

# CHILDPACT UNDER THE SERBIAN PRESIDENCY<sup>1</sup>

## Activity Report

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## A. CHILDPACT SUSTAINABILITY: PROJECT PROPOSALS

ChildPact's sustainability was a very important concern for the Serbian Presidency. Two project proposals have been developed:

### I. A project proposal to UNDEF

The main applicant was MODS (the Serbian member of ChildPact) and all the other ChildPact members participated as partners. The budget of the project was in the range of 300.000 USD and it pertained to child participation.

### II. Black Sea Trust for Regional Cooperation.

The main applicant was FONPC (the Romanian member of ChildPact). The budget is in the range of 25.000 USD and the main aim of the project is to conduct a feasibility study and develop an advocacy strategy for a proposed Black Sea Fund for Children.

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<sup>1</sup> The Serbian Presidency lasted from September 2012 till March 2012. Saša Stefanovic, President of the Network of Civil Society organizations for Children in Serbia (MODS), was the first ChildPact President.

## **B. CHILDPACT MEMBERSHIP**

Under the Serbian Presidency a new member joined the coalition: the child-focused coalition from Kosovo. The decision was taken by unanimous vote in ChildPact's meeting in Busteni (Romania).

In view of ChildPact's official launch, the ChildPact membership is now conducting an internal research to determine its precise human, financial and operational capacity. Preliminary results indicate that ChildPact members serve more than 500.000 children.

## **C. CHILDPACT EVENTS**

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### **I. ChildPact special panel at the Black Sea NGO Forum**

In October 2012, ChildPact organised a special panel to discuss the implementation options of the PABSEC Recommendation 127/2012 on Child Protection in the BSEC Member States. 4 MPs from 4 different ChildPact countries attended the meeting. The Report of the event is available upon request. A video of the event can be seen [here](#).

### **III. ChildPact training and meeting (Busteni, Romania)**

From 5 to 9 December 2012, ChildPact representatives met in Busteni - Romania to plan ChildPact's official launch and build skills and capacity on communications and negotiations for advocacy (a 3-day training was delivered by Valeriu Nicoale). More information and fotos are available [here](#).

### **II. ChildPact participation at the PABSEC General Assembly**

In recognition of ChildPact's role to developing the PABSEC Recommendation 127/2012 on Child Protection in the BSEC Member States, the PABSEC Secretariat invited the ChildPact Secretary General, Mirela Oprea, to represent ChildPact at the PABSEC General Assembly in Baku. Mirela delivered a speech in the plenary (formed of 76 MPs from the BSEC Member States). The speech is available [here](#), on ChildPact's youtube channel.

### **IV. ChildPact contribution to BKTF advocacy training**

In January 2012, an international expert (Valeriu Nicolae) delivered a training program for BKTF members and partners (ex. various governmental representatives) on advocacy and communications skills. ChildPact Secretary General co-facilitated and supported the delivery of this training. The training report is available upon request and the feed-back for the trainer and the training was exceptional.

#### **D. CHILDPACT HIGH-LEVEL MEETINGS**

As a follow-up to the ChildPact special panel, ChildPact Secretary General had meetings with representatives of the following embassies in Romania: Albania, France, Netherlands, Poland, Serbia. The main focus of the meetings was: introducing ChildPact's mission and objectives; presenting ChildPact's position regarding the need to strengthen regional cooperation in child protection; collecting feed-back on ChildPact's proposal to establish a regional fund for child protection as a funding instrument for a regional cooperation mechanism in the field of child protection.

#### **E. CHILDPACT USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA**

[www.childpact.org](http://www.childpact.org) was developed as an important communication instrument. In November 2012 a ChildPact Facebook page was launched. 200 people "like" our page and in December 2012 almost 3000 people saw content on our page. Four ChildPact videos were produced and launched on ChildPact's youtube channel where they had 495 visualisations. A detailed report on ChildPact's use of social media is available upon request.

#### **F. CHILDPACT SPECIAL PROJECTS**

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##### **I. The Child Protection Index**

At the Strategy Meeting in September 2012 ChildPact Steering Committee decided to develop a child protection index for the wider Black Sea area. A consultant was hired to conduct a desk review of similar initiatives. Her TOR was discussed and agreed with the ChildPact Steering Committee members. Andy Guth (World Vision Romania's child protection expert) is working now to develop a list of possible indicators to be proposed to the child protection community.

##### **II. The Black Sea Fund for Children**

ChildPact believes that a regional mechanism for cooperation in the field of child protection is needed to improve children's lives in our region. To achieve real impact such a mechanism will need to be accompanied by a funding instrument: a Black Sea Fund for Children. ChildPact's Secretary General collected initial and unofficial feed-back from various stakeholders regarding the viability of such a fund. ChildPact's position paper on this will be developed and circulated soon.

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##### **III. ChildPact official launch**

At its meeting in December 2012 ChildPact Steering Committee decided that ChildPact is now an established initiative that can be launched officially in various political and professional circles. An event is planned to take place in Brussels to discuss ChildPact's proposal to create a regional mechanism for cooperation in the field of child protection, as well as a Black Sea fund for children as a funding instrument for such a mechanism.

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## G. THE VICE-PRESIDENTS' CORNER

Under the Serbian Presidency, Zini Kore (President of ChildPact member in Albania) and Mira Antonyan (President of ChildPact member in Armenia) acted as Vice-Presidents and provided crucial input for ChildPact's activities. Their short bios can be seen [here](#). Vice-President Kore promoted ChildPact very actively and conducted a series of meetings with representatives of the EC Delegation in Albania and of the Soros Foundation to share ChildPact's mission and identify pathways for cooperation between the two institutions. As a result Soros Foundation Albania encouraged ChildPact to develop a project proposal for the East East Beyond Borders program. ChildPact is therefore proposing an exchange project to: prompt new thinking and define ChildPact's vision for the Child Protection Index; develop and finalize ChildPact's policy brief on (working title) 'Regionalization through social policy. The case of child protection'; deepen the ChildPact partnership by developing further its advocacy working group; exchange recently acquired knowledge on child protection challenges across the region and innovative strategies employed by child-focused national coalitions to tackle such challenges.

## H. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Under the Serbian Presidency ChildPact made significant progress in establishing its organisational identity and cooperating as an expert group with the only treaty-based regional organisation (the Organisation of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation).

As an ambitious organisation, ChildPact is now aiming to officially launch its messages in high-level political and professional circles and an official event is planned to take place in Brussels later on this year.

In September 2013 three working groups have been established and the actual work of these groups will start soon. This should be a high priority for the next presidency, along with ChildPact's registration as an independent entity.

ChildPact has great potential and an opportunity to be recognized as an important player in regional cooperation in the field of child protection. There are numerous challenges ahead and issues

Always keeping in mind the best interest of children, the mutual trust, sharing common values and openness to cooperation will be crucial to the success of our mission and vision. We will be faced with important decisions in the forthcoming period that will determine the direction of ChildPact development. We hope that with the Serbian Presidency we laid a solid foundation for cooperation and ChildPact's development.

We have set high expectations and high standards regarding the equal participation of all ChildPact members in decision making and implementation of common policy. Accordingly, the members themselves are expected to follow democratic principles and the principles of participation.

We are faced with decision-making and reaching agreement on ChildPact registration and consequently with deciding on the place of registration and an

around which consensus needs to be established. We need to intensify our cooperation in the future and jointly participate in building the identity of this major network.

For the time being, it is obvious that we can improve our social media use to better promote the activities conducted by ChildPact and its members, having in mind that the social media platforms can be very useful for: 1. exchanging information on national networks' activities and for 2. providing an insight into the current situation in the region, the problems and the current policies for children.

open discussion about the advantages, challenges and consequences that the final decision will have on the ChildPact position.

Having in mind that we are at the beginning of the creation of a large international network and that we do not often have the opportunity to meet in face-to-face meetings, it is important that we find innovative ways to speed up the processes necessary for consolidating our network, so as to strengthen ties and contribute to building a team which at this stage has a big role and responsibility for further developing our ChildPact.

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## Background information about ChildPact

Established at the 4th gathering of the Black Sea NGO Forum in 2011, ChildPact is a coalition of coalitions: our members are national networks of child-focused NGOs from Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Kosovo, the Republic of Moldova, Georgia, Romania, and Serbia). Our current representational base includes 600 NGOs. ChildPact aims to represent the interests of the most vulnerable children in the wider Black Sea area in policy debates at national, regional and international levels. ChildPact's objectives are: (1) Strengthen the role and capacity of civil society organisations in defining and monitoring child-related public policies in the Wider Black Sea Region; (2) Promote an enabling environment for civil society coalitions at regional and national levels; (3) Raise public awareness of child rights and protection issues in the national and regional contexts; (4) Advocate for regional cooperation in identifying solutions to common threats to children's well-being.

### More information:

For questions and further information please contact:

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More information about ChildPact: [www.childpact.org](http://www.childpact.org).

ChildPact on facebook: [www.facebook.com/ChildPact](https://www.facebook.com/ChildPact).

ChildPact youtube channel: [www.youtube.com/user/ChildPact](https://www.youtube.com/user/ChildPact).