

ICDI annual report 2007



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About this Annual Report

In this annual report we present a selection of photographs from a sequence made by the Dutch photographer Loek Geradts (www.loekgeradts.com). 'Dreaming' (2007) shows sleeping children in the city of Madurai, India. These pictures can be torn out along the dotted lines.

We've chosen these images because they both show the vulnerability of children, as well as their power and ability to deal with the situations in which they have to grow up. Building on the strengths of children, young people, their families and communities, so they can overcome difficult circumstances, is the essence of ICDI's work.



ICDI promotes the wellbeing of children growing up in difficult circumstances. We work to improve policies and practices affecting these children by doing research and training. We believe in the power of children and young people, supporting their rights and addressing the underlying causes for the problems they face.

Introduction

I am very pleased, on behalf of the Board, to provide a brief introductory note to this year's Annual Report because 2007 was a significant year for ICDI. Despite its relatively small size the organization has -once again- been remarkably active. ICDI was engaged in 11 large and many much smaller projects in Central and Eastern Europe, Surinam, and the Middle East, all of which focused on the needs of children who have to grow up in very deprived situations.

ICDI also began to employ more staff (up from 5 to 8) as it grew organizationally. The appointment of a new director in September 2007 saw central management change hands for the first time. With new staff came new expertise (children in conflict zones, children and HIV/Aids, children with disability) augmenting existing strengths and creating new regional interests and expertise, especially in Africa.

Moreover, as the organization began to grow, it felt the need to clarify its priorities, to ensure ICDI would retain substantive coherence, to plan and monitor its business on a more systematic basis, and to strengthen the accountability and transparency in the work it does. On a substantive level, there is a strong feeling that ICDI has to continue to be innovative but also demand-led. It is fortunate to be in a position to build on the work of the former co-directors (Nico van Oudenhoven and Rekha Wazir, who we are pleased to say will continue as Senior Associates) as laid down in their much-acclaimed book on 'Newly Emerging Needs of Children' in the western, transitional, and in particular developing world.

As Board we were also pleased to see that a Strategic Plan was formulated for the period 2008 to 2011, amidst much discussion and soul-searching, and that concrete annual goals were set in that context. The staff asked themselves what they wanted ICDI to be in 2011, and what steps were likely to be needed to achieve that vision.

We have no doubt that, with the major transformation of its present site from the old Leiden orphanage to an international Child Rights Home, ICDI will be well-placed to grow, to work with counterparts in its field both in the Netherlands and abroad, and to play a prominent role in the development of policies and interventions that support, protect and empower the many children and youth who continue to live in difficult social, economic and political circumstances.

David Dunham
Chair of the Board

Who we are and what we do

ICDI promotes the wellbeing of children growing up in difficult circumstances. We work to improve policies and practices affecting these children by doing research and training. We believe in the power of children and young people, supporting their rights and addressing the underlying causes for the problems they face.

ICDI mission statement 2007

ICDI is a non-profit organization that is practice, research and policy-oriented. We work globally to address violations of the rights of children and youth as well as barriers to the fulfilment of these rights. We recognize the fact that children's lives are shaped and affected by their circumstances and by many inter-linked processes and events that constrain their possibilities. We strive to tackle underlying reasons of rights' violations and find viable ways to resolve these underlying problems with our partners. The issues we focus on include (but are not limited to): child labour, street children, child abuse and neglect, children affected by war, HIV and AIDS, child trafficking, commercial exploitation of children, children in prison, and domestic violence. We are also concerned that young children receive good care and education, that families under stress receive priority attention and that the needs of children who live without nurturing families are addressed.

Our guiding principles are the Convention on the Rights of the Child, holistic development of children, the need to support families and communities, and to build on existing knowledge and local strengths. We work with NGOs, government agencies and research institutions and act as a liaison between donors and local civil society organizations. Finally, we form a part of various international networks for children and youth.



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We have extensive experience in policy formulation, development and management of programmes and projects, monitoring and evaluation, local capacity building, networking and coalition forming, action research, and training on problems of children and youth living in marginalized situations.

ICDI is not a grant-making organization and does not provide financial aid to other organizations. We need to be compensated for the technical assistance we provide, and have to generate income to cover our expenses, mainly through paid project work, consultancies and other funds.



ICDI research in South Africa. October 2007.

ICDI's Unique Selling Point

Commercial techniques like business marketing and public relations have long ago become commonplace in the non-profit world of developmental aid. Nowadays, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) – it would seem – are obliged to engage in marketing activities to be able to sustain the work they do. This also means that the concept of a 'Unique Selling Point' has become integral to many NGOs mission and vision. Just like commercial companies, not-for-profit organizations need to be able to sell themselves via a single, clear issue, which sets them apart from others. Although our organization has quite a unique and very meaningful approach to the problems of children, we at ICDI have long struggled to define our 'Unique Selling Point'.

We are familiar with the international debate on the reasons why investing in children is important; in fact, we often highlight these in our advocacy work, project proposals and training. We often point out that one year of added education for a girl has immediate effect on her quality of life as well as that of her future children and even on the number of children she is likely to have. We also use the argument that engaging children in early childhood development activities will make them do better inside and outside the school and yield positive effects even into young adulthood, and that the rate of return for the financial inputs is phenomenal. At the same time we do not fail to mention that, regardless of the longer term benefits to children and their communities, attention for children is good for them in itself, thus as young persons who 'are' and not only 'becoming'.

Many other international and local development organizations are devoted to the well being of children and for this reason we are often asked what our 'Unique Selling Point' is. This question always embarrasses us as we cannot list any clear single issues as 'AIDS orphans', 'trafficked children', or 'war victims'. We cannot possibly do so as we see all these and other forms of children's problems as expressions of the same fundamental cause: a violation of children's rights and a lack of respect for the young. Rather than focusing on these 'manifestations' therefore, we have chosen to deal with the underlying causes, by conducting action research, advocacy, developing relevant programmes, and building the capacity of partner NGOs. Yet, we increasingly feel that there is a more profound reason that drives our work. It has to do with the very nature of children. Almost every boy and girl that we meet impresses us with their boundless optimism, friendliness and urge for social justice and an infinite desire to make a better world. We see this over and over again, even in children who live in the most horrid of conditions. If we have a 'Unique Selling Point' then it is our commitment and drive to protect children so that they keep this innate quality. Children are truly the agents of change for our future. This is something we want to highlight in ICDI's 2007 annual report.

Nico van Oudenhoven



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Organizational development

2007 was a year during which ICDI experienced a number of important organizational changes. The number of staff increased by more than 50% (we went from five to eight staff members). Our annual financial turn-over also increased by more than 50 % (from about € 600,000 in 2006 to € 900,000 in 2007). For a small organization these are significant changes!

Mathijs and Esther joined ICDI in January, and Nina came to work with us in October. It tends to be a bit of a gamble to see how new people fit in, especially when it comes to such a tight-knit, small unit. After more than a year we can safely say that things have worked out well. The 'newly arrived' were warmly welcomed by the 'oldies', and seemingly without too much effort everybody has found his and her place in the team. It is also clear that this new constellation has created energy and is leading to new initiatives and projects.

Another important change was that ICDI's founders and co-directors Rekha Wazir and Nico van Oudenhoven decided to disengage from the day-to-day management of the organization. Both have left the board and now continue as senior associates. In this new role they will continue to feed the organization with their knowledge, ideas and advice. Mathijs took up the position as director in September. Yet another major change for ICDI, therefore, but this too seems to be working well. Senior associates and director, and in fact all staff members, work closely together and make good use of each other's strengths.

In many ways therefore, we almost have a new team, and it was felt that it was time to re-assess ICDI's organizational strengths and weaknesses, and the direction we want to go. For this reason we organized a two-day strategic session with the staff in August. In addition to being just a nice occasion for team building, these two days proved extremely useful in clarifying our mission and organizational goals. The outcomes of the meeting were drawn up in 'ICDI's Strategic Plan 2008-2011', which we will use as a guiding tool to steer our efforts. We expect it will support us to work more effectively and enable us to better fulfil our mission.

In the coming three years we hope to continue to grow in a controlled and sustainable manner, both in terms of human resources (we hope to hire one new staff member a year, to a maximum of 11 people), as well as in terms of finances (by 2011 we want to have a yearly turn-over of about € 1.8 million). We will also focus on expanding our geographical reach, including to Africa and the Middle East.

Looking back at 2007

ICDI's main focus is and will remain the implementation of projects in transitional countries and countries in development. We work closely together with local partner organizations in capacity building, research, and policy development, on issues relevant for children growing up in difficult circumstances. In this chapter you will find an overview of all our activities in 2007, which was another very busy year indeed.



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Photography: Loek Geradts (Dreaming, India 2007) www.loekgeradts.com

International Projects

Latvia: Implementation of new strategies of working and raising professional capacity in children's public care institutions

Project goal:

To prevent social exclusion of youth and children in Latvian child care homes by supporting the implementation of a national policy concerning the establishment of group homes.

Project partners:

- The Latvian Ministry of Children and Family Affairs, Riga
- Cardea Jeugdzorg, Leiden

Project duration: January – July 2007

Financed by: The Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Project funds¹ 2007: € 72,050

This short-term project was implemented in close cooperation with the Latvian Ministry of Children and Family Affairs, a relatively new ministry in Latvia, established in 2004. The aim of the project was to build capacity within the ministry itself to strengthen the process of de-institutionalization of children and young people. In Latvia there is still a large group of children who grow up in so-called orphanages, despite the fact that the government does try to stimulate foster care and other forms of non-institutional care. We also worked to improve the skills of staff working in selected institutions, so they are better able to provide youth with adequate support in preparing them for a life after the institution. We feel we managed to do a fair amount during this six-month project, and are happy with the constructive working relation we had with the staff at the ministry.

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Main achievements in 2007:

- Three knowledge exchange workshops were held in Riga, organized by ICDI in cooperation with Cardea Jeugdzorg and the Ministry of Children and Family Affairs.
- An exchange visit of staff from the Latvian ministry to the Netherlands (seven Latvians stayed in the Netherlands for five days to experience first hand the Dutch system for youth care).
- A concluding seminar on new approaches in out-of-family care, which was attended by around 60 people working in the out-of-family care system in Latvia.
- A five-day Training of Trainers on 'Life Skills Training for Adolescents in Latvian Youth Care Institutions' for 20 people. These 20 people are expected to train staff in institutions so that they too can better prepare the youngsters in their care for life outside the walls of the institution.
- A policy advice document entitled 'Innovative Approaches in Latvian Youth Care' was developed and presented to the Minister for Children and Family Affairs. It is expected this policy paper will contribute to the development of new youth care policies in Latvia.

¹With project funds we mean the money ICDI received to implement (its part of) a project

Main challenges in 2007:

Financial constraints in the Latvian youth care system (and this is true from ministry down to local level), and related problems in human resources (most qualified staff in Latvia migrate to places like Ireland), place some limitations on the potential impact of the project. To give an example: one of the 'master trainers' could not do her homework assignment simply because the staff in the institution kept complaining about their low salaries and refused to engage in the training. We have to be realistic; a project like this can generate some positive momentum and create space for new ideas, but it won't change an entire (belief) system over night.

The most important wishes of 10 young people living in orphanages in Latvia

- facilitation of adoption of adolescents
- more pocket money
- more possibilities for extracurricular activities (dancing and other activities)
- more money for clothes and personal things
- greater possibilities to travel abroad
- more possibilities for smaller children to go to camps
- internet connection for education
- repairs of children's home and bigger gym
- implementation of models of group apartments, where children can learn self-care skills
- more events and telecasts for teenagers on television
- bigger supply of sports inventory

Mathijs Euwema



Mathijs and Rutger with their trainees Riga april 2007

Suriname: Children in Suriname Programme (CISP)

Programme goal:

To strengthen the capacity and collaboration among agencies - mainly NGOs - working with and on behalf of children and youth in Suriname.

Programme partners:

- Association of Private Social Institutions (Vereniging van Particuliere Sociale Instellingen/VPSI), Paramaribo
- Klimop ('Climb up'), Paramaribo
- Surinamese Foster Care Foundation (Stichting Pleeggezinnen Centrale Suriname/SPCS), Paramaribo
- Tabiki Productions

Programme duration: Ongoing (since 1996)

Financed by:

- Funding of project partners activities by Schiefbaan Hovius Foundation
- Funding for the bi-annual 'Young in the Caribbean' newsletter by the DOB Foundation

Project funds 2007: € 27,720

The overall coordination of the Children in Suriname Programme rests with ICDI, whilst ICDI partners in Suriname are responsible for implementation of activities. VPSI focuses on improving institutional care, working with children with handicaps, and general child advocacy and training. Klimop primarily works in the field of early child development and the training of early childhood educators and reaches out to large groups of young women working or aspiring to work with young children. Finally, SPCS focuses on strengthening foster care in Suriname, offering an effective alternative to institutionalisation of children.

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Main achievements in 2007:

- After a careful selection procedure, VPSI recruited a new director, Ms. Joyce Varsseveld, previously the director of the Ministry of Regional Development. Ms. Varsseveld is a lawyer by training and has many years experience in the development field. Having Ms. Varsseveld on board will allow VPSI to move ahead once again after the difficult period the Association has been through since the changes in management in 2006. With the arrival of the new director, VPSI immediately embarked on conducting a 'Quick Scan' of the human resources and management structure of the organization. The Quick Scan will shed light on, among others, the gap between available and required human resources (in light of the new multi-year programme). During 2007, activities in the field of capacity building of members, training of social workers and government lobby also continued, the latter concentrating particularly on the development of standards for alternative care for children in need.

- SPCS has once again had a busy year: 44 children in need of foster care were identified and reported to the organization. 34 of these children were screened, of which 13 were eventually placed in suitable families. Nine 'emergency cases' were reported and four of these children were placed in either a temporary home or 'crisis foster family'. Of the remaining 'emergency' children, SPCS was able to find a solution with the biological family (three children) and two were referred to the Suriname Youth Care Bureau. Psycho-motoric therapy and psychiatric care was provided to respectively four and two children, and care for foster and biological families also continued. As is the case with the other organizations supported through the CISP, this summary sketches only a fraction of what was accomplished in 2007.
- In 2007, Klimop again devoted much of its time and energy to capacity building in the field of early childhood care and education (ECCE): 47 trainees completed a training in ECCE and provision of day-care and will sit their exams in the beginning of 2008; 41 trainees successfully completed a training in educational policy, and respectively 40, 30 and 34 trainees successfully finished the training in bookkeeping, financial management and communication skills. The distribution of Klimop books on ECCE has continued unabated, as has the supervision of trained day-care teams, particularly in reading with children. Klimop has found that as the organization is increasingly becoming better known, the demand for Klimop ECCE training also grows. A priority in the beginning of 2008 will be making an inventory of the training needs in the country.
- Two new editions of the bi-annual newsletter 'Young in the Caribbean' (YitC) were published and distributed, reporting on a range of subjects such as an up and coming children's book fair in Suriname, regional conferences on child and youth issues, new reading materials, research (such as that on corporal punishment and educational reform in Trinidad and Tobago), and projects aimed at improving child and youth welfare in the region. YitC is published and produced by Tabiki Productions in Paramaribo, under the overall supervision of ICDI and was originally set up to validate practice, knowledge and policies regarding children and youth in Suriname within a Caribbean context. YitC is also designed to embed Surinamese experience in the region and to build bridges between resource people and their activities. At the end of 2007, the ninth issue of YitC was produced and compared with the earlier versions, it has undergone remarkable progress. The layout is sharper, the editorial approach crisper and the mailing list has grown; the newsletter now reaches a large and varied group of professionals, political actors as well as business people. YitC enjoys considerable name recognition among Surinamese and Suriname-oriented NGOs in the Netherlands and pivotal people such as the first lady, Liesbeth Venetiaan, and Raul Dankoor, of the Suriname Office for Child Rights, regard YitC as an important medium. At a recent conference for child specialists in Jamaica, YitC was informally reviewed and assessed as a useful instrument with the potential of filling a gap. ICDI and Tabiki aim to continue to improve the content and reach of the newsletter.

The current funding phase of the Children in Surinam Programme – covering the 2005-2007 period - came to a close in December 2007. The Schiefbaan Hovius Foundation has granted funds for an additional three years (2008-2010) for Klimop, SPCS and Stichting Projekten Christelijk Onderwijs Suriname (SPCOS/the Suriname Foundation for Christian Education Projects). The decision as to the continuation of funding for VPSI will be made following the meeting between the new director of VPSI and the board of the Schiefbaan Hovius Foundation in the beginning of 2008.

Main challenges in 2007:

Resolving the management problems within the VPSI proved to be difficult and it took a relatively long time before the association was able to identify and recruit a new director. Although one of the senior staff members agreed to act as interim director and should be applauded for doing a commendable job in what was a difficult time, the organization suffered from the lack of long-term leadership. Now there is a new and very capable director, it is expected the association will be able to rebuild the necessary trust amongst its member organizations and its partners in the Netherlands.

Turkey: Wide spreading and improving the quality of preschool education

Project goal:

To assist the Turkish Ministry of National Education to improve the quality and expand the access to preschool education in Turkey.

Project partners:

- Sardes, Utrecht
- Ministry of National Education of Turkey, Ankara

Project duration: January 2006 – November 2007

Financed by: Sardes

Project funds 2007: € 24,970

This project supported Turkish Ministry of National Education, more specifically its Department of Preschool Education, to improve the coordination between key stakeholders in the field of preschool education. The focus was on establishing a group of pro-active stakeholders, and to equip them with tools and skills to engage and maintain commitment of policy makers and civil servants vis-à-vis preschool education. ICDI played a supporting role in this project, with Sardes serving as the lead partner.

Main achievements in 2007:

The project was successfully concluded. At the final seminar a policy document on the development of the preschool education in Turkey was presented. The document is based on the inputs of the Turkish stakeholders; the Dutch counterparts deliberately played a supporting

role in the process. The document and the other inputs developed by the group of stakeholders demonstrated their newly acquired abilities to contribute to the development of effective preschool education policies in Turkey.

Main challenges in 2007:

Due to the differences in work style, and the limited number of English speaking participants on the Turkish part, this proved a challenging project. However, we see it as an extremely useful learning experience for all involved and feel encouraged to continue working in the field of preschool education in Turkey.

Cyprus: Multicultural youth camp trainings

Project goal:

To contribute to the creation of more sustainable and effective multicultural youth camps in Cyprus and promote Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot cooperation.

Project partners:

- European University Cyprus (from the Greek Cypriot community), Nicosia
- Mediation Association (from the Turkish Cypriot community), Nicosia
- World Child Kosovo, Pristina

Project duration: 1 April 2007 - 1 October 2008

Financed by: USAID, through United Nations Development Programme - Action for Cooperation and Trust (UNDP-ACT)

Project funds 2007: € 128,385

Cyprus is still a divided country, and in the last few years this situation has deteriorated in many ways. Disappointed with reintegration efforts, people from both the Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities of the island are becoming less and less interested in bi-communal projects. This also strongly affects children and youth in the country, who have few chances to get to know each other. One of the scarce possibilities for contact between children and youth from both communities are the "multicultural youth camps", which are usually organized every summer by different organizations. Although young people appreciate these camps, there is a perceived lack of effectiveness and sustainability, in terms of creating true and lasting mutual trust between young people and communities. This project aims to contribute to the creation of more sustainable and effective forms of multicultural youth camps in Cyprus through a range of activities.

Project activities are organized in the following interlinked components:

- I Multicultural youth camp training workshops;
- II Establishment of a network of organizations implementing multicultural activities with children and youth;
- III Organization of integrative events;
- IV Multicultural youth camp models.

Main achievements in 2007:

- In July we organized a first round of training for camp coordinators, camp instructors and youth leaders (in total approximately 100 people took part). During three days trainers from the Greek Cypriot, Turkish Cypriot and international community (England, the Netherlands and Kosovo) led workshops on various topics, such as conflict resolution, facilitation skills, communication skills, use of sport, drama and music for creating mutual trust, etcetera. Overall, participants evaluated the training very positively.
- We organized a first meeting for the "Cyprus network for multicultural activities for and with children and youth" in November. A total of 13 organizations (eight from the Greek Cypriot community, four from the Turkish Cypriot community, and one international) have expressed their willingness to take part in this network.
- We also put a lot of energy in developing a website (www.multiculturalcyprus.org) and drafting four different youth camp models.

Main challenges in 2007:

The biggest obstacle we have encountered so far is the lack of enthusiasm amongst people from the two communities for bi-communal efforts and the sensitive issues that still cause strong emotions and divisions. For example: during the training a few youth leaders from one of the communities left the training because they were in the minority and they felt that was not justified. And these are young people who are engaged in bi-communal youth camps!

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Camp instructors' training, Cyprus, June 2007

Young people as builders of peace in Cyprus

Although children in both the Greek Cypriot and Turk Cypriot communities of the island can grow up in relatively stable economic situations, with (more or less) adequate provisions in education and (mental) health care, the overall socio-political situation casts a shadow over all their lives. Most young people around the world face the challenge of participating politically in the development of their society. In Cyprus, however, this particular challenge is compounded by the de facto separation of the island's two main communities, and while their parents may still recall a time when Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots lived together, this concept of inter-communal co-existence is alien to the vast majority of young people on the island. Young people have less of an opportunity to understand each other, which can lead to misunderstandings, racism and xenophobia.

On Cyprus there is a disturbing trend: more and more people seem to be disillusioned with rapprochement and peace building efforts. Politicians and the general public alike have lost interest and are moving away from reintegration activities. The two communities are drifting further and further apart. This trend also affects the young people of Cyprus. But there are some signs that give cause for optimism: a recent survey showed that youth from both communities expressed interest for bi-communal projects. And luckily there are still people and organizations in the north and south of the island that engage in such projects. Peace on Cyprus is inevitable in the long run, but it still has to start somewhere. Children and youth have the potential to overcome prejudices and feelings of hatred. Although peace building efforts should have a broad focus and need to include all important stakeholders, such efforts should also definitely engage children and youth.

Mathijs Euwema

Slovakia: Development of life skills and key competences of children and youth

Project goal:

To support the development of life skills and key competences of Slovakian youth by mainstreaming innovative programmes into the child and youth welfare and educational systems.

Project partners:

- Vilans, Utrecht
- Ministry of Education of Slovakia, Bratislava
- Children of Slovakia Foundation, Bratislava

Project duration: 1 January 2007 - 15 July 2007

Financed by: Vilans

Project funds 2007: € 16,211

This project supported the Slovak Ministry of Education to develop policies incorporating innovative educational programmes, aimed at stimulating the development of life skills of Slovak children and youth. It was an intensive project, but worth the effort as the various stakeholders involved found it to have had a positive impact on their education system.

Main achievements in 2007:

- Three knowledge exchange seminars between Dutch and Slovak partners were held.
- A study visit to the Netherlands was organized. During the visit the Slovak partners were given the opportunity to experience first hand innovative Dutch approaches in education and youth care.
- Three study visits took place within Slovakia itself to strengthen the knowledge and support base of education professionals.
- A Strategic Action Plan (SAP) was developed by the project team, composed of various Slovak and Dutch actors and stakeholders. The SAP was adopted by the Ministry of Education as a platform for developing policies in the field. The Ministry also expressed the intention to incorporate parts of the SAP into its proposals for legislative amendments.

Main challenges in 2007:

The biggest problem in realization of this project stemmed from the turnover of personnel at the Slovak Ministry of Education. Our main counterparts at the ministry changed in the middle of the project. This caused some stress, but all difficulties were overcome thanks to the excellent work done by our colleagues from the Children of Slovakia Foundation.

Bulgaria: Building civil society by strengthening the life skills of institutionalized children

Project goal:

To prepare caregivers in child care institutions to stimulate children in the development of relevant life skills.

Project partner: Free and Democratic Bulgaria Foundation, Sofia

Project duration: June 2004 – June 2007

Financed by: The Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Project funds 2007: €158,989

The project contributes to ongoing efforts in Bulgaria to modernize the child-welfare system and aims to prepare caregivers in child care institutions to work in a de-institutionalized environment and to stimulate children in the development of relevant life skills.

Main achievements in 2007:

The project was successfully rounded off in June 2007. The main achievements in the last project stage included:

- The completion of a training for the Core Group of 32 'Master Trainers' and a team consisting of 112 Care Givers.
- Successful implementation of seven mini-projects - designed, implemented and accounted for by project participants. For most of them this was the first experience with project management.
- The mini-projects contributed directly to the well-being and development of approximately 1200 children, most of them growing up in institutionalized environments. A couple of examples: the mini-project "Let's be friends" took place in Gabrovo. It encouraged cooperation and partnership between institutionalized children and their classmates and peers; it taught children to respect the environment they live and study in. The mini-project "All together" was implemented in Stara Zagora. A group of professionals in Stara Zagora who work with children with special educational needs was formed and it became a coordination body for activities directly improving the physical and emotional condition of such children. The group also started introducing new methods improving the ability of special needs children to express themselves.
- Two books were published and disseminated at the final conference. The books were a compilation of a range of materials developed within the project and are entitled '*Lessons for Children and Adults and Methods for Increasing the Efficiency of Professional Teams Working with Institutionalized Children*'.
- The final conference was held in Sofia in July and was attended by 80 child care professionals. In general, the project has received wide acclaim from both the authorities as well as the child care professionals in Bulgaria.

Main challenges in 2007:

We were fortunate not to encounter any real problems in this project in 2007!



Poster of mini project. Bulgaria, 2007

Young people talking about violence in institutions in Bulgaria

The big boy, who seemed to have moved from home to home, speaks: 'Institutions where violence and abuse are rife'. He sums up:

- 'the hygienic conditions are poor, toilets stink, the bathrooms are filthy
- the furniture is broken, in pieces
- the children wear 'smudgy' clothes
- the bedrooms are in a mess or dirty
- all the rooms are locked
- toys, videos, games are locked away
- the children don't behave in a friendly way
- the homes harbour large numbers of children'.

Nico van Oudenhoven

Serbia: Begin at the beginning; promoting early childhood development through community-based initiatives

Project goals:

- a) To stimulate, support and expand adequate Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) provision in five high-risk areas in the country;
- b) To improve the access of children to these provisions and support children and their parents in exercising the right to ECEC; and
- c) To create examples of good practices, including training as well as develop policy development recommendations for the country as a whole and communicate these to relevant stakeholders.

Project partner: Centre for Interactive Pedagogy (CIP), Belgrade

Project duration: May 2007 – April 2010

Financed by: The Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Project funds 2007: € 43,035

The project supports the efforts of major stakeholders in Serbia to reverse some of the negative trends that undermine efforts to provide good quality Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) in the country. It focuses on stabilizing and expanding access to existing ECEC facilities, as well as on introducing alternative ECEC provisions and supporting parents to improve the care for their children in five different regions in Serbia. All five regions suffer from one or more severe social and/or economic problems which impact on the developmental chances of pre-school children in the area.

Main achievements in 2007:

- A Core Group of organizations from the five project locations was formed.
- A first situational analysis took place and the results were used to fine-tune performance indicators of the project. The process of doing the analysis and applying the findings was also used to build the sense of ownership of the initiative among members of the Core Group.
- The first training of 25 Core Group members took place in December. Topics included: Early Childhood Education and Care initiatives in a historic context, different forms of ECEC, action planning for Serbia, and how to involve different stakeholder groups.

Main challenges in 2007:

Some political and personnel changes in the Serbian Ministry of Education means that to date there has been no expression of official support for the project (although unofficially there is good cooperation between the project team and civil servants attached to the ministry as well as local departments). Another problem we were faced with was the under-budgeting for some of the scheduled training sessions. In the future we aim to prevent this from becoming a problem by making more efficient use of available resources.



Primary school. Serbia, september 2007

Romania: Children and youth as builders of civil society

Project goal:

To improve the overall development of Romanian children and prepare them for their role as active citizens. Project partner: Civil Society Development Foundation (CSDF), Bucharest

Project duration: September 2005- December 2008

Financed by: The Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Project funds 2007: € 211,532

Over a period of three years, the project seeks to empower children and youth by building the leadership skills of staff of youth-oriented NGOs, teachers and departmental staff of the Ministry of Education. Through various trainings we have increased the knowledge of democratic processes and the capacity to provide life skills education to children and youth. Over 160 people have been trained in life skills education by a group of expert National Trainers. The trainees have had the opportunity to develop mini-projects, targeting over 850 young people and children directly. It is expected that many more children will be reached through the NGOs and schools in which the trained people work. These achievements have also helped us to set new goals: official accreditation of the life skills course, integration of life skills education in the official school curriculum, and the establishment of a Centre of Learning. The project has provided important inputs for convincing the government to invest more in young people.

Main achievements in 2007:

- The 17 Master Trainers trained over 160 staff members from youth NGOs on strengthening partnerships between civil society and public institutions, and on participatory teaching methods and life skills.
- 49 youth NGOs implemented short-term educational projects with children and young people, putting into practice what they learned during their training. Projects were aimed at, among others, children with disabilities and learning problems, children from minority backgrounds, children with HIV/Aids, children in prison, and children who were left behind by parents moving abroad. Around a 1000 children have participated directly in these initiatives. These mini-project included things such as the project 'Give them wings and let them fly!', which was implemented by the School Centre for Children with Auditory Deficiencies. In this project hearing impaired children learn to socialize with hearing children. At the end of the project the 40 children with auditory deficiencies improved their communication with hearing children and were more involved in community activities.
- Strengthening of regional cooperation and understanding through a study visit to Bulgaria, where another partner organization has successfully rounded off a similar project.
- The project was presented at a National Conference in May in which 250 representatives of the media, government, NGOs and the Dutch embassy took part.
- The Ministry of Education has committed itself to the accreditation of the life skills course, making it an official part of the national school curriculum. This is a major success and should have a lasting impact on Romanian children.
- The group of Master Trainers has decided to continue working together and form to a 'Centre of Practitioners'. Exactly how this will take form will be decided in 2008, but there is now a cadre of well experienced life skills trainers who are knowledgeable about a wide range of 'good practices' relating to life skills development.

Main challenges in 2007:

The project has resulted in a cadre of life skills trainers. These trainers are all highly qualified individuals with strong opinions and it was a challenge for project management to keep them united as a team. Questions were raised, however, as to how the trainers could use the skills they learned once the project was over. It was feared that the lack of clear leadership would drive the group apart. A special training session was organized to address these issues. Splitting up was seen as a waste and it is now agreed that the trainers will be involved in follow-up projects. Already some new joint initiatives are taking place and one of the goals for 2008 is the establishment of a Centre of Learning, in which the trainers will be united for the foreseeable future.

Young people as life skills trainers in Romania

On June 12th we were lucky enough to receive a life skills training by students of Nicolescu Titulescu High School in Dambovita County, Romania. What we got was an energetic, high powered, informative and fun session on HIV and reproductive health. Besides us visitors, 25 other students were present. Three students, all girls between the age of 14-16, stood before the class better prepared and with more confidence and enthusiasm than most teachers I have had in my life. The session was very interactive and everyone participated in games and discussions. Although relatively short, I think it lasted no more than 1.5 hours, the training was very effective as everyone responded positively to the trainers and seemed to catch on to the subject matter. The girls were very convincing and I can only applaud that they are now visiting other schools to educate their peers on the important subject of reproductive health.

Obviously, these kids had benefited from the life skills training they had received from their teachers (who were in turn trained by our Master Trainers in the previous year). But there is another aspect that is just as important. This could be derived from the reaction as expressed by the two teachers who had organized the life skills training. Mihaela Diaconescu and Tamara Iscru showed enormous excitement about their work and new responsibilities. They had redefined their role as teachers, no longer being adults providing information to a passive group of students, but having become coaches, friends and an inspiration for the young people in their midst. When leaving Dambovita County, we ourselves felt that we needed to improve our life skills. Maybe we should receive some workshop by the young trainers of Titulescu High school?

Rutger van Oudenhoven



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Projects in the Netherlands

Child Rights Home

When ICDI was established some fifteen years ago, it looked for office space that would reflect the nature of the organization's work. It found it in the 'Holy Ghost Poor and Orphaned Children House' in Leiden, a massive building constructed in the late sixteenth century to accommodate the large numbers of children whose families had fallen prey to -for example- the plague or a war.

The decision was a good one; we feel inspired by the fact that we work in a space where literally thousands of children have grown up, often under difficult circumstances. We believe that by working from the orphanage we can safeguard this important heritage and the memory of the children who lived between these walls. Since then we have fought continuously with real estate developers who wanted to turn the building into a hotel, apartment block or something else which would in all likelihood completely disregard the history and place of the orphanage in Leiden. In the meantime, the house was slowly falling apart...

And then, when we almost were forced to give up the fight, a miracle happened and the Utopa Foundation was granted permission by the owner - the Leiden Municipality - to take over the building and restore it with the explicit goal of using it as a "national home of children's rights", or Kinderrechtenhuis, a wish we had harboured for all these years. We are truly and utterly delighted with this development.

Whilst we write this good news, construction work is underway and the massive task of restoring the 6.000m² (!) and turning it into an accessible space that can be used for a range of activities benefiting children and youth, but also for offices, meetings, workshops, and seminars.

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The Kinderrechtenhuis (Child Rights Home) is expected to be a hub of activities for people and organizations working at local, national and international levels. Defence for Children International and ICDI will take the lead in identifying these organizations and develop the plan of action for the coming years. We hope to inaugurate the Weeshuis (orphanage), as everyone in Leiden calls it, in early 2010. Our offices will remain there, albeit in somewhat reduced form.



Holy Ghost Poor and Orphaned Children House est. 1593

Partnership Programme

Project goal:

To provide professional coaching of workers in the fields of education and children and youth care from transitional and developing countries.

Project duration: May 2007 – May 2010

Financed by: Liberty Foundation

Project funds 2007: € 7,200

The Partnership Programme provides professional coaching to people from transitional and developing countries working in the field of education, and child and youth care. Selected partners come for a two to three week visit to the Netherlands, where they take part in an intensive programme organized and supervised by one of ICDI's programme managers. Each visit delivers a concrete outcome, in the form of a project or research proposal, a policy paper, an outline of a training module, or a set of resource materials. For each partner a tailor-made programme is designed and implemented with many face-to-face sessions with ICDI staff. The visitor can rely on our commitment as well as on our extensive networks in the Netherlands and abroad. On request, ICDI arranges meetings with specialists and organizations in the Netherlands and Belgium and provides training workshops. During their stay, the partner(s) can make full use of ICDI facilities.

Main achievements in 2007:

Mr. Lenko Lenkov of the Free and Democratic Bulgaria Foundation was the first partner to take part in the Partnership Programme. He stayed with ICDI for three weeks in September 2007. The result of intensive collaboration was a project-proposal titled 'Operation Young: Coalitions of Children and Youth', which aims at community based prevention of different problems children and youth face in Bulgaria. This proposal was submitted for financial support by the MATRA programme of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Main challenges in 2007:

The programme started in May 2007 and within the reported calendar year only one visit took place. This is not a problem per se, but it did lead to increased pressure on the ICDI team to organize three other visits in the first four months of 2008 (we strive to host at least four partners per project year, which in this case runs from May to May).

ICCYS

The International Centre for Child and Youth Studies (ICCYS) is a specialised unit for training, research and policy analysis, focusing on the needs of children and youth in developing, transitional and developed countries. ICCYS is a joint venture of the Institute for Social Studies (ISS) in The Hague and ICDI. In 2007, ICDI was involved in the following activities that took place under the umbrella of ICCYS:

Children, Youth and Development (CYD) diploma course

Project goal:

To engage mid-career professionals in a critical overview of changing ideas and debates on selected problem areas affecting children and youth

Project duration: Ongoing (since 2003)

Project funds 2007: € 43,138²

As in previous years, participants from across the world successfully completed the ten-week Children and Youth Development (CYD) diploma course which took place between April and June 2007. In total, 23 mid-career professionals from 18 countries in Africa, Asia, Europe, South and North America, and the Caribbean took part. The professional background of the students was equally diverse; the CYD class of 2007 included people working for international and national organisations, teachers, and government officials. We even had one former rebel leader!

The course introduced key issues in analysis, policy-making and implementation, with the aim of engaging participants in a critical overview of changing ideas and debates on selected problem areas affecting children and youth. The issues focused on were:

- Childhood
- Work and education
- Early Child Development
- Health and sexuality
- Rights of the Child
- Violence, abuse and neglect
- Youth marginalization and movements

² Funding for the CYD course comes from different sources. Plan Netherlands and Nuffic support most of the students via scholarships. Some of the students pay for the tuition fees from their own means

Connecting People

Project goal:

To acquaint CYD students with the child and youth welfare sector in the Netherlands and Belgium.

Project duration: Ongoing (since 2004)

Financed by: Stichting Dijkverzwareing

Project subsidy 2007: € 7,500

The Connecting People initiative offers CYD participants to get out of the classroom to visit relevant organizations and meet a range of people working on issues relating to child and youth welfare in both the Netherlands and Belgium. The added value of the Connecting People Initiative is that it contributes to the 'team spirit' of the CYD participants. Many are far away from home, and find a sense of belonging with a group of people with whom they share a common goal.



Participants departing for Belgium. ISS Headquarters, The Hague.

CYD participants visited a range of organizations in the Netherlands and Belgium, including:

- WarChild, an international agency that works for and with children who have been hit hardest by the joint forces of conflict, poverty and social exclusion.
- Youth Incentives (YI), the international programme of the Rutgers Nisso Group, which works on issues relating to youth, sexuality and rights.
- Plan Netherlands, an outspoken child rights based organization.
- The Bernard van Leer Foundation, which works in the field of early childhood development. CYD participants took part in a workshop on 'the world of donors and financial subsidies'.
- VBJK, the Resource, Research and Training Centre on Early Childhood Care and Education, a joint initiative of the universities of Gent and Leuven.
- 'Kind en Gezin' ('Child and Family'), the Flemish governmental agency for children and families, which arranged a visit to a multicultural youth centre.
- Various day care and youth centres in Brussels that pay particular attention to the multicultural background of the children they work with.

Plan Netherlands-ICDI partnership

Project duration: November 2006 – November 2009

Financed by: Plan Netherlands

Project funds 2007: € 65,000 (staff subsidy)

The partnership formally went into effect on the 1st of November 2006, and is intended for an initial period of three years. Several expected benefits from the partnership were defined both for ICDI and Plan. For ICDI these benefits include issues such as: the possibility to contribute to the development of the knowledge base on child development through research, to establish the foreseen Child Rights Home, to obtain access to new ideas, resource people and networks via the connection with Plan Netherlands, and to work with Plan Netherlands on areas of shared concern.

For Plan Netherlands the expected benefits include: strengthening of its knowledge base in the field of child development issues, gaining access to dynamic networks, cooperating with ICDI staff on specialized assignments, and further embedding the Plan team in the fabric of children's organizations in the Netherlands.

Within the framework of the agreement, Plan Netherlands finances the following:

- Salaries of a number of ICDI staff members;
- The 'UPSI-5' research project (see the section on 'Research projects' below).



Prof. Pineiro presenting his findings at the 'Violence Against Children' conference. Rotterdam, 2007.

Some of the achievements resulting from the partnership in 2007 were:

- In January 2007, Esther Miedema and Mathijs Euwema started working for ICDI, financed by the funds received through the partnership. With these new staff members ICDI's professional capacity has further increased and we are able to attract more funding for our work. So much so that we were able to hire another staff member in October 2007, Nina von der Assen.
- By the end of 2007 it was clear that the Child Rights Home ('Kinderrechtenhuis') would become a reality (see the section on 'Child Rights Home' in this annual report). ICDI will work closely with Plan and other partners to further develop the concept.
- ICDI was one of the signatories of the 'Schokland Akkoord' (a signed agreement between the Dutch government and several Dutch NGO's in which they commit to tackling the problems children face), and is, together with among others Plan, Defence for Children International and UNICEF, a member of a working group on 'Violence Against Children', which has regular meetings with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. We expect this will lead to joint Plan-ICDI projects in the 'field'.
- Staff of ICDI have been closely involved in the Plan Conference on 'Violence Against Children' that was held in November. Mathijs attended several meetings with Plan staff to give input on preparation of the workshops. Nico was chairperson at one of the workshops during the conference itself, whilst Rutger organized a visit to the youth prison Teylingereind for professor Pinheiro (the UN Special Rapporteur on 'Violence Against Children' and guest of honour at the conference).
- In addition, ICDI's Rona and Nico were involved in a Plan supported study on violence against children in Trinidad and Tobago.
- Finally, ICDI and Plan have discussed and agreed upon the option of letting one of Plan's national staff from South Sudan come to partake in the ICCYS Fellow Internship Program. Angelo Lubang will come to ICDI for three months in 2008 to work on, among others, plans for early childhood education and care in South Sudan.

The partnership agreement between Plan and ICDI is bearing more and more fruits. Both organizations are able to benefit from each other's resources and expertise in ever more efficient ways. Staff members from the two organizations get along very well and there is a sincere desire to cooperate and exchange. ICDI really appreciates Plan's support, which is giving us more options to do the work we want to do and increasing our professional capacity. The support of Plan is definitely playing an important part in making ICDI what it is today: a small, but important organization in the field of child rights and child development. We feel that the Plan-ICDI partnership is creating the benefits we aimed for at the beginning, and hope this feeling is shared by Plan.



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Research projects

In 2007 we were involved in two long-term research projects.

Universal Psychosocial Indicator – UPSI-5

Project goal:

To develop a universally applicable instrument that gives an indication of the psychosocial wellbeing of 5 year old children.

Project duration: January 2007 – January 2009

Financed by: Plan Netherlands (as part of the partnership agreement)

Project funds 2007: € 23,600

At present, the health of populations of children is assessed by a range of ‘rough-and ready’ indicators which measure either physical health (the infant mortality rate/IMR and under-five mortality rate/U5MR) or measure nutritional status (e.g. height-for-age, weight-for-height). As to psychosocial functioning of children there are no such indicators, however. Proxy markers exist, such as school attendance or achievement, but these tell us more about the environment in which children live than about children themselves. Existing instruments designed to measure psychosocial functioning tend to be complex, time-consuming and/or expensive. The UPSI-5 research project aims to fill this gap. The project is expected to improve awareness of the importance of young children’s psychosocial wellbeing and to provide a firmer basis for addressing the multiple dimensions of wellbeing in policies and interventions.

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In 2007 we began work on developing the UPSI-5 tool. It is envisaged to be a user-friendly tool consisting of a series of questions that will give a global impression of psychosocial functioning of five-year-old children around the world. The age group was chosen so as to bring the UPSI-5 in line with U5MR.

Following a review of relevant literature and consultation with child specialists, we developed a ‘long list’ of questions relating to psychosocial functioning of five-year olds. We reviewed this draft list with psychologists, educators and child care specialists in the Netherlands and South Africa to ensure the questions were clear, intrinsically meaningful and were not – on the face of it - considered culturally biased. The first piloting of the questionnaire took place in KwaZulu Natal and the Eastern Cape, South Africa. We should mention in particular the two organisations that gave much needed support during this first piloting: the Rob Smetherham Bereavement Service for Children in Pietermaritzburg and Khululeka in Queenstown. With their help and that of the many teachers we interviewed, over 120 questionnaires were

completed. Upon return to the Netherlands, a statistical analysis of the results was done indicating the distinction between children considered to be psychosocially healthy or not, could be made along three main dimensions: externalizing behaviour (e.g. aggression), internalizing behaviour (e.g. withdrawal), and socio-emotional development (e.g. communication skills). Our task now is to revise the questionnaire on the basis of these results and feedback received during the piloting. During 2008, we will test the questionnaire in, among others, India, Bulgaria, the Netherlands and Guatemala. All in all, we will test the tool in eight countries after which we hope to arrive at our final short list: the UPSI-5.

Added value of the UPSI-5 in South Africa

The Khululeka Community Education Development Centre - established in 1989 and considered to be one of the best early childhood development training organisations in the Eastern Cape - was an enormous support to ICDI during the piloting of the UPSI-5 tool. Below some of the reflections of one of the team members on taking part in the UPSI-5 research.

'Khululeka derived enormous benefit from being exposed to, and actively participating in, this international research. It highlighted the hitherto unconsidered plight of young children experiencing hidden psychosocial discomfort and created an urgency for us to come up with strategies to not only meet their needs but to revisit our curriculum to ensure that their practitioners and care-givers are equipped to do so as well'.

According to Fioni Murray of Khululeka, the research raised important questions about the emotional state of children, the implications of the restructuring of the formal school system for children's emotional wellbeing, as well as the understanding of the term 'holistic' development. This is one of the unexpected results of the UPSI-5 research and highlights the fact that awareness raising on issues relating to psychosocial wellbeing of children – both within ICDI as well as among staff in partner organizations - has begun well before the research will have been completed.

Esther Miedema

Rethinking childhood and the New and Emerging Needs of children and youth

Project goal:

To advance understanding of the shifts in life worlds of children and young people, and the new challenges and problems that these shifts bring with them.

Project duration: January 2004 – January 2008

Financed by: Plan Netherlands

Project funds 2007: € 52,982

The three-year research project 'Rethinking childhood and the New and Emerging Needs of children and youth' (or 'NEN') is implemented by ICCYS as part of an agreement signed with Plan Netherlands in 2004 to support an initial three years of activities under the heading 'Research and training for strengthening policy and practice on children, youth and development'.

This final phase of the project has been devoted to disseminating the research carried out in 2005 and 2006. The book on Newly Emerging Needs of Children: An Exploration was summarized and presented at various seminars and conferences both in the Netherlands and outside. The Bulgarian translation was distributed widely, while a version in Portuguese also was prepared. ICDI staff presented results of the NEN research to a wide audience of 40 Bulgarian child care professionals and staff from relevant authorities in January 2007. ICDI's Rutger van Oudenhoven presented NEN at a conference in Jamaica (see box next page). Considerable interest has been generated in the theme of newly emerging needs of children in a globalized world. ICDI has had several requests to provide technical support to local groups to enable them to conduct similar research in their own context, with especially promising prospects for Bulgaria, Romania and Trinidad and Tobago

Newly Emerging Needs goes Caribbean

The Second Annual Caribbean Child Research Conference was held in Kingston, Jamaica on October 23 and 24, with the main objectives being to:

- Establish networks among researchers in child related research in the Caribbean in order to enable exchange of best practices and;
- Increase the knowledge of research findings in the region.

ICDI was represented by Rona Jualla-Ali (an independent consultant with ICDI), who presented a paper on 'Corporal Punishment and Teacher Training in Trinidad and Tobago', and Rutger van Oudenhoven (ICDI programme manager) carried out a promotional campaign for the Newly Emerging Needs project, thereby increasing possibilities to explore potential, new needs of

children in the Caribbean. ICDI occupied a bookstand and handed out numerous copies of the acclaimed book *Newly Emerging Needs of Children, An Exploration*. The book has much relevance for Caribbean child care professionals, who recognize that their children are facing new, pressing challenges in a rapidly changing world.

The conference was a success indeed, in particular as young people were well represented and actively took part in the events. Opening the conference with a play, the children continued to make themselves seen and heard by giving presentations and walking in groups wearing their school uniforms. Their drama was intense, their speeches without hesitation and their clothes sharp. The adults cheered, clapped and were impressed by their wisdom and composure. We congratulate them with their contribution to this gathering of great minds, and hope that they will fare just as well in the world beyond the conference walls. Let's give them space to do this too!

Rutger van Oudenhoven



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Other ICDI activities

- ICDI was well represented at the "International Conference on Integrated Youth Policy" held in Rotterdam in January. Thijs Malmberg, a board member of ICDI, was the principal engine behind the event, while the board's chairman, David Dunham, reflected on the conference's outcomes. Rekha Wazir and Nico van Oudenhoven shared their research on 'newly emerging needs' with the participants.
- Rekha Wazir conducted a review of an innovative NGO/government partnership between the MV Foundation, an NGO based in Andhra Pradesh, India and the government of Madhya Pradesh in July.
- Nico van Oudenhoven and Rona Jualla-Ali (ICDI's independent consultant from Trinidad & Tobago) developed a questionnaire on how to come to get a better understanding of violence against street children, what it means for them and what the relevant policies and interventions are. The European Foundation for Street Children, of which ICDI is a member organization, will use the questionnaire in the cities of Lisbon, Marseille and Naples, but sees its applicability for more places in Europe.
- In February, at an international conference organized by the War Trauma Foundation, Mathijs Euwema gave a presentation on a psychosocial and peace-education project for children in Palestine.
- 20 September Mathijs gave a workshop on community based interventions for children in war-affected areas at the conference 'Who Cares?', for child care professionals and artists working with children in crisis situations.
- From 22 - 23 November, a workshop on 'The Power of Picture Books; a professional exchange between Dutch and Turkish authors and illustrators of picture story books for young children' was held in Istanbul, Turkey. The workshop was organized and led by a team composed of staff of Sardes (the lead organization) and ICDI (represented by). The workshop provided the opportunity for a group of Dutch and Turkish authors and illustrators to share professional experience in writing and illustrating for young children and to get feedback from users of children's books, namely educators and children.
- On 30 November 2008, ICDI's Nina and Mathijs were invited to give a presentation for the Dutch 'Child Rights Watch' group at the Institute for Social Studies in The Hague. This group consists of young people who are monitoring the implementation of children's rights within Dutch development cooperation. We talked about how ICDI incorporates the Child Rights Based Approach and we gave our views on including children's rights in development cooperation.

- In 2007, ICDI became an active member of three important networks: the Better Care Network, the Dutch Coalition on Disability and Development, and the International Childhood and Youth Research Network (ICYRNet).
 - The Better Care Network Netherlands was launched on the 8th of November 2007. The aim of BCN is to improve the care for children without parental care through cooperation and sharing of best practices. In the Netherlands, a number of organizations have started this initiative, with full support of the international Better Care Network. Various workgroups will start in 2008 and ICDI will become active in them. Visit www.bettercarenetwork.nl for more information.
 - Dutch Coalition on Disability and Development. This is a coalition of persons and organizations working or interested in the field of disability and development cooperation. DCDD has multiple active workgroups, such as Community Based Rehabilitation, Inclusive Education and HIV and AIDS and Disability. ICDI is keen to include children with disabilities in its programmes, and is active in the DCDD HIV/AIDS & Disability workgroup. Visit www.dccd.nl for more information.
 - On 14 and 15 September, Rutger van Oudenhoven represented ICDI at the first meeting and start-up of the International Childhood and Youth Research Network (ICYRNet) in Nicosia, Cyprus. The Network's Mission is to promote the inter-disciplinary study of children and young people in order to increase awareness and understanding of issues that affect their wellbeing at an international level. Rutger is now a member of the executive board. Please see www.icyrnet.net for more information.



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ICDI publications

- Growing up in institutions, strength in vulnerability: lessons from Bulgarian children. Nico van Oudenhoven. In: Lessons for children and adults. Valentina Simeonova and Georgi Simeonov (eds). 2007. Sofia: FDBF.
- De-stigmatization: conditio sine qua non. Iordan Iossifov. In: Lessons for children and adults. Valentina Simeonova and Georgi Simeonov (eds). 2007. Sofia: FDBF.
- Growing up in Bulgaria: whether and how young people bypass traditional mediators. Iordan Iossifov and Svetlana Tacheva. 2007. In: Zaedno (Together) Bulletin of the Prevention and Information Centre on the Problems of Narcotic Addicts in Sofia, issue 1 (18) pp.9 – 10.
- Hedgehogs make their own way. Growing up in a society where the role of traditional mediators decreases. Iordan Iossifov. In: Newly emerging needs of children: exploration in Bulgaria. 2007. Sofia: FDBF.
- Education in Bulgaria – seen from inside. Iordan Iossifov and Svetlana Tacheva. In: Newly emerging needs of children: exploration in Bulgaria. 2007. Sofia: FDBF.



One of our publications in Bulgarian.

Looking forward to 2008

Whatever is going to happen in 2008, we already know it is going to be busy! We have set ourselves hefty targets in our Strategic Plan 2008 – 2011 and are determined to reach our goals.

In 2008 we will continue with our projects in Suriname, Romania, Cyprus, and Serbia. We will also start new projects in Croatia (foster care) and Turkey (early childhood education and care). We will also strive to develop new projects with partners in Sudan, the Middle East, Macedonia, Moldova, Georgia and Armenia. Our research project on the UPSI-5 will continue, with several more tests taking place in different countries.

Throughout the year we expect visitors in our Partnership Programme. As it stands now we will receive guests from Kenya, Ethiopia, and Pakistan. This will – hopefully - lead to exciting new projects in countries where ICDI is not yet active.

We expect to start a one year project called 'Wijken voor Kinderen' (Neighbourhoods for Children) in the Netherlands. In this project we will talk with young people about violence and safety in their environment. Together with them we will also try to develop viable solutions and present these to the authorities.

Another big research project we hope to embark on is called 'Positive Deviance'. This project is envisaged to take place across Europe, and will focus on how young people from immigrant and minority communities manage to find their place in society through different means, such as sports and hobby clubs.

Renovation of the Child Rights Home will start in January 2008. Luckily ICDI will be able to remain at its current premises during the construction work. We will use the coming period to further develop our plans for the Child Rights Home, together with our partner Defense for Children International.

We will also continue our special relationship with Plan Netherlands and aim to further strengthen the close cooperation that was started last year. Throughout the year we will have regular meetings and joint activities with Plan colleagues on 'Violence Against Children' issues (for example: development of a comprehensive cross-sectoral project in a designated Dutch developmental aid country).

On the organizational level we will focus on –amongst other things- improving our planning, monitoring and evaluation system, upgrading of our website, and broadening of our funding base. We expect to grow financially (to an annual turn-over of about € 1.2 million) and we hope that finances will allow us to welcome another staff member this coming year. But most importantly, we will continue to listen to the voices of young people, and we will work to ensure their voices are heard by others too.

Learning from our young stakeholders

Insignia and gender sensitivity; or seeing ourselves through the eyes of a three year old girl

'Can I have one?', asks my three-and-a-half year old guest. She likes the ICDI office, feels comfortable in it, and now she is in front of my desk looking at a box with business cards. 'Sure'. I pass her one of my cards.



'Oh, look it's a boy', she points to the little silhouette in ICDI's logo on the card,

'can I have one from the others?'

'The others?', I ask. I am not sure what she means.

'Yes, the other cards, for girls. See, this is a boy and I am a girl.

Don't you have cards for girls?' 'No, my dear, this is the only type of cards we have', I answer and I hear the embarrassment in my voice, 'but thanks for the suggestion.'

Few days later I discuss the event with my colleagues and I hear that the silhouette in ICDI's logo is actually one of a girl. I can already hear my young guest ask: 'But then, how about cards for the boys

Jordan Iossifov

Summary³ Financial Report 2007

Foundation International Child Development Initiatives, Leiden

Profit and loss account (amounts in €)

	2007	2006
Project funds/ other income	920,814	594,551
Direct project costs	<u>559,088</u>	<u>382,552</u>
	<u>361,726</u>	<u>211,999</u>

Costs

Wages and salaries	275,670	181,180
Other staff costs	9,683	5,264
Housing costs	2,092	2,563
Other operating costs	<u>30,885</u>	<u>24,236</u>
Total Costs	<u>318,330</u>	<u>213,243</u>

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Operating result	43,396	-1244
Interest income	<u>456</u>	<u>-400</u>
Net result	<u>43,852</u>	<u>-1644</u>

³For a complete overview we refer to the auditor's report.



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ICDI staff and board

The board has overall responsibility for management of ICDI. In practice this responsibility is delegated to the director; the board oversees and checks that the organization is running properly and is reaching its set objectives. Members of the board conduct their duties on a voluntary basis and don't receive any financial compensation. Each board member is appointed for a maximum of six years, after which re-appointment is possible. The board has an uneven number of members (minimal 3) and meets (at least) twice a year.

Chair: David Dunham (deputy rector of Institute of Social Studies, The Hague)
Secretary/treasurer: Thijs Malmberg (manager at Ordina, a Dutch consulting and ICT firm, Nieuwegein)
Member: Thanh-Dam Truong (senior lecturer at Institute of Social Studies, The Hague)

ICDI staff per 1 January 2008

Mathijs Euwema, director
Iordan Iossifov, senior programme manager
Rutger van Oudenhoven, programme manager
Esther Miedema, programme manager
Nina von der Assen, junior programme manager
Bregje van Bommel, human resources and administration manager
Nico van Oudenhoven, senior associate
Rekha Wazir, senior associate

Staff turnover 2007: 0
Sick leave 2007: 1 %

International Child Development Initiatives

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Bank: Postbank # 6933397

ICCYS

International Centre for Child and Youth Studies
Physical address at ICDI
Web: www.iccys.nl

ICDI financial administration:

SynCount auditors in Bodegraven &
Heemskerk Financial Advisers in Leiden

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