



# indicators

The official newsletter of the International Society for Child Indicators



September 2013

## 2013 ISCI CONFERENCE IN REVIEW

### Child Indicators in a Globalized World

**Our biannual conferences continue to be popular, with more than 200 people turning out for the 4th ISCI Conference in Seoul, Korea, May 29-31.**

While about four dozen participants came from Korea, others represented more than 30 countries, including Taiwan, Hong Kong and China. In a promising trend for the future, a good number of young scholars attended, many returning for a second time.

At the conference, titled “Child Indicators in a Globalized World: Implications for Research, Practice and Policy,” about 80 papers were presented in five parallel sessions focusing on: Methods, Children’s Rights, Subjective Well-being, Poverty and Deprivation, and Public Policy.

The three plenary speakers were:

- **Prof. Yanghee Lee**, who lectured on “Children’s Rights - Standards and Measurement,” focusing on the work of the Committee on the Rights of the Child in measuring the implementation of and compliance with CRC and human rights obligations.
- **Prof. Jonathan Bradshaw**, whose main theme was subjective well-being and social policy, including the aspects that have affected children’s well-being internationally and the implications for policy, especially in light of the recession.
- **Prof. Asher Ben-Arieh**, who presented some of the first findings of the “Children’s Worlds” survey, the worldwide research survey on children’s subjective well-



**Save the date!**  
South Africa will host the 5th ISCI Conference in September 2015

being, revealing interesting differences between countries on children’s feelings about safety, their environment, family relations and other aspects.

The Kamerman and Kahn Award, for a young researcher who participated in the conference and showed excellent achievements, was presented to Liliana Fernandes from the Faculty of Economics and Management at Portuguese Catholic University in Porto, Portugal.

The event was supported by a Korean national research center and Seoul National University.

ISCI extends its sincere thanks to Bong Joo Lee and his team for organizing and hosting such a successful conference in Seoul.

Presentations from the 4th ISCI Conference are available [here](#).

**Indicators**, the newsletter of ISCI, provides information on child indicators to an international audience of researchers, advocates, policymakers, and the media. To submit material, please see [contact information on page 18](#).

## Word from the Board...

ISCI's board of directors met on May 28, 2013, in Seoul, South Korea. Here's a look at the latest developments:

### » The Conference

The board reviewed the successes of the 2013 Conference and discussed challenges for future events. A big focus was ways to engage members and young researchers who have come to more than one conference — how to build on their interest in and commitment to the field.

### » Membership

The transition to a two-year membership was completed, and an online dues payment system was implemented. This has made joining and renewing easier for members while also reducing administrative costs.

### » CIR Journal

Significant numbers of papers continue to be submitted for Child Indicators Research (CIR), and the impact factor (ISI) is 0.9. Because submissions are up, CIR can be more selective. In 2013, there were 16,149 downloads, up from 7,400 in 2009. More policymakers need to be encouraged to submit articles.

### » Board Leadership

All agreed that more turnover is needed on the board and that efforts should be made to recruit young members as well as policymakers. To this end, the board agreed to: 1) host a meeting in Washington, DC in mid-2013, combining a board meeting with a workshop for young researchers, provided funding can be obtained; 2) recruit more young members; and 3) plan a pre-conference meeting before the 2015 South Africa conference.

Several recommendations for potential board members were offered, including a successor for Jonathan Bradshaw, who is stepping down this year. The board thanks Jonathan for his pivotal role in establishing ISCI and his significant contributions toward growing the organization. Words cannot express how grateful we are.

## New Phase Launched in ISCWeB Project

A new wave of data collection in the Children's Worlds: International Survey of Children's Well-Being (ISCWeB) was launched at Frankfurt University in early July. Supported by the Jacobs Foundation, the project is a worldwide research survey on children's subjective well-being. The study aims to collect solid and representative data on children's lives and daily activities, on their time use and, in particular, on their own perceptions and evaluations of their well-being. By studying children's worlds in as many countries as possible, it hopes to raise awareness of children's well-being and their life situations and to influence government policies and services.

The survey, which uses a self-administered questionnaire for children aged 8-12, has been piloted in 17 countries over the past three years. This new phase of data collection will include a representative sample of 15 countries: Algeria, Colombia, England, Estonia, Ethiopia, Germany, Israel, Korea, Nepal, Norway, Portugal, Romania, South Africa, Spain and Turkey. At least 3,000 children will participate in each country. Data collection will take place this fall and winter and will eventually be available online for researchers.

For more information, contact [Tamar Dinisman](#).

### Not an ISCI member?

#### Join us!

ISCI gives you a unique opportunity to collaborate with and learn from researchers, practitioners, child advocates and other stakeholders.

By disseminating information, sharing resources, improving standards and fostering diversity in methodological approaches, we are contributing to the well-being of children worldwide.

Visit the [ISCI website](#) for more information. To join, click here to fill out an online [application](#), or [email](#) Daphna Gross-Manos.

## An Ambitious Goal for the World's Youngest Children

The global development agenda for post-2015 is being shaped in the next six to 12 months, led by the United Nations and relevant stakeholders.



In a new Institute of Medicine commentary, “A New Global Development Goal for the World’s Youngest Children,”

Lawrence Aber, Joan Lombardi and Sarah Klaus propose an explicit goal for young children: Reduce by half the number of children under 5 who fail to reach their developmental potential.

They write that scientific research clearly shows that adverse experiences in the first five years of life have a profound impact throughout the life course, and that evidence-based

early interventions can modify the effects of such adverse experiences. Therefore, they argue, achievement of an early childhood development goal is a necessary precondition for advancing the core priorities of the post-2015 development agenda, including the eradication of poverty, promotion of health, advancement of women’s rights and gender equality, and provision of quality education.

The goal the authors propose is holistic, multigenerational, universal, scientifically informed, measurable and actionable. They propose targets in multiple sectors to guide progress, noting that many indicators are currently measurable, but that some targets require more progress in early childhood data systems.

The Institute of Medicine commentary is particularly relevant to current international debates on the post-2015 development goals, as the recently released report of the [High Level Commission](#) includes a number of early childhood indicators, but fails to identify investment in the first years of life as an essential strategy to effectively reduce poverty and inequality.

The full commentary can be found [here](#).

## UNICEF Calls for End of Discrimination Against Children With Disabilities

*The following was excerpted from a [Voice of America story](#):*

The United Nations Children’s Fund says children with disabilities are among the most marginalized people in the world. In its annual State of the World’s Children report, UNICEF says ending discrimination against children with disabilities and nurturing their abilities will benefit both the children and society as a whole.

The report presents a grim assessment. According to one widely used estimate, some 93 million children aged 14 years or younger — or one in 20 — live with a moderate or severe disability. While children with disabilities are worse off in poor countries, UNICEF says they suffer discrimination, stigmatization and marginalization in poor and rich countries alike.

UNICEF Inclusive Education Consultant Paula Hunt told Voice of America that disabled people tend to be invisible in society. She says many disabled children are not registered at birth, which cuts them off from social services and legal protections crucial to their survival and prospects.

“Children with disabilities are more likely to not attend school ... and [they] often miss out on every aspect of social life,” Hunt said.

The UNICEF report says children with disabilities are also the most vulnerable to violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect. It says 17 studies from high-income countries found that children with disabilities are three to four times more likely to be victims of violence.

## News from the Field *continued*

### Committee on the Rights of the Child Issues New General Comment on Health

The [Committee on the Rights of the Child](#), a body of 18 independent experts who monitor the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child by its State Parties, has published a General Comment (No. 15) focused on health.



According to Article 24 of the Convention, State Parties “recognize the right of the child to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health and to facilities for the treatment of illness and rehabilitation of health.” They shall “strive to ensure that no child is deprived of his or her right of access to such health care services.” This General Comment No. 15 provides guidance and support to State Parties and other duty bearers (governmental and non-governmental, private sector and funding organizations) across all levels of governance for respecting, protecting and fulfilling children’s right to health.

To see the list of General Comments, click [here](#).

### New WHO Report to Highlight Importance of Adolescent Health

The World Health Organization is developing a report called “Health for the World’s Adolescents,” which will outline recent research and the growing consensus on the importance of adolescent health, as well as the achievements of the health sector in improving and maintaining the health of the world’s 1.2 billion adolescents (aged 10-19 years).



A website has been created through which adolescents and those working to improve adolescent health can contribute to the report. Health workers can make their inputs by participating in the primary care providers survey [here](#). Inputs are being accepted between July 19 and September 15, 2013.

## News from the Field *continued*

### EU Creates Information-Sharing Platform on Child Poverty

In the current economic downturn in Europe, child poverty is on the rise. In addition, parents (women in particular) are struggling to balance work and family, a problem exacerbated by insufficient childcare provision.



In February, the EU’s European Commission adopted the recommendation “Investing in children: breaking the cycle of disadvantage” as part of the Social Investment Package, which proposes a long-term social strategy to help overcome the current crisis and to strengthen the capacity of individuals.

The recommendation provides guidance for EU member states on how to tackle child poverty and social exclusion through measures such as family support and benefits, quality childcare and early childhood education.

Within the framework of the recommendation, the [European Platform for Investing in Children \(EPIC\)](#) was created to collect and disseminate innovative practices that were found to have a positive impact on children and families in the EU.

Evidence-based practices are available in the [Practices that Work](#) section of the EPIC website. Also featured is a section that allows visitors to register child-focused practices that they are developing or implementing in order to promote information sharing and support learning across the EU community of policymakers and providers.

Innovative child-related practices may be submitted via an online form. Click [here](#) to send an e-mail for further information.

### Azerbaijan Conference Explores Ways to Help Children Report Abuse

Improving measures to help children report abuse happening within their “circle of trust” — family, friends, people from activities or sports clubs, and Internet contacts — was one of the main challenges to emerge during a conference in Baku, Azerbaijan, in June.



The event of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe marked the organization’s implementation of the ONE in FIVE Campaign to stop sexual violence against children. Participants included politicians, government officials and international experts.

All agreed that training professionals to help children speak up in a safe and non-traumatizing environment should be a chief objective of the campaign. Close cooperation among institutions and professionals such as teachers, medical staff and police is also essential, participants determined.

The conference was organized at the initiative of Sevijn Fataliyeva, a member of the Azerbaijani Parliament.

## News from the Field *continued*

### Special Issue Explores Actualization of Children’s Participation Rights

Global Studies of Childhood (GSC) is a peer-reviewed, online research journal that explores how globalization and new global perspectives impact children’s life experiences.

Click [here](#) for a recently published special issue of GSC on “Actualization of Children’s Participation Rights,” edited by Vicki Coppock and Louise Phillips.



### Child Helpline International Stages Event, Releases ‘Voices of Young Europe’ Report

» [Child Helpline International](#), the global network of child helplines, celebrated its 7th annual International Child Helpline Day in May with a theme of “Empowering children and young people.” The event, which has attracted a growing number of child helplines since 2007, highlights the important work of these organizations around the globe.



Child helplines give callers the chance to talk with someone in confidence and know they will be listened to. They arm children and young people with tools, empowering them to overcome their problems and referring them to other organizations as needed. Helplines also raise awareness of youth issues and strengthen cooperation among child protection partners and other stakeholders.

» The number of contacts that child helplines receive continues to grow, proving that the service is a vital channel of support and empowerment for children and young people in a changing world.



This trend is readily apparent in “Voices of Young Europe,” a report produced in June by Child Helpline International. Filled with useful information, colorful info graphics and sidebars with “Warning Signs,” the report is an analysis of the nearly 58 million contacts made with child helplines in Europe over the past 10 years.

Read the report in English [here](#).

Read the report in Spanish, Arabic or French [here](#).

### Join the Wikiprogress Discussion: How Should Child Well-Being Be Measured in View of Future Development Frameworks?

WHO and HSBC (Health Behaviour in School-Aged Children) have initiated an online discussion with the following leading questions:

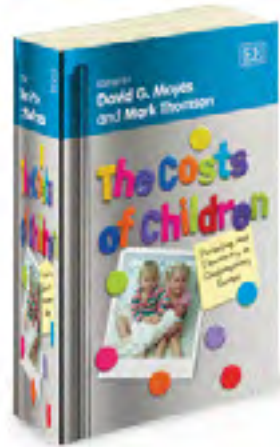
- » What is the actual state of child well-being today?
- » What are the most important domains of well-being – specifically for children?
- » What policies have had the most impact on children in the past? Provide examples of successful initiatives.
- » Should there be a child development goal in the post-2015 framework?

All are invited to participate in the discussion on this pressing issue [here](#), via your networks and/or on [Twitter](#) using #childwellbeing.

## News from the Field *continued*

### New Book Looks at Costs of Childcare in Europe

*The Costs of Children: Parenting and Democracy in Contemporary Europe*, edited by David G. Mayes and Mark Thomson, is an informative new book that explores the allocation of the costs of childcare in European countries. It suggests that greater choice is required to reduce the current tendency to discriminate against mothers.



The expert contributors provide an assessment of how countries can handle the fair allocation of the costs of childcare. They look at the experience within Europe in recent years and show how these interrelate with the objectives of improving income, employment and social inclusion.

This is the first book to consider the democratic implications of social welfare systems. It provides an up-to-date assessment of the pressures on parents in deciding how to raise their children under restricted incomes. For many families, practical decisions about childcare are found at a local level. These will depend on the immediate factors that affect them, such as the availability of local nurseries or a family's ability to draw on voluntary networks of support. What is clear, however, is that many of these arrangements discriminate against women.

Click [here](#) to learn more.

### What Makes Indicators Successful? Lessons from Practitioners

What makes “Beyond GDP” indicators, or alternative indicators of progress, successful? What factors contribute to them having some impact on policy or discourse? These are some of the questions posed



by BrainPOOL, a consortium of partners across Europe including nef (the new economics foundation). The EU-funded initiative is aimed at identifying and overcoming the barriers to Beyond GDP indicators being used in policy.

In the first phase of the project, indicator producers and promoters were interviewed (from academia, statistics, government and civil society) to determine the impacts they've had and identify common success factors. The results showed that Beyond GDP indicators are starting to make a difference.

For a short PowerPoint presentation summarizing the key success factors, click [here](#).

To see the full report that the presentation is based on, go [here](#).

## News from the Field *continued*

### Key Elements of a QRIS Validation Plan: A Guidance and Planning Template

Investments in state Quality Rating and Improvement Systems (QRIS) for early care and education and school-age care in the U.S. are growing. As a result, stakeholders are requesting evidence to demonstrate that QRIS are making progress toward desired goals. A critical piece of evidence about QRIS effectiveness is information about the ability of a QRIS to measure and rate quality accurately; yet, this technical issue is challenging to define and translate into a study design.



QRIS administrators are seeking resources and technical assistance that can assist in sorting out the goals and methods associated with different validation questions and approaches. This guidance and planning template is a practical tool that states and evaluators can use to develop QRIS validation efforts. It builds on the information provided in the [QRIS Evaluation Toolkit](#) and a [brief](#) on QRIS validation. More about the tool can be found [here](#).

### Child Cohort Research Strategy for Europe Presented

Following three years of in-depth reviews and case studies, [CHICOS](#) has released its [recommendations](#) for birth cohort research in Europe for the next 15 years as well as a final [strategic document](#).



CHICOS recommends establishing a collaborative European Birth Cohort using data from existing and new cohorts. The result will be a permanent data resource for prospective, individual-level information about child health across Europe. It will provide key statistics and determinants to enable health surveillance and fill in knowledge gaps to better inform health policies.

The CHICOS recommendations were presented to members of the European Parliament in Brussels in April. The recommendations and strategic document were presented in Dublin in May at the international [Child Health Research Conference](#) organized jointly with the FP7 project [RICHE](#) (Research Inventory for Child Health in Europe).



# Reports and Publications

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## UNICEF Report Ranks Children's Well-Being in 29 Countries

The Netherlands, along with four Nordic countries – Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden – top a United Nations list that ranks children's well-being in 29 industrialized countries. At the bottom are Greece, Italy, Portugal and Spain.

The rankings are part of [Report Card 11: Child well-being in rich countries](#), a UNICEF study that charts the achievements of the world's most advanced economies from 2000-2010.

The study found that child poverty in these countries is particularly susceptible to governments' policies, and warns against measures that cut services and protection to children.

“For every new policy measure considered or introduced, governments explicitly have to explore the impact and effects on children, families with children, adolescents and young adults,” said Gordon Alexander, director of UNICEF's Office of Research. “These groups do not have a voice in the political processes or their voices are too seldom heard.”

The study measures development according to five dimensions of children's lives: material well-being, health and safety, education, behavior and risks, and housing and environment.

The dimension of behaviors and risks is one of the more difficult to pin down. For example, factors that were evaluated include the percentage of children who are overweight or the percentage who report eating breakfast every day. In addition, indicators like teenage fertility rate, alcohol abuse rate and exposure to violence were used to measure child well-being.

Only Canada, Greece and the United States have childhood obesity levels higher than 20%. Meanwhile, Romania, the United Kingdom and the United States have the highest rates of teenage births. On the positive side, the overall figures for these countries show that 92% do not smoke cigarettes, while 85% do not get drunk.

These dimensions are not entirely dependent on a country's wealth, as the study did not find a strong relationship between income per capita and overall child well-being. For instance, Slovenia ranks higher than Canada, the Czech Republic higher than Austria, and Portugal higher than the United States.

UNICEF stated that the current findings show progress but warned that the study was carried out before many countries implemented austerity measures and budget cuts because of the economic crisis.

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## ILO Report Explores Child Labor in Domestic Work

A new report has been published on domestic work within the framework of the two International Labour Organization fundamental conventions on child labor and the recently adopted instruments on decent work for domestic workers.

“Ending Child Labour in Domestic Work” sets the stage for a better understanding of child labor in domestic work and outlines why this issue is a human rights concern and a gender equality challenge. It provides detailed data on the estimated number of child domestic workers worldwide and explores the ambiguity of the working relationship, the discrimination and isolation associated with the practice, the hazards and risks of this type of work, and the vulnerability to violence and abuse that it creates. It also explores policy responses to child labor and the key role of social partners and civil society organizations in the fight against child labor in domestic work.

The report concludes with a call for specific action toward ending child labor and protecting young workers in domestic work.

To read the report, [click here](#).

## Reports and Publications *continued*

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### Family for Every Child Consults Children on Post-2015 Priorities

Around the world, discussions are taking place on the framework that will replace the Millennium Development Goals when they end in 2015. Children's participation is crucial to these discussions. Not only do boys and girls constitute nearly half of the world's population, they are the majority demographic affected by poverty. Their experiences of deprivation and inequality — and of their impacts — are different than those of adults.

Between July 2012 and March 2013, members of Family for Every Child set out to collect these important young perspectives by consulting with children in seven countries: Brazil, Ghana, Guyana, India, Kenya, Malawi and Russia. In all, they held 89 workshops with almost 600 children between the ages of 8 and 17, including 293 boys and 297 girls. The consultations involved highly vulnerable groups of children, who are commonly marginalized and excluded from policy debates.

The main findings that emerged from these “My world, my vision” consultations are now available [here](#).



### World Development Indicators Improved for 2013

The 2013 edition of World Development Indicators (WDI), released in April, includes the latest available data in six areas — world view, people, environment, economy, states and markets, and global links. Each section includes an introduction, a set of six stories highlighting regional trends, a table of the most relevant and popular indicators, and an index to the full set of tables and indicators.

Progress toward Millennium Development Goals is documented in a special 17-page introduction to the WDI.

Several improvements have been made to the WDI, most notably that the data tables are now available [online](#). This has many advantages: The tables will reflect the latest additions and revisions to the data, they will be available to wider audiences and they will be free. Multilingual applications for the web, tablets and mobile devices make the data easier to access.

Read more and access the report [here](#).



### UNICEF Report: Sustainable Development Hinges on Safe, Healthy and Well-Educated Children

In this report, the dynamic interplay between the realization of children's rights and sustainable development is explored. The evidence presented makes a powerful case for why and how these issues must be directly addressed in discussions toward a post-2015 development agenda and the eventual framework that will emerge.

The report complements UNICEF's 10 Key Messages on the Post-2015 Development Agenda and is a call to action for decision-makers to invest in children's rights and well-being as an integral means to achieving sustainable development.

To read the report, [click here](#).



## Reports and Publications *continued*

### Working Paper Questions Power of MDG in Reducing Child Mortality

In a recently released paper, Elisa Díaz-Martínez and Elizabeth D. Gibbons take a critical look at Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 4 and its impact in reducing child mortality. It is one of a series of papers in the research project “The Power of Numbers: A Critical Review of MDG Targets for Human Development and Human Rights.”

Motivated by a concern about the consequences of the Millennium Development Goals beyond the achievement of the 2015 targets, the project seeks to explore their broader policy and programmatic implications. It focuses particularly on the reductionism inherent in how the global goals were set and used, as well as the potential for distorting priorities and marginalizing, or even displacing, important human development and human rights concerns.

A total of 12 studies are included, each analyzing the normative and empirical consequences of a particular MDG goal/target, and considering other targets and indicators that might have been more appropriate.

The Díaz-Martínez/Gibbons paper can be found [here](#). It should be read in conjunction with the synthesis and background papers of the [Power of Numbers Project](#). These working papers are expected to be compiled as a special issue of the *Journal of Human Development and Capabilities*.



### New U.S. Children’s Health Survey Released

The National Survey of Children’s Health (NSCH) touches on multiple, intersecting aspects of children’s lives. The survey includes information on physical and mental health status; access to quality health care; and family, neighborhood and social context.

The Data Resource Center takes the results from the NSCH and makes them easily accessible to parents, researchers, community health providers and anyone interested in maternal and child health. Data is provided for the nation and for each state plus the District of Columbia. It can be further refined to assess differences by race/ethnicity, income, special health care needs status and a variety of other important demographic and health status characteristics.

New in the 2011–2012 report: Premature Birth; Child’s Birthweight; Prevalence and Severity of Intellectual Disability and Cerebral Palsy; Therapy Services for Children with Autism/ASD or Developmental Delay; Age of Diagnosis of Current Chronic Conditions; Positive Health Items (Flourishing); Adverse Family Experiences; and Participation in Home Visitation Program for Young Children.

More about this data set and the survey results can be found [here](#).



## Reports and Publications *continued*

### 2013 KIDS COUNT Reveals Signs of Improvement for Children

Each year, the Annie E. Casey Foundation's KIDS COUNT Data Book provides information and data trends on the conditions of America's children and families. In addition to ranking states on overall child well-being, the 2013 edition provides rankings for four domains: Economic Well-Being, Education, Health and Family, and Community.

According to this year's book, which came out in June, children are showing some signs of improvement despite an ever-growing poverty rate.

For example, they continue to progress in education and health. From roughly 2005 to 2011, the teen birth rate dropped by 15 percent to a historic low. The rate of high school students not graduating in four years and the child and teen death rate both saw a 19% decline.

In addition, some of the economic well-being indicators improved slightly from 2010 to 2011. Still, the negative impact of the recession remains evident. In 2011, the child poverty rate stood at 23 percent, or 16.4 million children — an increase of 3 million since 2005.

Along with the Data Book, the Foundation released a redesigned KIDS COUNT Data Center. The new site is more user-friendly and features an improved search function, tools for making maps and charts more easily, and better ways to customize and share materials on social media.

Users can access hundreds of child well-being indicators for education, employment and income, health, poverty and youth risk factors. Data are available for the nation, states and counties, as well as for many cities, school districts and congressional districts.

Access the 2013 KIDS COUNT Data Book [here](#).

Access the redesigned Data Center [here](#).



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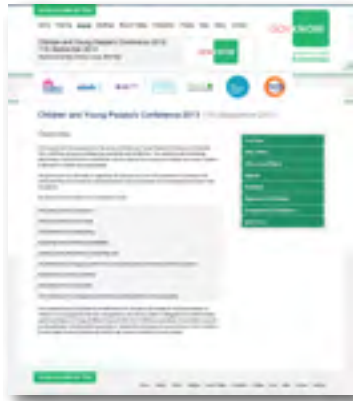


# Conferences and Events

## Children and Young People's Conference

September 11, 2013 » London, UK

Building on the success of its first Children and Young People's Conference last November, GovKnow has planned a second annual event, scheduled next month in London.



The conference gives key stakeholders, including frontline practitioners, the chance to discuss the future direction of services for children and young people and ways to improve the quality of their delivery. Issues to be discussed include:

- Support in the early years
- Advancing public health
- Child protection and safeguarding
- Supporting young people with SEN and disabilities
- Assisting children in looked after care
- Engaging children and young people in services
- Supporting the childcare workforce
- Early intervention and prevention
- The multi-agency approach

Click [here](#) for details.

## 'Towards the Good Society – European Perspectives'

October 24-26, 2013 » Bucharest, Romania

Economic progress alone does not create social well-being. A more holistic approach is required, factoring in pro-social behaviors, social participation and activism, social capital, social trust and cohesion.



An international conference, "Towards the Good Society – European Perspectives," aims to open the discussion on new theoretical and empirical studies that would fit the investigations into these areas of study. Organized by the Romanian Sociological Association, the Institute for Quality of Life of the Romanian Academy and University of Oradea, Faculty of Social-Humanistic Sciences, the conference will bring together theorists and practitioners to present papers and lead discussions.

For details, click [here](#).

## Conferences and Events *continued*

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### **'Engaging Youth for Nation Building'**

*October 29-31, 2013 » Selangor, Malaysia*

The second International Conference on Youth (ICYOUTH 2013), in partnership with Poverty Eradication Foundation (known by its Malaysian acronym YBK), will provide a forum for the presentation and exchange of ideas, information and trends around youth engagement as a strategy and critical input to national and social development.

Diverse perspectives are sought from those who work with and on behalf of young people. Academicians, researchers, practitioners, youth professionals, NGOs and other interested parties are invited to participate in the conference by sharing their experiences and research findings. In cooperation with the *International Journal of Adolescence and Youth*, authors of selected papers will be invited to publish in a special issue on youth engagement.

Click [here](#) for details.

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### **Scottish Institute Works to 'Reclaim Lost Childhoods'**

*Final Event: October 30, 2013 » Glasgow, Scotland*

Over 480,000 people have experienced child care in Scotland since the 1930s, and most are alive today. However, much of the information and records — including about foster placements — have been lost or are difficult to access.

A project of the Scottish Universities Insight Institute is bringing together a range of disciplines — child care professionals, historians, archivists, sociologists, information technologists — alongside care leavers, to explore and understand the barriers and issues in tracing information and accessing child care records.

Workshops have focused on the needs of care leavers and survivors of abuse; historical records and information; technical issues in developing a web-based archive and directory; and policy and legislative issues that need to be addressed.

The initiative will culminate in a final event on October 30 in Glasgow, "The Past into the Future: An Action Plan for a Web-based Care Archive and Directory."

Learn more about the workshops and final event [here](#).

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### **International Bullying Prevention Association Conference**

*November 10-12, 2013 » Nashville, Tennessee, USA*

"Creating Compassionate Schools and Communities" is the theme of the 10th annual conference of the International Bullying Prevention Association, scheduled for November in Nashville.

The three days of learning and professional development opportunities include breakout sessions on a wide range of topics, from using peer leaders in prevention efforts to social cohesion and self-esteem as predictors. Participants will come away with current evidence-supported best practices, practical techniques for use in the classroom and on school grounds, and the latest research in bullying prevention.

More information can be found [here](#).

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## Conferences and Events *continued*

### Eurochild Annual Conference 2013

*November 13-15, 2013 » Milan, Italy*

Eurochild's 10th annual conference, "Building an Inclusive Europe – The Contribution of Children's Participation," will explore how children and young people can contribute to positive changes in policy and practice across a range of areas, including social inclusion and protection, migration, education and health.



Organized in context of the 2013 European Year of Citizenship, the Eurochild conference aims to increase recognition of children as citizens.

Hosting the conference is Eurochild member Albergo della Vita Foundation, in cooperation with the Italian national Ombudsman for Children, Municipality of Milan and the PIDIDA network.

Learn more [here](#).

### Children's Health and the Environment Focus of Meeting in Israel

*November 20-22, 2013 » Jerusalem, Israel*

This conference will offer a platform for examining the health problems of children caused by key environmental influences. The event will:

- provide an international forum for the latest research findings in children's environmental health,
- define the relationship between environmental contaminants and children's health,
- strengthen the importance of prenatal exposure to environmental factors on pregnancy outcome and children's health,
- identify opportunities to minimize childhood prenatal and postnatal exposure to environmental contaminants,
- provide insight into the activities in the field of science and policy interface,
- to build a platform of knowledge at an international level,
- to develop a greater awareness among health professionals about children's health and the environment, and
- initiate future directions in research in the field.



Conference is being organized by the International Network on Children's Health Environment and Safety (INCHES) and Bar Ilan University in Ramat Gan, Israel. Collaborators include the Israeli Ministry of Health and Ministry of Environmental Protection, WHO, the European Environmental Agency, PAIDOSS (the Italian National Observatory on the Health of Children and Adolescence) and the U.S. EPA.

Click [here](#) for more information.

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ISCI gives you a unique opportunity to collaborate with and learn from researchers, practitioners, child advocates and other stakeholders.

By disseminating information, sharing resources, improving standards and fostering diversity in methodological approaches, we are contributing to the well-being of children worldwide.

Visit the [ISCI website](#) for more information. To join, click here to fill out an online [application](#), or [email](#) Daphna Gross-Manos.

## Conferences and Events *continued*

### MDGs in Retrospect: Africa's Development Beyond 2015

*January 30-February 1, 2014 »  
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada*

The fact that most African countries will not have achieved many of the Millennium Development Goals in 2015 causes serious concerns and raises a number of questions for both academics and development practitioners. While resources have been mobilized to aid African countries, improvements are often not evenly shared. Women, the poorest of the poor, and those who live in rural areas tend to benefit less.



The African Students' Association at the University of Alberta in Canada is staging a meeting to ascertain the successes of the MDGs in Africa, the failures and future opportunities. The group invites students, scholars, professionals, non-governmental organizations and community members interested in Africa's development to join them to:

- Assess the current state of MDGs in the context of Africa
- Examine the successes, gaps and failures of the stated goals, including lessons learned
- Envision a post-2015 (and post-MDGs) development agenda for Africa

For more information, click [here](#).

### 'Shaping Childhood: Factors that Matter'

*January 30-February 1, 2014,  
Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada*

Multiple elements interact to create dynamic contexts that contribute significantly to early and lifelong well-being. Similarly, children influence their environments to shape their developmental paths.



The 2014 Early Years Conference, "Shaping Childhood: Factors that Matter," will explore the complex nature of the social, physical and biological environments that shape children's development.

Sponsored by Interprofessional Continuing Education at the University of British Columbia, in collaboration with the Human Early Learning Partnership, the event aims to:

- broaden participants' understanding of how children experience similar environments in unique ways
- promote the value of an inclusive approach in supporting the child, family and community
- review and discuss the influence of diverse social and cultural factors in the context of child development
- increase recognition of the impact of epigenetics research on early childhood development
- give greater consideration to how children with special needs experience and interact with different environments

Click [here](#) for more information.



## Conferences and Events *continued*

### 2nd International Conference on Nutrition and Growth

*January 30-February 1, 2014 » Barcelona, Spain*

This biannual conference will provide a unique platform for discussing the interplay between nutrition and growth in children. It will attract a community of nutritionists, neonatologists, pediatricians and other experts in child development who share a passion for exchanging ideas and analysis in the field of pediatric nutrition.

Building on the success of the 2012 meeting, Nutrition and Growth 2014 will present a rich and diverse array of topics in multiple disciplines.

Click [here](#) for further details.

The abstract submission deadline is September 30, 2013. Details are [here](#).



### 'What's Working for Young People'

*March 26-27, 2014 » Dublin, Ireland*

"What's Working for Young People" is an international conference that will bring together some of the world's leading experts in the field of adolescence to explore the most effective and innovative ways of working with young people. Organized by multiple organizations working to change the status quo for young people, the event will present a range of perspectives, including policy, practice and research.

For conference and registration information, click [here](#).

The abstract submission deadline is October 15, 2013.

For details, click [here](#).



### Shaken Baby Syndrome Focus of Paris Conference

*May 4-6, 2014 » Paris, France*

Shaken baby syndrome is the leading cause of death in abusive head trauma (AHT) cases in the U.S., where an estimated 1,200 to 1,400 children are injured or killed by shaking every year.

The National Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome — based in Utah, USA — has partnered with colleagues in Paris to

presenting a conference on the topic. This multidisciplinary conference is the only one of its kind in the world and will offer an extensive program addressing medical, legal and prevention issues. Presenters are leaders in the field from universities, medical institutions and legal organizations.

More information on the conference is [here](#).



## ISCI Steering Committee

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## Join the International Society for Child Indicators (ISCI)



The International Society  
for Child Indicators (ISCI)

contributes to improving the well-being  
of the world's children. The ISCI seeks to  
build a network of individuals dedicated  
to improving measures and data resources,  
advancing data analysis, exploring theoretical  
issues, and publicizing and disseminating  
information on the status of children. ISCI is  
also working to enhance the capacity of the  
field, especially for countries in the initial  
stages of producing child well-being indicators.  
Finally, ISCI is identifying and developing  
ways to facilitate the dissemination and  
application of indicators in policy and practice.

For a full description and information on joining  
ISCI, please visit [www.childindicators.org](http://www.childindicators.org).