



Spolek zastánců dětských práv –
Czech section of Defence for Children International
CZ-110 00 Praha 1, Senovážné nám. 24
Tel.: +420-603-438822, fax 222 964 258
e-mail dcj.praha@seznam.cz, www.dci.cz

Conclusions of the 21th DCI Seminar on the CRC Implementation in Czechia, held on the 5th of April, 2016 in the Senate of the Czech Republic

The participants expressed their concerns that, still in April, a National Action Plan 2016-2018 for the implementation has not been adopted, neither have been any NGOs for the rights of the child involved in its preparatory process. The participants are also concerned with the absence of politicians across the political spectrum.

The participants welcome the efforts of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (MŠMT) to reform the financing of schools according to the amount of education (no more to the number of pupils) and to raise salaries of teachers and their status in society. Based on the debate, the participants disclosed problematic points in the implementation of the CRC. They agreed unanimously upon the necessity that all public bodies should fulfil the following measures for the systematic implementation of the rights of the child in the Czech Republic:

1. To establish and nominate a permanent **independent coordinating and monitoring body** for the implementation of the CRC. This body has to be equipped with appropriated powers and competences.
2. To adopt a law on **an independent ombudsperson for children**, the competences of which will also inhere decision-making processes of municipal and regional authorities.
3. To initiate a dialog in mainstream media on the implementation of the rights of the child, including **the right of participation** in all issues concerning children directly or indirectly.
4. To solve systemic gaps by separating the issues of families and children from other dominating ones (employment policies, schools, sports, etc.). **To establish a ministry for family, children and youth**, according to good practices abroad.
5. To initiate **a public or parliamentary council** or commission for the rights of the child.
6. To adopt a law committing all public bodies **to take into account the best interest** of the child in all decisions, as well as defining that notion and indicators for its evaluation. More concretely: to implement **children mainstreaming** and **children budgeting**, which means to add an obligation to report how the amendment/budgetary provision fits to the best interest of the child.
7. It is necessary to adopt **a law on protection and support of children and youth**, including youth participation in the life of the society. This concerns particularly municipalities and regions, with an obligatory financial support for leisure-time and children's associations at all levels.
8. To include organizations and coalitions advocating and lobbying for the rights of the child as **consultants for all legislature amendments** which have an impact on the rights of the child.

9. **To ban corporal punishment** of children under all circumstances.
10. To propose legislative measures in order to improve the protection of children, e.g. to set **age limits for unaccompanied children in pubs or streets** at evening/night times.
11. To set up an obligatory **registration of children in health care/paediatrics**, as well as a national register of child injuries.
12. To implement the right of the child **to be heard and to have an own solicitor** in all court proceedings, according to the rulings of the Constitutional Court of Justice.
13. To set immediately up a **replacing alimentionation support** for entitled children by the government with the provision that the government would then enforce the obliged parent (who has not paid to the child) to repay the alimentionation money to the state. **Children must not be taken away from their families for social reasons**, siblings may not be separated from each other.
14. To set the age **limit for criminal punishment in no case under 15 years of age**, prevention should me prioritized.
15. To propose an expert from Czechia as a **member of the UN Committee for the Rights of the Child**.

Education:

1. To implement a preventive school programme against child abuse and other negative phenomena.
2. To pressurize regional authorities to make use of the existing ministerial programme for financial support to school lunches for pupils from families which cannot afford to pay themselves.
3. To support the educational principle for respecting the others and to enhance the responsibility for each own health.
4. To implement four pillars of education according to the UNESCO resolution “*Education for the 21st century*”:
 - to learn to get to know,
 - to learn to act,
 - to learn to live among other people,
 - to learn to be a human being.
5. To systematically solve the education of pupils with a communication heandycap (aphatics, dysphatics, development anartrics).
6. To systematically solve the lack of practice of school graduates so that they could be accepted on the labour market.

The participants support the activities of MŠMT in reforming the financing of schools, including raising of teachers’ salaries, as well as its efforts for a better permeability and inclusivity of the educational system. The participants understand them as fitting with the implementation of the best interest of children in the Czech Republic.

Prague, the 5th of April 2016

Adopted by consensus.