



A PATH OF UTOPIA – CREATING REALITY

25 YEARS

INSTITUTO DE APOIO À CRIANÇA – PORTUGAL



Title

A Path of Utopia – Creating Reality
25 years
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Sectors of IAC Internal Structure	Activity programmes	Target audience of IAC
Playing Activities (1983)	- Characterisation of Toy Libraries and Play Rooms - Classification of Games and Toys	Children
SOS Helpline for Children (1988)	- SOS Help Line for Children - Missing Children SOS Help Line - Individual Counselling with Psychologists - School Counselling	Family
Street Kids Project – To Grow within Family (1989)	- Training personal/social skills in Children and Youngsters - Intervention within Community following the Integrated Model - Intervention within the Context of Run-away Street Kids	Community
Children Research and Documentation Centre (1991)	- Elaboration, organisation and dissemination of the Documentation - Studies/Research - Production and Processing of Institutional Information	Municipalities and Ministries
IAC – Forum Building Together (1992)	- Encouraging and extending the Network Building Together - Activities in Shelters for Children and Youngsters - Solidarity and Life: Project of Volunteer Work	Schools and Universities
External Relations (1994)	- Analysis and referral of situa- tions presented to IAC - Establishing contacts with insti- tutions and entities	Health Centres and Hospitals
Juridical Service (1994)	- Legal Assistance offered in the field related to Children's Rights - Promotion and dissemination of legislation connected with Children's Rights - Collecting and processing all legislation concerning Childhood	Police Units and Courts
Humanisation of Child Reception Services (1997)	- Pain in Children - Charter for Children in Hospitals - Reception of Children and Youngsters in Health Units - Discovery of Being... Birth, childhood, adolescence and adulthood	Other national and international entities responsible for issues related to Childhood and Youth

CHILD CARE INSTITUTE COMMEMORATES 25 YEARS

25 years passed since this dream took a legal form on 14th March 1983. A group of professionals from different areas concentrated on UTOPIA OF SERVING CHILDREN, as indicated by João dos Santos, took first steps into the process which honours everyone. Reality of the Portuguese society and problems which the Portuguese children faced by that time were of a different nature.

It is attributable to IAC if at present:

- It is possible to speak openly about maltreatment where a child is a victim;

- Children and their families may benefit telephone services and thus reveal their problems;
- We do not meet any more street kids on the streets of Lisbon City;
- Child's necessity to play is considered as absolutely essential to its integral development;
- Child support services prove to be more human.

However, after the period of 25 years, children are confronted with new problems. At present, it is necessary to draw public attention to risk the children are exposed to in relation to Internet and, again, IAC has emphasized here its presence. It is with enormous pride that we feel

we have achieved our goals through contribution to ameliorate life conditions, well-being and greater dignity in relation to Portuguese Children's life.

We constituted a platform for a dialogue, joined other voices to ours and we shared knowledge. We do know there is much to do, new problems to face, new finish lines to cross. In a work coordinated by different institutions, both private and public, we continue in a spirit of João dos Santos on the path of the pro-child policy which should be work of the entire community.

MANUELA RAMALHO EANES
(IAC PRESIDENT)

REFLECTION PRESENTED IN THE PARLIAMENT THE SUPERIOR INTEREST OF CHILDREN

On 15th April Child Care Institute presented in the Portuguese Parliament a document which came as a result of a reflection aspiring to be serene, solemn and founded on a need to clarify the concept of "superior interest of children".

As a matter of fact, notwithstanding recognition of a child as an autonomous being - a subject of law and entitled to the rights, there still prevails a culture underestimating children which, in practice, translates now and then into the negation of their fundamental rights.

It remains true that, even though protective law already recognizes the right to affection, still it does not mention, in a concrete and unequivocal way, the right to maintain profound psychological relations whose importance is, at present, stated by the most reputable specialists on childhood and adolescence in various areas of knowledge starting from medicine and psychology and

ending in social sciences and education. It is in this context that we have continued publicizing a set of administrative and juridical decisions which not always reflect uniform interpretation of law, especially when the above-mentioned right emerges. This might entail a situation leading to various psychological harms in case there is verified a violation of a referred right to continuity of affective links within relationship. This situation encompasses all cases of affective ruptures as of children received in their first periods of life by people substituting the parents and assuming their parental role to those who were deprived of their grandparents' companionship and with whom they had maintained privileged bonds of affection. Finally, there are children who are refused a contact with one of the parents or siblings forced to be separated without any justifiable reason.

Child Care Institute is fully aware that the concept of "superior interest

of children" is indefinite due to its nature, yet it is known that it is always possible to specify a concept through concretisation of laws which we consider fundamental for a balanced development of a child. All in all, unification is considered urgent so as to avoid decisions based on various concepts of the same issue and it is high time to emphasize the right of children to be heard. We believe that this proposal corresponds to the general feelings of the population as for this topic. Child Care Institute, seeing personalities of the highest credibility and merit in Portugal who honour us greatly by joining this initiative, takes great pride in contributing, once again, to the engagement of civil society for the promotion of children's rights which, as we know, is work of the entire community, according to what João dos Santos used to say.

DULCE ROCHA
(IAC EXECUTIVE PRESIDENT)

FOR THE DEFENCE AND PROMOTION OF CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

Between 1983 and 2008 many professionals from different areas connected to Children carried out generous, competent and dynamic work – they carried it out also with great modesty – in order to make Children's Rights operative. It was done not only through information and awareness campaigns but also through concrete projects of high priority, the work concerned domains not covered neither by the State nor by other institutions.

We cannot let a great contribution of João dos Santos be unmentioned – it was his book “A Caminho de Uma Utopia – Um Instituto da Criança” [A Path of Utopia – An Institute for Children]. As Manuela Eanes reminds “in a sunny afternoon, with birds chirping in centenarian trees, a man of a kind look and simple gestures brought me a manuscript of a new project dreamt by many who had always known that each nation places its bet of the future, development and cultural identity on youth.”

It was on the basis of this project that Child Care Institute, a private charity association, (Instituição Particular de Solidariedade Social) was created on 14th March 1983 by a group of people from various professional backgrounds – medical doctors, judges, teachers, psychologists, lawyers, sociologists, social service workers and educators.

Child Care Institute is a non-profit organisation whose mission is to contribute to integral development of Children as well as defence and promotion of their rights and where the Child is considered an entity having its rights in different areas such as health, education, social security or in its leisure time.

The Institute inspires, supports and disseminates the work of all



those who care and search for new solutions of the childhood problems in Portugal and it also collaborates with similar national and international institutions.

IAC makes public aware of the problems related to Children, particularly those confronted with complicated situations and/or running the risk of physical, mental and/or social disorders.

Demonstrating comprehension and commitment the Institute collaborates systematically on a national and international policy of Child protection and support.

Respecting the rules, incentivizing for the dialogue we create innovating answers and believe that utopias can become realized. Institute adjusts periodically its action to challenges appearing before on the way.

It was IAC which in 1984, for the first time in Portugal, broke a taboo of violence against Children in a multidisciplinary and public way realizing a Seminar titled “Children in Portugal: what Rights?” in the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation.

Considering Children as having their Rights, IAC carries out innova-

ting work by defining strategies related to defence of children's rights to play recognizing a play as having a fundamental role in an educative perspective, establishing relationship between playing centre and leisure time with Children's development, creating community dynamics and identifying new areas for training and its institutional framework as a new educational and social function.

It is essential to emphasize pioneer work developed by IAC in its support given to street kids, maltreated and/or abused children as well as trainings delivered to technicians favouring alterations of attitudes and behaviours within various governmental and non-governmental institutions.

Childe Care Institute involved actively individual people and groups and its field work revealed existence of “grey areas” in different communities of risk which needed the answers to a number of problems such as analphabetism, low professional qualifications, unemployment and poverty; Institute promoted its capacity and inversion of traditional assistance processes.

IAC, being aware of multiple dimension of current problems, created teams working in a transverse manner; it promotes and actuates the networks, encourages exchange of knowledge and experiences among various partner institutions safeguarding interactive exchange of its know-how.

Throughout 25 years of its activity, the Institute boosted studies, seminars, meetings and congresses within new challenges in history of Education in Portugal, holding a firm belief, if we may quote Mrs. Manuela Eanes, “that utopias can be dreams that came true”.

IAC'S...

...Vision

"For the superior interest of Children,
for better well-being,
more happiness and more dignity".

...Mission

"For Defence and Promotion
of Children's Rights"

...Values

Commitment towards Children
Work in group
Work in partnership
Respect
Innovation
Integrity
Effort
Effectiveness
Tenacity
Quality



"A policy for childhood is workmanship
of all the community..."

JOÃO DOS SANTOS
(One of the main IAC founders)

Professor, a psychiatrist specialised in work with children and a psychoanalyst, João dos Santos (1913-1987) was the main renovator of the mental health in Portugal. His name is linked to numerous key Portuguese institutions such as the Helen Keller Child Centre (Centro Infantil Helen Keller), the Portuguese League of Physically Handicapped, the Portuguese League against Epilepsy and the Instituto de Apoio à Criança (IAC).

IAC INTERVENES WITHIN SOCIETY ON BEHALF OF CHILDREN



IN COMPLIANCE WITH ITS STATUTES, IAC INTERVENES WITHIN SOCIETY ON BEHALF OF CHILDREN DEVELOPING VARIOUS VECTORS OF INTERVENTION.

Promotion of colloquies, debates and seminars...

IAC organizes and/or participates in congresses, debates and seminars with an objective to carry out lobbying in favour of Children's Rights, underlining the importance of respect for human dignity and recognizing the Child as having all the rights.

Trainings for workers, families and youngsters

IAC contributes to making the professionals aware and empowering them and target groups in relation to various issues on the area of the Children.

The institution organizes train-

ings addressed to workers, families and youngsters in the field of Children's Rights with a focus on prevention in a broad sense.

IAC develops, fathoms and reinforces competencies permitting to ameliorate the efficacy of trainings' contents.

Cooperation/Technical projects-oriented counselling

IAC establishes partnership relations with similar associations and works with various institutions in search for multifaceted approaches towards the Children sharing with them concerns and challenges with which institutions are faced today.

IAC offers a technical assistance to different institutions and/or workers in multiple ranges such as: concepts, training, supervision, counselling and good practices by doing which IAC contributes to creation of

integrated projects ameliorating efficiency of work.

Supervision of academic and vocational apprenticeship

IAC contributes to raising awareness/training in the scope of Children's Rights through supervision of academic and vocational traineeship.

Execution and supervision of technical-scientific studies/research work

IAC develops and cooperates with various entities within the framework of diverse studies and/or research works on the topics directly connected with the Child.

Different projects of scientific research are published in thematic editions of IAC which are the reference points in the institutional Newsletter.

MEETINGS, CONGRESSES, CONFERENCES OF IAC

Presentation of some of the most important meetings conducted by IAC according to both, significance of their subjects and innovating contribution offered to the Portuguese society:



TITLE	KIND	SCOPE	YEAR
Children in Portugal – what Rights?	Seminar	National	1984
Drugs in today's Portugal – what answers?	Meeting	National	1987
Work with professional baby-sitters/ Family Crèches in Portugal	Meeting	National	1988
Street Kids – Models of Intervention	Meeting	International	1991
To play, How and Why...	Meeting	National	1992
Portuguese Children at the Threshold of the New Century	Seminar	International	1993
Children and Health Services – Making Reception More Human	Meeting	National	1996
Being a Child ... Growing up in the City	Meeting	National	1998
Missing and Sexually Exploited Children	Conference	International	2003
Children, the Right to Dream – Reception and Stay in Hospitals	Meeting	National	2006
Childhood, Citizenship and Journalism	Seminar	International	2007
Violence at school and public policies	Congress	International	2008

NB – Some of the events were held in cooperation with other institutions

4th World Conference
Violence at school and public policies
Violence at school: violence in context?

IV Conferência Mundial
Violência na escola e políticas públicas
Violência na escola: violência em contexto?

Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian
Lisbon Lisboa

Organization / Organização
www.fmh.utl.pt/icvs2008

Logos: MH, OEVS, Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian, mm design

IAC
Instituto de Apoio à Criança

A Criança, o Direito à Utopia Acolhimento e Estadia no Hospital

23º aniversário
do Instituto de Apoio à Criança

14 a 17 Março de 2006
Antiteatro do Hospital de São José
no Parque de Saúde de Lisboa

FUNDACÃO GlaxoSmithKline DAS CIÊNCIAS DE SAÚDE

SECTOR PLAYING ACTIVITIES

At the time of its creation, Child Care Institute promoted in Portugal, through its sector Playing Activities, high awareness related to importance of playing activities in the process of child's development. "Defence of the Right to Play" constituted one of its first goals which were supposed to hasten the dynamism of creating Play Rooms in Portugal.

Movement supporting playing activities used to be limited to single initiatives undertaken by people interested in various specific places within Portugal such as Évora, Lisbon, Viana do Castelo and Castelo Branco and later on it transformed into a concrete programme with an aim to implement, spread and promote Play Rooms and their importance in child's development.

During the first years the Sector counted on experience of those who, in other countries, worked in this area promoting training sessions and meetings making private people and entities understand the necessity to create Play Rooms and learn through observing children playing. At the same time, documentation was being gathered and organised, contacts with national and international institutions were established and, finally, concrete trainings for Play Rooms assistants were delivered within Portugal.

In the next phasis, the Sector managed to acquire variety of forms of support in different areas of the country, namely in Lisbon and Porto, with an aim to boost the playing activities movement in Portugal.

Having tried to provide explicit answers and seeking ways to collect factors which would allow to identify fundamental questions, starting with clarifying concrete problems and defining roles and strategy options, what followed was a period of reflection and consultation.

Models of child support which existed in the beginning of work



delivered by the Sector Playing Activities were mainly of assisting nature or they were concentrated on leisure time with very oriented and fragmented activities. Sector Playing Activities worked on introduction of an activity model which would be dynamic and open to everybody and whose base would be a play as a universal language of a child.

This activity model promotes a child as an agent/protagonist of its own choices and responsible for its acts and it advocates the existence of play rooms – creative and having equality and integration as its basis.

Apart from global esteem of Playing Activities, activities advanced by the Sector throughout 25 years of its existence, concentrate on spreading the information that playing constitutes an integral part of a child's life and when we speak about playing we speak about development, affection, integration and success.

As a recently conducted research has demonstrated, Playing Activities

Sector supported and accompanied, on average, 22 Play Rooms each year (total of approximately 700 Play Rooms) trying to cooperate with different entities on both national and international level. They are namely Universities, Superior Schools for Education, Municipalities, Schools, Kindergartens, Charity Associations, etc. which shown their interest in this new line of community, educational, cultural and social activity in a perspective of prevention and complete development of children and youngsters.

In conclusion, what was conducted was assistance in the initial projects and restructuration of other projects already existing ensuring; training of the technicians was delivered maintaining and raising its quality as well as enhancing the improvement of working conditions, gradually more demanding.

SECTOR SOS-HELPLINE FOR CHILDREN



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C R I A N Ç A

 Instituto de Apoio à Criança

* Grátis, com o apoio da PT Comunicações

SOS-Helpline for Children is a service of national scope created in 1988 by Child Care Institute with an intention to give a voice to children and youngsters who were living their anxieties and suffering in silence.

SOS-Helpline for Children developed and found its place discreetly; it acted calmly and gained appreciation of all, especially of several thousands of children who, thanks to the support delivered in the right time, became happier.

This pioneer service in Portugal has received, since its creation, approximately 62,000 alerts.

Being anonymous and confidential, defining detection and prevention of risk situations as its basis and establishing contacts with partners sharing the same concerns, the sector contributed greatly to the domain of children and youngsters protection.

Activity of SOS-Helpline for Children has a wide spectrum and does not confine itself merely to the issue of physically and psychologically maltreated children and youngsters who are exposed to risk of both kinds. The Service is meant for children and youngsters but adults and families can and should also contact us.

SOS-Helpline for Children

offers pedagogical support as well as it carries out information work, explains, orients, supports, refers and analyses a large number of cases. For all of that, the sector has at its disposal a multidisciplinary team including Social Workers, Educators, Lawyers, School Counsellors and Psychologists.

In 1988 the Sector SOS-Helpline for Children could offer only Telephone Service along with Referral of Cases and Orientation whereas today it has eight additional services: Post Box, School Counselling, Electronic Mail, Personalized Support (social, legal and psychological), Practice Supervision, Re-assessment and Training. All of those services which complement one another allow to respond better to emerging necessities, which perfectly reflects dynamics of the service.

mics of the service.

In 2004 a new service was established: SOS-Helpline for Missing Children which is a telephone service of a national scope with a number 1410.

With its vigor, determination and perseverance, SOS-Helpline for Children has managed to reach far and, gradually, be close in order to react efficiently to children's calling avoiding, at the same time, obstacles and red tape.

As its coordinator says "It's necessary for SOS-Helpline for Children to continue its work and consolidate its strategies. All of that without losing its course, without choking on success – that is our intention – to continue because there is still much to do and also because today SOS-Helpline for Children is Children's right too".



25 DE MAIO

**DIA INTERNACIONAL
DAS CRIANÇAS
DESAPARECIDAS**



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SECTOR STREET KIDS PROJECT – TO GROW UP WITHIN FAMILY



An “overlooked” reality – The Project: Street Work with Children at Risk or Marginalized Children, started in 1989, was a unique innovative project approved for Portugal under the 3rd Programme for the Fight Against Poverty. It was created to assist children wandering around the streets, and sleeping in the street or street canals, the problem “overlooked” by all the institutionalized services.

For the first time in Portugal we dealt with Street Animators, who go to meet children and through a personalized relation with them of affection and companionship, try to discover new values and reference frames for the construction of a new Life Project. At this stage, there have been created innovative methodologies for Street School, School Animators and provided education.

As a result of that intervention, the situation of Street Children in Lisbon has changed: more than 600 children left the street, having rejoined their families or Institutions from which they had escaped.

An action adapted to the territorial reality – The 2nd Stage of the Project was started in June 1994 and it was called Working with Street Children – To Grow Up within Family. In order to stop the problem at its source and prevent the appearance of new cases, there were established special teams in communities of children residence as a part of the Project. It was in that phase that we created such functions as Residence Animators and Solidarity Agents.

Wind of Change – It shall be emphasized that today the reality is different. In practice, there are no more children living in the street. The new social context makes us talk about children and adolescents addicted to drugs and linked with juvenile prostitution. Aware of importance and gravity of the problem, the Street Project adapted its intervention to necessities of the target group, with an objective to interrupt the cycle of marginalization in which children and adolescents are involved.

From a child to a community; from street works to a local development, the Project is currently concentrated on the area of Education/Training.

At present, the Street Project is divided into several Centres for Intervention:

- The Centre for Intervention in Run-away Context, aimed at cooperation with competent entities in search for runaway children, as well as at updating diagnostics on children/adolescents living in the street of Lisbon city, facing dangerous situations (with reference to the Mobile Unit of Entertainment and Pedagogy).

- The Centre for Education and Formation, in which there has been created an innovative response in the area of Education and Training for children and adolescents between 12 and 18, in defiance of existing institutional responses. Its main objective is to promote personal, social, academic (in non-academic environment) and professional competences with respective



certificates.

– The Centre for Community Support and Centre for Intervention in the Integrated Model try to provide children integrated in institutions with assistance in communities of their residence, their objective being contribution to creation and/or development of projects integrated with education/formation. The particular emphasis is placed on prevention, favouring educational assistance for children in vulnerable situations, with use of the adapted methodologies – “Learning in the Street” – and with reference to the Mobile Unit of Entertainment and Pedagogy.

– In the Centre for Support and Development we focus on actuation and participation in Social Networks (national and international), which contribute to taking stand concerning policies about Childhood and Adolescence. We follow the example of the Network Building Together established in 1997, which unites more than 90 Portuguese institutions involved in the area of Childhood/Adolescence; ESAN – the European Social Association Network, as well as EFSC – the European Foundation for Street Children. In EFSC the Street Project has obtained a statue of the privileged interlocutor between ESC and PALOP (States with Portuguese as the Official Language), with special emphasis on Cape Verde and Mozambique. With its methodology focused on Education/Training, with use of entertainment as a pedagogic device, through personalized relation joining efficiency and technique, extending a helping hand, employment of multidiscipline teams and promotion of team work, the Street Project is able to transform real obstacles into “possible utopias”.

SECTOR IAC-FORUM BUILDING TOGETHER

On the initiative of Professor A. Torrado da Silva, a paediatrician at the Paediatric Hospital in Coimbra and a founding member of Child Care Institute, there was established in 1985 a dynamic group which created Coimbra Regional Nucleus.

In January 1992 Nucleus was officially established.

Within a social context, very little sensitive to the question, it was Children hosted in various institutions that drew our particular attention taking into account their emotional disorders imposed by their life stories and the fact that there is a number of child support institutions.

For many Children these institutions are, many a time, their sole family and that role is not always easy for the centres to fulfill if mainly what they can guarantee is just a bed and a table.

Child Care Institute, having full understanding of these priorities, withholding other urgent matters and trying to stir conscience and create new attitudes, intended to cooperate transversely with Directions of child institutions through implementation of Playing Centres, having in mind development of human being with its both individual and collective dimension.

Seeking how to adjust new answers to entangling reality – Street Kids – the team has taken efforts to offer to these children centres as an alternative to the streets, which would minimize the risk in



CONSTRUIR JUNTOS

which children and youngsters lived. On the other hand, the work was done so as to alert to the problem entities specialised in the children and youngsters domain.

In partnership with SOS-Helpline for Children and Street Kids Project we have challenged one of the most distressing issues of the present times: Missing and/or Sexually Exploited Children. Along with our partners from Building Together Network we are seeking to advance our work of spreading the knowledge with collaboration of professionals from education, health and social services areas, however, our main targets are children and youngsters.

And because prevention is still the best measure, it is needed to do much more. We do believe that with common effort taken by everybody it will be possible.

Within partnership with a project SOS-Helpline for Children/School Counselling we have worked with some schools on implementation of Students and Family Support Offices (Gabinetes de Apoio ao Aluno e à Família) with an aim to transform the schools into places of personal and social development.

Such is our path and we are fully aware that in spite of the legislation and Conventions, it is urgent to restructure universal language of affection. Only by doing so is it possible to improve the conditions of Children's well-being.

SECTOR HUMANIZATION OF CHILD RECEPTION SERVICES

Since the beginning of Child Care Institute (IAC), Humanization of Child Reception Services constituted a priority area of intervention taking into account research, existing since the decade of 1940s, on a negative influence of separating a child from his mother in the first years of his life.

The outcome of the research made everybody, in the whole world, take all the efforts to alter the conditions of children reception services and adapt those conditions to children's necessities and demands.

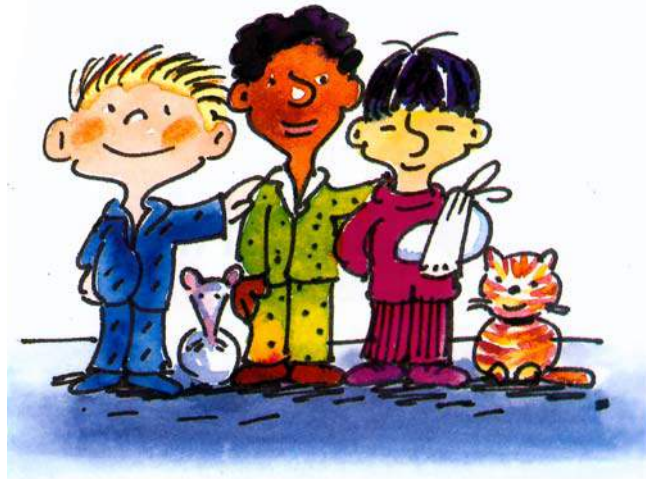
Sector Humanization of Child Reception Services is included for the first time in IAC activities plan in 1989 with a purpose to actuate humanization nucleuses in various hospitals of the country where children were admitted.

Different legal regulations were published aiming at protection of a sick child and his family, particularly during the period of hospitalization, and as a result it proved to be necessary to adapt health services to legal demands and render the professionals aware of a new reality, which was not always easy.

Consequently, the Sector offered to advance a concept of humanization by creating links between a sick child, his family and hospital environment in order to improve life quality of a child.

In 1986 the Charter for Children in Hospitals was published in the Official Journal of the European Communities. Taking into account its comprehensiveness (23 entries), various associations impelled mechanisms allowing the Charter to become fully accepted and complied with in the respective countries. In May 1988 interested associations adapted and approved of the shorter version of the Charter (10 entries) in Leiden and later on

Carta da Criança Hospitalizada



Instituto de Apoio à Criança

HUMANIZAÇÃO
DOS SERVIÇOS
DE ATENDIMENTO
À CRIANÇA



established EACH (European Association for Children in Hospital).

The Sector participated in IV Conference of EACH (France – 1995) trying, since that date, to take part in all meetings with a statute of an associate member and undertaking the task to spread in Portugal the Charter for Children in Hospitals (Portuguese version was published by Child Care Institute). Due to the executed work, the Sector became recognized and admitted as a EACH member enjoying full rights in 2006.

Today Sector's activity focuses upon realizing objectives related to humanization, making aware not only professionals and general public, but also decision-making and managerial authorities (Directorate General of Health, Ministry of Health, Portuguese Parliament and European Parliament).

Apart from disseminating the Charter, Sector elaborates investi-

gation studies on the topics related to Humanization and those finding their focal points in the ways defining the measures according to which the rights of sick children, especially those clarified in the Charter for Children in Hospitals, are being applied in Portugal.

In spite of the whole developed work carried out in collaboration with a multidisciplinary team from different places in the country, we cannot conclude that our obligations have been fulfilled because each moment new factors appear (medical, social, political and cultural) which require systematic alertness and defining new strategies.

Countless examples of assistance and recognition attributed to the Sector due to its advanced activities provide a conclusion that humanization is still a priority area of intervention as it was by the time Child Care Institute was brought into existence.

SECTOR EXTERNAL RELATIONS

IAC develops and actuates a broad network with institutions and entities committed to define a global policy for childhood. The Institute collaborates and takes an active part in events held by other institutions and/or entities on both national and international level.

MAIN PARTNERS OF IAC

Municipalities
Schools and Universities
Foundations
Provincial Governments
Private Charity Institutions (IPSS)
Ministries

NATIONAL:

Non-governmental organisations
Network Building Together
National Branch of European Anti-Poverty Network
Santa Casa de Misericórdia de Lisboa
Health Services and Hospitals

INTERNATIONAL:

Action for Sick Children
APACHE
AKIK-Bundesverband
Associazione per il bambino in ospedale (APIO)
Child Focus
Child Helpline International (CHI)
Children in Hospital Ireland (CHI)
European Association for Children in Hospital (EACH)
European Foundation for Street Children (EFSC)
European Social Action Network (ESAN)
European Toy Library Group (ETL)

Association pour l'Humanisation de l'Hôpital en Pédiatrie (HU)
International Association for the Child's Right to Play (IPA)
International Center for Missing and Exploited Children (ICMEC)
International Toy Library Association (ITLA)
Kind en Ziekenhuis
Missing Children Europe – European Federation for Missing and Sexually Exploited Children
Nobad-Nordisk forening for syke barns benov
European Anti-Poverty Network (REAP)
SPARADRAP
Verband Kind und Spital
Verein Kinderbegleitung

JURIDICAL SECTOR



This sector delivers legal services, refers and assists in situations which require an answer on a legal level. Bigger part of processed and referred cases are related to regulation of parental authority.

It registers, disseminates and promotes legislation related to Children's Rights and provides information on existing legal mechanisms permitting to apply the Rights in the area of childhood.

Specialists from the sector deliver also dozens of training sessions and awareness campaigns on the following topics:

- Children Protection
- Children's Rights
- Children as Victims of Maltreatment

The activities are directed at different groups from various professional areas, such as Family Courts, Schools, Health Centres, Committees for Children and Youngsters Protection.

The Sector will be represented in the Work Group of Directorate General for Health.

SECTOR CHILDREN RESEARCH AND DOCUMENTATION CENTRE

IAC was the first in Portugal to develop thematic collection focusing upon the area of Children which, as such, constituted a fundamental threshold for promotion of knowledge about Children.

It was created in 1991 as a result of need for information specialized in Children considered holistically. Initially, the sector bore a name of Documentation Centre on Childhood (CDI) and was of particular interest to specialized technicians and students of different schools for education, especially Universities.

At present, Children Research and Documentation Centre (CEDI) is an outcome of evolution process which IAC develops accompanying a change in society's knowledge, using arising techniques and inves-

ting in new intervention lines. Today the Sector constitutes an organisational unit consisting three sub-units (Documentation, Research and Information/Communication) which interact with each other developing team work with their specialized technicians and trying to, ultimately, produce, manage and disseminate Knowledge about Children.

Among its activities it is worth emphasizing:

- Collecting, processing and disseminating national and international documentation on the topic of Children. We highlight an integrated system of information management in hard-copy and digitalized form which will be shortly available on-line;

- Cooperation on scientific studies and research projects in partnership with various national and

international institutions;




- Publication and diffusion of studies, reports and other documents on Children;

- Information production related to global policy for Childhood in different formats with simultaneous phenomenon of increased amount of Information made available on IAC website;

- Implementation of an editorial policy conducted in partnership with publishing houses, which allows for a greater diffusion and distribution of documents produced by IAC.

IAC/CEDI canalizes its entire experience acquired throughout the years ensuring the quality and capacity of intervention and by doing so it creates one more surplus value for those who dedicate themselves to Children.

Examples of conducted studies or those to which IAC has contributed:

Activities developed by IAC in the area of Education (2000-2005)	Sharing Approaches on Violence	Psychopedagogical aspects of Play Room Activities
<p>IAC develops countless programmes and research studies which are important factors in: prevention of premature school drop-out, decrease of school failure, promotion of school attendance, encouragement of socializing process, motivating to build a life project which encompasses school success and providing an alternative answer to school which encompasses education crowned with certificates.</p> 	<p>Project coordinated by European Social Action Network (ESAN) allowed to share different initiatives and experiences run by multi-disciplinary front-line teams in charge of prevention and care of people victims of violence, particularly children and young people. Its aim was to set up a self-questioning process and reflect on their own provisions so that later on difficulties encountered at work could be resolved efficiently.</p> 	<p>Publication comprising the presentation delivered by Prof. Arquimedes Santos during the First Exposition of Pedagogical Materials at Superior School for Education in Setúbal, in November 1988.</p> <p>Mrs. Natália Pais from IAC states in a preface that "contribution of this work to the development of play rooms activities, mainly in their psychopedagogical aspect, fulfils a notion of plays in relation to their symbolic function".</p> 

PUBLICATIONS OF IAC...

... came as a result of researches and they constitute a compilation of information produced by IAC on Children-related problems. Below six titles are mentioned:



IAC NEWSLETTER is a quarterly publication initiated in January 1988 has as an aim to support and disseminate work done by all those concerned about searching for new answers to childhood problems in Portugal.

It is a publication reflecting IAC's intervention in different areas such as health, education, social security or leisure time activities.



CONVENTION OF CHILDREN'S RIGHTS is a publication of this important text which Portugal had just ratified. IAC undertook a responsibility to divulge subject matters referring to Children Rights. Spreading the Convention served also to enable different institutions to develop projects, campaigns and programmes indispensable to well-being of Children and their protection.



RECEPTION AND CHILDREN'S STAY IN HEALTH SERVICES is a guide-book created in the Humanization sector of IAC and was financed by Glaxo-Smithkline Foundation of Health Science. Its aim is to provide information on national reality in this matter and facilitate identification of necessary alterations be it on the behavioural level or on professional experiences.



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF TOY LIBRARIES is an outcome of a Conference held by IAC. This work comprises dozens of interventions summaries on the experiences and reflections presented by the best Portuguese and world professionals.



MISSING AND SEXUALLY EXPLOITED CHILDREN includes: a Directory of Portuguese NGO's fighting with those phenomena, national report, interviews with key-persons, definitions related to missing and sexually exploited children and presentations during a European Conference carried out by IAC in 2003.



WORK WITH STREET KIDS relates to objectives, various phases of projects, new strategies and methods applied in a unique innovative project which was approved for Portugal by the European Commission under the lee of the Third Anti-Poverty Programme.

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PORTUGAL SHORT OVERVIEW

Portugal is a democratic Republic enjoying full freedom of political rights and freedom of Press.
Portugal is homogeneous linguistically with one official language (Portuguese) and one recognised regional language (Mirandese).
Population (as of 31/12/2007)
– Total: 10,617,575 persons. Men – 5,138,807 and Women 5,478,768.
Population density: 115,1;
Perimeter: 4,071 km
The educational system is divided into preschool (for those under age 6), basic education (9 years, divided into three stages of four, two and three years. It is compulsory), secondary education (3 years), and higher education (university and polytechnic). Portuguese universities have existed since 1290.

