

Childhoods and Wellbeing: What are the new challenges in the Brussels Region?

January 15th, 2013

The conference is part of a research project, funded by the Brussels Institute *InnovIris* and the *Observatoire de l'Enfant de la Cocof*, examining *Factors affecting the wellbeing of young children who live in contrasted areas of the Brussels Capital-region*. Four new challenges will be discussed regarding children under the age of twelve who live in Brussels. Each challenge will first be addressed by a speaker unfamiliar with the situation of Brussels, to be followed and put into perspective by a speaker working in Brussels.

Program

8h30 – Reception and coffee

9h – Introduction: Perrine Humblet, *Université libre de Bruxelles*

9h30 – Transition into preschool

Transition in the school environment is usually treated with regards to primary school. But what about the entry into preschool, which is actually the first entry in the school system for most children?

1. International standpoint: Roger Prott, Childhood expert (Germany)
2. Local standpoint: Gaëlle Amerijckx, *Université libre de Bruxelles*
3. Discussion with the audience - moderator : Jan Peeters, *VBJK*

Coffee break – 11h

11h30 – Multilingualism: an asset or threat within the school environment?

The status of non institutional languages inside the school environment is often debated and brings out quite contradictory perspectives. What do we know? What can be said about it? And what are the options available?

Steering committee : Gaëlle Amerijckx (*Université libre de Bruxelles*); Stéphane Aujean (*Observatoire de l'Enfant de la Cocof*); Catherine Bouland (*Université libre de Bruxelles*); Isabelle Godin (*Université libre de Bruxelles*); Perrine Humblet (*Université libre de Bruxelles*); Marie Masson (FRAJE); Joëlle Mottint (RIEPP); Jan Peeters (UGent); Benjamin Wayens (*Université libre de Bruxelles*; *Brussels Studies Institute*).

The conference will be held inside the Brussels Parliament, presentations will be translated in French and Dutch.

Registration fee: 30 euros. Registration & information: or gaelle.amerijckx@ulb.ac.be

1. International standpoint: Marie-Odile Maire Sandoz, *Ecole Normale Supérieure de Lyon* (France)
2. Local standpoint: Michel Vandebroek, *Gent University*
3. Discussion with the audience - moderator : Benjamin Wayens, *Université libre de Bruxelles*

Lunch break – 13h

14h – Showing A film on children during after-school activities: Brecht Peleman, *VBJK*

14h15 – Health: contributions from a global and contextualised approach

Though health is known to be multifactorial, it is often complex to consider factors simultaneously. How can this difficulty be overcome, without disregarding social determinants which generate the most salient inequalities within the population?

1. International standpoint: Danielle Piette, *International Union for Health Promotion & Education*; *Université libre de Bruxelles*
2. Local standpoint: Myriam De Spiegelaere, *Observatoire de la Santé et du Social de Bruxelles-Capitale*

3. Discussion with the audience - moderator : Joëlle Mottint, *RIEPP*

Coffee break – 15h45

16h15 – Access to public spaces: but to what extent?

The conception of public spaces may vary widely, especially when considering children. In such case, should public space be limited to specific areas and uses (parcs and playgrounds) designed for children? What are the implications?

1. International standpoint: Jeroen Laven, *STIPO* (Netherlands)
2. Local standpoint: Cécile Duvivier, *Bruxelles Environnement*
3. Discussion with the audience - moderator : Stéphane Aujean, *Observatoire de l'Enfant de la Cocof*

17h45 – Conclusion: Towards an integrated policy for childhood in the Brussels' region - Myriam De Spiegelaere, *Université libre de Bruxelles*

18h Closing time

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