



International Foster Care Organisation

Registered UK Charity: 1081324

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**IFCO E-Newsletter / 8**  
**June 2007**

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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!

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**1. Quality4Children: the European Quality Standards for out-of-home care have been successfully presented on 13 June 2007 in Brussels**

Together with a group of affected persons, SOS Children's Villages, IFCO (International Foster Care Organisation) and FICE (Fédération Internationale des Communautés Educatives), have developed a set of quality standards for out-of-home children and youth in care. A total of 32 European countries have participated in the project.

The official presentation of these standards took place at the European Parliament in Brussels on June 13 at the invitation of Lissy Gröner, member of the European Parliament. The event was attended by representatives of the European Union and international organisations.

A total of 18 standards, which have been divided into the three chapters of "Decision-making and admission process", "Care-taking process" and "Leaving-care process" are available. As a next step, the standards are to be put into practice, while being continuously evaluated.

The Q4C standards are available in both print and online versions and can be accessed via the website: [www.quality4children.info](http://www.quality4children.info). You may also purchase this from IFCO for €5 plus shipping and handling. Please contact our office at: [ifco@ifco.info](mailto:ifco@ifco.info) for more information.



## **2. IFCO2007MALTA, 18-21 November 2007, Malta: New Updated Speaker List!!**

*Developing foster care for children and families in the European Union, CEE, CIS and North Africa - new challenges, quality standards and solutions*



MALTA has been developing a high quality foster care system over the last few years and they are enthusiastic to share and learn. IFCO events are always about sharing and learning together and we are grateful to the queue of high-quality speakers and trainers who donate their services without payment. EXTRA SUBMISSIONS ARE INVITED!!! 18 July is the closing date and you may submit your proposals online - click on "Call for Papers" on the conference website (<http://malta2007.ifco.info/>).

IFCO Training Seminars are for all involved in the development of quality foster care - young people, foster parents/carers, social workers, students, researchers, academics, trainers, managers and policy makers. IFCO does not put titles on conference badges - everybody is equally important! The IFCO programmes are always full of high quality presentations plus plenty of time for networking and fun and IFCO2007MALTA will be no exception!

### **\* UPDATE \* SOME OF THE SPEAKERS THUS FAR:**

MARIA HERCZOG (UN CRC MEMBER / HUNGARY), EMILY JEAN McFADDEN (USA), TIM HANLEY, KEVIN O'FARREL (IRELAND), KATE CAIRNS, BRIAN CAIRNS, JANE ASQUITH, CHRISTINE SMART, JENNIFER COUSINS, KEVIN WILLIAMS, MARK HARRISON, EMMANUEL SHERWIN (ENGLAND), OLIVIA GALIA-SEYCHELL (MALTA), ELAYN SAMMON (UKRAINE), KATHLEEN KUFELDT, ROBERT TWIGG (CANADA), SARAH CRANGE, BRYAN RITCHIE, SUE ROBERTSON, SANDRA MOODY (SCOTLAND), LUISA BOLEO (PORTUGAL), RENE DE BOT (NETHERLANDS), CHRIS GARDINER, TEREZA TESAROVA (CZECH REPUBLIC), JILL WORRAL (NEW ZEALAND) + MORE!

Please visit our website for regularly updated information and register by July 10<sup>th</sup> for the lowest prices! <http://malta2007.ifco.info/>

## **3. IFCO - RELAF Training Regional Seminar 17-19 May, 2007: The Right to Live in a Family has been a success!!**

The IFCO-RELAF Seminar was a highly successful event, gathering 300 people from 15 countries during three enriching working days at the Hotel Hermitage in the city of Mar del Plata, Argentina.

The Seminar was aimed at gathering individuals and organisations committed to advocating for children's right to family and community living in Latin America and in the world. The purpose was to share and learn together within the framework of an international integration context for this issue through the exchange of experiences. The Seminar was attended by all child care stakeholders in Latin America, from all cultures and religions: Families, the State (Judicial, Legislative and Executive Power, and governmental child care bodies), Community (organisations from the civil society and individuals interested), experts (professionals and field workers in all areas of child care, including health and education), and mass media.

The Seminar was organised by IFCO, GAFA (Grupo de Acompañamiento a Familias Adoptivas) and Fundación Cepes, whose mission is to improve the quality of children's lives. The event was made possible by the financial support of the Dutch organisation Kinderpostzegels. To read the full conference report visit IFCO website at: [http://www.ifco.info/Pages/lastnews\\_news.php?id=140](http://www.ifco.info/Pages/lastnews_news.php?id=140).

More information will be offered in the next Informer (Issue 2, July 2007). You can also visit the conference website at: <http://relaf.ifco.info/mardel/index.html>



#### **4. A story of reintegration in schools of children affected by AIDS in India**

After a six-month battle, a Christian-affiliated school in the southern coastal state of Kerala (in South India) allowed a group of five HIV-positive children back to class. They had been thrown out last December after complaints by the parents of other pupils attending the school.

This case, that caused also the intervention of the state government, has raised the issue of discrimination of children affected by HIV in a country that has 5.7 million people infected with HIV. For more information on this article please visit: [http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20070618/wl\\_sthasia\\_afp/healthindiaaidseducationchildren\\_070618101442](http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20070618/wl_sthasia_afp/healthindiaaidseducationchildren_070618101442).

We invite you to further comment on this topic and submit to us your opinions at [ifco@ifco.info](mailto:ifco@ifco.info).

#### **5. Renew your subscription to IFCO membership!!!**

Is your IFCO membership expiring? Would you like to continue sharing our mission and be part of an international organisation aimed at children's welfare?

You have only to **renew your membership** and **get all the advantages** that IFCO gives to all its members:

- Discounts on registration fees to our conferences and training seminars,
- Advice and support through our network,
- Subscription to our magazine: "The Informer" and to our monthly E-newsletter,
- Access to the "members only" section of our website with updates on topics and researches related to foster care,
- Opportunity to influence and help IFCO develop its policies,
- Participation in the Training & Development Bureau,
- Access to wide ranging information & research.

You can find the membership renewal form directly in our website at the following address: <http://www.ifco.info/Pages/join.php> or contact our office at: ifco@ifco.info.

### **6. CWDC has recently published a new workbook and two guides on Foster Care.**

The Children's Workforce Development Council (CWDC) has published, on 19 June 2007, a workbook entitled "Training, Support and Development Standards for Foster Care". The book is designed to support foster carers from pre-approval through their first two years of fostering. The Standards equip a foster carer with the skills and knowledge to ensure that children and young people get the best possible care.

For more information visit CWDC website at: <http://www.cwdcouncil.org.uk/>

### **7. We would like to congratulate IFCO's Project Consultant, Frederique Ulla on her new baby: Maud Luz!!**

IFCO is happy to share this moment of happiness with Frederique and her family. We wish all the joy in this world for their little precious Maud Luz and hoping that she is to bring much "light" into this world!

