

The 2nd Child Well-being Expert Consultation 2nd – 3rd November 2011

Agenda

Meeting summary

Day 1

After introductions, and a brief reflection on the state of child policies and needs following the economic crisis, day 1 will introduce recent research undertaken by the partner agencies working in comparative child well-being research. *UNICEF* will discuss results of international comparisons of child well-being to examine why some countries seem to systematically fare better in key child outcomes than others. The *Learning for Well-being Consortium* in Europe will introduce their policy glossary; and the *OECD* will introduce findings from a joint project with the EC evaluating the quality and content of child surveys. The day will end with presentations on recent efforts in, and lessons for, child well-being research and data development.

Day 2

Day 2 will bring together policy analysis and data collection structured along the stages of childhood (early, middle and late). Children's unique needs in each stage of childhood require specific policy responses as well as survey instrumentation. Each of the sessions will focus particularly on the 'weak' areas by age group – building on the knowledge base where it is strong. In each session, child participation in research and policy development will be discussed. The last session of day 2 will allow participants to provide feedback on the different topics discussed and agreement on future work in this area.



European Commission
Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion



Day 1 - Room CC2

9.00 – 9.45 *Introductory session: A new economic, social and political context for child policies?*

Welcoming messages:

John Martin, Director for Employment, Labour and Social Affairs, OECD

Daniel Kropf, Chair of Learning for Well-being Consortium in Europe

Isabelle Maquet, Deputy Head of Unit Social Analysis, European Commission

Gordon Alexander, Director of UNICEF Office of Research

Following the introduction and welcoming comments from the convening bodies, this session will briefly outline the developments in the political economy of children's issues following the global economic crisis. The session will reflect on issues relating to children as part of a general public fiscal consolidation and competing interests, specific changes to child spending and child policies, and investment in research and monitoring of child well-being and development today and in the future.

Presenters: **Gerlinde Verbist** (University of Antwerp), **Lina Salanauskaite** (Maastricht University) and **Gordon Alexander** (Unicef IRC)

Presentations include a summary of the role of family benefits in combating child poverty in new EU member states and an overview of the impact of the global crisis on children in developing countries (the latter based on research done or commissioned by UNICEF).

9.45 – 11.15 *Session 1: Why do some countries fare so well in international comparisons of child outcomes? And how portable are their methods?*

Moderator: Peter Adamson

Presenters: **Chris De Neubourg** (Unicef IRC), **Markus Jantti** (Swedish Institute for Social Research) and **Lára Björnsdóttir** (Ministry of Welfare, Iceland)

Recent comparisons of child well-being have identified some countries (Nordic countries, the Netherlands etc.) which do particularly well for their children. The session will include three presentations exploring the factors for such success. The first by UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre will outline the main results of the Report Card series, highlighting successful stories in supporting positive outcomes on major aspects of children's lives: material well-being, health and safety, education, family and peer relationships, behaviour and risks, and subjective well-being. Further presentations will provide different perspectives of successful country models, with a focus on what drives the success experienced across a range of child well-being outcomes, and current challenges.

Participants are invited to contribute their own work and understanding of the issues, to raise the factors and challenges associated with northern European success in child well-being, and suggest ways to address this question through reliable empirical methods.

11.15 – 11.45 **COFFEE BREAK**

11.45 – 13.00 *Session 2: Prioritising child well-being in policy through Learning for Well-being*

Moderator: Roberto Carneiro

Presenters:

Roberto Carneiro (Universidade Católica Portuguesa)

Linda O'Toole (Universal Education Foundation)

Simon Wilson (Policy Expert / Eurochild)

Daniel Kropf (Universal Education Foundation)

The draft policy glossary: “Learning for Well-being, a policy priority for children and youth in Europe”.

The Learning for Well-being policy glossary is designed to provide the basis for a common agenda and guideline for policy makers at all levels in Europe. With a cross-sector focus (e.g. health, mental health, social affairs, education, etc.), it draws on state-of-the-art and multidisciplinary research on well-being and proposes principles for policy and ideas about how to influence policy change and development. One specific aim is to help create the necessary shift in mindsets and practices that can better respond to the different ways individuals learn, communicate and develop.

Participants are invited to comment on the draft that will be circulated before the meeting. We would like feedback on the overall thrust, the evidence and examples. The final text will be presented at a conference in Brussels in February 2012.

13.00 – 14.30 LUNCH

14.30 – 15.30 *Session 3: Informing policy with available data: Evaluating surveys and building knowledge.*

Moderator: Angela Hariche (OECD)

Presenter: Dominic Richardson (OECD)

This session will introduce ongoing work at the OECD and EU on the quality of international data derived from surveys of children and surveys of households with children. Today, most international research on children, and policy decisions based on this evidence, relies on international surveys of education, health and household incomes. A number of salient questions arise: Do these data reliably represent child populations in each country, if not who is missing and can surveys be adapted to capture these children? What questions still go unasked in international surveys? How can we be confident that data reported in these surveys is comparable and how can they best inform policy and practice?

Participants are invited to comment on the ongoing work, and suggest ways in which the analysis can be adapted or improved. Participants are also invited to express how these data are important for their own work and the main priorities for improving the collection of international child survey data.

15.30 – 16.00 COFFEE BREAK



16.00 – 18.00 *Session 4: New international data collection initiatives.*

Moderator: Jonathan Bradshaw (University of York)

The final session of the first day will introduce new initiatives to collect and organise cross-national child well-being data. Brief presentations will cover a new child well-being database, advances to existing surveys from UNICEF and the European Union, and two new international child surveys:

Presenters:

- 1) **Nabil Ali** (OECD) - The OECD's Child well-being module: a database of existing cross-national statistics, gaps and relevant national sources of data;
- 2) **Attila Hancioglu** (UNICEF) - Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys and inclusion of new modules;
- 3) **Anne-Catherine GUIO** (CEPS/INSTEAD) - Findings from the 2009 EU-SILC special module on children's material deprivation;
- 4) **Laura Lippman** (Child Trends US) - The "Learning for Well-being" conceptual framework as a basis for survey and assessment tools; and
- 5) **Asher Ben-Arieh** (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem) - The recent pilots of a new cross-national survey "IscWeb" of children's lives and times use at ages 8, 10 and 12.
- 6) **Siraj Mahmudlu** (Unicef) TRANSMONEE - an information system to support evidence based policies for children

Participants are asked to contribute experience and opinion to this debate, with a view to discussing the relative merits of each approach.

18.00 – 20.00 **Cocktail**

Day 2- Room CC2

The first 3 sessions of day 2 will seek to take account of research, policy and the contributions of children's and youth participation in early, middle and late childhood. Each session will focus on the gap in knowledge for this particular age group. For instance, early years policies are well-documented cross-nationally, but not school readiness; later years outcomes are most readily available, but less is known about services for youth. In each session, child participation in research and policy development will be discussed.

Participants are invited to contribute their own plans for, and experiences of, work in this area.

9.00 – 10.30 *Session 5: Work on childhood and policies in **the early years**: data and analysis*

Moderator: Lawrence Berger (University of Wisconsin)

Presenters: Sharon Goldfeld (Royal Children's Hospital and Murdoch Children's Research Institute), **María Huerta** (OECD) and **Anaïs Loizillon** (UNESCO)

This session will introduce children's outcomes in the early years, specifically moving beyond series of survival to developmental measures. This session will introduce work on the development of global early development indices as well as new OECD comparative analysis of longitudinal data on the link between maternal employment, parental behaviours and child well-being outcomes.

The session will include a presentation on the participation of very young children- TBC

10.30 – 11.00 COFFEE BREAK

11.00 – 12.30 *Session 6: Work on childhood and policies in **middle childhood**: data and analysis*

Moderator: Francesca Borgonovi (OECD)

Presenters: Sabine Andresen (University of Frankfurt), **Marion Devaux** (OECD) and **Tess Ridge** (University of Bath)

With limited information on both outcomes and interventions for children of primary school age, this session will draw on studies of how individual experiences contribute to shaping children's well-being. Presentations in this session will include: results of a survey of children in Germany on the perception of their lives and own well-being; OECD work on the international prevalence and risks of child obesity; and a qualitative study on children's perspectives on economic adversity in advanced economies.

Members from children and young people's organisations will be invited to share their experiences on child and youth participation.

12.30 – 14.00 LUNCH

Day 2 (cont.) - Room CC4

14.00 – 15.30 *Session 7: Work on late childhood and youth policies: data and analysis*

Moderator: Maria Herczog (Eurochild)

Presenters: Ferran Casas (University of Girona), **Candace Currie** (University of Edinburgh) and **Anne Sonnet** (OECD)

This session will look at late childhood beyond education achievement and risk behaviour to present evidence on youth policies for: young people in public care, education (interventions to bring marginalised children back to school), employment, training and health. Presentations will include results from the YIPPEE project (a study of five countries looking at young people from a public care background); the HBSC study (a cross-national study aimed at understanding adolescent health, health behaviours and life styles); and OECD work on job opportunities and better skills for young people. Evidence on the alternative options for integrating these services for at-risk youth will also be discussed.

Contributions will be provided by **Jean Anne Kennedy** (Learning for Well-being Youth Movement)

15.30 – 16.00 COFFEE BREAK

16.00 – 18.00 *Session 8: Meeting summary – next steps Innovation in policies for children*

Moderator: Willem Adema (OECD)

The final session will begin by discussing innovative tools in policies for children. The topics discussed throughout the meeting will be revisited including a short round up discussion on the policy glossary of the Learning for Well-being Framework. The session will encourage “out-of-the-box” thinking for recommendations. The session will finish summarising the discussions and any agreements on future work.

The meeting will be closed by convening organisations.