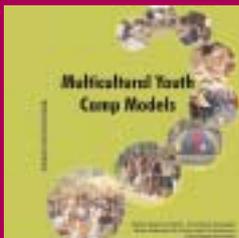


# ICDI



International Child Development Initiatives



**‘Doing what we can, so  
that children can...’**

Annual report 2008

**iCDi**



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# I Introduction

Once again I am delighted, on behalf of the Board, to write a short introductory note to the ICDI Annual Report. It shows that much has been achieved in 2008, although the year ended on a far more somber note than most people anticipated. The global economy was sliding into recession (creating a sense of panic and foreboding in financial markets) and, with many countries and many people not yet feeling its full effects, it was clear that the already difficult economic, social and political conditions in which so many children are living were almost bound to deteriorate. The optimism of recent years began to evaporate, and there was concern that one unforeseen effect of the economic crisis could be to distract attention from needs and rights of children at a time when they were becoming more urgent and indeed much more of an issue. It is difficult therefore, looking back, to be entirely positive.

Nevertheless, 2008 had been a busy year for ICDI. It was engaged in 18 projects (of varying duration) plus a number of smaller assignments—a marked increase over the number the previous year. It had managed to consolidate activities, and was growing much as anticipated in its Strategic Plan, 2008-11. Recently appointed staff members were fitting in well, and renovation of the old Leiden orphanage into a Child Rights Home (that had begun at the beginning of the year—and in which ICDI was a lead partner) had recorded considerable progress thanks to generous financial support of the Utopa Foundation. The Child Rights Home will be a focus for child rights activities, not only here in The Netherlands but internationally, and it is expected to open up new avenues of collaboration for ICDI, enabling it to do more to help children who are growing up in extremely difficult circumstances.

Much has therefore been achieved but, in the shadow of recession, the need to provide prompt and effective support is only likely to increase. It is important that ICDI is able take full advantage of every opportunity it has to promote the healthy development of children who live in dire situations and to enable them to develop and to make the most of their own lives. With the prospect of recession, with the Child Rights Home nearing completion, and with 2009 the twentieth anniversary of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (which has been the basis and framework of ICDI's work), it seems appropriate that child rights should be particularly prominent and that the link between the Convention on the Rights of the Child and ICDI's activities should be emphasized in the structure of this year's Annual Report (see the 'boxes' throughout this report). We feel ICDI is becoming increasingly better equipped to contribute well.

David Dunham  
Chair of the board

## 2 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 the realisation of their rights and addressing the underlying causes for the problems they face.

*ICDI mission statement*

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. In close cooperation with our partners, we strive to tackle underlying reasons of rights' violations and find viable ways to resolve these underlying problems. 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.

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.

**Doing what we can, so that children can...** survive and develop healthily.

If you call your organization International Child Development Initiatives, you are taking a lot of responsibility on your shoulders. And, unlike Atlas, it is likely you quickly succumb to the weight you've taken on. ICDI promotes the well-being and healthy development of children growing up in difficult circumstances. Our goal is that each and every child can be him/herself and can develop into a happy, healthy adult, living up to his or her potential. Even writing this makes one feel the burden. 'Can we live up to our own expectations?', is a question we at ICDI ask ourselves on a daily basis.

The answer – of course – is 'no'. Or at best 'partly'. For example: for the past ten years we have been involved in projects in Suriname. We have secured funding for struggling local NGO's that support vulnerable children. We have helped build the capacity of those local organizations, to professionalize their work. We have done research and we have gathered support from Dutch partners for the work in Suriname. Etcetera. Has all this ensured that more children in Suriname can survive and develop healthily? Probably. A bit, for sure. Nevertheless, and although we do what we can, there always remains so much more to do!

*Right to life, survival and development (CRC 6)*

*Children have the right to live. Governments should ensure that children survive and develop healthily.*

### 3 Organizational development

This past year we continued to implement our Strategic Plan 2008-2011. Although we had set ourselves some hefty targets, we can now confidently say that we achieved most of these.

Our regular project activities took place more-or-less as planned. Our long-running MATRA project in Romania came to a successful conclusion, and will be followed up with another project that will secure that life skills training for children becomes an integrated component of Romania's educational curriculum. A new, shorter term project has started in Bulgaria, with the aim to support the child protection system by, among others, training of social workers. Overall, we have seen our project portfolio expand again, and we see this as an indication of the growing strength of our organization. Further signs supporting this development were our many media appearances and the completion of nine publications in 2008.

In terms of Human Resources we first had to deal with a considerable 'blow'. Bregje van Bommel, our HR and admin manager, and the backbone of ICDI for many years, decided that it was time for a change and left us in November. She will be sorely missed. We feel, however, that we have been extremely lucky in finding an excellent replacement in Asia Koerten. We also managed, as planned, to hire another programme manager: Annabel Trapp started as of 1st of December and will be heading the envisaged International Palestinian Children Initiative.

Despite the looming crisis, we managed to grow financially to an annual turn-over of around € 1 million. Although this growth is a bit lower than we had expected, we did reach our anticipated growth in terms of funding for organizational costs (salaries, rent, etc.). For 2009 the financial outlook is also positive. At the same time, and although our budgetary base is quite secure for the foreseeable future, we will continue to look for and engage in new partnerships, to further increase the sustainability of our organization.

The year 2008 might be regarded as a transitional year for ICDI: it was the first full year that our strategic plan was implemented, and a year that several envisaged organizational changes took effect. We feel that it has been a good year, a year that has helped us to grow in strength and to better prepare us for the future.

Mathijs Euwema  
Director

## 4 International Projects

### 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

Completed in December 2008, over a period of three and a half years, this project sought 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 training sessions we have increased capacity of civil society partners in areas such as programme management, fundraising as well as provision of life skills education to children and youth. More than 160 people were trained in life skills education by a group of expert National Trainers. The trainees developed mini-projects, which directly targeted over 850 young people and children. It is expected that many more children will be reached through the NGOs and schools in which the trainees 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. Representatives of the Dutch embassy qualified this project as “the best ever MATRA project in Romania”!

#### **Main achievements in 2008:**

- 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. Approximately 1000 children participated directly in these initiatives. These mini-projects 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 study visits to Bulgaria, Slovakia and the Netherlands.
- The project was presented at a two National Conferences in which 200 representatives of the media, government, NGOs and the Dutch embassy took part.
- The Ministry of Education has accredited 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 a ‘Centre of Practitioners’. This means 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.

We are very glad our partnership with our Romanian partner CSDF has not ended; already some new joint ICDI-CSDF initiatives are taking place, which build on the experience of this successful project:

### ***Promoting Life Skills Education in School Curricula***

This project really builds on the results of the project “Children and Youth as Builders of Civil Society” that ICDI and CSDF implemented between 2005 and 2008. The successes of this project has convinced the Romanian Ministry of Education to further explore possibilities to enhance the capacity of schools and their teachers to provide high quality life skills education. CSDF will take on this task with ICDI taking on a strong supporting role.

### ***Support for professionals in the work with children and youth; understanding and reacting to the Newly Emerging Needs of Children and Youth***

This project follows an earlier study and publication by ICDI on new challenges, problems and opportunities confronting children (Newly Emerging Needs of Children, van Oudenhoven and Wazir, 2006). In this project we hope to develop a set of interventions, policy recommendations and resource materials that help to identify and monitor these new trends and respond to them. The bulk of activities will be conducted in Slovakia and Romania. Teams from both our previous MATRA projects in these countries will take part.



Exhibition of mini-projects run by Romanian schools

## Croatia: Towards Quality Foster Care

- Project Goal:**
- Improving the quality of foster care services for children in Croatia  
This project is composed of two major components:
  - Foster parents in Croatia can use their own support and service network and work towards the improvement of the quality of foster care in cooperation with all actors in foster care including social workers and policy makers.
  - Foster children and youth can meet, have their say and be heard.
- Project Partner:**
- Forum za kvalitetno udomiteljstvo djece (Forum for Quality Foster Care), Zagreb
- Project duration:**
- January 2008 – December 2010
- Financed by:**
- Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs

In Croatia, foster care is still below standards, although positive developments within the system of foster care have begun to take place. Due to lack of knowledge and methodological tools, and/or time of social workers, children in foster care and their carers face many problems. This has led to a general lack of support for foster families, children being removed from their foster families without appropriate preparation, children not able to give their opinion, and furthermore, a negative image of foster care in its entirety throughout the country. The effect is that still too many children are brought up in institutions while there are foster families willing and able to care for them.

Foster parents have taken the initiative to form associations and work on improvement of the system and the exchange of knowledge and experiences. Three associations have founded the Forum for Quality Foster Care, which aims to be the support and service centre for the foster care associations. Within the framework of this project, experts of ICDI and Flexus Jeugdplein Rotterdam provide support to this development.

Young people are not aware of, or are given the opportunity to take part in decisions regarding their lives in general and foster care in particular. In addition, there is no 'post-foster care' support so that young people leaving care at the age of 18 are ill prepared to be on their own. The Forum for Quality Foster Care intends to support foster care youth to form their own Youth in Care network.

### **Main achievements in 2008:**

- 'Forum za kvalitetsno udomiteljstvo' was registered as a legal entity and the number of associations participating in their trainings and activities is growing. A small office was rented and equipped and two staff members were appointed.
- A website was developed and three editions of the magazine for foster parents were published which were disseminated to foster parents, social welfare centres and other stakeholders.
- Twelve key foster parents, representing seven associations, were trained in communication, project planning and lobbying skills. Another ten foster parents, who play a pivotal role in the foster care system in the country, were trained in sponsoring and fundraising. Fourteen foster parents were trained in promotion of foster care and have volunteered for the campaign in 2009.
- Seven key foster parents representing of five associations were trained in the implementation of quality standards in every day practice of foster families and in care planning.

- Two national conferences on foster care were organised in Zagreb and Koprivnica in which both Dutch and Croatian experts took part. The first conference was on quality standards, the second on adolescents and training of independent living and after care support.
- A group of sixteen people participated in a five days working visit to the Netherlands. The group consisted of foster parents, social workers, staff of residential facilities, two young people and the project leader. They visited the different services of Flexus Jeugdplein in Rotterdam, and were introduced to Dutch methodology and residential family type care as well as various projects aimed at supporting young people that drop out of school.
- 200 participants gathered for the foster families' day in Rovinj. They took part in workshops on quality standards and good practices. This to give a positive input in the discussion how things could and should improve in Croatia.
- Twelve young people (aged 13 – 21 years) were trained by two of their Dutch peers in youth participation, representing young people's opinion and in the Quality4Children standards. These trained youth presented the standards in a meeting of stakeholders in Zagreb.
- Young people participated in all project activities and contributed significantly to the two conferences, the working visit, the presentation of the Quality4Children standards to stakeholders and the magazine.
- Ten young people formed a youth in care network group. A special part of the Forum website is reserved for young people. The latter will be further developed into a youth exchange website/forum in 2009.
- Two of the young people participated in a 'European Union Youth in Action training', organised by the same trainers that went to Croatia to train the group in May 2008. Young people from nine European countries took part and designed action plans for their countries. The young Croatians presented their action plan during the national conference in November 2008.

### **Main challenges in 2008:**

The project has so far resulted in bringing a group of active foster parents together representing foster parents associations and a group of young people from around the country. The group members work on a voluntary basis, combining this additional work with their duties at home, where they often take care of large families with children with special needs. The young people also have their work and study and cannot always give time to the project activities. In addition to the challenges this poses, the project team was faced with the illness of the project leader and had to find a suitable replacement. It took some time to find a working structure that suited all parties.

Despite these difficulties the team was successful and during the course of the year created a great deal of awareness about foster care and the contribution both foster parents and young people can make to improving foster care, both in terms of day to day practice as well as at policy level and training and education of a range of stakeholders, including professionals. The aforementioned conferences were well attended (up to 100 registrations: 50% foster parents/ youth and 50% professionals -social workers and others) and assisted in creating better understanding between foster parents and social workers.

The relation with the policy makers of the Ministry is growing stronger. One of the goals of 2009 is to ensure that this leads to successful implementation of the Forum campaign to raise the profile of foster care in Croatia. This in turn should lead to improvements in legislation and regulations, as well better cooperation between stakeholders. Two Ministry officials have accepted the invitation to come to the Netherlands for a study visit in March 2009.

## Suriname: Children in Suriname Programme & Young in the Caribbean Newsletter

- Programme goal:** • To strengthen the capacity and collaboration among agencies – mainly NGOs - working with and on behalf of children and youth in Suriname and in the Caribbean.
- 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 & Stichting Kinderpostzegels

### **Main achievements in 2008:**

For well over a decade ICDI has been promoting the Children in Suriname Programme (CiSP). What started as an idea of a few pioneers has now been grown into a multi-faceted programme implemented by a range of strong NGOs. These organizations have been able to contribute significantly to child welfare practice and policy in Suriname. The organizations involved in the CiSP are:

Association of Private Social Institutions (Vereniging van Particuliere Sociale Instellingen/VPSI), Paramaribo; an advocacy body that looks after the interests of children around the country and particularly of those living in institutions;  
Klimop (Climb up), Paramaribo; a training agency for people working with young children;  
Surinamese Foster Care Foundation (Stichting Pleeggezinnen Centrale Suriname/SPCS), Paramaribo; the first and only organization promoting foster care as an alternative to adoption or institutionalization and recently,  
SPCOS, an NGO that offers educational services, including to those living in remote areas.

Initially, the Children in Suriname Programme was completely financed by the Schiefbaan Hovius Foundation and it is certainly thanks to their generous and long-term support that these organizations have taken off. Now they have wider donor base and have become less dependent on one single donor. Another important reason for the success of the organizations is that from the start an effort was made to embed the Surinamese NGOs within a wider framework, namely that of the Caribbean region. The rationale for this regional 'embedding' was to allow for a validation of knowledge and experiences in the region rather than – by default - in the Netherlands. Oftentimes Dutch and Surinamese experience and knowledge are compared and this comparison tends to have a negative effect on Surinamese NGOs, their staff and their work.

### **Main challenges in 2008:**

Schiefbaan Hovius will continue their support for another two years. At present we are therefore looking hard for ways to generate income from other sources. This will not be easy as the government is notoriously slow in implementing its own social policies and in putting money where its mouth is.

**Dear readers!**

As I am writing this to you all, I am thinking about a football match I watched a few days ago in Paramaribo. Kids from the Para Junior League gave their all on the field and went on to win against national champions in a fund-raising event attended by hundreds of enthusiasts.

But that wasn't the real victory.

The joy for me was to see the success of season's efforts of the league that kicked off a year ago. Last October, 640 kids between the ages 9 and 13 joined teams named after values and promised to stick with those values.

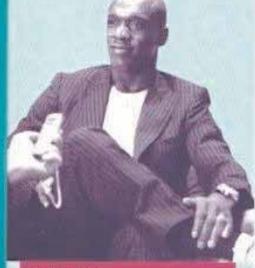
Football, and sport in general, is a powerful tool to make a change and educate youth. My dream has always been to give back to the world and especially to children, by supporting education through sport to help build a brighter future and teach authentic life skills, community involvement and values.

Naturally, my means to do this is football. But any initiative that combines sport and education has the potential to positively affect children's lives and provide a real focus which reinforces my belief of prevention, not just remedy.

The Para Junior League is overseen by the organization Future With Values (FUWVVA), a local organization with an eleven-member board. FUWVVA and the Para Junior League are sponsored by Champions for Children, a non-profit foundation I created to sustain, help, educate, protect and support the conditions in which children and young people grow up.

In this publication there are a series of initiatives with the same drive, but different methods. I hope to see the impact of these projects each and every time I return, as we lead our youth to reach their full potential and achieve their goals.

With warmest regards,  
Clarence Clyde Seedorf



**On the cover**  
Young readers of the Children's Book Festival

**Juvenile Pre-trial Detention Facility Opa Doeli**



The circumstances under which young offenders in Suriname were detained until recently in Suriname were very poor. This changed when the Opa Doeli Transit Centre was built in 2007. It is used as a prison for youth who are in detention on remand (awaiting their trial). The centre can accommodate 54 boys and 14 girls. The children in this centre can attend school normally within the walls of the centre.

Opa Doeli has several facilities under its roof: it houses in the area of juvenile justice:

- The Youth Detention Centre;
- The Police Department of Youth Affairs/Suriname;
- Judicial Child Protection Section Youth Prison (JKB);
- An office of the elementary school/ Draaibredingsgraft;
- The Department of Human Trafficking;
- The office of the commissioner of the Opa Doeli Centre.

Most of these institutions are one location, juvenile justice procedures can be completed more smoothly. No yes in place, but general for the year there are a juvenile justice judge, a juvenile justice officer of justice and a physician.

The purpose of the Opa Doeli Transit Centre is to provide the youth with the skills to defend themselves against criminal influences. The young prisoners should feel safe and protected, leaving there is someone they can turn to for support in resolving problems.

The centre doesn't look like a prison. The walls are painted in bright colours and there are stuffed animals and other toys in a play corner. The tables and chairs also have different colours, to create a child-friendly atmosphere.

The psychologist Dr. Jansen was presented figures during the reintroduction which was held when Opa Doeli was opened demonstrating that 80% of young delinquents who have left a correctional facility 100 days in the state criminal institution. Dr. Jansen says and the high percentage could increase) be explained by the poor development of conscience of this group of young people and family situation, the negative effects of being in an institution, and a lack of education. The psychologist also notes complex on the one aspect, stressing the importance of a humane educational system.

The Centre was named after Cornelia Albertine Doeli. Doeli was also known as 'Grenadi Doeli'. Cornelia Doeli was a police officer during the first half of the 20th century when she was known for her way to help young people with problems to get their lives back on track again.

Contact: Opa Doeli Transit Centre, Police department Youth Affairs Suriname, coordinator: Ms. Savelinde Conner Linsagrecht / J.A. Pongkhalat, Paramaribo, Suriname, S.A. Tel. : +597 480915.

The sad thing is still that these crucial services still have to rely on external funding.

Another initiative within the Children in Suriname Programme is the bi-annual bulletin Young in the Caribbean published by Tabiki in Paramaribo. Initially the bulletin was financed by Shiefbaan Hovius, later by the DOB Foundation. Again, the original idea was to validate Surinamese experience in the wider Caribbean context, and although this initiative was widely appreciated, it became obvious that Young in the Caribbean needed to be revamped and should become a truly Caribbean vehicle for important information to those professionals working with children and youth who are in a position to impact larger networks. To this end, the editorial board has changed; Rona Jualla- Ali, an education sociologist from Trinidad and Tobago has now become the editor in chief, while Auldrie Henry-Lee, a child psychologist of the West Indies has also joined the board. Young in the Caribbean will be jointly published by Salises of the University of the West Indies and ICDI, this with financial inputs from the Kinderpostzegels Foundation from The Netherlands.

Introductory note for Young in the Caribbean by Clarence Seedorf, Dutch football player and star of Italian football club AC Milan. Seedorf also chairs his own foundation that amongst many things, builds sports facilities for disadvantaged youth.

Young in the Caribbean will be also used as a platform for actions such as the organization of thematic workshops, research and interventions benefiting children in this part of the world. We envisage a range of partners will be involved in these kinds of activities, including those from Suriname. Thus, instead of 'pushing' Suriname into the Caribbean, we will now try to 'pull' them in and become active and contributing players in a wider comprehensive programme. Although the Surinamese NGOs do beautiful and meaningful work, it has proven difficult to capitalise on their synergetic potential; working together largely remains an elusive goal. It is hoped that by strengthening their roots in the region, this will indeed happen.

## 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 – 31 December, 2008
- Financed by:** • USAID, through United Nations Development Programme - Action for Cooperation and Trust (UNDP-ACT)

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 increasingly becoming less interested in bi-communal projects. This 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 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 aimed to contribute to the creation of more sustainable and effective forms of multicultural youth camps in Cyprus through a range of activities.

### **Project activities were 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 2008:**

- In April we organized the second round of training for camp coordinators, camp instructors and youth leaders (in total 57 people took part). During three days trainers from the Greek Cypriot, Turkish Cypriot and international community led workshops on various topics, such as conflict resolution, facilitation skills, communication skills, and the use of sport, drama and music for creating mutual trust. Participants evaluated the training very positively.
- Six meetings of the 'Cyprus Network for Youth Development' were held, a network created within the context of this project. In 2008 we really managed to get this island wide network off the ground. A total of 12 organizations are currently actively working on improving their joint cooperation, with the overall aim to provide the youth of Cyprus an open forum to voice needs and concerns.
- The international conference 'The Potential of Youth to build Peace in a Multicultural Society' was held on 16 and 17 May in Nicosia. International and Cypriot speakers talked about how young people can contribute to building peace on the island. Approximately 80 people participated.
- In December we published the much awaited and highly acclaimed manual 'Multicultural Youth Camp Models'. In this manual multicultural youth camp models for four different age groups (9 to 12, 12 to 16, 16 to 20 & 20 to 25) are presented. There also many practical exercises and games included.
- Cypriot youth made a visit to Israel, to get first hand experience of how bi-communal activities for Arab and Jewish children and youngsters are organized there. Other Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot camp organizers visited several interesting international seminars and conferences.

### **Main challenges in 2008:**

A lot of challenges were faced in the course of this project. They ranged from logistical, time to cultural constraints. We had originally planned to organize a multicultural youth camp ourselves, to test one of the above mentioned models. In the end we had to let this idea go; there simply was no time to organize this properly. It is expected that a number of the models will be “tested” by the Cypriot youth camp organizations in the coming summers. Despite the challenges we can conclude that overall the project was successful and most of the objectives were reached. As such, the project partners have made a small contribution to the ongoing peace process on the island as well as to the overall well-being of Cyprus’ young people. If you would like to know more about this project, the Cyprus Network for Youth Development, or the manual ‘Multicultural Youth Camp Models’, please visit [www.multiculturalcyprus.org](http://www.multiculturalcyprus.org).



Young Turkish Cypriots and Greek Cypriots discussing issues at the international conference ‘The Potential of Youth to build Peace in a Multicultural Society’. 16 and 17 May in Nicosia.

**Doing what we can, so that children can...** relax and play, and can join in a wide range of activities, and ... gain equal access to opportunities, programmes and services regardless of race, religion, abilities; and whatever they think or say, whatever type of family they come from.

It was a joy to see: young Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriots laughing and shouting, as they were participating in relay games organized by the trainers from World Child Kosovo. When a ball fell out of a spoon, or a participant dropped behind, the others would spur them on. And equally inspiring was it to hear and see young Cypriots from both communities discussing what their contribution could and should be in bringing peace to the island.

These were just some of the activities we organized in the project 'Multicultural Youth Camp Trainings in Cyprus'. What seems so simple is actually quite complex: Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot children and youngsters don't play with each other. In fact, they never meet one another. Several organizations from both sides of the island try to address this gap by organizing bi-communal camps in the summer. Although these camps don't bring peace to the island, and not all the children that do take part immediately become best friends forever, it is thought to contribute to the overall peace process. And it gives children from both communities a chance to play together, and to get to know one another a bit better.

*Leisure, recreation and cultural activities (CRC Article 31)*

*The child has the right to leisure, play and participation in cultural and artistic activities.*

*Non-discrimination (CRC Article 2)*

*The CRC applies to all children, whatever their race, religion or abilities; whatever they think or say, whatever type of family they come from. It doesn't matter where children live, what language they speak, what their parents do, whether they are boys or girls, what their culture is, whether they have a disability or whether they are rich or poor. No child should be treated unfairly on any basis.*

## Bulgaria: Enhanced Capacity in Child Protection in Bulgaria

- Project goal:**
- To support Bulgaria in improving child welfare by improving the cooperation between different Bulgarian stakeholders and establishing a training programme within the Bulgarian Agency for Social Assistance
- Project partners:**
- NJI, Utrecht
  - Movisie, Utrecht
  - Agency for Social Assistance, Sofia Bulgaria
- Project duration:**
- 1 October, 2008 – 30 June, 2009
- Financed by:**
- Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, via EVD, Ministry of Economic Affairs

This project supports the Agency for Social Assistance (an executive structure of the Bulgarian Ministry of Labour and Social Policy) to develop its training programmes for social workers at the 148 child protection departments around the country; it also includes intensive training component where more than 225 social workers and other professionals working with children take place.

### **Main achievements in 2008:**

Three training sessions for more than 150 participants took place in Sofia, Shumen and Pazardzhik. These training sessions were meant to form the beginning of a process of 'evolving training content', i.e. each session was designed to serve as an upgrade of the previous one. But the participants have already evaluated highly the initial sessions, which means we are already having an positive impact at this early stage.

### **Main challenges in 2008:**

The main challenge so far has been the limited resources at the disposal of the local counterpart. This created logistical difficulties in the beginning, but we are happy to report that the organisation of training sessions improved with each new session. The apparent interest of the participants in more than one training theme and the clear demands for follow up has created a challenge of its own for our Bulgarian counterpart.



Training session for Bulgarian social workers

## Serbia: Begin at the Beginning; Promoting Early Childhood Development through Community-based Initiatives

- Project goals:**
- To stimulate, support and expand adequate Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) provision in five high-risk areas in the country;
  - To improve the access of children to these provisions and support children and their parents in exercising the right to ECEC; and
  - 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:**
- Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs

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 2008:**

- The training of a Core Group of stakeholders were completed and now this group, consisting of local teams, functions at the five project locations.
- The local teams have started implementing extensive training programmes for preschool teachers, parents and community leaders.
- An exciting study visit to Slovakia took place; relevant good practices were presented to the Core Group;
- The process of preparation for mini-projects has started, and the experience gained in Slovakia as well as the resource materials developed in 2008 are proving to be very useful.

### **Main challenges in 2008:**

The political uncertainty in the country remains and this is felt in the contacts with the central administration; so far, the project team has been able to overcome this issue by collaborating more actively with the local administrations. A 'change of the guard' at the funding agency caused some delay, but this delay has been made up for since.

## Turkey: No Child Left Behind

- Project goal:**
- To assist Turkey in adapting the EU standards on early childhood education and meeting international obligations in relation to the rights of women and children.
- Project partners:**
- Turkish Ministry of Education, Ankara
  - Dutch Ministry of OCW (Education, Culture, Science)
  - Sardes, Utrecht
- Project duration:**
- 1 January, 2008 – 31 December, 2009
- Financed by:**
- Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs

In this project the Dutch and Turkish partners aim to try out several new forms of Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) services in Turkey to improve the quality of early childhood education in the country and to increase the enrolment of young children into these provisions. ICDI is a sub-contracted partner in this project, under the lead of Sardes. Our role is, among others, to give practical assistance to the Ministry of Education and local schools in the implementation of pilot models of ECEC.

### Five project results are to be achieved:

- 1 Selection of Early Childhood Education and Care models to be piloted in Turkey.
- 2 Ministry of Education able to implement the models in pilot situations.
- 3 A minimum of two and a maximum of four pilots projects on ECEC implemented.
- 4 Pilot projects have been properly evaluated.
- 5 The evaluation results are disseminated among all relevant stakeholders.

### Main achievements in 2008:

Until now the most tangible results have been the fruitful visit of Turkish representatives to the Netherlands. During their stay (in October 2008) they got a good taste of Early Childhood Education and Care provisions in our country, and this led to interesting and promising ideas for pilot projects in Turkey. In addition, some progress was made in creating concrete action plans for trying out different ECEC models.

### Main challenges in 2008:

As can be concluded from the above, the time needed to develop ideas and implement pilot projects is much longer than anticipated. The reasons for this are manifold, but it is clear that it will not be easy to achieve all the planned results within the set time period. All partners are working hard to overcome this problem



Turkish preschool children

**Doing what we can, so that children can...**learn and benefit from their own cultural background.

For two-and-a-half years every second Saturday ICDI's office looked differently: kids –running, and playing, and smiling, and talking loudly- and their parents -equally exited but then in the way adults show it- gathered in the early afternoon for a regular session of the Bulgarian school in the Netherlands. These gatherings provided a lot of inspiration for ICDI staff, since the school classes were the only regular activity which engaged children in the building of the former orphanage. The school started here as a non-formal initiative of a group of parents who wanted to provide a chance to their children to socialize in their native tongue and, hopefully, to learn something about the culture, history, geography and literature of their – or often their parents' – country. The hospitality provided by ICDI, allowed the school to get on its feet, to triple in size, to professionalize and to take its first step in direction of formalizing its status. The growth of the school, combined with the started reconstruction work in the building made the ICDI premises less and less suitable and it has been decided to move the school to another location in January 2009. But hopefully this is not the end of the story ... both the school and ICDI are looking forward to cooperating and giving a new meaning of the established relationship. There are already several ideas for research cooperation; one of the topics to study might be the process of formalizing of educational setting established as non-formal one, and the influence of the native language Sunday schools (or Saturday schools, for that matter) on language proficiency and integration of bilingual children in the Netherlands.

*Children of minorities/indigenous groups (CRC Article 30)*

*Minority or indigenous children have the right to learn about and practice their own culture, language and religion. The right to practice one's own culture, language and religion applies to everyone; the Convention here highlights this right in instances where the practices are not shared by the majority of people in the country.*



Saturday afternoon at the Bulgarian School in the Netherlands, ICDI office

# 5 Projects in the Netherlands

## Wijken voor Kinderen (Neighbourhoods for Kids)<sup>1</sup>

<b>Project Goal:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To explore the situation of violence among youth on the streets in different neighbourhoods using a participatory approach</li></ul>
<b>Project Partners:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cardea Youth Care</li><li>• Young Offenders Institute Teylingereind</li></ul>
<b>Project duration:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• April 2008 – January 2009</li></ul>
<b>Financed by:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cardea Youth Care</li><li>• Young Offenders Institute Teylingereind</li></ul>

### **Main achievements in 2008:**

Eight young people from Cardea and Teylingereind actively participated in this pilot project. In July, they received a training about doing research and interviewing techniques by Stichting Alexander. The youth designed their own questionnaire and conducted interviews with youth on the streets in the following cities: Leiden, Katwijk, Alphen aan de Rijn, Haarlem and Bijlmer (part of Amsterdam). One young person distributed the questionnaire among her contacts via e-mail.

The youth analysed the results and made a 10-point action plan. Youth from ROC (Regional Education Centre) Leiden made a short film about the project based on the action plan.

The action plan was discussed during a meeting in October with Gerda van den Berg (alderman of Leiden), as well as other staff from the city council of Leiden, staff from Cardea and from Teylingereind. Press from two local newspapers were present and wrote an article.

A promotional booklet was made about the project.

In December, a final meeting was held for local organizations working in the field of youth and safety to discuss the steps they could take from the 10-point action plan. The mayor of Leiden was also present and said he would like to discuss the results with other cities.

### **Main challenges in 2008:**

Overall, it was a challenge to meet the expectations of all partners of this project. This project was a participatory research project which led to changing some key aspects of the project proposal. For example, the youth who participated in this project made it clear that they would like to do research in the neighbourhoods where they come from as well as the neighbourhoods that had originally been proposed. The focus of the interviews was mainly on the experiences from youth and less on those of adults working with youth. There were also some practical challenges in relation to working with youth from the youth prison. For example, three youth who had been actively involved in the project were transferred to another location in other provinces. Fortunately, the youth remained committed to the project to the very end.

<sup>1</sup> There is a play with words in the project title which is lost in translation: 'Wijken' in Dutch means both 'neighbourhoods' as well as 'making space (for)'.  


### **Doing what we can, so children can ... participate!**

Children are entitled to the freedom to express opinions and to have a say in matters affecting their social, economic, religious, cultural and political life. Roger Hart has developed a 'Ladder of Children's Participation', a model representing increasing degrees of children participation<sup>2</sup>. According to Hart, many projects claiming to involve children can be categorised as non-participation because children are manipulated, used as decoration or tokenized. A project can only be called truly participatory when:

- The children understand the intentions of the project;
- They know who made the decisions concerning their involvement and why;
- They have a meaningful (rather than 'decorative') role;
- They volunteer for the project after the project was made clear to them.

In the case of the project 'Wijken voor Kinderen', we could say that this project on the whole was 'adult initiated- shared decisions by children' (6th rung of the ladder). However, some activities, such as the making of the film, could be labeled as 'child initiated and directed' (7th rung of the ladder). Projects on the highest rung of the ladder ('child initiated – shared decisions with adults') are rare. According to Hart, the reason is not a lack of interest on behalf of young people. Rather the absence of caring adults attuned to the particular interests of young people!

#### *Right to participation (CRC Article 12)*

*States Parties shall assure to the child who is capable of forming his or her own views the right to express those views freely in all matters affecting the child, the views of the child being given due weight in accordance with the age and maturity of the child.*

#### *Right to Freedom of Expression (CRC Article 13)*

*The child shall have the right to freedom of expression; this right shall include freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers, either orally, in writing or in print, in the form of art, or through any other media of the child's choice.*



*Young interviewers questioning their peers about violence in their neighbourhood in Haarlem. Project Wijken voor Kinderen.*

<sup>2</sup> Roger A. Hart (1992). Children's participation. From tokenism to citizenship. UNICEF International Child Development Centre. Florence, Italy.

## Distinguished Fellows Programme

<b>Project Goal:</b>	• Improving Early Childhood Education and Care in South Sudan
<b>Project Partners:</b>	• Plan Netherlands • Plan South Sudan
<b>Project duration:</b>	• February-April 2008
<b>Financed by:</b>	• Plan Netherlands

The Distinguished Fellows Programme is a Plan supported ICCYS activity, that runs from 2006 to 2009. Each year two important child and youth care professionals are invited to the Netherlands to stay here for a period of three months. They can use this time to further increase their professional skills and networks, and to work on relevant proposals for their home countries.

It was a great pleasure to welcome Angelo Lubang Jada Paterno from South Sudan as part of the Plan fellowship programme. He visited ICDI between February and April 2008, staying in a house next door to the ICDI office. This year the fellowship was organized slightly differently as Plan Netherlands was asked to identify the person who would come to the Netherlands. It was decided that Angelo would come for 'an internship on Early Child Development and Livelihood' and stay at ICDI while reserving one day a week for Plan Netherlands.

During his stay Angelo worked on a proposal for a five-year project that seeks to build up community-based Early Childhood Education and Care capacity in the three marginalized regions of Lainya and Terekeka, and Juba. He also thought hard about how to improve the network of and cooperation between the various stakeholders of child care in South Sudan and started working on this whilst in the Netherlands by reaching out to the Sudanese community in the Netherlands, Brussels and other countries in Europe. Angelo managed to bring a range of relevant stakeholders together and rally support for the causes of children in South Sudan. We sincerely hope that he will use his talents to organize similar gatherings in Sudan.

*"Spending three months with ICDI and Plan Netherlands, sharing experiences, studying and opening up Networks deepened my understanding of education of children and child welfare. I feel that the time spent was of great benefit to me as an individual, to our programmes in South Sudan and to the communities we are working with to ensure development, promoting child rights, protection and alleviating poverty. These three months in Netherlands with ICDI have widened my understanding in the area of Early Childhood Education and Care, right based programming, lobby and advocacy. Experiences from different fields support my duty and the needs of the children to be met. It was good to meet different people from different backgrounds."*

Angelo Paterno Jada Lubang



After his stay with ICDI Angelo became the father of a beautiful baby girl. And he named her...Nina!!!  
(named after Nina von der Assen, one of ICDI's programme managers)

## 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:** • October 2008 – September 2009
- Financed by:** • Liberty Foundation

The Partnership Programme provides professional coaching to people from transitional and developing countries working in the fields of education, child and youth welfare and child protection. 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 leads 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. The visitor can rely on our commitment as well as 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 2008:

Bernard Outah from the Undugu Society of Kenya and Tewabe Yizengaw from Maedot, Ethiopia joined the ICDI team for three weeks in April 2007. Both Undugu and Maedot are members of the Educaids linking and learning network and ICDI and Educaids worked closely in the selection of the two partners as well as on the organisation of their programme in the Netherlands. Part of the funding for the visit of the two partners was provided by Educaids. Both partners both worked on research proposals on HIV and AIDS related education for young people in their countries and funding for the implementation of their research will be provided by ICCO. Soon after this visit took place, we welcomed Muhammad Saleem Malik from the local NGO Bedari, Pakistan, who worked on a proposal to improve girls' education. Last but not least, Joseph Gona from KEMRI, Kenya came to ICDI to work on a proposal for community based rehabilitation for handicapped children in the Kifili district.

### **Main challenges in 2008:**

There were no major challenges with the programme itself, but securing funding for the project proposals that resulted from the visits remains a challenge for the partners as well as for ICDI.

## International Centre for Child and Youth Studies (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 2008, ICDI was involved in the following activities that took place under the ICCYS umbrella:

### *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)

As in previous years, participants from around the world successfully completed the ten-week Children and Youth Development (CYD) diploma course. In 2008, the course took place between the months of April and June. In total 18 mid-career professionals from 14 countries in Africa, Asia, Europe, South and North America took part. The professional background of the students was equally diverse; the CYD class of 2008 included people working for international and national organizations, teachers, and government officials.

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

During the ten weeks the participants were exposed to an intense programme, including: 30 lectures, eight guest lectures, five presentations by participants, one special seminar on Newly Emerging Needs of children and youth, eight movies (as part of the weekly CYD film series) plus five in-class films, eight study visits. In addition, there were numerous group meetings, and hundreds of photographs were taken, countless jokes shared, and a few sleepless nights were had when students were frantically writing their final assignments.

## Connecting People

- Project goal:** • To acquaint CYD students with the child and youth welfare sector in the Netherlands and Europe.
- Project duration:** • Ongoing (since 2004)
- Financed by:** • Stichting Dijkverzwaring

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. This year we took a different direction by visiting Berlin instead of Ghent and Brussels.

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

### In the Netherlands:

- 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'.
- A speaker and management expert, Con Hogan, from Maine USA, came to speak to the group about empowering civil society.
- The Glenn Mills School welcomed us despite being involved in a national controversy about the methods used in this institution.

### In Berlin:

- Meeting at Sozialpädagogische Fortbildung Berlin-Brandenburg.
- Meeting with Vera Bethge and Michaela Raab from Neukölln District Office.
- Meeting at "Mädchenzentrum Szenenwechsel" (girls' centre).
- Visit of Day Care Centres and Youth-work Initiatives, which focus on youth gangs, teenage pregnancy and young mothers. This was in several districts in Berlin.
- INA-Berlin (Die Internationale Akademie (INA) für innovative Pädagogik, Psychologie und Ökonomie) welcomed us and organized visits to various Early Child Care Provisions of INA Kindergartens.
- Lecture at INA headquarters on Child Care in Berlin, Discussion on Book Bridging Diversity.
- Walking tour through Berlin Centre.
- Visit to Bundestag Terrace.

## Plan Netherlands-ICDI Partnership



**Plan**

Voor de toekomst  
van een kind

**Project duration:** • November 2006 – November 2009  
**Financed by:** • Plan Netherlands

The partnership formally went into effect on the 1st of November 2006, and was intended to last for an initial period of three years. Several expected benefits from the partnership were defined for both ICDI and Plan. For ICDI these benefits include the following: the possibility to contribute to the development of the knowledge base on child development through research, to establish the National 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 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).

Some of the achievements resulting from the partnership in 2008 were:

- Plan's financial support for ICDI's staff capacity continued to be of great importance. Already in 2007 we reported that the addition of Mathijs Euwema and Esther Miedema had increased the organizational capacity of ICDI, enabling us to – in a nutshell – do more, such as attracting funds for new projects. This in turn led to recruitment of Nina von der Assen as programme manager at the end of 2007, which meant that in 2008 we could take on even more projects. We really feel that the "core" funding we received from Plan has helped us to strengthen our organization on all levels: greater visibility and recognition, increased funding, more projects, more professionalism, and, once again, more staff: at the end of 2008 we recruited Annabel Trapp as programme manager for another programme we are in the process of developing, namely the International Palestinian Children Initiative.
- The visit of Angelo Lubang, staff member of Plan South Sudan, who stayed with ICDI as visiting fellow from January until April 2008 (see the section on Distinguished Fellow Programme).
- ICDI was one of the signatories of the Schokland akkoord. ICDI, together with among others, Plan and Defense for Children International, is member of the working group that has regular meetings with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In 2008 there were many meetings with the VAC work group, and under the inspiring lead of Plan this led to the conception of the Schokland proposal to improve child protection in Kenya. It is hoped that this joint project will start in 2009.
- On 23 June ICDI consultant Rona Julia Ali and Mathijs Euwema held presentations on the Plan organized seminar about the use of creativity and arts in dealing with violence against children.
- In addition, ICDI's consultant Rona Julia Ali and Nico van Oudenhoven carried out a Plan supported study on violence against children in Nicaragua in the beginning of the year. Their report is available at Plan.

Overall conclusions:

The partnership agreement between Plan and ICDI continues to benefit both organizations. In fact, we feel confident in saying that in the past two years the relationship between the two organizations has become very good. We work together on many different issues, and this cooperation runs very smoothly and is leading to interesting and important new projects for children growing up in difficult circumstances.

## 6 Research projects

In 2008, we were involved in two long-term research projects.

### Universal Psychosocial Indicator – UPSI-5

- Project goal:** • To develop a universally applicable instrument that provides an indication of the psychosocial wellbeing of 5-year-old children.
- Project duration:** • January 2007 – June 2009
- Financed by:** • Plan Netherlands (within the framework of the partnership agreement)

At present, the health of children is assessed by a range of ‘rough-and ready’ indicators measuring either physical health (the infant mortality rate/IMR and under-five mortality rate/U5MR) or 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.

In 2008, we continued our field studies, with which we had started at the end of 2007. In cooperation with various partners we tested the UPSI tool in the Netherlands, India, Bulgaria, and Japan. The psychosocial well-being of hundreds of children was assessed by their teachers. Although it is too early to say anything definitive - seeing the UPSI-5 research has yet to be concluded and is expected to draw to an end in June 2009 - we are optimistic that it will be possible to develop an instrument that can assess psychosocial well-being of 5 year old children from different cultural settings around the world.



ICDI's Rutger working with primary school teachers in Tokyo, Japan. UPSI 5 research project.

## Rethinking Childhood and the New and Emerging Needs of Children and Youth (NEN)

- Project goal:** • To advance understanding of the shifts in life worlds of children and young people, and the new challenges and problems these shifts bring with them.
- Project duration:** • January 2004 – January 2008
- Financed by:** • Plan Netherlands

The three-year research project 'Rethinking childhood and the New and Emerging Needs of Children' focused on identifying localised, singular as well as global phenomena affecting the lives of children, and particularly those for which policymakers, researchers and practitioners have not yet found adequate responses (if, indeed, they are aware of these new trends at all).

Country studies in which numerous young people took part were conducted in year one and year two of this research project. Dissemination of the NEN research results continued in 2008. Findings were shared during seminars attended by diverse audience, including academics, students, policy makers and NGO staff. Nico van Oudenhoven presented research results during seminars in Bucharest, Romania (organized by the Civil Society Development Foundation); in Sofia, Bulgaria (organized by the Free and Democratic Bulgaria Foundation); the New Bulgaria University in Sofia; the Central American University in Managua, Nicaragua; and with the participants of the regional Child-Rights Research Conference in Kingston, Jamaica. Rekha Wazir presented a paper on NENs with a special emphasis on India at the conference on Universalizing Social Security in Asia held in New Delhi from 17-18 February, 2008. This paper, entitled 'Newly Emerging Needs of Children: Towards Widening the Policy Agenda in South Asia' was published in the Indian Journal of Human Development, Vol. 1, No. 3.

The European Social Fund approved a project proposal jointly submitted by the Civil Society Development Foundation (Romania), the Slovak Children and Youth Foundation (Slovak Republic) and ICDI, which foresees a national dissemination of results of NEN researches in both Romania and the Slovak Republic based on country studies that will be conducted in both countries.

The publication 'Newly Emerging Needs: An Exploration' (Van Oudenhoven & Wazir, 2006) was translated into Bulgarian and Portuguese, and a Russian translation is being negotiated.

## 7 Other ICDI activities

### ***Living Room seminar ‘MATRA Children and Youth Projects: Lessons Learned’***

On October 1st, ICDI and the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs organized a Living Room seminar titled ‘MATRA Children and Youth Projects: Lessons Learned’. Approximately 30 people took part in the seminar, most of them representatives of Dutch organizations that have implemented or are implementing MATRA funded projects relating to children and youth issues. The afternoon started with a few opening words by Mathijs Euwema, director of ICDI, and a speech by Bert Meijerman, head of MATRA at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Two young persons and a teacher from Romania, who were the beneficiaries of a MATRA project, gave a short presentation on their experiences and answered questions raised by seminar participants. Prior to the seminar a questionnaire had been distributed to MATRA implementing organizations in various Eastern European countries with the aim to document and learn from their experiences; the results of this mapping exercise were presented during the seminar. A plenary discussion about key ‘lessons learned’ for MATRA children and youth projects focused on three issues: collaboration between MATRA implementing organizations, involving children and youth and sustainability of the projects. ICDI would like to thank all the participants for making this afternoon a success!



Romanian students and their teacher presenting their project at the Matra conference

### ***Training for Albanian Child Psychologists***

From 23 to 27 June ICDI's Esther Miedema organized a training for 13 school psychologists, funded by USAID via the organization World Learning Albania. These psychologists play a vital role in the child protection system in Albania, which is currently under intensive reform. Albanian children face a wide range of problems, most notably child trafficking, and sexual and physical abuse. The main objective of the training was to inspire and provide the participants (new) insights in how to further improve childcare in their country. During the week they attended lectures from experts from the Dutch youth care system and visited various youth care related organizations. The training was evaluated very positively. Hopefully the trainees will be able to make use of the experience they gained in the Netherlands.



Mathijs doing a chair dance with the Albanian trainees

### **Early Childhood Development in Russia**

Nico contributed to a seminar on ECD organised by The World Bank in Moscow and shared his ideas on the 'Golden Triangle' in which he argues that the informal, non-formal and formal education could mutually benefit each other; a paper on this subject is now in press for wider circulation in Russia. The English version 'Early Childhood Education and its Golden Triangle of Informal, Non-formal and Formal Approaches' is available at ICDI's website.

In the wake of this seminar, he and Rona Jualla Ali participated in an international team of specialists lead by The World Bank to work with local authorities in the Siberian region of Khanty-Mansiysk to review the ECD situation there. ICDI's activities drew the attention of the public media and were also widely reported in the regional education journal.

**Doing what we can, so that children can...** be encouraged to reach the highest level of education that they are capable of, and that their personality and talents develop to the full.

The three summer months are scorching hot and infested with mosquitoes, the winters are barren and cold, reaching degrees over -40 C, and yet there are plenty of young families living in the autonomous region of Khanty Mansyisk in Siberia. Like parents everywhere, and perhaps even more so, the parents in this region wish the best for their children. One outstanding provision, to which they hold on dearly, is their kindergartens. These institutions are truly wonderful places for young children to be in. They offer a range of excellent provisions and services: gardens to tend to -even in winter-, theatres, swimming pools, music and chess lessons, dance and art classes and of course, the regular literacy and numeracy stuff.

Now with the world-wide-supported Education for All (EFA) movement to extend basic schools downwards to include five- and four-year olds and essentially turning boys and girls into pupils at a younger age, it is re-assuring to see that the people in Khanty-Mansiysk stick to their kindergartens with all their might. They indeed respect the so-often lauded, but hardly adhered to, 'whole child' and 'holistic development'. It is only hoped that their example will find a following.

#### **Right to education (CRC, Article 28)**

*The child has a right to education, and the State's duty is to ensure that primary education is free and compulsory, to encourage different forms of secondary education accessible to every child and to make higher education available to all on the basis of capacity. School discipline shall be consistent with the child's rights and dignity. The State shall engage in international co-operation to implement this right.*

#### **Aims of education (CRC, Article 29)**

*Education shall aim at developing the child's personality, talents and mental and physical abilities to the fullest extent. Education shall prepare the child for an active adult life in a free society and foster respect for the child's parents, his or her own cultural identity, language and values, and for the cultural background and values of others.*

### **Early Childhood Development in Poland**

Nico contributed to a national seminar on ECD organized by the Comenius Foundation where he elaborated on the 'Golden Triangle' ideas, which promote the notion of an structural interlinking of informal, non-formal and formal ECD approaches (see also ECD in Russia).

### **Violence against Children**

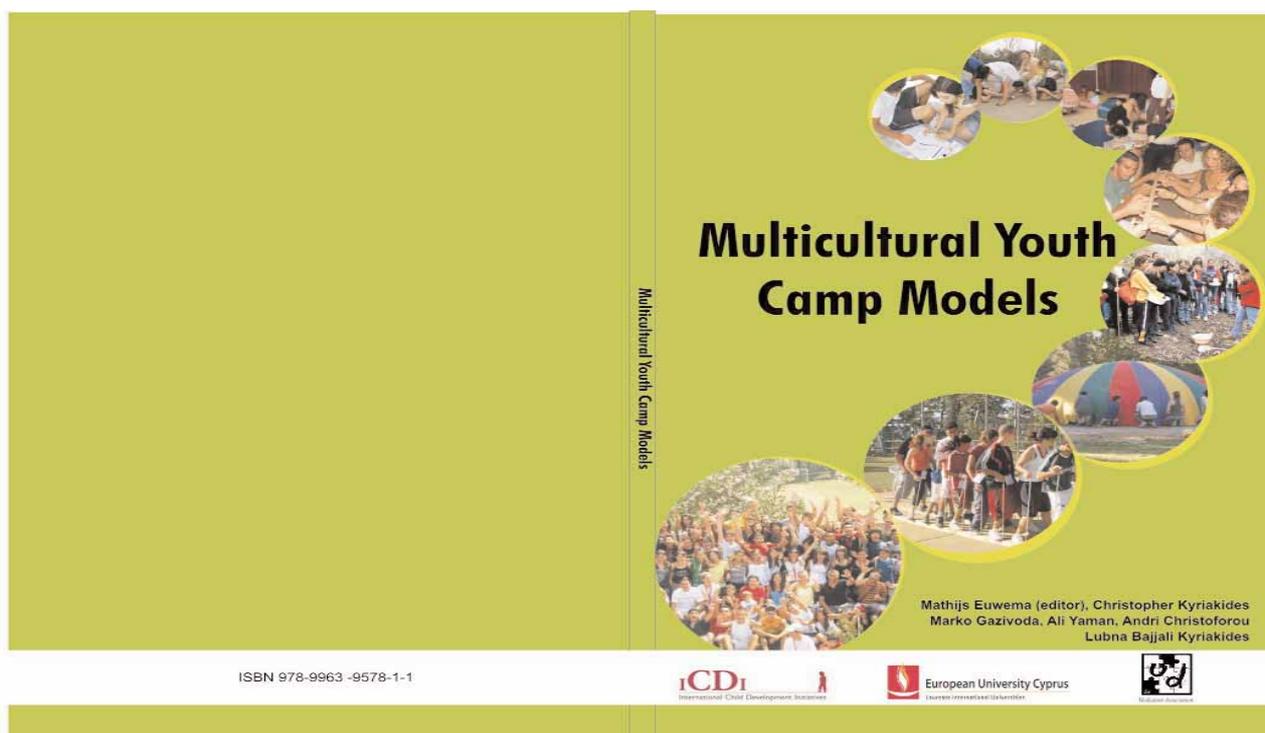
Rona Julia-Ali and Nico wrote a paper on the research on 'antidotes against violence' they carried out in Nicaragua and Trinidad: 'Lowering the Tolerance towards Violence against Children; Lessons from Nicaragua and Trinidad & Tobago'. The paper is currently in press. They also presented their ideas at a national seminar in Bucharest attended by academics, NGO staff and policy makers in Bucharest and organised by the Civil Society Development Foundation as well at the regional 'Child-Rights Research Conference' in Kingston, Jamaica. In addition, they developed a questionnaire to be used to shed light on the situation of street children in Europe and discussed this questionnaire at a workshop in Naples, organised by the European Foundation for Street Children. Both the paper and questionnaire are available at the ICDI website.

### **Guest Lectures**

ICDI staff members provided several guest lectures throughout the year. Mathijs gave a lecture on children in conflict areas for students of the Medical Faculty of the Free University in Amsterdam. He also gave a guest lecture on the work of ICDI for students of Pedagogy at the Hogeschool Utrecht. Nina gave two lectures on children's rights to Pedagogy students, also at the Hogeschool Utrecht. Nico gave several lectures on child development to students of Psychology at the New Bulgaria University in Sofia. Esther gave a guest lecture on approaches to HIV and AIDS related education to Master students at the ISS in the Hague.

## 8 ICDI publications

- Von der Assen, N. (2008). 'HIV-infection is also a handicap' (in Dutch), in Wereldkinderen magazine, no. 1.
- Euwema, M., De Graaf, D., De Jager, A. & Kalksma-Van Lith, B. (2008), 'Research with children in war affected areas' (chapter of the textbook Research with Children, Perspectives and Practices, edited by Pia Christensen and Allison James, published by Routledge, UK).
- Euwema, M. (editor), Kyriakides, C., Gzivoda, M., Yaman, A., Christoforou, A. & Bajjali Kyriakides, L. (2008), 'Multicultural Youth Camp Models' (ISBN 978-9963-9578-1-1), also available at [www.multiculturalcyprus.or](http://www.multiculturalcyprus.or)
- Euwema, M. (2008). 'Risk and protective factors' (in Bulgarian), in FICE bulletin, edition December 2008.
- Iossifov, Iordan 2008 'Take Me Seriously! Growing up in a society where the role of traditional mediators diminishes'. Paper presented at International Child and Youth Research Network (ICYRNet ) Conference, Nicosia, Cyprus. Published at: [http://www.icyrnet.net/UserFiles/File/Take%20%20Me%20Seriously%20Conference\\_Paper\\_\\_08\\_A4.pdf](http://www.icyrnet.net/UserFiles/File/Take%20%20Me%20Seriously%20Conference_Paper__08_A4.pdf)
- Jualla-Ali, Rona and Nico van Oudenhoven (2008), 'Early Childhood Education and programme and policy pointers for Informal, Nonformal and Formal Approaches', working paper, The World Bank, Moscow;
- Jualla-Ali, Rona and Nico van Oudenhoven (in press), 'Lowering the Tolerance towards Violence against Children; Lessons from Nicaragua and Trinidad & Tobago'.
- Van Oudenhoven, Nico (in press), 'Early Childhood Education and its Golden Triangle of Informal, Nonformal and Formal Approaches'.
- Wazir, R. (2008), "Newly Emerging Needs of Children: Towards Widening the Policy Agenda in South Asia", Indian Journal of Human Development, vol. 1, No. 3.
- Wazir R., (2008), "Dissolution and Dispersal: the Impact of Modernity and Conflict on the Pandalas of Kashmir Valley", in Aparna Rao (ed.) The Valley of Kashmir: the Making and Unmaking of a Composite Culture?, Manohar, New Delhi.



## 9 Child Rights Home

In January 2008 the renovation of the Holy Ghost Orphanage started. The work is well on track and it is expected that the Child Rights Home will open at the beginning of 2010. ICDI remains one of the lead partners in this initiative, together with Stichting Utopa which is providing all the financial support. In 2008, we, in cooperation with Stichting Utopa, invested a fair amount of time in “spreading the word”, i.e. to get Dutch child rights organizations on board. By now a lot of interest has been generated, and many organizations are keen to develop activities within the framework of the Child Rights Home. For more information you can also visit the new website [www.kinderrechtenhuis.nl](http://www.kinderrechtenhuis.nl) (both in Dutch and English).



The Holy Ghost Orphanage in Leiden was established in 1593. Its currently being fully renovated.

## 10 Looking forward to 2009

In 2009 we will move to the “west wing” of the Child Rights Home (CRH). The west wing will be the first part of the CRH to be ready, and it will be very exciting for us to take up our new residence. Of course this will also mean adjustment in terms of logistics and we will need some time to settle in (we were where we are now for the last fourteen years!). It is expected the Child Rights Home will become and increasingly important and integral part of the ICDI ‘fabric’. We are contemplating different avenues to utilize the unique opportunities the Home offers. Nina is currently working on creating a Child Research Group: a group in which children can take part to learn and conduct research on topics they find interesting. We are also contemplating the possibility of inviting young child rights advocates from around the world to the Child Rights Home on an annual basis. These will typically be children and young people who are working on children’s issues in their countries of origin. We want them to come to the Netherlands for a few weeks, to present themselves in the media, to exchange information with Dutch youngsters and organizations, and to develop new project ideas. Again, these are just some of the ideas ICDI is brewing on; the Child Rights home is already a source of inspiration for us!

In 2009, we also expect to expand to new programme areas. We will work together with Plan, DCI, IREWOC and others on a project which will aim to improve the child protection system in Kenya. Our role will be focusing on training and research. It has been some time since ICDI had a longer term project in Africa, so we are happy with this opportunity.

We will also expand our Early Childhood Development work in Turkey with a new two-year project. Together with Sardes from Utrecht, and the Netherlands Institute for Higher Education Ankara (NIHA) we will embark on a training course for mid-career professionals active in the Early Childhood Development sector. The aim of the course is to support the development of high quality Early Childhood service in Turkey, an important notion in a country where great effort is being made to increase the enrolment of young children in pre-school.

Another exciting prospect for 2009 is the International Palestinian Child Initiative, to be implemented together with our local partner The Trust, to develop holistic, cooperative projects that will benefit vulnerable Palestinian children. With the recent war in Gaza the plight of these children has once again come to the fore. As always, ICDI remains firmly un-political, but it is clear that Palestinian children are facing a lot of risks in terms of their overall development. We are committed to strengthening services that will help them to overcome these risks.

As mentioned earlier, we feel fortunate to be able to continue working with Romanian partners on implementing interesting projects in Romania. It is expected these will strengthen the child rights climate in the country. Our foster care project in Croatia and our Early Childhood Development project in Serbia will also continue.

At the organizational level we will continue the implementation of our strategic plan 2008-2011. We will focus on strengthening our networks, widening and diversifying our donor base, and making the ICDI ‘brand’ an even stronger one. We realize that the current economic crisis will affect us too, but feel we are reasonably prepared.

# II Summary<sup>3</sup> Financial Report 2008

## Profit and loss account (amounts in €)

	2008	2007
Project funds/other income	973.462	920.814
Direct project costs	514.290	559.088
	459.172	361.726
<b>Costs</b>		
Wages and salaries	365.291	275.670
Other staff costs	6.559	9.683
Depreciation	2.060	-
Housing costs	1.796	2.092
Other operating costs	36.211	30.885
<b>Total costs</b>	411.917	318.330
Operating result	47.255	43.396
Interest income	1.872	456
<b>Net result<sup>4</sup></b>	49.127	43.852

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

4. Will be added to the general reserve of the organisation

**Doing what we can, so that children can...** be rescued from overpowering rhetoric.

It is not likely that any girl living amidst the rubble in Gaza will read this text; it is equally improbable that any boy locked up in one of the youth-institutions turned-in-to prisons in the Netherlands, as an increasing number of them are, will ever throw a glance at this report. Nor will the legions of other children who make up ICDI's 'target group' ever get to see it. We are relieved if not grateful for this, as it saves us from feelings of utter embarrassment as we fully well know that they would feel drowned in our rhetoric.

And still we have to produce annual reports as we have to satisfy donors, to be accepted as a member of the club, and to use them as 'banter' –“ah, thanks for your report, it really looks nice; here is ours”, to be followed by more nods of approval. We are even participating in competitions for the best layout, originality or transparency price.

How far can we go? Or rather, how do we escape from producing more and more fancy rhetoric that we would rather hide from the eyes of children than have them see it?

The answer is hard to come by as we are caught in our own trap: the more beautiful an Annual Report looks, the more appealing the pictures are and the more forceful the text presents itself, the more the audience is willing to take us seriously. And given the fierce rivalry for attention, subsidies and privileges, we seem to have no option but to push harder and harder, but also to move our words and images further and further away from the realities that make up children's lives, and from the people who are in daily touch with them.

What to do? We are too much part of the system to stop issuing Annual Reports; this would make us appear less credible as an 'agent of change and advocacy for children at risk', as we like to see ourselves. Perhaps the best thing to do under the circumstances is to own up to the fact that we also feel often powerless in the face of so many adverse things happening to children all the time and everywhere. We can only do what we can do, and this only at the best of times.

*There is currently no article in the Convention of the Rights of the Child referring to the above...*

## 12 ICDI in the media

- In February Jordan was interviewed by the Dutch Radio 1 Journal about the situation of children in Bulgarian institutions. He was also interviewed by two major Bulgarian newspapers (see below).
- Mathijs gave a short interview on the training of the Albanian child psychologists on Dutch Radio West in June.
- Nina and her project Wijken voor Kinderen got full length articles in the two Leiden newspapers (see below).
- Nico and Rona got a great deal of attention for their Early Childhood activities in a Russian journal on Child Development.

WOENSDAG 29 OKTOBER 2008 NIEUWS

# Wijken voor kinderen



LEIDEN - Woensdagmiddag vond er in het voormalig Heilige Geest Weeshuis aan de Hooglandse Kerkgracht een geanimeerde discussie plaats tussen beleidsmakers en deelnemers van het project Wijken voor Kinderen. De titel heeft een dubbele betekenis. Wijken waarin jongeren buiten-activiteiten uitoefenen en wijken, in de zin van ruimte maken en veiligheid creëren voor kinderen.

*door Cathy van Driesten*

*Nina van der Assen, programme manager van International Child Development Initiatives met Arthur Offers, gastspreker en voormalig directeur van het VSB-fonds (Foto: Cathy van Driesten).*

geweld in 23 steden als enige stad met afwijkende antwoorden uit de bus: in onze stad komt geweld meer onder autochtone groepen voor dan in andere steden, zoals Utrecht of Rotterdam, steden met een heel andere samenstelling van bevolkingsgroepen. Nina van der Assen, programme manager van ICDI, heette de aan-

nadat zij een training bij Stichting Alexander hadden gevolgd, zelf de veertien vragen voor de interviews bedacht. (Stichting Alexander is een niet-commercieel, landelijk instituut voor jongerenparticipatie en actiegericht jongerenonderzoek.) In die training leerden zij vaardigheden als luistergedrag, het aannemen van een neutrale hou-

Nina van der Assen, programme manager at International Child Development Initiatives with Arthur Offers, ICDI board member, at the public presentation of the project. Mentioned in Leidsch Nieuwsblad, wednesday 29 October 2008

- Г-н Йосифов, какви са основните изводи от изследването?

- Че да си тийнейджър в България в края на прехода, никак не е лесно. Необходимо е да си достатъчно силен, за да опцелееш в общество, което не проявява особена симпатия към по-слабите. Те са в постоянен риск да бъдат маргинализирани. По-тревожното е, че често маргинализацията на млади хора е резултат не толкова от стечение на обстоятелства в техните съдби, колкото от структурни фактори като мястото, където живеят, или принадлежността им към определена социо-икономическа или етническа група. Младешките споделят, че обществото има различни измерения в зависимост от мястото, където то им се "случва". Софийнци се смятат за

#### **облагодетелствани от съдбата, че живеят в столицата**

Тези, които живеят в по-малки населени места, особено страдат, че не се зачитат личното им пространство и личният им живот.

- Значи има два вида "младост" - столична и провинциална. Как се отнасят помежду си?

- Софийнци изразяват съжаление за своите връстни-

**Йордан Йосифов:**

# Тийнейджърите ни

ЖЕНЯ МИХАЙЛОВА



СНИМКА: АНДРЕЙ БЕЛКОНСКИ

ци от селата, които са в не-привилегирована позиция, но начинът, по който го правят, невинаги оставя впечатление за съпричастност. Най-голямото желание на тийнейджърите от малките населени места гък е да се махнат, да се преселят в голям град, където не всички ги познават или

поне не всеки си вре носа в чуждите работи.

Тийнейджърите у нас се виждат като много по-различни от родителите си, отколкото са майките и бащите спрямо бабите и дядовците.

#### **Има пропаст между поколенията,**

а не плавен преход, както е било само едно поколение

назад. Заради тази разлика 13-19-годишните не се чувстват като част от нашето общество, а като чужденци в собствената си страна.

- Как тогава се спогават поколенията?

- Тийнейджърите си дават сметка, че живеят в бързо променяща се социална среда, която свива до минимум времето за общуването в семейството и ограничава възможностите на децата и родителите да се радват едни на други. Родителите по правило са претоварени и това се забелязва лесно. Макар и да оценяват родителските усилия, децата не ги възприемат като модели за подражание.

#### **Не искам да живея живота на моите родители**

е фраза, която присъстваше в почти всяко интервю.

Родителите отсъстват от живота на децата си не само физически. Дори когато живеят в един апартамент, тях ги няма - емоционално, интелектуално, социално.

## 13 ICDI Board and staff

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 runs properly and reaches the objectives it has set itself. Members of the board conduct their duties on a voluntary basis and do not 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  
(former deputy rector of Institute of Social Studies, The Hague)

**Secretary/treasurer:** Thijs Malmberg (manager at Ordina, a Dutch consulting and ICT firm)

**Members:** Joan Ferrier (director of E-Quality)  
Evelijne Bruning (head editor Vice Versa Magazine)  
Arthur Offers (former director VSB Fonds)

### ICDI staff per 1 January 2009

Mathijs Euwema, director  
Iordan Iossifov, senior programme manager  
Rutger van Oudenhoven, senior programme manager  
Esther Miedema, senior programme manager  
Nina von der Assen, programme manager  
Annabel Trapp, programme manager  
Asia Koerten, human resources and administration manager  
Nico van Oudenhoven, senior associate  
Rekha Wazir, senior associate

Staff turnover 2008: 1

Sick leave 2008: 0 %

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