



TWENTY YEARS IN DEVELOPMENT  
still a child at Heart

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# Introduction: a special year for ICDI

2014 was the year of ICDI's 20th anniversary. In days now long gone I witnessed the start of ICDI as policy director Youth within the Dutch central government. The two founders asked my advice and we had an in-depth conversation about the purpose of ICDI and its chances for existence. The idea was to create a small, high quality consultancy agency, focused on "developing countries". An organization with a small overhead, that would work at grassroots level, would facilitate international knowledge exchange, and would do research and training, all to improve the living situation of children in those countries.

The incipient, little ICDI consisted of only two people. Nowadays, 20 years later, it is a bit bigger, but the size is consciously kept at around 10 staff members. With a lot of expertise in child development and with knowledge of the countries it works in and the child and youth issues that are important there. ICDI constantly looks for opportunities with funds and governments to develop and implement projects with true impact. On the 19th June we celebrated our anniversary with gusto, and many of our partners and friends were present at a joyful, content filled afternoon, during which we could look back on many achievements.

In the past years I had the privilege of being the chairperson of this special organization, after having been a regular board member already for many years. Many countries and topics have passed in front of me and I saw ICDI grown into a "fly on the wall", that receives recognition and with whom many want to work together. Besides non-EU projects, also more and more European and even Netherlands projects were implemented. The TOY (Together Old and Young) project, for example, was very successful and can be of much importance to the Netherlands. Is it possible that different generations support each other by making connections locally? Building on the strengths of children, senior citizens, families and communities, as TOY proved, is an interesting approach for Dutch municipalities, as from 2015 onwards social measures are largely decentralized from the central to the local authorities.

Also the topic of 'Children Rough Sleepers' is of national and international importance. Even in our rich Europe there is a growing number of young people

becoming homeless. The development of effective prevention measures on the base of international knowledge exchange is very important. ICDI has worked intensively on this in the past two years.

Outside the EU we were active in Africa, Latin America and Asia, most recently with 'Girl Power', a programme focusing on improving rights and opportunities for adolescent girls. This cooperation with Plan Netherlands, Child Helpline International, Free Press Unlimited, Defence for Children and Women Win has so far been evaluated very positively.

Belarus, Palestine, Ukraine, Russia, you can find ICDI in many countries. Always with one focus: improving the living conditions for children through training, research and by supporting the development of good policies and effective implementation of such policies. We can say that ICDI has a good "rep" by now in a lot of countries. High quality publications contribute to that. An excellent example of that was the impressive new book 'Culturalised Early Childhood Development', written by our founder Nico van Oudenhoven, together with his wife Rona.

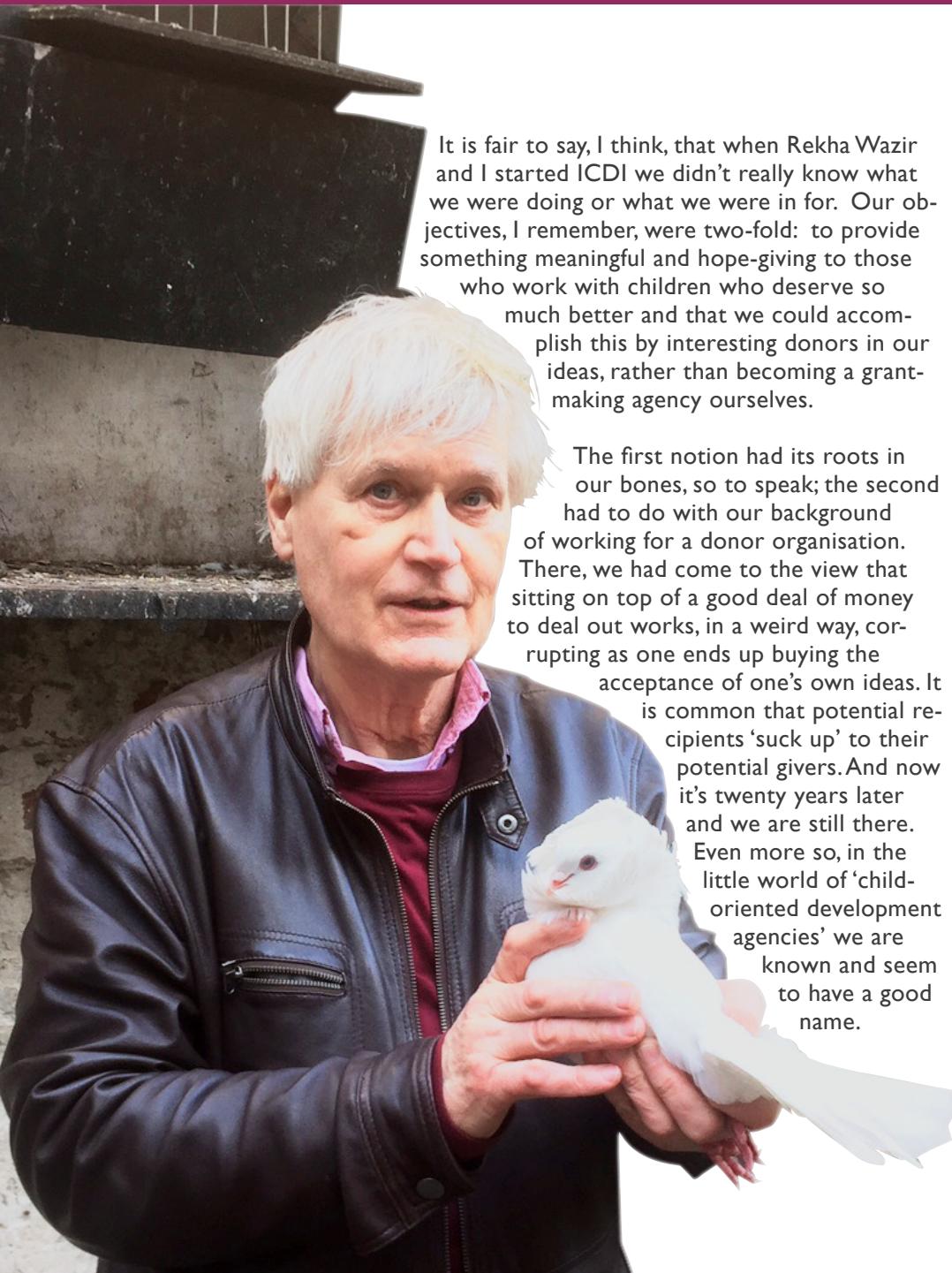
Also for the board of ICDI this was a year of importance. Our beloved board member Joan Ferrier died unexpectedly in March, she is greatly missed. Furthermore, board members Arthur Offers and Evelijne Bruning said goodbye. By now we have managed to regenerate and rejuvenate the board and we are at full strength again. In 2015 it will be my time to leave the board, after almost 20 years being part of it. Jeroen Wismans will be my successor and I am sure he will do great. I will be saying goodbye to ICDI in the knowledge that this little organization is solid as a rock and that the next 20 years look bright.

**Thijs Malmberg**  
Chairperson of the Board

# ICDI's 20th Anniversary Party



# Twenty years ICDI, a few words by one of our founders



It is fair to say, I think, that when Rekha Wazir and I started ICDI we didn't really know what we were doing or what we were in for. Our objectives, I remember, were two-fold: to provide something meaningful and hope-giving to those who work with children who deserve so much better and that we could accomplish this by interesting donors in our ideas, rather than becoming a grant-making agency ourselves.

The first notion had its roots in our bones, so to speak; the second had to do with our background of working for a donor organisation. There, we had come to the view that sitting on top of a good deal of money to deal out works, in a weird way, corrupting as one ends up buying the acceptance of one's own ideas. It is common that potential recipients 'suck up' to their potential givers. And now it's twenty years later and we are still there. Even more so, in the little world of 'child-oriented development agencies' we are known and seem to have a good name.

What puzzles me sometimes, however, is why we have remained small and have not turned into a massive operation, like some other organizations have done. I think it has partly to do, simply, with the given that we never learned how to grow up (still a child at heart!). We also genuinely feared that, by running a big outfit, the means –keeping the entity afloat- would become an end in itself, and that we would lose sight of our real goals. More importantly though, it had to do with our reluctance to work in big settings; we are now a small group of high-quality colleagues who are also our friends and we feel comfortable with each other and our work. We also console ourselves with the metaphor that "we rather tell the captain of a big ship to change course a few degrees than being the captain and his/her ship". And, as the last twenty years have shown, this strategy has worked. We are privileged to have strong, significant and productive bonds with many good and exceptional people all over the globe and with whom we develop and strengthen new insights and practices and create special and lasting things for children. We are very lucky in that respect.

It is also fair to say that this strategy has not worked. We are still very much dependent on donors, we often do "suck up" to them. In that we are also "corrupted". It would indeed be nicer if we had at least some core funding, which would allow us to respond even more to signals from the field rather than to donors' requests, and hone our sensitivity of mind, heart and soul. It would permit us to stay better in tune with what matters most to all those boys and girls who are fighting against so many odds, and it would enable us to remain more meaningful to our colleagues on the ground who dedicate their lives to these children. We should never receive too much core funding, though, as this would incontrovertibly lead to "buying the acceptance of our own ideas", but having the rent paid for would be grand! For sure, the coming twenty years will not be easy, but ICDI will be there in 2034. I'll bet a cuba libre, my favorite drink, on that with anyone who would doubt this.

**Nico van Oudenhoven**

senior associate and co-founder of ICDI

# ICDI Projects Promoting Child Protection

## Girl Power! A programme to promote equal rights and opportunities for adolescent girls. 2011-2016

Girl Power is an initiative involving six Dutch child rights organisations working together with their local partners in 10 countries. Funded by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Girl Power was launched January 2011 and will run until January 2016. The goal is to improve the rights and opportunities of adolescent girls.

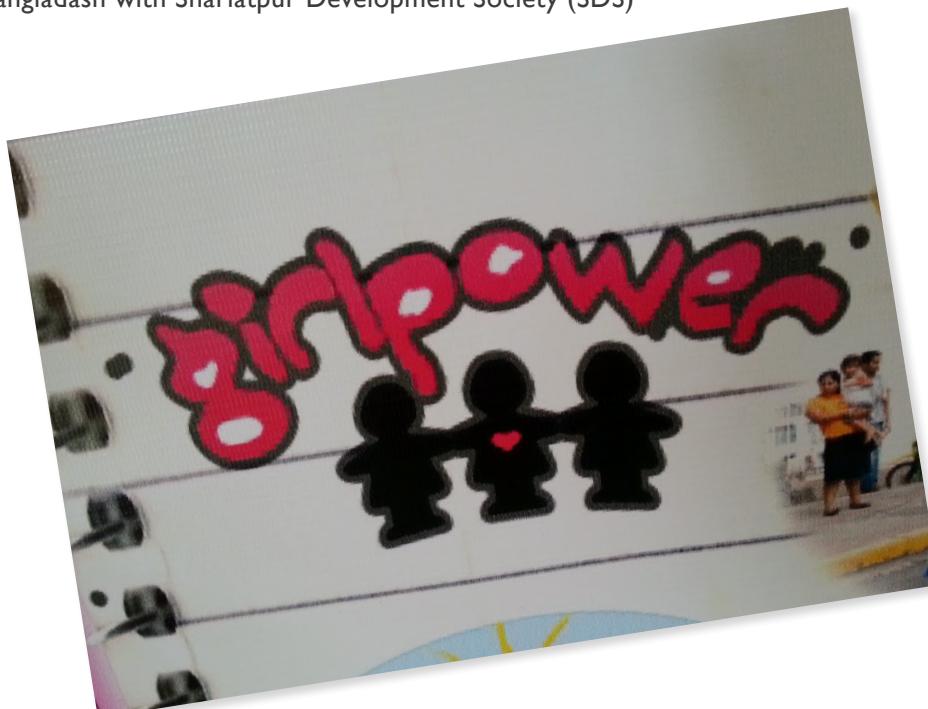
ICDI works on Girl Power with partners in the following countries:

- Nicaragua with Amistad
- Sierra Leone with One Family People (OFP)
- Ethiopia with Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)
- Nepal with Child Workers In Nepal (CWIN)
- Pakistan with Bedari
- Bangladash with Shariatpur Development Society (SDS)

In the past five years thousands of girls have benefited locally from:

- girls clubs: where they can learn about issues such as sexual and reproductive health and rights.
- vocational skills training: to give girls more opportunities for work and economic independence.
- victim support services: providing better social and legal protection to girls who have become victims of violence.
- school programmes: designed to prevent girls dropping-out from school, to prevent early marriages and enhance their chances for higher education.

Independent evaluations have shown that so far Girl Power has significantly contributed to the advancement of girls by reducing early marriage rates, increasing school retention, better protection of girls against violence and overall increased social participation by girls and young women.



# Child Protection

## Girl Power in Nicaragua

La Amistad, ICDI's partner in Nicaragua have their work cut out for them in raising awareness about violence against girls and young women. On the plus side, because they are well known and highly trusted in the communities where they work, their activities and training always very well attended. In March 2014, ICDI's Giulia Cortellesi and Asia Koerten worked in Rio Blanco where they introduced the Girls QUAT to assess the quality of two services: the women's centre (which gives legal and social support to battered women and girls) and the child protection committee (a cooperation between schools, authorities, legal and social services, to coordinate efforts to support children victims of violence). They facilitated separate sessions with a group of girls and women in one group and teachers and educational officials in another. The outcome of this lively process is that these people and organizations will now use the Girls QUAT to monitor, evaluate and improve the services they provide women and girls. With ICDI's advice and support, La Amistad have also been inspired to engage young people to research the issues that they feel are most important and community members have been very interested in the young peoples' presentations of their research findings on teenage pregnancy and violence against children.

Some numbers for 2014:

**15,500** girls and young women participated in legal and social support services delivered by La Amistad.

**9,500** boys reached. (Engaging directly with men and boys is a new area of work for La Amistad, to change their attitudes and behaviors with regards to violence against girls and women).

**283** teachers, community leaders, and policy makers have attended training and awareness sessions organised by La Amistad.



# Child Protection

## Girl Power in Nepal

Many lessons have been learnt while working with the girls and young women in various parts of Nepal. One major finding is that education and empowerment offer ways to combat discrimination and end abuse and exploitation of girls and young women. Through Girl Power girls and young women have challenged conventions with conviction and determination for defending their rights.

The ability of girls to say 'no' to sexual activity and their knowledge of and access to support services has improved significantly. Adolescents and young women are now better aware of and can reach available services, including legal protection, shelter support, courts, police and the so-called girls' protection units, hotline services, and the Women's Police Cellphone. Activities like women's community groups and cooperatives have contributed towards changing the attitudes of community members towards girls and young women, and have improved their economic and social participation.

Girl Power activities such as life skills education or the 'Better Life Option Programme' (BLOP) have helped in promoting behavioral changes among adolescent girls. Graduates of this nine-month course have begun to organize as 'Young Women Organisations' and Self-reliant Groups. These women are then encouraged to join women cooperatives, acquire vocational/enterprise skills and become entrepreneurs. Girls that have participated in Girl Power have become more assertive, confident and creative and are gradually taking leadership positions in community organisations. Our Nepali partner CWIN has also improved Early Childhood services in the districts it works in (which helps young women in being able to be economically active). They are also now engaging more and more boys and men in the gender debate.

ICDI visited CWIN and its Girl Power programme activities in December 2014 during a regional meeting where our Bangladeshi and Pakistani partners were also present. During the visit ICDI monitored programme progress and provided training to the partners on 'research with children', 'ICDI Girls-Quat assessment

tool', 'story writing' and 'engaging boys and men in gender issues'.

Girl Power has many stories of successful change that could inspire women in Nepal and other countries of the world. By 2014, around 30,000 adolescent girls and young women were reached directly through the programme.  
Girl Power in Bangladesh

2014 was the fourth consecutive year of implementation of GPP in Bangladesh. The work continued in the 63 communities where Shariatpur Development Society (SDS), ICDI's partner in Bangladesh, is active. 'Eve teasing' (a widespread phenomenon whereby girls are being bullied by boys, which is very dangerous in an honor driven society; usually the victim gets blamed, not the perpetrator), equal access to education, domestic violence and socio-economic participation remain major fields of intervention. However, the main focus last year was on fighting early marriages, another endemic problem in Bangladesh (over 60% of girls are married before they are 18!). In 2014 six villages were declared areas free of child marriage and if this approach will be disseminated further in the Shariatpur region. Sport activities for girls, especially the karate training, remain popular among girls and their communities and these and other sports activities for girls are likely to continue and increase in the region in the coming years. Sports has shown to be a very good way to empower girls as well as to show to their communities that girls can do many things, not just household chores and bearing children.

The number of girls and young women who directly benefited from the program in 2014 is **2500**.

# Child Protection

## Girl Power in Pakistan

Bedari, ICDIs partner in Pakistan deserves recognition for fighting for basic human rights of women and girls, specifically by putting the sadly all too common problems of domestic violence, child marriage and violence against children on policy makers' agendas. It is in this that Bedari has had the greatest success over the last 4 years, and where it has also caused the most obvious changes. Bedari has contributed to the strengthening of national and provincial level civil society networks that have resulted in the passing of new laws that protect the rights of women and children.

Girl Power in Pakistan is based on three pillars:

- (a) raising awareness about basic human rights of women and girls through its Street Theatre Programme, and through the organisation of numerous seminars and forums in its Capacity Building and Training Programme.
- (b) influencing policy through its membership of different networks.
- (c) establishing linkages with politicians and government institutions at the local and national level.

Core elements of Bedari's work within the Girl Power Programme in Pakistan have been the establishment of a child helpline in the Multan region and strengthening the professional capacity of local community based organizations to deal more effectively with prevention against gender based violence and after-care for victims of violence. Bedari is using arts and theatre as a means to inform people. It does so in a range of rural communities and at seminars, conferences and workshops addressing the plight of women and young girls. The Bedari Helpline with 5 different mobile numbers has been working in the Multan region for the past three and a half years. It has become more known and busy during the past two years, Bedari also stepped up its work with so called "Dar Ul Amans", safe houses for women and girls affected by violence. Compared to 2013, Bedari has now a permanent counseling desk in 5 Dar Al Umams, who monitor the quality of care, assist residents in legal and personal matters, and give advice to general staff.

Some numbers for 2014:

**400** village leaders have been mobilized to advocate for Girl Power activities;  
**1164** girls and boys received psychosocial counselling after contacting the helpline;  
More than **16000** girls and boys were reached through awareness raising sessions, theatre presentations, flyers and leaflets.

## Girl Power in Sierra Leone

In the first half of 2014 ICDI's partner in Sierra Leone, One Family People (OFP) focused on better engagement with boys and young men in actions to combat violence towards girls at home and in the community. One of the outcomes was a report titled "Breaking the silence of boys and men on sexual and gender based violence", which OFP's Mohamad Turay and ICDI's Rutger Oudenoven jointly researched during field work in February and March. After a very promising start to the year, unfortunately the Ebola epidemic completely dominated in Sierra Leone from June onwards, when most GPP activities had to be suspended. In this very difficult context, OFP continued doing what they do best, i.e. making sure the most vulnerable people in the community: children and disabled people received the information and support they needed in preventing the spread of Ebola.

Some numbers for 2014:

**15,500** girls and young women benefited from the project in 2014.  
**884** girls participated in the weekly Goal Sports and Lifeskills Program, before Ebola.  
**13** communities in Freetown, Western Area and Moyamba reached by OFP's activities.

# Child Protection



## Girl Power in Ethiopia

This was the second year of the ICDI's Girl Power Program in Ethiopia. Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), our local partner, made good progress with the project activities.

This year, ESD and ICDI focused on girls in primary and post-primary school-age, as well as on young women who dropped out of school, or who never even attended school.

Support to families, communities and policymakers continued and the effort to integrate children with disabilities and their families was intensified. Activities that took place included training of social workers to prevent school-dropout and stimulate girls and young women to return to school, and training of parents, community members and leaders on specific challenges to girls' education (including reproductive health and harmful traditional practices).

The work with young mothers, organised in self help groups started delivering results both in terms of better socio-economic conditions and prospects for the mothers and their children and in terms of stronger self-esteem and parental skills.

At least **2600** adolescent girls and young women benefited directly from the programme in 2014.

# Child Protection

## Bangladesh, Nepal & Pakistan: Suddenly Not a Child Anymore: Preventing Child Marriage in Asia and Africa. 2014-2015

ICDI has formed a coalition with Kinderpostzegels and The Hunger Project along with our respective partners in Bangladesh, Nepal and Pakistan (ICDI), Burkino Faso, Ethiopia and Mali and Uganda (Kinderpostzegels and The Hunger Project) to reduce the practice of child marriage in these countries. In December ICDI and CWIN cohosted a very stimulating Regional Meeting on Child Marriage which took place in Nepal. It was attended by our partners Bedari, from Pakistan and SDS from Bangladesh. Sessions were held on Child Love Marriages in Nepal, Storytelling for Communication; Girls QUAT and Research with Children. We also had visits to Balika Peace Home, a transit centre for girls and to a Child Helpline Centre in Kathmandu. The meeting proved to be a great opportunity to better understand the problem of Child Marriage and the best ways to tackle it in the three countries. This project is being funded by the Dutch Ministry for Foreign Affairs



## Belarus: All Children Included A project to promote the well being and future prospects of children growing up in institutions. 2011-2014

2014 was the year in which child care professionals, together with children and young people in institutions themselves, implemented their self-designed mini-projects, which aimed to improve living conditions and future prospects of Belarusian children without parental care. The 8 best mini-project proposals were able to spend up to € 5000 each on their projects. They ran until May 2014, and the results were presented at a Final Conference in June.

A short overview of the projects:

- 'Children's Animation Workshop': the main purpose of the project was the development of the creative potential of children, to stimulate their involvement into meaningful social activities.
- 'My Successful Future' (Grodno): a software tool of a social online interactive theatre was developed.
- 'Let The Little World Be Big' (Luninets district, Brest region): creative initiatives by children in foster care to stimulate positive interaction with their social environment.
- 'The Ray of Light (Novogrudok, Grodno region): social interactive theatre for children living in institutions who have severe speech problems.
- Art therapy club 'The Choice' (Rechitsa, Gomel region): reducing psychological and emotional trauma of foster children and children in institutions through poetry.
- 'Family is a Happy Constellation' (Smargon, Grodno region): creating family traditions in foster families.
- 'Life of Outstanding Children' (Zhodino, Minsk region): foster children learned journalism skills and documented their own lives and environments.
- Art Studio 'I understand you' (Volozhin, Minsk region): an art club for foster parents, where they can exchange knowledge and experiences, to support each other in their work as foster parents.

# Child Protection

Some project results:

In total, knowledge and skills acquired in the process of implementing these projects has been transferred to about **320** specialists and more than **200** foster parents. More than **800** adolescents in and from institutions and in foster care directly benefitted from the life skills training they have received in this project. An estimated **10,000** youngsters without parental care are expected to benefit from the increased professional support they will receive from social workers, educators and foster parents, and from increased social inclusion resulting from the mini-projects.

Belarus: Home is Where the Heart is. Creating professional family support services for children at risk 2013-2016

Meaningful changes have been made in the Belarusian regions of Brest, Vitebsk, Lida, Borisov, Minsk, and Mogilev. Child Care agencies, local authorities, self-help groups and child-centered organizations are coming together like never before to help support and strengthen families that struggle with alcohol addiction. Biases towards these families have been challenged; there is a general and better understanding of their problems and a realization that the whole community has a vital role to play in their wellbeing. When visiting the project locations and people, a strong positive energy can be felt amongst child- and family-care services. The presence and active participation of many of their 'clients' at community meetings and seminars shows that they feel more comfortable sharing their issues and that they are taken seriously by others.



The project seeks to safeguard and improve the wellbeing and healthy development of children of parents with alcohol addiction. In 2014, the second year of the project, 20 Master Trainers, with whom we worked closely during first year, now effectively mobilize people in the five regions. These Master Trainers work also effectively with local authorities, staff of state care institutions and other professionals. Their training sessions are well attended and well received opportunities to exchange knowledge, develop new practices and adapt these to their specific contexts. All of them now follow an approach that is based on local strengths and is solution (vs. problem) oriented. They are implementing innovative and sustainable practices that eventually should benefit hundreds of families and children at risk in the whole of Belarus.

Achievements so far:

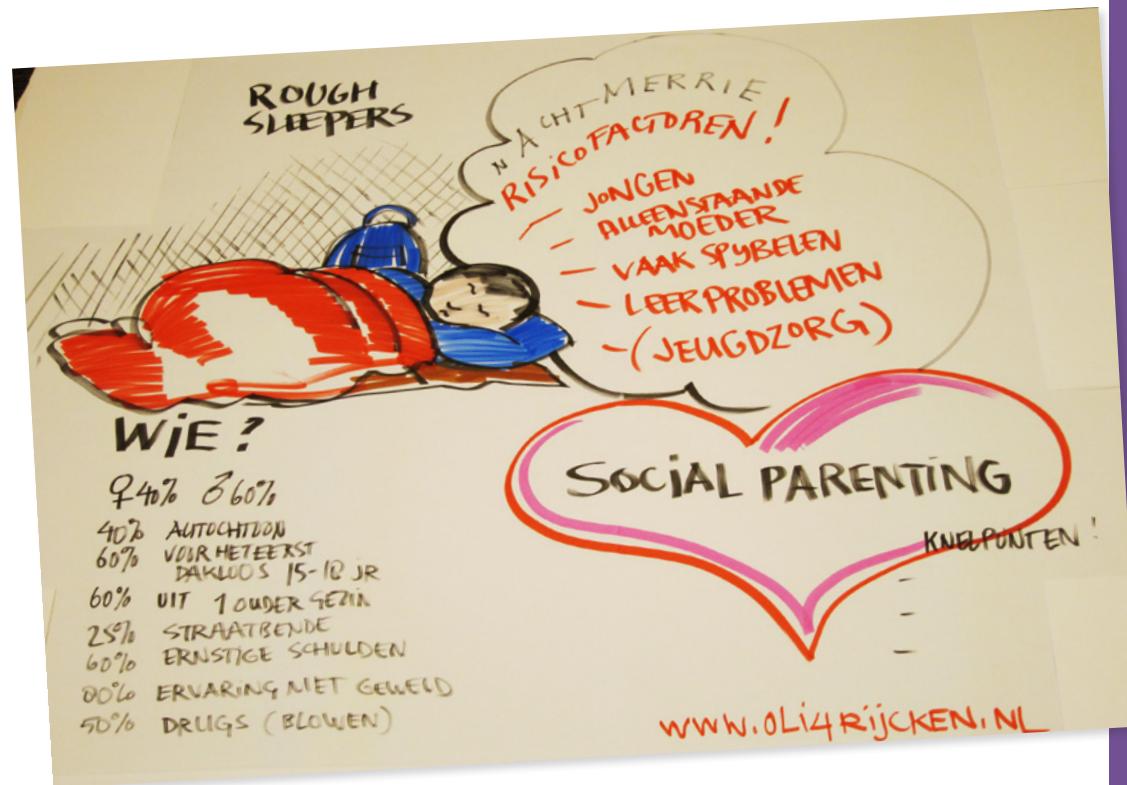
**5** regional networks created consisting of child care services, local authorities, Alcohol Anonymous support groups and civil society organizations.  
**Over 100** local staff of child care services trained in project methodologies.  
**Over 100** families introduced to methodologies and referrals to anti-alcohol addiction programs.

# Child Protection

## The Netherlands and Europe: Children Rough Sleepers. 2013-2014

The aim of this project was to gather knowledge and compare findings and best practices on the problem of children and young people who have to live on the streets in eight European countries (for more info, see [www.childrenroughsleepers.tk](http://www.childrenroughsleepers.tk)). It is estimated that in the Netherlands there are well over a 1000 children under 18 years who do not have stable housing (and around 9000 between 18 and 23 years of age). In 2013 ICDI conducted interviews with 20 young people who are homeless and 20 professionals who work with this target group. In 2014 we organized six workshops for around 120 professionals on topics like

'Housing First', 'Social Parenting', and 'Open Talent' (innovative approaches in working with homeless youth). We also organized six information workshops for around 120 highschool students in six of the major cities in The Netherlands, with former homeless youth themselves as guest speakers, to increase awareness on the issue of homeless youth. We concluded the project with a final conference in Leiden on the 19th of November, focusing on new, best practices to prevent youth homelessness and support those who already ended up on the street, to which 85 people attended.



# Child Protection

## The Netherlands and Europe: Keeping Youth Away from Crime; identifying promising European practices. 2013-2014

The objective of this project was to explore good practices in various European countries (Belgium, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom) to prevent youth delinquency among vulnerable young people. Lessons learned during the course of the project are used to improve current programmes and policies in the Baltic States. During 2013, ICDI developed a 'Youth-QUAT', a quality assessment tool designed to support monitoring of youth friendliness of youth protection services. The tool was used by the lead organisation of the project, the Centre for Public Policy (PROVIDUS [www.providus.lv/en](http://www.providus.lv/en)) in Latvia, as well as its local and regional project partners. In addition, ICDI drafted a desk study on legislation and promising practices in early prevention to tackle youth delinquency in the Netherlands. The findings of all this were presented by an ICDI representative during a final conference in Brussels on the 3rd of December that focused on 'Restorative Juvenile Justice'.

## The Netherlands:

### Nest center for children in the refugee center in Katwijk. 2014-2015

The Nest center is originally an after school facility for children from multi-problem families. It was developed and pioneered in Bosnia I Hercegovina by Kinderpostzegels ([www.kinderpostzegels.nl](http://www.kinderpostzegels.nl)), with technical support by ICDI. Starting in 2014 De Vrolijkheid ([www.vrolijkheid.nl](http://www.vrolijkheid.nl)), a Dutch organization that implements activities for children in refugee-centers, is setting up a Nest center for children in the AZC in Katwijk, where refugee families live that await deportation back to their countries of origin. As one can imagine, the children and families there experience a lot of stress. The aim of the Nest center is to strengthen children's resilience, to help them cope better with their difficult situation. ICDI is involved in training and supporting the core staff and volunteers of the Nest center, and will be doing an impact study.



# ICDI Projects Promoting Early Childhood Education and Care

## Palestine: Begin with the Beginning. Community based Early Childhood Education & Care (ECEC) in Palestine. 2011-2014

2014 was the year in which ECEC (Early Child Education and Care) committees were established in eight villages north of Jerusalem and in Shu'fat refugee camp, East Jerusalem. Besides increasing local understanding and responsibility concerning ECEC, these committees will from now on help the development of good quality community based ECEC services for young children and their families. The ECEC committees have also made the first steps in the creation of three Mother and Child Centers. These are places where mothers can come to seek advice and help with any problems they may have in the rearing of their children.

Through workshops and training the ECEC committees were made aware of issues such as the importance of protecting and building on local culture, how to cope with living in a violent environment, the 'greening' of the environment, sustainability, networking with outside organizations, new ways for funding and on working out future scenarios. Long term programmes such as the 'Mother to Mother' program and the 'Learn by Play Programme' (see also below) were also strengthened and reached more people than ever before due to the project.

Over **150** more families have been reached through home visits.

Over **2000** children 0-10 years of age have been reached through various activities within the project (home visits, pre-school improvements, tutoring for

## Palestine: Foundations for the Future. 2014-2016

As partner in this follow-up to the above described Begin with the Beginning project, ICDI is responsible for several training sessions and for the monitoring and evaluation of project activities.



In May 2014, a team of 5 ICDI trainers visited the West Bank and worked with relevant people from local organizations to improve the quality of community based early childhood services.

ICDIs Mathijs Euwema and Rutger van Oudenhoven gave a training on the ECD Quat, a self-evaluation tool to gauge quality of a service (for example a kindergarten), that can be used by people such as school teachers and staff of local organizations that work with young children. Around 20 people attended.

# Early Childhood Education and Care

ICDI's Margaret Kernan, Giulia Cortellesi and Asia Koerten worked with teachers of two community schools and two kindergartens to promote children's access to nature and the establishment of so-called 'Gardens of Eve', school gardens set-up and run by children themselves, where they can learn about nature and how to cultivate their own vegetables and flowers. So far three 'Gardens of Eve' have been established in schools with over 150 children involved.

Furthermore, in June 2014, ICDI's Iordan Iossifov visited various project locations and held interviews and discussions to evaluate the 'Learn by Play' programme (an after school programme in which children that need extra support are helped by young tutors) and the 'Mother to Mother' programme (this is a home-visiting programme, whereby trained para-professional mothers give parenting advice). He also discussed the development of the 'Mother & Child Centres' that will be established within this project. These low-threshold, community based centers are meant to give medical, psychological and practical support to women raising young children.

## Ethiopia:

Begin with the Beginning; Early Childhood Education & Care (ECEC) in Ethiopia. 2011-2014

This three year project ended in October 2014 and the last project year was mainly used to ensure that the achievements from the previous years will last. Originally it was planned that the project would set up four community-based ECEC provisions in Amhara Regional State. Against this objective by the end of the project in October 2014 in fact altogether 15 preschool centers had become operational, exceeding all expectations! Five school-based centers have now also been established in the Southern Nation, Nationalities and People's Regional State (SNNPRS) and commitments by local authorities were safeguarded with contracts. The school administration authority in Amhara state also committed itself to the six community based and four school based centers in this regional state; also here contracts were signed. The upgrade of the communities based centers in Amhara - both in terms of capacity

of the staff and infrastructure - continued and some of centers got also new, better premises and equipment, specially adapted for the needs of pre-school aged children.

### Some project results:

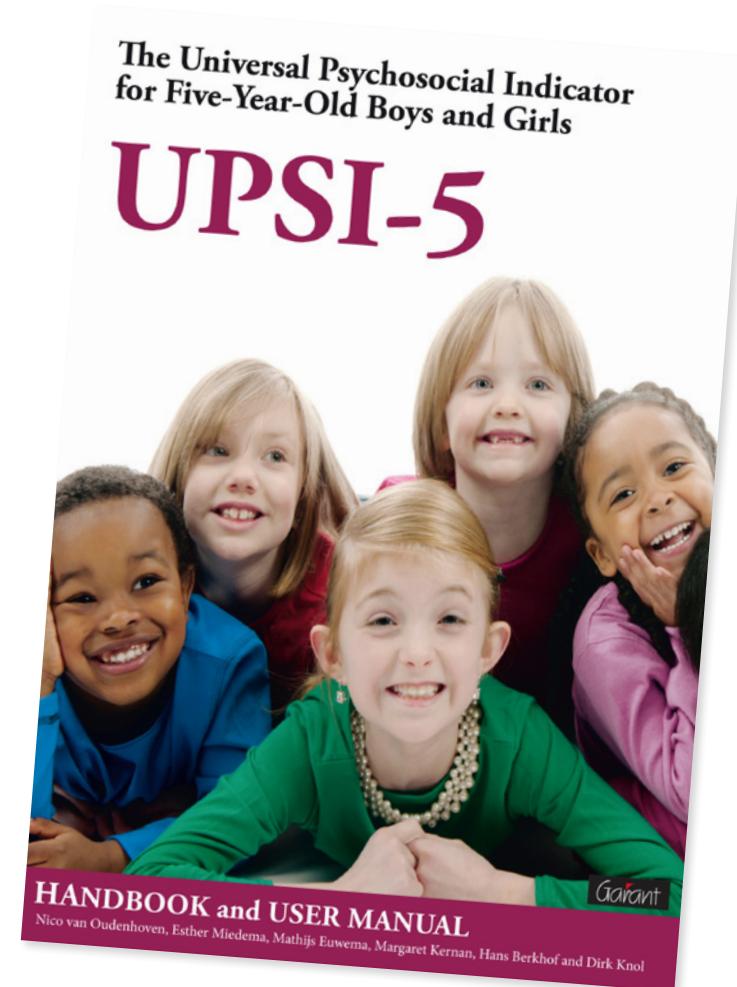
At least 1200 children, 4- to 6-year-old, benefited directly in 2014



# ICDI projects focussing on Newly Emerging Issues of Children and Youth

## South Africa: UPSI-5 and its Relevance for South Africa

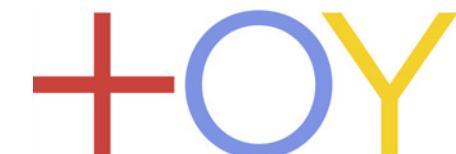
ICDI have been collaborating with the Khululeka Community Education Development Centre in South Africa to research the psychosocial development of young children using UPSI-5 (Universal Psychosocial Indicator for Five-Year-Old Boys and Girls). With help from data collectors from four South African organizations, ELRU, TREE and Lesedi as well as Khululeka, we have successfully collected data about 2090 five-year-old children, as well as background information about the schools they attend. During 2015 the findings will be shared with policy makers, parents and practitioners. Our aim is to convince 'people in power' at both national and provincial levels, that the UPSI-5 is a practical, sensible and useful tool, that can come in handy in policy making, planning, monitoring and development of early childhood education and care services. This project is being funded by the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund and the Liberty Foundation.



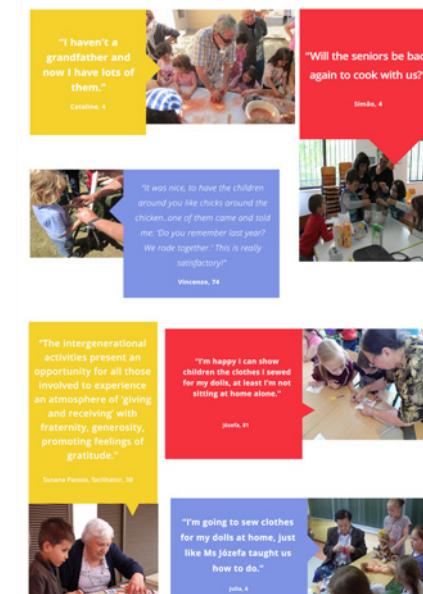
# Newly Emerging Issues for Children and Youth

Ireland, Italy, Slovenia, Spain, Poland, Portugal & The Netherlands: Together Old and Young (TOY). Young children and senior citizens learning and developing in intergenerational community spaces. 2013-2014

The international Together Old and Young (TOY) project which began in 2012, and which ICDI coordinated, came to a close in December. This project has been very successful in raising awareness about the benefits to both young children and older people of shared learning and creative activities. The principle of Together Old and Young is to re-instate what previous generations took for granted; that we should know, live, work and have fun together with people of all ages. During the year ninety-five people took part in TOY Training Workshops in five countries; 13 TOY Pilot Actions in five countries were supported and documented and ICDI hosted the TOY International Conference in Leiden in October. The TOY Toolkit is available to download from the TOY Project website. TOY in Action, the very attractive report of the TOY Pilot Actions is also available to download in 8 language versions. See also the TOY Stories, personal testimonies from children, older people and professionals about the difference the TOY Project has made in their lives. [www.toyproject.nl](http://www.toyproject.nl)



TOGETHER OLD & YOUNG



Together Old and Young will build age-friendly communities!

[www.toyproject.net](http://www.toyproject.net)



\*This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This publication reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

# Newly Emerging Issues for Children and Youth

## Kenya & Uganda: Righting the Future: South-South Collaboration and Capacity Building for Universalizing Secondary Education for Girls in Africa. 2013-2016

The overall goal of this project is to universalize girls' access to and retention in secondary education in Africa. This is an innovative pilot project that seeks to disseminate learning from a successful experience in India to a rural area in Kenya (Nyanza province) and an urban slum in Uganda (Kampala). The good practice from India is provided by the MV Foundation – a non-governmental organization that has achieved demonstrable success in universalizing education in its project locations and has considerable expertise in spreading its model. The highlight of the first year was the immersion visit to Andhra Pradesh, India by African partners where they attended a tailor-made programme consisting of a mix of presentations, field visits, interactions with the community and meetings with policy makers and civil servants. On their return home, partners from Kenya and Uganda adapted the MV Foundation model to their own reality and are implementing pilot projects in their target areas. Project staff have mobilized the community, established bridge schools, trained staff and set up systems of data collection, documentation and research.

Until now **6** bridge schools have been established (these schools prepare girls for a return or entrance to regular schools), **4** in Uganda and **2** in Kenya. A total of **400** adolescent girls have sofar been enabled to resume their education.

## The Netherlands and Europe: Come ON! Community projects for social innovation through intergenerational volunteering experiences 2013-2015

The ComeON! project promotes active citizenship of elderly and young people (12-23 years of age) by supporting intergenerational initiatives geared towards realizing social innovation in local communities in five countries in

Europe (Hungary, Italy, Romania, Spain and the Netherlands). ComeON! strives to bring the generations together using face-to-face (physical) as well as virtual contact, to enhance intergenerational solidarity and active aging. The project is led by the Italian organization Fondazione Mondo Digitale and is funded with support of the Grundtvig Lifelong Learning Programme of the European Commission. In January 2014, ICDI developed a synthesis of all national reviews carried out in the five project countries. Three project manuals were created to support teachers, young people and senior citizens who jointly want to organize activities in their communities.

In the Netherlands, ComeOn! activities will be facilitated by the Rijdende Popschool (a mobile music school that reaches out to youngsters in under-served villages). By creating two music teams, consisting of senior citizens (members of a choir) and children, we will stimulate intergenerational exchange, discuss community issues and – of course- make beautiful music!

A big final concert will be held on 4 April, 2015 for the community of Garmerwolde, Groningen, in the North of the Netherlands.

Over **100** children and **100** senior citizens will collaborate in this project. For more information see [www.cooperland.org](http://www.cooperland.org) and [www.derijdendepopschool.nl](http://www.derijdendepopschool.nl).



# Newly Emerging Issues for Children and Youth

## The Netherlands and Europe: Cooperland 2014

The goal of the Cooperland project was to promote and strengthen citizen cooperation to achieve a fairer and, ultimately, a better society. Cooperland organized joint learning spaces between cooperative practices (PCS) to promote them to a wider audience.

Citizen participation and expressing of views was encouraged. A series of local debates and virtual citizen meetings were organized throughout Europe, to create exchange between citizen cooperative practices at the European level. ICDI contributed by bringing together several examples of cooperative practices in the Netherlands and having them exchange expertise and knowledge with their European counterparts. Examples of cooperative practices include the 'Ouder Participatie Creche' (parents who themselves have set-up and run a day-care center for small children, [www.crechedevilla.nl](http://www.crechedevilla.nl)) and 'Eco Revolte' (a cooperative that focusses on biological and sustainable food consumption; [www.ecorevolte.com](http://www.ecorevolte.com)).

In September 2014 a large European Meeting of cooperative practices was held in Vigo, Spain.



# Other ICDI Activities

## Training

### The Netherlands: Diploma Course on Deaf Children in International Development. 2014-2016

Funded by Kentalis ([www.kentalis.nl](http://www.kentalis.nl)) the five week course 'Deaf Children in International Development' is aimed at people who work or want to work with deaf children in developing countries. The course combines the academic expertise of the ISS ([www.iss.nl](http://www.iss.nl)) and ICDI on children and youth in development with the applied expertise of Kentalis International on education and care for deaf children in both the Netherlands and developing countries.

The first crop of students participated in this intensive course in 2014. 22 participants from 13 different countries joined us in The Hague to broaden and deepen their knowledge on this specific topic. Their diverse backgrounds fueled the many discussions. At the end of the course they presented their personal plan of action, in which they explained what they took away from this course and how they would implement the acquired knowledge in their personal contexts. Plans included creating awareness on sexuality and preventing sexual abuse through visual media, focusing on early identification and intervention for hard of hearing children in mainstream schools, and adapting existing programs to be more rights-based within schools, organizations and the government.

### Training in Czech Republic:

'My Backpack' is a method that supports social workers and parents in talking with children about their experiences when taken from their biological families to be placed in foster care. The story of a little duck who leaves his duck family to go and live with a family of dogs is helping children to tell their own story and work through their feelings and emotions. The designers of this method, developed for and introduced to foster care organizations in The Netherlands, invited ICDI to join the team for training and supervision in other countries. Bep van Sloten and Mathijs Euwema went to Czech Republic to train social workers and therapists in Brno for the local organization Triada. Three days of intense training followed in which participants learned more



about trauma, the theory behind the methodology, and how to speak with and listen to young children about difficult moments in their life and their placement in foster care in particular. There was also a practice part in which children and their foster parents participated in workshops carried out by the Czech trainees. Outcome of the training is that the organization Triada, as official partner of My Backpack, will continue to train new groups of social workers and disseminate the methodology throughout the Czech Republic under supervision of the Dutch team. In 2015 this will be followed up with contact days between all trainees and more training in other countries. For more info see [www.mijnbackpack.nl](http://www.mijnbackpack.nl).

### Training in Belarus

From 28 July to 1 August 2014 ICDI (with Bep van Sloten) gave a well-received training in Mogilev, Eastern Belarus, for 20 social workers and psychologists on how to support and advise (foster) parents in matters of childrearing. Topics included: child development, recognizing child abuse, working with multi-problem families and organizing training for parents. ICDI will provide a follow-up training next year and will also organize a study visit to The Netherlands for the experts from Belarus. This project is a collaboration with SOS Children's Villages in Belarus.



# Other ICDI Activities

## Training in Bulgaria

In the beginning of June 2014, again in collaboration with Bep van Sloten, ICDI's Iordan Iossifov gave training to Bulgarian Red Cross's volunteers working with children in foster care. The training took place in the Bulgarian Red Cross training center in Lozen, near Sofia. The topics addressed included: how to understand and approach foster care children; expectation management and how to take care of yourself (as a volunteer), intervision, how to organize activities for foster children, etc. There were actually two consecutive trainings for volunteers from seven Bulgarian regions with more than 70 participants. The participants as well as the Bulgarian Red Cross staff highly appreciated the training both formally and informally.

## Training in the Netherlands in Planning, Monitoring & Evaluation

On the 11th of October ICDI's Mathijs Euwema gave an introductory training on Planning, Monitoring & Evaluation for staff of around 20 Dutch based local organizations that implement projects to prevent violence against children and who are funded by one the Netherlands most well-known charities, Kinderpostzegels.

## Consultancies

### Europe (Balkan region): Expert support to the Roma Education Fund (REF; Budapest). 2013-2014

Since December 2013 ICDI provides expert support to REF to increase their institutional capacity in the field of Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC). ICDI conducted a baseline study, provided training, supported REF to review and improve its evaluation procedures and monitoring practices. ICDI was instrumental in adapting and developing evaluation tools to help REF to measure the effects of its ECEC interventions. The improved efficiency of REF interventions will benefit directly thousands of young Roma children in Central and Eastern Europe. For more info see [www.romaeducationfund.hu](http://www.romaeducationfund.hu).

## Bulgaria: Expert Support to the National Network for Children. 2013-2014

ICDI supported the Bulgarian National Network for Children (NNC) to design, implement and report on a peer review of good practices in the framework of a EU-funded 'Without Borders' programme, implemented by NNC in cooperation with the Bulgarian Ministry of Education and Science and Eurochild ([www.eurochild.org](http://www.eurochild.org)). The review focused on practices in the field of Early Childhood Education and Care with preventive potential to prevent early school leaving.



# Other ICDI Activities

## South Africa:

Rona and Nico van Oudenoven carried out a 'fact-finding' mission on the functioning of the Sizanani home for children with disabilities in South Africa in November. This at the request of Liberty Foundation.

## Conference participation

Margaret Kernan, Together Old and Young Sharing Cultural Heritage, OMEP, World Organisation for Early Childhood Education International Conference, Cork, Ireland, 1-5 July, 2014.

Margaret Kernan, Tatjana Vonta and Jerneja, Jager, Together Old and Young: A Progressive Approach to Building Age-Friendly Communities, ISSA International Conference, Creating a society for all: re-considering early childhood services, Budapest, Hungary, 10-12 October 2014.

Nico van Oudenoven delivered a key-note address on 'Early Childhood Development (ECD) in an International Perspective' at the Khanty Mansiysk-World Bank Discussions on ECD Issues in Nishivartovsk, Russia, 24-25 June, and another key-note address 'ECD: Lessons from Russia' at the 'Childhood: policy, methodology and practice Early Childhood Care and Education Conference', organized by the Ministry of Education of the Russian Federation in Sochi, 20-22 October. Also in October, he gave a few lectures on ECD to students of the Moscow School of Social and Economic Sciences.



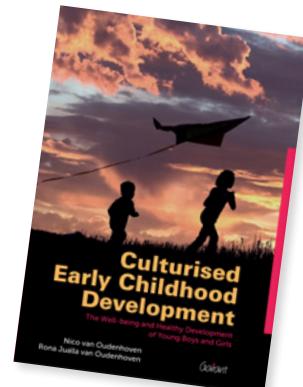
*The not-so-soft power of culture and diversity*, Nico van Oudenhoven and Rona Jualla-van Oudenhoven, Amity Journal of Human Behaviour and Development Issues, Spring 2014.

*Opportunities and affordances in outdoor play*, Kernan, M., in L. Brooker, M. Blaise & S. Edwards (Eds) *The Sage Handbook of Play and Learning in Early Childhood*, pp.391-402 London: Sage.

*Lessons Learnt from Good ECD Practices with Preventive Potential to Counter Negative Trends Related to Early School Leaving*, Iordan Iossifov, in *Review of the Legislative Framework, Policies and Good Practices in the Area of Early Childhood Education and Care* (pp. 34- 44) National Network for Children: Sofia. Published also in Bulgarian.

*Nest Center, a home away from home; International handbook on how to set up and run an innovative model for after-school centres for children from multi-problem families*, Mathijs Euwema, Elvira Živanovic, Branka Ivanović, & Marian van Teeffelen. Published by Kinderpostzegels ([www.kinderpostzegels.nl](http://www.kinderpostzegels.nl))

*Culturised Early Childhood Development: the Well-Being and Healthy Development of Young Boys and Girls*, Nico van Oudenhoven and Rona Jualla van Oudenhoven, Garant, Antwerp.



In 2014 ICDI's total income from project subsidies and other donations was € 1.505.115. Of this 81 % was directly spent on ICDI's objectives 'Child Protection', 'Early Childhood Education and Care', 'Newly Emerging Issues of Children and Youth' and 'Child and Youth Participation'.

Just 14 % was spent on overhead and fundraising costs. This latter figure falls well below the maximum of 25% for such costs as set by regular Dutch standards for NGOs. ICDI also adheres to the so called 'Code Wijffels'. For the full independent auditor's report please go to our website under 'Publications'.

# Board and Staff

## Staff:

Mathijs Euwema, Director  
Giulia Cortellesi, Senior Programme Manager  
Iordan Iossifov, Senior Programme manager  
Margaret Kernan, Senior Programme Manager  
Rutger van Oudenhoven, Senior Programme Manager  
Remi Goossens, Programme Manager  
Noeleen O'Hara, Communications Manager  
Asia Koerten, HR & Finance Manager  
Nico van Oudenhoven, Senior Associate  
Rekha Wazir, Senior Associate

## Board:

Thijs Malmberg (chair)  
Jeroen Wismans  
Anke Vervoord  
Anneke Wensing

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ICDI  
Hooglandse Kerkgracht 17f  
2312 HS Leiden, the Netherlands  
Tel: +31 71 5127420  
Fax: +31 71 5127432  
Website: [www.icdi.nl](http://www.icdi.nl)

Graphic Design:  
Danny Sin, Layers Graphics  
[www.layersgraphics.com](http://www.layersgraphics.com)