



Annual Report 2007

The Separated Children in Europe Programme

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

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

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

SCEP seeks to improve the situation of separated children through research, policy analysis, dissemination of information, and awareness raising and advocacy activities at the national and regional levels.

Separated children

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

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

Separated children may be seeking asylum because of fear of persecution or the lack of protection due to human rights violations, armed conflict or disturbances in their own country. They may be the victims of trafficking for sexual or other exploitation, or they may have travelled to Europe to escape conditions of serious deprivation.

According to data collected by SCEP, 9,559 separated asylum seeking children arrived in 21 countries in Europe in 2007. (SCEP Newsletter, no. 30, 2008)

Statement of Good Practice

The Statement of Good Practice sets out the policy and practices that SCEP believe should be applied to all separated children in Europe. It provides a comprehensive set of principles giving a common standard for work across all countries.

The document has a high profile throughout Europe where awareness of its key messages is high amongst both policy makers and practitioners.

The Statement of Good Practice has been translated into 23 languages that will ensure its widespread dissemination and use. It is reviewed and revised on a regular basis.

The Statement of Good Practice can be found at the SCEP website, www.separated-children-europe-programme.org

Steering Committee

In 2007 the SCEP Steering Committee was formed by 4 representatives from Save the Children organisations and 2 NGO Network representatives:

- Eva Larsson-Bellander, Save the Children Sweden, Chair
- Janne Raanes, Save the Children Norway
- Louise King, Save the Children UK
- Bente Ingvarsen, Save the Children Denmark
- Thomas Gitrich, Bundesfachverband UMF, Germany
- Magda Faltova, Counselling Centre for Refugees, Czech Republic
- Christoph Braunschweig, Fondation Suisse du Service Social, Switzerland, NGO substitute

The Steering Committee held 4 meetings during 2007.

Strategic plan

In the beginning of 2007, the Steering Committee initiated the undertaking of an external review of the SCEPT. Based on the findings and recommendations, a revision of the strategic plan was started in order to define change objectives and develop working modalities to support achievement of the aims. Consultant Terry Smith was contracted to assist in this comprehensive task including a revision of the SCEPT structure.

The new strategic plan, to be finalised in 2008, will guide the work of the SCEPT for the 5 year period 2009 to 2013 inclusive.

Staff

From January to March 2007, Jyothi Kanics was Programme Manager and Lise Bruun was Administrative Co-ordinator.

From March 2007 and onwards Lise Bruun was Programme Co-ordinator.

SCEPT NGO network

The programme aims to realise the rights and best interests of separated children by establishing a shared policy and commitment to best practice at national and European levels. Therefore the programme has set up a Network with NGOs working for and with separated children in 30 European countries:

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

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

SCEPT programme activities in 2007

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



Due to a grant from the EC Daphne II Programme, SCEPT in February 2007 started the implementation of a 2 year project to support separated children and youth across Europe in addressing child rights issues relevant to them and to support the formation of a European forum for separated children and youth.

An advisory board is formed by the project manager Lise Bruun, the consultants Terry Smith, Simone Bommeljé and Yvonne van 't Oever, and three young people who have arrived as separated children, Zaina Karekezi, Netherlands, Jean Gatsinzi, Austria, and Asmatullah Fikrat, Sweden.

As part of the project, Terry Smith researched the SCEPT NGO network's experience with child and youth participation.

On November 13-15 a seminar was held in Budapest with the participation of the SCEPT NGO Network, the youth representatives and project consultants. The findings from the research were presented to the NGO network. The seminar focused on children's participation through capacity building workshops to establish among the NGOs a common understanding and approach and to bring in experience from the SCEPT partners. Also the outreach to the separated youth to be involved was addressed during the seminar.

Conference on Children in Migration

Warsaw, March 20-21 2007

The international conference was co-organised by Save the Children Sweden, the European Network of Masters in Children's Rights and the Separated Children in Europe Programme.

The objective of the conference was to gather researchers, NGOs, IGOs and professional practitioners to stimulate discussions on the latest research findings on various aspects of children in migration in Europe from a child rights perspective. One aim of this conference was to influence more and better research on child migrants.



NGO Network meeting

Warsaw, March 22 2007

The meeting addressed ongoing and upcoming programme activities and provided a forum for exchange of information and experiences among the SCEP NGO partners. Also a presentation and discussion of draft position papers on Anti-Trafficking and Age Assessment took place.

A part of the NGO meeting involved the Network in an external review that was being undertaken, including self-assessment of programme achievements and lessons, discussing network characteristics and dynamics and identification of key issues and priorities for the strategic planning.

Co-operation with UNHCR

SCEP has a regular communication, cooperation and exchange with UNHCR.

On March 23 2007 a joint meeting was held in Warsaw with participation of the SCEP NGO Network and the UNHCR SCEP Focal Points.

The meeting informed on and discussed ongoing activities regarding education, age assessment and the use of the guidelines for Best Interests of the Child Determination, BID. Also an ongoing UNHCR mapping of guardianship was addressed as well as future areas of co-operation.

Later in 2007, a draft report of the UNHCR survey on guardianship was circulated to the SCEP NGO network for comments.

National UNHCR SCEP Focal Points submitted information to the bi-annual SCEP Newsletter.



SCEP participation in seminars and conferences

Seminar on Identification and Protection of Child Victims of Trafficking

Save the Children Denmark, Copenhagen, June 14 2007

The SCEP Coordinator participated.

- **The Migration of Unaccompanied Minors in Europe: the context of origin, the migrations routes and the reception systems**

Migrinter- Université de Poitiers, Poitiers, France, October 10-11 2007

At the conference the SCEP coordinator gave a presentation on the need for guidelines for guardianship to separated children. The presentation was afterwards selected for a UNESCO publication on separated children to be published in 2008.

- **Seminar on undocumented migrant children**

Save the Children Sweden, Stockholm, October 24 2007

The SCEP Coordinator participated

- **Seminar on the Juridical and Social Situation of Separated Children in Andalucía**

Save the Children Spain, Sevilla, November 22-23 2007

The SCEP coordinator gave a presentation on the SCEP and EU migration policies at the seminar.

- **Training on Children's Rights in the EU and the EU Presidencies**

EURONET, Brussels, December 11 2007

The SCEP Coordinator participated

Activities on policy development

The SCEP Coordinator participated as liaison in Save the Children Brussels Office's reference groups on EU policy developments regarding asylum, migration and trafficking.

Joint submissions 2007 to the European Commission

- SCEP contributed to the Save Children submission on the European Commission's draft action plan which provides an overview of next actions in the context of its "Comprehensive European Migration Policy", published May 14 2007.

- SCEP contributed to the Save Children submission to the EC on Trafficking Coordination Mechanisms.

- SCEP contributed to the Save Children submission on the European Commission's Green Paper on the Future of the Common European Asylum System.

Position papers

- A position paper on age assessment was drafted in 2007.
- A 'Trafficking Position Paper on Pre-venting and Responding to Trafficking of Children in Europe' was elaborated jointly by the Separated Children in Europe Programme and Save the Children, December 2007, and represents the internal SCEP framework for formulation and pursuing shared advocacy and goals in the field of trafficking.

Reports

- Conference Report: Focus on Children in Migration - From a European Research and Method Perspective. Separated Children in Europe Programme, Save the Children Sweden and European Network of Masters in Children's Rights, 2007
- NGO Network Seminar on Networking with Youth to Combat Violence against Separated Children. November 2007

SCEP Newsletter

The SCEP Newsletter is published two times a year and contains information about the SCEP programme activities, UNHCR, EU policy and legislative developments as well as reporting on developments and changes in the situation for separated children in the 30 European countries covered by the SCEP. The information is primarily provided by the NGO partners and the UNHCR SCEP Focal Points. The newsletter also brings information on events and new publications. The newsletter can be found at the web site.

Website



The website, www.separated-children-europe-programme.org, exists in four languages. The site provides information about the programme's aims, contact information, the Statement of Good Practice in 24 languages, reports and position papers, the Newsletter, and other resources.

In 2007 the use of the website was:

Language	Visits	Hits
English	8,162	33,188
German	1,056	3,191
French	1,017	2,965
Spanish	682	2,331

This SCEP annual report has been edited by Anne Sofie Swane Lund and Lise Bruun



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