



International Foster Care Organisation

Registered UK Charity: 1081324

[www.ifco.info](http://www.ifco.info)

Laan van Meerdervoort 70 2517 AN Den Haag, The Netherlands  
Tel: +3170 346 2153 Fax: +3170 427 9242 E-mail: [ifco@ifco.info](mailto:ifco@ifco.info)

**IFCO E-Newsletter / 4**  
**December 2006**

\*\*\*\*

**IFCO invites you to translate this newsletter into your own language and send it further to contacts in your country and elsewhere who may not yet be IFCO members (membership details are on the [www.ifco.info](http://www.ifco.info) web site) - thank you!**

\*\*\*\*

**1. Published today! UNICEF's Report "The State of the World's Children 2007"**

This important annual report is published in a number of languages and is entitled "Women and Children – The Double Dividend of Gender Equality" [www.unicef.org](http://www.unicef.org)

**2. Update on IFCO's projects: DEFT**

In cooperation with five European countries we are developing a package for the training skills of trainers of foster carers. This will be an accredited curriculum for all trainers including social workers, foster carers and young people. The project is in the testing phase of the material and will be launched at a specialist two-day conference in September 2007.

More information at [www.deft-project.eu](http://www.deft-project.eu)

**3. Update on IFCO's Projects: Twinning Light - Romanian Adoptions**

In January IFCO, in cooperation with the Ministry of Justice in The Netherlands and others, will undertake a new project in Romania. We will support the Romanian Office for Adoption in the further development of the domestic adoption process and will train professionals involved in adoption on the improvement of the procedure, preparation, support and counseling of parents, children and adoptive parents. This project will also involve a study tour to The Netherlands and documentation research. We are happy to assist in the transfer of knowledge and experience from one EU country to the other!

For more information email: [ifco@ifco.info](mailto:ifco@ifco.info)

**4. The Informer: New issue on HIV/AIDS in preparation**

IFCO is preparing a special issue of the IFCO INFORMER on Foster Care for Children Affected by HIV / AIDS and is looking for contributions, country updates, testimonies, stories, tips, good practice, training material, children and youth

Laan van Meerdervoort 70 2517 AN Den Haag, The Netherlands  
Tel: +3170 346 2153 Fax: +3170 427 9242 E-mail: [ifco@ifco.info](mailto:ifco@ifco.info)

contributions. If you would like to share your knowledge on the topic or contribute, please write to [ifco@ifco.info](mailto:ifco@ifco.info) **Closing date for contributions: 10 January**

### **5. IFCO's Knowledge Centre**

IFCO is in the process of developing a knowledge centre in both paper and electronic format. A database is being set up that covers country by country information and topics as varied as (among others): abuse, adoption, attachment, early development, leaving care, standards of care, family reintegration, kinship care, permanency, long term fostering, residential care. The electronic database will be available to members via the members' only section of the IFCO website. Meanwhile we are looking for feedback from members and partners on what topics you would like to see covered. If you have a special interest for a particular subject, if you are studying a certain topic or if you would like to point out areas where more information or research is needed, please write to IFCO at [ifco@ifco.info](mailto:ifco@ifco.info). This database will be put together with your help and for the benefit of the world-wide IFCO community.

### **6. IFCO Elections**

Elections to the IFCO Board will be held on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2007 at the Annual General Meeting, during the biennial international conference at the Waikato University, Hamilton, New Zealand. **Any member may consider nominating themselves for election to the board.** Youth members are encouraged to stand for election: IFCO has youth participation at all levels high on the agenda! **18 December** is the deadline for emailing your nomination form to Gaylene Lawrence at [nzffcf.eo@xtra.co.nz](mailto:nzffcf.eo@xtra.co.nz). Please find the attached nomination form.

### **7. IFCO in Latin America: RELAF**

The Latin American network IFCO-RELAf has held a successful meeting in Buenos Aires, setting up a committee of experts to oversee the future development of the network. The committee is made of experts from Argentina, Brazil, Venezuela, Chile, Peru and Paraguay. For more information please check <http://relaf.ifco.info> (in Spanish) or write to the regional coordinator, Maria Soledad Franco, at [relaf@ifco.info](mailto:relaf@ifco.info)

### **8. IFCO in CEE: Appeal to organisations working in institutional / foster care**

IFCO's Central and Eastern European Network is seeking your contribution! At an East-East meeting at IFCO's regional training seminar in Bratislava in June 2006, delegates from Central and Eastern European countries expressed their wish to gain helpful knowledge and skills by taking part in international exchanges. We have been looking for a good system or a way of organizing these study visits, and since we want to choose the very best, we would like to hear YOUR IDEAS! What organizations / institutions / countries would your organisation like to visit? What can your organisation / institution / country offer? Are there any important events happening at your regional/ local level?

If you are interested in East-East study visits or in becoming a member of IFCO's East-East Network write an e-mail to Lubka Semrincova, the coordinator of the network, at [east-east@ifco.info](mailto:east-east@ifco.info).

## **9. IFCO in Africa: French-speaking countries**

IFCO is preparing projects to support carers of the French-speaking African countries (foster families; kin families; child-headed households and community projects), and is in special need of trainers in foster care with good knowledge of the French language. For more information please write to [fua@ifco.info](mailto:fua@ifco.info)

## **10. African news: Campaign against child trafficking**

A campaign against the trafficking of children into the UK was kick started by the launch of a new video highlighting the issue on Thursday 30 November. The video will be shown over the Festive and New Year holidays on different UK based African TV networks to help raise awareness of the issue amongst the generality of Africans living in the UK and other European countries. Together, these African TV networks have a total of over 4 million viewers across Europe. You can watch the video on YouTube by accessing the link below:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NIbp21pSFDI>

Please circulate to your friends, networks, colleagues and others. Also, send to the petition initiators your comments about the video and how it can reach more community members - in the UK, Europe and Africa at the following address:

Debbie Ariyo  
AFRUCA - Africans Unite Against Child Abuse  
Unit 3D/F Leroy House, 436 Essex Road, London N1 3QP  
Tel: +44 (0)207 704 2261 Fax: +44 (0)207 704 2266 Mobile: +44 (0)7947 996448  
E-mail: [info@AFRUCA.org](mailto:info@AFRUCA.org)  
[www.afruca.org](http://www.afruca.org)

## **11. CEE news: Promoting Foster Care in Bulgaria**

Message from IFCO's Vice-President, Vanya Ganozova of EveryChild Bulgaria:

Some time ago, the Bulgarian legal body responsible for implementing foster care approached me in my capacity as IFCO's Vice President with an invite for me to join their campaign on promoting foster care in the Varna Region. I agreed on behalf of IFCO to invest my time and knowledge because the campaign is in line with one of our goals – to promote foster care. On 23 November, I participated in a press conference to speak about IFCO, the provisions in legislation, and the campaign. The following day, a Charity Ball was given for approximately 50 local business representatives. I included a short speech about the importance of family care and the role of fostering. We had some of the first foster carers with us so it was really powerful! The campaign was further continued with a charity market including bidding for local art.

Currently, there are around 400 children in institutions within the Varna region and around 100 of them need foster families. I am happy to say that our efforts gave a good result: wide coverage and around 1300EURO. After the event I received requests from two other cities, Ruse and Sofia, for the same campaign. We sent a press release and are still receiving comments and questions! I think this was a big

success for IFCO and for the children in Varna region, as well as potentially on national level!

Ivanka Shalapatova Ganozova  
Director - EveryChild Bulgaria  
4 Floor, 22 Juri Venelin Street, Sofia 1000, Bulgaria  
Tel/Fax: + 359 2/ 9807058, 9813881, 9814118  
E-mail: [everychild\\_vg@evrotur.net](mailto:everychild_vg@evrotur.net)  
Website: [www.everychild-bg.org](http://www.everychild-bg.org)

## **12. CEE news: A letter from a Moldovan child**

News from IFCO's Board member, Stela Grigoras of EveryChild Moldova:

"The transition period that Moldova is currently undergoing, brings about many changes and produces a great impact on children and their families. Labor migration is one of the aspects of these dramatic changes. Poverty and migration contribute to families break down and to the increase in the number of children left without parental care. According to the data issued by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport, by the 1<sup>st</sup> of September 2005 there was a registered number of 35,000 children of school-attending age deprived of both parents' care, and a number of at least 75,000 children who had one parent abroad. According to national statistics figures, 367,000 Moldovan citizens left the country only in one year (2004) to seek employment abroad. This figure is increasing every year. As a rule, their children are left behind to be cared for by close relatives or by neighbours. However, these people cannot offer children parents' love, affection and necessary support for their growth and development. Some unofficial data reveal that in some cases these children are exposed to violence, trafficking, becoming delinquent and/or abandoning school. "

The Moldovan newspaper "Gazeta Libera" recently received a stunning letter. It was written by one of these children, left behind by migrating parents. The letter is addressed, first of all, to adults. You can read this moving appeal of a child in the attachment of this newsletter.

## **13. Asian news: Series of typhoons devastate The Philippines**

Angela Maria Pangan, IFCO Board member and coordinator of the IFCO Asian network has sent us news from The Philippines:

"We just had a super typhoon that passed through Metro Manila in November, and now another more powerful typhoon has crossed the country through several provinces that devastated homes, farms, properties, etc. The death count is still rising having recently reached 1,000, with as many as 600 or more injured in hospitals. Sadly, more are still missing and some areas cannot be reached! In one of the affected provinces, many of our beneficiary families with disabled children have had their homes lost or destroyed. At this time, we are in touch with the Philippine National Red Cross and the Regional Disaster Coordinating Council to seek help!"

Angela Maria Pangan,  
NORFIL Foundation  
16 Mother Ignacia St. Cor. Roces Avenue  
Quezon City

1103 Philippines  
[norfil@philonline.com](mailto:norfil@philonline.com)

#### **14. IFCO's Training & Development Bureau**

IFCO's Training and Development Bureau has received a number of applications of members that offer to share their knowledge and experience with colleagues in other countries via our bureau.

The expertise of people gathered under the Training & Development Bureau has already been made use of in projects such as the Romanian Adoption projects mentioned above (point 3). For future, we need to expand the pool of experts registered with the Bureau. As examples of such projects you can read the call for French-speaking trainers above (point 7). Other projects coming up are: the training in January in Sri Lanka, and a consultancy in Macedonia later in the year. For all these projects, experts registered with the T&D Bureau will be used.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Bureau or would like to offer your knowledge please email us in regards to what we are looking for and for more information. Write to [ifco@ifco.info](mailto:ifco@ifco.info).

#### **15. New staff member and volunteer at the IFCO office**

Starting this month, we are happy to introduce Audra White, a new staff member and colleague at the IFCO office, and Julie Duke, a new volunteer and member of the editorial team.

Audra White is an American who chose to move to The Netherlands over a year ago with her Dutch partner. Holding a degree in sociology, she has dedicated the past few years working within human services or for community betterment. Audra is excited to join the staff at IFCO and continue to support the growing developments within our organization.

Native to England, Julie Duke joins the IFCO team bringing with her experience in training, researching and development from a base of religious studies. Julie has lived periodically in The Netherlands over the last ten years in which time she has spent working with a variety of people from different cultural backgrounds and nationalities.

\*\*\*\*\*

**You are welcome to use any or all of this information in your own newsletters, magazines or e-publications as long as you acknowledge IFCO as the source.**

**Have you already booked for the international IFCO conference in New Zealand? For details please check <http://www.ifconz07.org.nz/>**