6th Regional Meeting of NGOs Children´s Rights Coalitions in Europe
20-22 October 2010, Florence (Italy)

NETWORK GOVERNANCE

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Experience gathered as NC

- Focus on the issues to be dealt with in WG:

1. <u>Structure and Governance</u>: structure and membership of NGO Children´s rights coalition.

2. <u>Priority issues and plan for action</u> of a Children´s rights coalition: reporting to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, what else?

3. <u>Accessing resources</u> to support Children´s Rights Coalitions: different experiences at national level: foundation, EU funds - budget lines available

- Sharing of some ideas on last SWOT analysis (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) carried out.

- Other thoughts...

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Working Groups

1. Structure and Governance:

- Origin:

o Born to unite the forces of those organizations whose objectives are the protection and promotion of children´s rights.

o Having the UN *Convention on the Rights of the Child* (CRC) as framework.

o Legally constituted the 19th of November, 1997 as an organization plural, united and democratic without an interest in profit and independent from political and religious views.

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Working Groups

1. Structure and Governance:

- Objectives:

o To promote general and sectarian politics, that promote the welfare of children and especially of those children in situations of individual or social risk.

o To denounce the situations that violate the rights of children.

o To awake society to have knowledge and respect of the rights of children.

o To develop the dialogue, the collaboration and the participation of all private and public organizations related to the welfare of children and the application of their rights.

Working Groups

1. Structure and Governance:

• Objectives:

o To encourage the participation and the socialization of children.

o To strengthen democratic structures and those from civil society through the support, establishment and consolidation of national and international platforms and networks.

o To defend and promote Human Rights and fundamental freedoms, peace, democracy and civil participation, no discrimination and diversity through International Cooperation for Development.

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Working Groups

1. Structure and Governance:

- Statutes and Internal Rules:

o Statutes: establishment and objectives; membership (rights and duties); organization and structure; financial regime; amendments to the Statutes; dissolution and liquidation.

o Internal Rules: admission to membership; resignation, exclusion and suspension; GA; Board of Directors; WG; Secretariat; financial management; corporative image.

Working Groups

1. Structure and Governance:

• Structure:

o GA.

o Board of Directors.

o WG.

o Secretariat.

• Membership:

o Full members.

o Associate members.

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Working Groups

<u>2. Priority issues and plan for action:</u>

<u>Priority issues</u>

- Reporting to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child:

o 2nd Report: Complementary Report to the III and IV Report on the Implementation of the CRC in Spain.

o Pre-session: June 2010.

o Session: September 2010.

Working Groups

2. Priority issues and plan for action:

Priority issues

o Concluding Observations: 1st of October, 2010

o Some first reflections: civil society influence; more attention paid to resources, access to adequate info, disability and welfare; more references to the Autonomous Regions and child participation; inclusion of references to General Comments of the Committee.

Working Groups

2. Priority issues and plan for action:

Priority issues

- Communication and awareness raising:

o Internal and external communication (newsletter, website).

o Work with media (press releases, manifestos, daily news follow up).

o Publication of materials, own campaigns launch, others campaigns support.

Working Groups

<u>2. Priority issues and plan for action</u>:

- Child participation:

o National Strategic Plan for Childhood and Adolescence 2006-2009: child participation in the follow-up and evaluation of the Plan; training of adults on how to facilitate child participation in Public Policies; didactic materials; list of proposals for last and next Plan.

o Cybercorrespondents: promotion of child participation for children´s rights, using information and communication technologies in a safe, healthy and responsible way.

o International Children´s Rights Day (20 November).

Working Groups

2. Priority issues and plan for action:

- Membership and participation in national and international forums and networks:

o Childhood Observatory of the Spanish Ministry of Health and Social Policy.

o Public Council of Social Action NGOs.

o EURONET, the European Children´s Network.

o NGO Group for the CRC.

o Forums with NGOs and NC from Iberoamerica, in the frame of the meetings that Ministers responsible for childhood from this region hold annually.

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Working Groups

2. Priority issues and plan for action:

Plan for action

- Strategic Plan 2009-2011:
o 3 Strategic Focal Points:
➢ Advocacy and communication.
➢ Internal strenghtening.
➢ Reinforcement of financial lines.
- Annual Plans.

Working Groups

3. Accessing resources:

- Public funds:

o General Directorate of Social Policy, Families and Childhood (Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs).

- Membership fees: 8 categories since 2009, depending on

o Membership (full or associate members).

o Annual income.

Working Groups

3. Accessing resources:

- EU funds:

o Not at the present time.

o Thanks to the involvement in EURONET and other partnerships established (Child Participation; DAPHNE Programme of the European Commission to prevent violence).

- Private sector:

o Support for the organization of events, publication of materials and launch of campaigns mainly.

Last SWOT analysis

- Strengths (internal/favorable factors):

o Potential growth.

o Acknowledgement of the network in the 3rd Sector.

o Members are consolidated organizations.

o Social acknowledgement of members activities.

o Support and confidence of the Board of Directors to the Secretariat.

Last SWOT analysis

- Weaknesses (internal/unfavorable factors):
o Weak leadership of the Board of Directors.
o Limited human resources.
o Weak advocacy and visibility of actions taken.
o In competence with members activities.
o Lack of dialogue among members.
o Limited measurement of results.
o Insufficient analysis and systematization of members experiences and work.

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Last SWOT analysis

- Opportunities (external/favorable factors):
o To diversify services offered to members.
o To offer a space for participation to children.
o More presence at the Autonomous Communities level.
o Internationalization.
o Authorities concern about child issues.

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Last SWOT analysis

- Threats (external/unfavorable factors):

o Lost of credibility of the 3rd Sector.

o 3rd Sector too diversified.

o Weak involvement of some members.

o Distorted view of Public Administrations on the coalition, seen as mere services provider.

Other thoughts...

- Common shared SWOT probably.

- Easy to find them at local, regional, national or international networks.

- Challenges ahead to be identified.

- How to share our own experience as National Coalitions in a better way?

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THANKS!!!

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