

Observatoire de Information, de Formation de Documentation, et d'Etudes pour la Protection des Droits d'Enfant

(Observatory for information, training, documentation and studies
on protection of children's rights)

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ODE, Tunisia

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Tunisian Observatory for information, training, documentation and studies on
protection of children's rights

Overview

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Tunisian Observatory for information, training, documentation and studies on protection of children's rights

When and why was it established?

1. The Tunisian observatory for information, training, documentation and studies on protection of children's rights was established by decree n°2002-327 dated February 14, 2002 amended by decree n°2003-1359.
2. It was created in order to consolidate the protection mechanisms provided for children in Tunisia.
3. It is a specialized structure which aims to effectively follow up children's situation and conditions in all fields, to develop policies adopted in the field of children's rights promotion, and to ensure a balanced education for young generations.

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Who is involved?

1. **Tunisian Observatory for information, training, documentation and studies on protection of children's rights is a public institution having an administrative character, coming under the authority of the Ministry of women, family, childhood and elders affairs.**
2. **The observatory is charged to collect data and to diffuse the culture of the child's rights, so many actors in the field of childhood are involved such as Ministries (education and formation, social affairs and solidarity, youth, national statistic center etc,to feed child info)**
3. **As the observatory uses the participatory approach many partners like Ministries UN agencies—especially UNICEF—, media, associations, are participating in the development of strategies such as diffusion of the culture of child's rights and protection of child from violence**

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How does it function?

- The observatory is a public institution having an administration character, it has its own budget. The general director is the coordinator of this budget
- There are:
 - two councils helping the observatory; i.e. an administrative council and a scientific council
 - technical and financial assistance from UN agencies, especially UNICEF

The observatory's administrative organization :

1. Documentation and information Unit with:

- department of information and communication
- department of electronic processing and publication
- department of databank

2. Research and studies unit with:

- department of research and analysis
- department of technical and field studies

3. Department of financial and administrative management

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What activities does it undertake?

Observing the situation of children's rights through:

1. Collecting relevant data at the national level and compare it with the international one (through 'ChildInfo' and 'regional priorities card')
2. Conducting evaluative studies on the protection of children's rights

Communication and promotion of the culture of children's rights among all the components of society:

1. Organizing workshops, meeting, training sessions, and events in the field of children's rights.
2. Issuing periodical publications concerning children's rights (in three languages)
3. Documenting about child's rights and childhood.

What activities does it undertake?

- Conducting prospective studies on the protection of children's rights (solutions: ways and means) in order to help the authorities to establish policies and programs aimed at promoting children's rights
- Setting strategies about promoting the culture of children's rights and protection of the child from violence
- Operating the permanent secretariat of children parliament;
 1. the observatory is organizing two sessions a year and an extraordinary session can be held if necessary, and it submits an annual report on the children's parliament to the high childhood council.
 2. Organizing four training and entertaining sessions a year for "old" parliamentary children (children belonging to the first and second parliamentary sessions (2003-2004; 2005-2006) and for actual parliamentary children belonging to the current parliamentary session (2007-2008).

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What is its “specialty”?

Children parliament

- Created in April 2002, to offer the Tunisian children the opportunity to express their views and questions related to their rights, acquiring the sense of responsibility and of civic engagement, and disseminate the culture of children’s rights within this form of dialogue
- The children’s parliament is composed of 189 child witch number equals that of adults deputies, half of children parliament are elected among the school laureates of the regions and from creators
- The membership term in the children’s parliament is two year

Parliamentary children’s club

- At the end of the first children parliament session (2003-2004), the president of the Tunisian republic received parliamentary children and gave instructions to establish clubs to continue their democratic experience and consolidate this initiative.
- Today there is one club in each governorate (24), in total 560 children.
- Each club has one educator who is helping parliamentary children to realize activities in the field of childhood.

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What is its “specialty”?

Child info

- To ensure the follow-up and the scientific evaluation of childhood's situation in Tunisia, the observatory works to collect the data afferent through the installation of the application 'child info' which is a system allowing that.

While based on sectored statistical indicators, it also contributes to analyze the data and to make decisions through objective evaluation
- 'Child info ' is equipped with tools to distribute professional reports and to produce the various shapes of exit in the form of tabulated statistics and graphs of data

What have been the problems?

1. **Financing of parliamentary children clubs (to accomplish potential programmes and activities in these clubs) was delayed because of administrative procedures and difficulty to translate their budgets.**
2. **Children's rights are not always easily understood by the general public, and interpreted in his daily behavior**
3. **Feeding of 'child info' with update data by professionals in Ministries and structures concerned with childhood was irregular**
4. **Access to the 'child info' is possible only for the observatory; it does not offer access to professionals acting in childhood and researchers**
5. **Underdevelopment of local monitoring systems (permitting classification of regions witch call more care to reduce social inequalities affecting children in them (priorities regions card)**

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What were the solutions?

Financial of parliamentary children clubs:

- Establishing conventions with 24 associations to translate budgets for 24 parliamentary children clubs in order to empower educators in clubs to realize activities with children such as prevention of children from adverse behaviours, and organization of workshops with adults parliamentarians

Promotion of the culture of children's rights:

- Developing a national strategy for promotion of culture of children's rights, promoting the participation of media (by organizing meeting about the role of media in child's rights; offering workshops and technical assistance to media and NGO);
- Training of trainers in child's rights field;
- Writing newspaper articles about activities of the observatory ...

Reach regular feeding of 'child info' and accessibility to existing data for general public:

- Developing a model to work with ministries and structures to feed regularly Child Info.
- Multiplying monitoring indicators reflecting children situation in for fundamental fields: (1) health, (2) education; (3)entertainment; (4) protection. Beginning to install information systems for structures concerned with protection of children with some indicators at local, regional and national levels
- Setting Child Info on line
- UNICEF has accompanied the Observatory in this process

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What is the way forward?

1. Prepare strategies about
 - promotion and diffusion of culture of child's rights
 - protection of the child from violence.
2. Install a monitoring systems in order to compile quantitative and qualitative social data and indicators at local, regional and national levels, such us ChildInfo to allow the follow-up and the evaluation of childhood's situation. Set coherent information systems for structures which feed ChildInfo with data.
3. Have solid technical and financial assistance, statistical data bases, research, information system and administrative organization.
4. Work with organizations, associations and government—u - especially with a structure such us high council of childhood in Tunisia—in order to coordinate activities of all the components of the society acting in the field of childhood.
5. Create platforms and institutions of dialogue for children to offer them the opportunity to express their views, and disseminate the culture of children's rights and civic engagement within new generations.

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Website: observatoire-enfance.nat.tn

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