

Newsletter 326 - From Information and Research Centre for Children's
Rights in Albania - IRCCRA

Working together, all of us can bring a prosperous world to the children!

"HELP THE CHILDREN"

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ALBANIA: A NEW CHILD HELPLINE FOR CHILDREN OF TIRANA

Tirana, October 2, 2006 – The Children's Human Rights Centre of Albania - CRCA has established a new telephone help-line for children of Tirana. The helpline which is called 'Tirana Child Helpline' is funded by European Commission and aims to assist children in some of their most difficult moments of their life.

"I'm pleased that after one year of work Tirana Child Helpline is fully operational and children are calling us to report cases of abuse or other problems they face in their life - said to E-news Mr. Altin Hazizaj, Director of CRCA - Now we are aiming to make the Helpline operational at the national level, meanwhile a set of training courses on child abuse has been provided to all Governmental and non-governmental structures in Tirana."

Tirana Child Helpline is the very first professional helpline in Albania and was opened officially in October 2005. During these months the Line has been working directly with children and adults, assisting them with advise, consultation and training. The range of services offered by the Helpline includes an 8-hour phone line to children and direct consultation with psychologists, social workers and lawyers of CRCA. The operators of the

phone-line are students from Social Sciences University, which have been trained by international experts.

Another major activity of Tirana Child Helpline has been the capacity building measures for local institutions in Tirana. Several training courses on child abuse have been provided to people who work with or for children, meanwhile a set of child-care standards is in its final review. The aim is to have common child-protection standards used by all institutions in Tirana.

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ALBANIA: UNICEF AND CRCA NEW RESEARCH ON JUVENILE JUSTICE AND JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

Tirana 2 October 2006 - UNICEF Office in Albania and the Children's Human Rights Centre of Albania - CRCA have started to work together on a major research project related to juvenile justice and juvenile delinquency in the country.

Albania does not have a system of administration of juvenile justice in place. The number of juveniles in conflict with law is increasing every year and the system is not able to cope with such an increase. Juveniles often face an unfriendly justice system. Although legislation and policy during years has improved, Albania lacks appropriate legislation and policies for the administration of juvenile justice. Most of the juveniles are sentenced with imprisoning, while the application of alternatives to detention is limited.

“RESPECT” – which is the title of the project, is a gap analysis research on juvenile justice and juvenile delinquency in Albania that aims to provide Unicef, the Government and NGO's with a full picture of how the juvenile justice system is organised in Albania; what are the gaps and how the Government shall act to address such gaps. Meanwhile the second research

will focus into juvenile delinquency in Albania and will look into factors of juvenile delinquency; review the data related to family, children and society; and consequences of juvenile delinquency. Such a research, which is carried for first time in post-communist Albania, will provide a list of conclusions and recommendations, including policy implications for policy makers.

The draft-researches will be consulted with wider public during several stages of research work. Two national consultation meetings will take place during 2007 to provide researchers with feedback by Governmental officials and NGO's working in the field of juvenile justice and juvenile delinquency. The researches are expected to become public before May 2007 and the aim is to use them as guide for further changes and improvement of juvenile justice system in the country.

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For more information on UNICEF Juvenile Justice Programme, please check:

In English: <http://www.unicef.org/albania/>

In Albanian: <http://www.unicef.org/albania/sq/>

Overview of Electronic Newsletter

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