

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

## Activity Report

---

- A. ChildPact Sustainability: ChildPact proposes a new project to the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs**
- B. ChildPact events**
  - a. ChildPact Steering Committee Meeting
  - b. The Bucharest Statement adopted at the Black Sea NGO Forum
- C. ChildPact's statements and policy briefs**
  - a. Regional Cooperation in the wider Black Sea area: Why Successful Child Protection Demands a Regional Response
  - b. ChildPact's Petition: Create a Regional Cooperation Mechanism for Child Protection in the wider Black Sea area
  - c. ChildPact's Written Contribution for the DG Enlargement Consultations
- D. ChildPact use of social media**
- E. ChildPact high-level meetings**
  - a. ChildPact at the Consultation of DG Enlargement
  - b. ChildPact promotes the regional cooperation mechanism for child protection at the European Parliament
  - c. The Black Sea Young Reformers Conference, the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum and the International Centre for Black Sea Studies Conference
- F. Conclusions and Recommendations**

---

<sup>1</sup> The Albanian Presidency lasted from ... 2013 until... 2013 under the presidency of Zini Kore, president of the "United for Children Care and Protection" (BKTF) – the Albanian Member of ChildPact.

## **A. CHILDPACT SUSTAINABILITY: ChildPact proposes a new project to the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

During the Albanian Presidency ChildPact developed a new project proposal to pilot and test a Child Protection Index in the Republic of Moldova and Georgia, ideally to be then extended to the whole region. The index will measure child protection structures and reforms in accordance with the UNCRC's rights based approach to child protection. Given the complexity of interventions needed for real reform, governments in the region face very similar challenges that could be better addressed if experiences were shared. Building a child protection index framework to be used regionally offers opportunities for cooperation and innovation across borders. With common benchmarks and ratings, governments and donors can verify directions and seek assistance to seemingly immutable problems.

## **B. CHILDPACT EVENTS**

---

### **I. ChildPact Steering Committee Meeting (Izvorani, Romania)**

ChildPact's Steering Committee members have met in Romania (Izvorani, 29-30 July 2013) in order to share policy and tactical updates, to discuss ChildPact's recent accomplishments and to plan ChildPact's future development. The objectives that ChildPact proposes for a Regional Cooperation Mechanism for Child Protection have been considered and the strategy of a Child Protection Index Report has been addressed. Moreover, the Steering Committee revised ChildPact's mission and discussed the next steps in view of ChildPact's official registration as a juridical entity.

### **II. The Bucharest Statement adopted at the Black Sea NGO Forum**

ChildPact hosted a special panel at the Black Sea NGO Forum (Bucharest, 4-6 September 2013) where Government officials from six ChildPact countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Romania and Serbia) and civil society representatives discussed ChildPact's proposal to build a Regional Cooperation Mechanism for Child Protection in our region. At the end of the event, the "Bucharest Statement" was adopted to show the commitment and determination of the involved stakeholders to co-ordinate their actions towards strengthened regional cooperation for child protection. A video from the event is available [here](#), while the full text of the Bucharest Statement is available [here](#).

---

## C. CHILDPACT'S STATEMENTS AND POLICY BRIEFS

Under the Albanian Presidency, ChildPact has published three key documents: (1) a policy brief to argue for the need of regional cooperation in the field of child protection; (2) a special petition for the establishment of a regional cooperation mechanism for child protection in our region; (3) and a written contribution for the DG Enlargement consultations on child rights in the Enlargement area.

### a. Regional Cooperation in the wider Black Sea area: Why Successful Child Protection Demands a Regional Response

ChildPact's policy brief argues that regional cooperation for child protection is the next step to be undertaken in order to effectively change the lives of the vulnerable children in the wider Black Sea area because regional cooperation: (1) encourages innovative efforts to better protect our children; (2) saves money through resource and knowledge sharing; (3) solves problems that no one country can solve on its own; (4) encourage new political energy for action; and (5) builds trust for greater engagement in the region. You can read the full policy brief here: <http://www.childpact.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/ChildPact-Regional-Cooperation-Brief-April-2013.pdf>

### b. ChildPact's Petition: Create a Regional Cooperation Mechanism for Child Protection in the wider Black Sea area

To build and demonstrate support for the creation of a regional cooperation mechanism for child protection in the wider Black Sea area, ChildPact launched a petition to be signed by citizens of the countries of the region, citizens of the EU and committed individuals. **ChildPact encourages therefore the governments in our region to create a regional cooperation mechanism that will allow government and civil society experts to share their expertise and jointly advance the child protection reforms in the region.** 1250 child protection experts and supporters from our region signed our petition. You can sign ChildPact's petition here: <http://www.childpact.org/sign-our-petition/>

### c. Childpact's Written Contribution for the DG Enlargement Consultations

At the DG Enlargement consultations, ChildPact took the opportunity to emphasize the need for a regional approach and a unified and systematic approach of the EU towards the candidate and potential candidate countries in the field of child protection. ChildPact emphasized that : (1) there are valuable lessons to be learned from the previous EU Enlargement that could be applied to the current EU Enlargement and Neighbourhood policies; (2) regional cooperation can be a key factor in accelerating the pace of the child protection reforms within the candidate countries; (3) the EU should support regional cooperation and cross-country learning from the previous Enlargement process; (4) the EU should acknowledge that regional and national level civil society coalitions for children's rights are key stakeholders for promoting reforms and for the scale up of services; (5) the EU should therefore use its influence and funding to support the ambitious missions of the coalitions. You can read ChildPact's written contribution here: <http://www.childpact.org/2013/05/27/childpact-present-in-brussels-at-consultations-of-enlargement-dg-with-representatives-from-international-and-non-governmental-organisations/>

## D. CHILDPACT USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

ChildPact has been contributing to the development of a community of social media experts for child protection by organizing three social media workshops. Two of the workshop have taken place in June: one in Niš, hosted by MODS (the Serbian Network of Civil Society Organizations for Children), and one in Tirana, hosted by BKTF (All Together against Child Trafficking). The third social media

workshop took place in July and was hosted by the Armenian Child Protection Network from. The workshops aimed to develop a community of social media experts able to use their ICT skills to support child protection projects at national and regional level. Among the tangible results of these workshops, 2 advocacy videos have been launched by ChildPact: [Child Poverty in Serbia](#) and [Child Labour in Albania](#). Furthermore, ChildPact will be launching a third advocacy video on desinstitutionalisation, in collaboration with the Armenian Child Protection Network.

Moreover, along with the development of its Facebook page, ChildPact has opened a Twitter account.

You can follow ChildPact on: <https://twitter.com/ChildPact> , <https://www.facebook.com/ChildPact> .

## **E. CHILDPACT'S HIGH-LEVEL MEETINGS**

### **a. ChildPact at the Consultation of DG Enlargement**

On May 29, ChildPact's Secretary General, Mirela Oprea, attended the consultations of DG Enlargement with representatives of international and non-governmental organisations regarding human and fundamental rights, women's rights, children's rights, trafficking, mental health and LGBT in the EU candidate and potential candidate countries. In addition to the written feed-back provided by the ChildPact members from Albania (BKTF) and Serbia (MODS), ChildPact took the opportunity to emphasize the need for a regional approach and a unified and systematic approach of the EU towards the candidate and potential candidate countries in the field of child protection.

### **b. ChildPact promotes the Regional Cooperation Mechanism for Child Protection at the European Parliament**

On June 26 2013, ChildPact's Secretary General, Mirela Oprea, participated at the debate "Opportunities for Regional Cooperation at the Black Sea" organised by FOND Romania and hosted at the European Parliament by Romanian MEP Ioan Mircea Paşcu. ChildPact's Secretary General emphasized the important role the EU Commission and EU Parliament played in Romania's child protection reform during the country's EU accession process and argued that through regional cooperation, the EU is a key actor in supporting the reform of child protection systems in the EU candidate and potential candidate countries.

ChildPact has also participated at various regional events such as the Black Sea Young Reformers Conference, the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum and the International Centre for Black Sea Studies Conference are among the events, where ChildPact has promoted its success story, its mission and the regional cooperation mechanism for child protection.

## **F. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Under the Albanian Presidency ChildPact made significant progress in developing its regional cooperation agenda for the field of child protection. For instance, ChildPact developed its policy brief arguing that successful child protection demands a regional response and started to advocate that regional programs for children should be created in the Enlargement and Neighbourhood area. The adoption of ChildPact's 'Bucharest Statement' by governmental representatives from the region is an important recognition of the need to establish a regional cooperation mechanism for child protection as proposed by ChildPact. Without strong civil society networks able to work along governments and international organisations, child protection reforms are unlikely to bear the best results. To better emphasize this belief, recently the ChildPact Steering Committee has refined ChildPact's mission and objectives, so as to provide ChildPact with a solid basis for the future challenges.

## **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:  
Mirela Oprea, ChildPact Secretary General, [mirela\\_oprea@wvi.org](mailto:mirela_oprea@wvi.org).

More information about ChildPact: [www.childpact.org](http://www.childpact.org).  
ChildPact on facebook: [www.facebook.com/ChildPact](http://www.facebook.com/ChildPact).  
ChildPact youtube channel: [www.youtube.com/user/ChildPact](http://www.youtube.com/user/ChildPact).