

**International Workshop**  
**Impact of Poverty and Social Exclusion on Children's Lives  
and their Well-being**

8<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> September 2008 (til noon), Bratislava, Slovakia

Hosted by the Institute for Labour and Family Research, Bratislava

Funded by Childwatch International Research Network

**Abstract**

**Factors and Consequences of Social Exclusion of Children in Macedonia –  
experience directly from the field**

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In the countries which are in transition for a long time, such as Macedonia, the factual situation shows that there are a high percentage of children who do not enjoy the benefits the basic children rights. A large number of children live their lives as adults skipping the most beautiful period of ones life, rejected from the families, deprived from education, health care and excluded from the processes of socialization which are key in every child's development.

If children are the basis of a society, then our society will suffer enormous consequences from their exclusion. That is why it is necessary to prioritize this group regarding the rest of the groups.

It signifies an increase of the public conscience for helping these children, and also their interest and integration in all segments of life.

The preparation of the Joint Memorandum for Social Inclusion is a part of the partnership for a membership between the European Union and the member country and its objective is to improve the social condition in the country regarding all the vulnerable groups through preparing a unified programme for work and action.

In Republic of Macedonia, besides the governmental sector, the non-governmental sector was also actively involved in the preparation of this document.

While coordinating the group for children's issues, I had the opportunity to see the full picture of the children's condition in the whole country, the problems they most often face, their priorities as well as an insight regarding the respecting i.e. disrespecting of the children's rights on a national level.

The general conclusion is that the vast majority of the children's population, in the Republic of Macedonia, belong in the group of vulnerable children who are faced with many difficulties on a daily basis, who are deprived of their basic rights which are guaranteed and belong too all children. A large part of them have neither a home nor a family and those who have this lack appropriate care and attention.

This group of children can easily be manipulated with; they very often become victims of human trafficking and are misused for various criminal acts. They live in a situation of great poverty, they rarely have anything to eat and do not take care of their personal hygiene.

A large part of these children have also been excluded from the educational process and their normal psycho-social development is disabled as well as an appropriate socialization and later on they are hardly inserted on the labour market.

The direct field examination has shown that all the problems, that these children face, are a result of the big transition changes which are have happened in the country since the beginning of the nineties and still continue to happen and have contributed to the increscent of poverty on a national level.

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