHCR and other organisations assisted.

For the purpose of protection of refugees from B&H the Office worked in accordance with the following documents:

- *Convention relating to the Status of Refugees from 1951*
- *Protocol from 1967*
- *The Law on the Movement and Residence of Aliens*
- *The Law on the status of Displaced Persons and Refugees (with all the changes and amendments)*

The refugee status provides the right to:

- *Emergency accommodation*
- *Primary medical care*
- *Humanitarian aid*
- *Psychosocial support, as well as*

- *Financial support (if there are any) and*
- *Education of children*

Besides the above mentioned rights, the refugees in Croatia have the right to freedom of movement (if they report their residence); the right not to be expelled from Croatia while the procedure still lasts for acquiring refugee status or during the complaint procedure; the right to appear in front of the court and the right to employment. Besides these rights, refugees also have obligations:

- *To report the residence address*
- *Monthly verification of documents, of the so called "personal refugee card " (with a photo) proving the refugee status*
- *Acceptance of the offered organised accommodation*
- *Obeying the house rules in refugee centres, and in case of temporary exit form Croatia they need to file in a request for a new entrance to Croatia*

The refugee status terminates with the possibility of the return to the place of origin, by the decision of an individual him/herself, and by having a reported permanent residence permit in Croatia:

The Law on the Changes and Amendments of the Law on Displaced Persons and Refugees (Official Gazette 28/99) Art. 7 says that from the day the Law comes into force (12.11.1999) nobody is entitled to the status of a displaced person or refugee.

By internal provisions of the Office for Displaced Persons and Refugee newborn babies, whose parents have the status of displaced persons or refugees are an exception. The newborn children receive the status with the date of their birth or registration, and it terminates when the status of their parents is terminated.

The Office for Displaced Persons and Refugees at the moment (the year 2000) takes care of **73.843** displaced persons, returnees, and refugees. Out of this number there are **16.497** persons in the age group between 0 -18 (displaced **9.356**, returnees **2.134** and refugees **5.007**)

The Commission for the entrance and transit of refugees through Croatia that acted within the Office for Displaced Persons and Refugees since 1993 solved as priority cases the requests for family reunification of unaccompanied children. This population of children

was protected against the termination of the refugee status, until the permanent residence of their parents was established.

11.b) Policy and practice conform to the Statement.

11.c) No changes are needed.

Legal representation (C11.2)

11.2 d) The guardian that is appointed to the child is acting as child's legal representative.

11.2 e) The role of the guardian as legal representative of the separated child does not conform to the Statement.

11.2 f) Changes are needed in relation with the adoption of the Asylum Law.

Minimal Procedural Guarantees (C11.3)

11.3 g, h, i) The information was not obtained.

Independent Assessment (C11.4)

11.4 j, k, l) The information was not obtained.

Interviews (C11.5)

11.5 m) The interviews with separated children are performed in the presence of the guardian of the separated child. The guardian is the social worker from the local social services. The information related to interpreters not obtained.

11.5 n) Interviewing separated children in the presence of the guardian/social worker is conforming to the Statement.

11.5 o) Changes are needed in relation with the additional training of police staff for the work with separated children.

11.5 p,q,r,s,t,u) THERE IS NO ASYLUM LAW IN CROATIA - the answer is not feasible.

12. DURABLE SOLUTIONS (C12)

a) Reunification in the country of origin

(as in part 9 concerning the reunification of families in some European country – see page 20)

Most of the reunifications of the families separated due to the war were realised by the Project “Unaccompanied Children in Exile” in the country of their origin (B&H 394), when conditions were convenient for that.

b) Family Reunification in Host Country

According to the information received of the authorities in charge in Croatia there were no reunifications outside the country of origin.

The Project “Unaccompanied Children in Exile” realised 65 reunifications in Croatia

c) Integration

According to information received in Croatia there is **no experience** concerning the integration of separated children outside their country of origin residing in Croatia.

The Project “Unaccompanied Children in Exile “ registered a number of cases of local integration. The reasons for staying in the country of exile were primarily education of children (impossibility to attend an adequate school in the country of origin, and the fact that the child has been left without parents and lives with some relatives, etc.), and the possibility of rehabilitation of children with developmental problems.

d) Adoption

Adoption is a special form of family and legal protection and protection of children without adequate parental care. It has been regulated by the Family Law (Art. 122-151) and is in the exclusive competence of the state.

According to the Law, Croatian citizens cannot adopt a child with a foreign citizenship, without exclusive consent of the authorities from the country of the child’s origin. The Family Law foresees the possibility of inter-country adoption (Art. 126) but only in exceptional cases when it is of special interests of the child.

By following the current practice it has been noticed, especially in cases of very young children, the countries of their origin usually act very slowly and for a long period they take no protective measures for the child, and Croatia at that time, in accordance with the regulations cannot implement durable solutions for the protection of the child.

To protect the best interests of the child, Croatia is in the process of ratifying the European Convention on Recognition and Enforcement of Decisions Concerning Custody of Children and Restoration of Custody of Children (1980)

The Family Law regulates the adoption procedure and makes a difference between adoption with kinship impact and adoption with parental impact. The Law cites the right of the child (Art.123) to know that he/she was adopted and the need of the child's consent regarding the adoption (Art. 133) if the child is 12 years old or more.

The consent of the parents is not needed (Art.129) if the whereabouts of the parents are unknown for at least 6 months and the parents take no care of the child or if the parent (with whom the child does not live) has strongly neglected the care for the child for longer than 3 months.

The decision on the adoption of an abandoned child of unknown origin can be brought after a period of three months since the child's birth or abandonment.

The Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare did not forward data on the number of adopted children that have been potentially adopted during the last couple of years as unaccompanied children in exile. The representatives of the Ministry subsequently claim that in Rep. of Croatia no unaccompanied child was adopted that did not have a Croatian citizenship or an explicit written approval issued by the domicile country of the child.

In 1993 on the request of the Croatian Government an expert group from UNHCR and UNICEF came up with guidelines concerning the realisation of the procedure of inter-country adoption of children that have lost their parents, due to war (UNHCR and UNICEF guidelines on the procedure of implementation of the inter-country adoption).

SUGGESTIONS

Taking into account all the aforementioned data we could conclude that the legislation (Family Law, Penal Law, Law on Social Welfare) in Croatia regards the Convention on the Rights of the Child. This means that it provides legal possibilities to a child in Croatia to protect his/her rights.

Besides the laws Croatia gathered some experience in working with children during war hostilities. Both could be of help for the proposal for the protection of separated children found in Croatia. Considering the geographic position of Croatia, the world migration

movements and the experience of the neighbouring countries it is to be expected in the future a larger number of separated children that will be in transit through Croatia.

Suggestions:

1. Children and adults should obtain **better knowledge on the rights of children** and obligations of parents/guardians, especially the Convention on the Rights of the Child
2. To **promote tolerance** and acceptance of different cultures, religions and aliens in general among the population, especially youth.
3. To develop the “**culture of learning**” and to invest more in all the children (without discrimination)
4. To enable separated children outside their country of origin to learn the **Croatian language**, in order to be able to join the process of education and training, which basically means to enable these children to communicate and to adapt to the new conditions.
5. To include, stimulate and financially support **non-governmental organisations** that have the capacities to work with children and to help them implement their specific programs.
6. The Government of Croatia (Oct.1st, 1998.) established the Council for children whose goals are to co-ordinate and reconcile the activities of different committees and other professional bodies concerning the protection of children. At the moment a legal text is in process to be drawn that will be a basis for founding the ombudsman for children.
7. Professionals working with children should have a special **education** (from identification of children onwards). The professionals at borders should be able to "recognise" separated children, and to assess the adequacy of the adult accompanying the child. In cases when detecting irregularities, they should have the information on the professionals that could be called in for help (professionals for emergency cases).
8. One of the suggestions is that a Centre for Separated Children is established, or at least a professional team, that would be attached to an already existing institution (i.e. shelter for aliens). These specially educated professionals that should have the knowledge and experience of working with such children, and should know their customs and culture, and should be provided with the following data on

- The relevant centres for social welfare (that should be immediately informed), namely their professionals for emergency cases
- Humanitarian organisations that work with children
- Interpreters – for different languages
- Potential guardians (for these children)
- Judges specialised for juveniles
- Diplomatic missions in Croatia
- International Red Cross
- Representatives of UNHCR
- The state attorney in charge from the Dept. for Youth

The Barristers Association should be consulted for volunteers interested in legal protection of children with behavioural problems.

(It could be discussed whether the activity of gathering data on the child and the child's family should be performed by the relevant centre for social welfare or by the social worker from the Centre for Separated Children)

9. Separated children that have not been identified and registered by governmental organisations could be exposed to abuse. On the other hand it has not been solved which organisation will **register (registration and documentation** – specially designed instruments adapted for computers) children separated from their parents/guardians found in Croatia. The UCE information system could be consulted.

10. **Individual plans** should be developed related to the specific situation of separated children.

a) Temporary protection - taking into account the best interests of children

b) Measures of long-term protection in Croatia

11. After accommodating the child, a guardian should be urgently appointed. During this procedure it is needed to:

- provide medical protection
- psychological and if necessary psychosocial help
- to include the child in Croatian language courses (but at the same time protecting the child's cultural identity)

12. Art.12 of the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees from 1951 (and the Croatian legislation) regulates that the personal status of a refugee shall be governed by

the law of the country of his domicile. But, if the person does not have a domicile country, then it is governed by the law of the country of residence.

The final act of the Conference that adopted the Convention (1951) recommended the state parties to ensure the family reunification and to

- **provide special protection to minors**, especially to those without parents stressing adoption and guardianship.

UNHCR also promotes a liberal policy of granting asylum to children, in the spirit with the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees (1951.), Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees (1967.), Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989.), Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948.) and other relevant international and regional documents. In 1987 UNHCR issued the first guidelines on procedures in dealing with unaccompanied children seeking asylum.

13. No procedure, neither the procedure for acquiring an **asylum status** (or putting under temporary protection) can be processed without a guardian. During the period of making a decision or during the complaint period a child may stay in Croatia.

Attention should be paid to the specific interviewing procedure when a child is concerned. The question, whether an unaccompanied minor may qualify for refugee status must be determined in accordance with the level of his/her mental development and maturity. In cases of children, it will be mandatory for the interviewer to have the specific skills and knowledge in dealing with child psychology. A child or an adolescent, not being legally independent should have a guardian appointed whose task would be to promote a decision that will be in the minor's best interests. In the absence of parents or of a legally appointed guardian, it is for the authorities to ensure that the interests of an applicant for refugee status who is a minor are fully safeguarded. The liberal application of the benefit of the doubt is foreseen in the process of determination of refugee status of minor asylum seekers as well as burden of proof.

During the interview the child's age, gender, duration of separation from the family and country of origin should be respected. The child's family and cultural background should be discovered and attention should be given to the objective situation of the whole case.

If it is not possible to find out the intention of parents, and sometimes in spite of that, a decision should be brought taking care primarily of the best interest of the child.

14. The child should be **issued a document (with photo)** – an identity document allowing the child freedom of movement and taking part in the educational process.

15. Two issues from the report of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare should be particularly considered:

- a) The measure of **expelling** the minor from the territory of Croatia
- b) The appointment of an **adult guardian** with whom the minor was found out in committing an offence, and who has been expelled from the Territory of Croatia as well.

Namely, it is necessary to define measures like expulsion that can be pronounced to a minor, and whether it is in the best interests of the child.

16. The **protection** measures for children and youth whose parents are of unknown residence or domicile, and the children have therefore received asylum could be:

- ✓ *Accommodation in an adequate institution and joining an adequate educational process*
- ✓ *Accommodation in a foster family*
- ✓ *Adoption, if the conditions regulated by law have been fulfilled. If a child adopted with kinship impact by a Croatian citizen (regardless whether the child is of another citizenship or without any), the child receives **Croatian citizenship**.*

Croatian Citizenship is acquired by a child who was born or found on the territory of Croatia, if both of his parents are unknown or are of unknown citizenship. A child's Croatian citizenship will cease if, before s/he turns 14 years of age, s/he establishes that both of his/her parents are foreign citizens. If the child is 14 years of age or more, he/she has to give consent to receiving citizenship, although the guardian or adoptive parents submit the request for citizenship.

17. The children, parents and even the professionals should **comprehend** the importance of respecting children's rights. The role of media should also be stressed, that could assist finding children who need help.

LITERATURE:

- 1. Family Law**
(*"Narodne novine" no. 162/98*)
- 2. The Law on Penal Procedure**
(*"Narodne novine" no. 110/97*)
- 3. The Law on Social Welfare**
(*"Narodne novine" no. 73/97*)
- 4. The Law on the Movement and Residence of Aliens**
(*"Narodne novine" no. 53/91, 22/92, 26/93 and 29/94*)
- 5. The Law on the Control of the State Boarder**
(*"Narodne novine" no. 34/95, 9/92 and 26/93*)
- 6. The Law concerning Offences against Public Order and Peace**
(*"Narodne novine" no. 5/90, 30/90 and 47/90*)
- 7. The Law on Juvenile Courts**
(*"Narodne novine" no. 111/97*)
- 8. The Law on Croatian Citizenship**
(*"Narodne novine" no. 53/91*)
- 9. The Law on Croatia Registers**
(*"Narodne novine" no. 70/91*)
- 10. Asylum Law**
(*Draft*)
- 11. The Law on the Status of Displaced Persons and Refugees**
(*"Narodne novine" no. 96/93*)
- 12. The Law on the Changes of the Law on the Status of Displaced Persons and Refugees** (*"Narodne novine" no. 3/95, 128/99*)
- 13. The Law on Health Care**
(*"Narodne novine" no. 1/97*)
- 14. The Law on Health Insurance**
(*"Narodne novine" no. 1/97*)
- 15. The Law on Health Care for Aliens**
(*"Narodne novine" no. 114/97*)
- 16. Convention relating to the Status of Refugees 1951**
- 17. Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees 1967**
- 18. UN Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989**
- 19. Guidelines on Procedures and Criteria relating to the determination of the Refugee Status, UNHCR 1988**
- 20. National Activity Program for Children in the Rep. of Croatia, 1998**
- 21. Questionnaire for the Report**
- 22. Program "Separated Children in Europe " – Statement of Good Practice**
- 23. "Unaccompanied Children in Exile ", CSPI and Rädda Barnen - Swedish Save the Children, Zagreb, 1998**
- 24. "Directory of NGO's concerned with Children's Rights in Croatia ", Centre for Social Policy Initiatives, Centre for the Rights of the Child, UNICEF, Zagreb, 1999**