



ΣΥΝΗΓΟΡΟΣ ΤΟΥ ΠΑΙΔΙΟΥ

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Annual Update 2010-2011

The Greek Ombudsman, Department of Children's Rights
ENOC 15th Annual Conference
Warsaw, Poland, 14,15 &16 September 2011

1 General View - Stats 1/1/2010-1/1/2011

540 new individual complaints received and investigated concerning:

- **education (34%)** - mostly regarding educational support for children with disabilities & disciplinary sanctions
- **health & welfare institutions, nurseries, social insurance (24%)**
- **guardianship & parental conflict issues (11%)**
- **integration of children immigrants and refugees (8%)**
- **child abuse & neglect (7%)**

The majority of the complaints come from adults, mainly parents. Children rarely file complaints.



2 Promoting the Rights of the Child / Communicating with children

An important part of our work is focused on actions for the promotion, publicizing and dissemination of the rights of children to the wider public. In 2010 we visited **25 cities** in the country and gave **90 speeches and seminars** to professionals, parents etc. We have also visited **12 care and young offenders' institutions** and held meetings with **50 groups of pupils/students**.

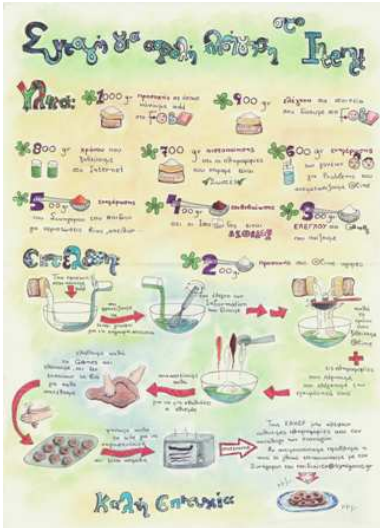
The **publicity events, working meetings and networks** we participated were related mainly to the following issues:

- Protection of children from sexual abuse
- Institutional and foster care for children victims of violence
- Educational integration of Roma children
- Positive parenting and prevention of corporal punishment
- Promoting children's rights and health education at school
- Treatment of juvenile offenders
- Violence and bullying at schools
- Child friendly justice



The Children's Ombudsman circulated information material in printed and electronic form and constantly updated its webpage for minors and adults www.0-18.gr.

Recently we longed a new activity, aiming at “training volunteers on children’s rights and UNCRC”. Representatives from public organisations, institutions and ngos working for children and using volunteers were invited to participate in this activity, aiming at the organization of a special seminar and the publication of a booklet of guidelines.



Youth Advisory Panel

At the end of 2010 our first Youth Advisory Panel concluded its 2 years term. In the beginning of 2011 a new 20 member YAP was formed and started operating. The new Panel consists of 11 girls and 9 boys aged 14-17 years old, who were selected with a draw among 250 teenagers from all over Greece, who sent their applications, following an open invitation. Care was taken so that foreign children, children with disabilities and children in care were included in the Panel. The YAP has already held two meetings with the Ombudsman, created and recorded a radio spot against corporal punishment (following discussion in the electronic forum and two regional meetings) and conducted a survey on the internet and children’s rights among 1158 students all over the country. A poster (on the secure navigation in the internet) was also created by members of YAP.



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3 Reports, statements, policy recommendations

The Children’s Ombudsman formulated reports on:

- Measures for the prevention and tackling of violence between pupils
- Students’ getting expelled from school
- The involvement of divorced parents in their children’s school life (information, communication, participation)

The above reports were followed by circulars issued by the Ministry of Education including the Ombudsman’s recommendations.

- The conditions of young offenders’ institution (Avlona) - including a proposal to separate juveniles under 18
- The living conditions and violations of rights of children with disabilities and chronic diseases in a particular residential care centre (KEPEP Lechena)
- The legal framework on foster care
- The conditions of examination of children victims of sexual violence by police authorities
- The social insurance policy for divorced parents’ children
- The obligation to former information of parents, when imposing penalties for ticket evasion on public transport by minors
- The withdrawal of reference to the child adoption status on the school graduate certificate

