

FICE International Annual report

2022



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GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Readers,

Dear Members and Friends,

I welcome you to our Annual Report 2022!

Ever since its foundation in 1948, the members of FICE International collaborate to promote the quality of out-of-home child and youth care, including residential and foster care, in the work with children at risk as well as children affected by war and crises. As a network of professionals, FICE members stem from a mix of direct workers with children, researchers, teachers and trainers, authorities, and leaders of representative associations and aid organisations.

Explore in the following pages the activities and achievements of the members of FICE International in 2022, at the local and national as well as at the continental and international levels.

In 2022, and as always, young people currently or formerly in care have collaborated as experts and contributors of vital importance in many FICE projects and activities, and increasingly in the joint coordination and leadership of FICE by its members at the national, continental and regional levels.

The members and further collaborators of FICE International have developed concrete knowledge and practice at national level and in multinational collaborations. At a continental and international level, they have brought together their different perspectives and rich and varied experiences to further promote professional competencies and concrete actions. At the same time, they have collaborated in defining strategy and coordinating their FICE networks at national and international levels. To a great extent, they engaged in these activities as volunteers and in addition to their day jobs in the field of child and youth care.

It is poignant and frustrating to realize that in 2022, and, indeed, in most if not all years since 1948, children, youth and societies worldwide have been confronted with the same human-made aggressions and crises again and again. FICE began with and for children and youth displaced by World War II. Among many other actions, such as, for example, the establishment of «Safe Parks» in refugee camps in Lebanon, its members came together again in 2022 to found the «Special Task Force Ukraine

“Hand in Hand”» in support of young people in and from Ukraine and those who work with them during the war, as well as the future reconstruction of child and youth care in the country. At the international level, we hope to learn from these experiences and to further build our capacity to give support in such situations of war and crises as, unfortunately, they occur again and again in different parts of the world, putting children and youth and societies at risk.

At the same time, it is positive and motivating to see that solidarity and collaboration between diverse people always, and still, goes a long way in and of itself. Differences of opinion or cultural differences do not have to be a cause of conflict but a rich source of joint learning, development and action. This experience and belief is what drives us at FICE International. We can never do and achieve everything that, ideally, we would want to do and achieve, but we can try our best under the circumstances we have and continue to learn and develop and never give up. This is what we wish for the children, youth and those who work with them, and for society at large, and it is what we as FICE International must do also.

Thank you, dear Readers, Members and Friends, for all the inspiration and achievements you yourself have brought to the lives of children, adolescents and

their families in 2022, to the quality of child and youth care, and to the collaboration with and within FICE in 2022! Together with all members of FICE International and my colleagues of the Coordinating Body, I look forward to continuing and further strengthening this collaboration with you for the better lives of children, adolescents and their families in 2023.

With kind regards and very best wishes,

Anna Schmid, Switzerland

President of FICE International



ABOUT FICE INTERNATIONAL

Who are we?

The International Federation of Educative Communities - FICE-International is an international network founded in 1948 in Trogen – Switzerland under the patronage of UNESCO. FICE unites organizations and professionals, working in the field of child and youth care, from more than 35 countries around the world.

What is our vision?

Our vision is to create networks across continents worldwide to support actions and people working with children at risk, children with special needs and children and young people in out-of-home care.

What is our aim?

FICE's main aim is to contribute to the out-of-home care development of children and young people. All activities aim to respect the personality, interests and needs of the child or the young person and are completely in line with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

What do we stand for?

- Children in out-of-home care
- Children with special needs
- Children at risk
- Young people leaving care

How does FICE work?

- FICE International works through its national sections. Its members are professionals from diverse backgrounds: child and youth care workers (educators, pedagogues, social workers, youth workers, foster carers) in residential care facilities or foster care families; trainers on topics related to out-of-home care; researchers; academics.
- Organizes and encourages professional exchanges between national sections.
- Organizes professional conferences (once or twice a year) and congresses (once in 3 years).
- Encourages and organizes transnational exchanges of young people from child and youth care facilities.

ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS AT INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

FICE International 2022: Activities and achievements at international level

FICE International works through its national sections and further members. In addition to their many activities, achievements and positive impacts at their national levels and in the FICE Africa and Europe Networks, the members of FICE achieved a considerable increase in their collaboration at international level to promote good quality in care in 2022. National Sections, Organisations and further members, as well as some guests, exchanged and discussed good practices, jointly produced knowledge and collaborated in actions to benefit children and youth in situations of risk or in alternative care. They also finished developing and started implementing a new organisational model which resulted in an increase in the capacity and sustainability of their international collaboration. Ultimately, this strengthened FICE at all its levels, local, national, continental and international, and in the interaction between them.

The increase in the number of engaged members contributing to and profiting from exchange and collaboration on both good practice in alternative care and for children at risk as well as the capacity development of FICE International, must be considered the greatest success at international level in 2022, especially as all work at that level is purely voluntary and, in 2022, still could only happen online. The good mix and representation of the different member countries and regions, age groups, sexes, long standing active members, as well as newly active members, etc. enriched the collaboration greatly. It resulted in excellent progress regarding the members' goal of "carrying FICE International on more shoulders" and continuing to ensure and further increase its relevance and good contribution to the quality of services to children and youth.

1. International collaboration in three strategic thematic bundle groups

With the implementation of the new organisational model of FICE International (see below), three strategic thematic bundles and groups were established. They built on earlier work by members and working groups and started to further focus or extend it to include current topics and trends in the field of alternative care.

The three groups and their themes are:

- Quality in alternative care
- Leaving care and empowerment
- Special task force Ukraine and further emergency situations “Hand-in-Hand Group”

The thematic groups consist of, and are led by, voluntary members of FICE International and, upon invitation, further voluntary experts, including young people with experience of the situations and experiences addressed. Whereas the “Hand-in-Hand Group” had started building up its activities soon after the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 and was declared a thematic group in August of 2022 already, the groups “Quality in alternative care” and “Leaving care and empowerment” were established based on existing evaluation of member interest, in October 2022. In the short remainder of the year, they focussed on coming together, getting organised, defining their goals and initial activities and holding first working meetings. All three groups organise themselves, define their concrete goals within the overall goals of FICE International and involve the entirety of FICE International in their topics and discussions at regular intervals. Having started earlier, the “Hand-in-Hand” group is a good example of how impulses and recommendations are extended to all FICE members in their entirety, for example in the case of the event “Ukraine: Status report and road map for the future” at the beginning of August 2022. The further two groups began this extension at the beginning of 2023.

1.1. Quality in Alternative Care

The “Quality in Care” group is coordinated by Bettina Terp (MA) and Dr. Christian Posch of FICE Austria. In 2022, it included 14 expert FICE members from eight countries on five continents: Austria, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Israel, Spain, Switzerland and Zambia.

The group was founded in October and met once, in November 2022, where they shared their personal understanding of the meaning of “quality in care”. Further to this, they discussed “quality in care” in their countries and the many

facets of “quality in care” regarding definitions, discourses, demands, rules and regulations, approaches and practices. The group will hold seven proposed meetings in 2023.

Their focus is on learning from each other and with each other by sharing and discussing relevant examples or cases from their own professional experience. In addition, they will jointly consider which approaches promote the development of “quality in care” at the level of the organisations providing the care as well as at the individual professional level. They plan to identify shared interests with an option of exploring opportunities for joint projects and strive to develop recommendations or proposals to strengthen FICE’s capacity to promote quality development in care. Last but not least, they will explore opportunities for exchange and/or collaboration with other international organisations in the field regarding the promotion of quality in care. They will be in continuous exchange with all members of FICE International.

1.2. Leaving Care & Empowerment

The “Leaving Care & Empowerment” group is coordinated by Donald Nghonyama (MA) of FICE South Africa. At the end of 2022, it included 10 expert FICE members from eight countries on four continents: Brazil, Canada, Croatia, Germany, India, Romania, South Africa and Spain. By the beginning of 2023, several care leavers had started participating in activities of the group.

This thematic group also came together in November 2022 as their first meeting. However, meetings planned for early 2023 were postponed and will only be possible on the second half of the year. The group has the goal of promoting innovative ways of preparing and supporting youth for leaving care and of ensuring continued support once they have left care. It will do so by serving as a virtual platform where FICE members share information, experiences and good practices, learn from each other and develop new ideas together.

The group will hold a series of meetings in 2023 and share and discuss at the national, regional and international levels:

- Innovative models and approaches.
- Legislations, regulations and further relevant documents.
- Information about available opportunities for youth leaving care and any other youth empowerment.

Insights and input from care leavers (including the 10 Standards for Care Leavers from the 2016 International FICE Congress in Vienna) as well as the collaboration of some care leavers as working members of the group are key elements of the group's exchange and deliberations. It will be in continuous exchange with all members of FICE International, also.

1.3. Special Task Force Ukraine and Further Emergency Situations – “Hand-in-Hand Group”

Following the attack of Russia on Ukraine on 22 February 2022, the following steps were taken by FICE at international level (in addition to actions at the level of National Sections and Organisation Members):

- Intense on-going contacts with FICE member Ukraine Education Platform UKREDU regarding the situation of children, youth and families in Ukraine or refugees or deportees from Ukraine, as well as regarding the situation of those working for and with them.
- Dissemination of information to all FICE members and, through social media, to the public, in the UKREDU report “A report on the current situation in Ukraine, and how should we defend children?” on 2 March and in the FICE International Statement on Ukraine on 7 March. The latter also called on all FICE members to do their best to support the children of Ukraine and those working with and for them and to lobby in their countries for such support at government level.

- Dissemination on 8 April of the excellent Mylifejourneybook activity booklet composed by FICE The Netherlands and partners for children and youth who had fled Ukraine or were displaced inside Ukraine to all FICE members and, through social media, to the public.
- A special FICE Café on 4 May on the situation in Ukraine and relevant topics of alternative care for children and youth, with input by Maximilian Ullrich, co-president of FICE Europe Network, and the participation of expert FICE members from ten countries on four continents.

From these activities, the “Special Task Force Ukraine and further emergency situations” (“Hand-in-Hand Group”) began to emerge. It is coordinated by Dr. Alex Schneider (FICE Israel) and Marianna Bilyk (MA; UKREDU, Ukraine). It was set up as the first of the three thematic groups in August 2022. By the end of the year, it included 14 FICE members from ten countries on three continents: Croatia, England, Finland, Germany, Israel, Romania, Serbia, Switzerland, Ukraine and USA. In their meetings and activities, they collaborated with further experts, especially from the school and boarding school / residential care area and further NGOs: nine from Israel, one from the Netherlands and 13 from Ukraine. Additionally, from the start, the group has invited youths in or from Ukraine to share their experiences and inform its work. Like the other two groups, it is in continuous exchange with all members of FICE International.

The mission of the “Hand-in-Hand” group is to work on the specific ways in which FICE can contribute to the safety and well-being of children and their families in emergency situations and “on the move” displaced within their own country, refugees to other countries or deported to other countries. Since its inception, the group focusses on Ukraine both as regards the ongoing war situation and support that may be given to the reconstruction of Ukrainian child and youth care (to a state “better than before the war”, as a Ukrainian colleague put it) as soon as it is possible. The goal of the group is to provide:

- Guidance and practical tools to professionals in Ukraine (psychologists, educators, social workers, and other therapeutic professionals) to deal with the crisis and stress situations that children, youth and their families all over Ukraine are going through.
- Tools with the same purpose, for non professionals involved in looking after children and youth in Ukraine as well as for parents and further family care givers.
- Trainings regarding future methodologies of working with children for both professionals and parents.
- Zoom online meetings for pupils / youth from Ukraine and further countries in the format of a “world project” to facilitate cultural exchange and peer support in times of need such as the current war in Ukraine.

Concrete activities in 2022 were:

- The online meeting “Ukraine Status Report and Roadmap for the Future” on 9 August. Several speakers from Ukraine gave insights into the situation of Ukrainian children and youth and those working with them. Among them were representatives of a Ukrainian organisation working for children and families, a representative of a regional education department, a school principal, a student, a parent and a representative from an aid organisation. They focussed especially on the question of education in the current war situation and on distance learning for children and youth who had to flee from their home towns to safer locations in Ukraine or abroad. The FICE members were deeply moved and impressed by the testimonies of resilience and innovative solutions under very challenging circumstances.
- Two coordination meetings to determine the scope and direction of the “Hand-in-Hand” group (20 October and 24 November).
- A workshop in collaboration with the TC Elders group of FICE member organisation Mulberry Bush in England to support 12 social workers from the Lviv region. A donation from a Swiss FICE member made it possible to provide the necessary translation at this and the following events.

- A lecture by two experienced educational psychologist from Israel on 29 December on the topic “Understanding children’s coping mechanisms: a model for dealing with traumatic events. More than 100 social workers, psychologists and social educators from all over Ukraine had registered. Due to major missile attacks on that day and resulting internet and electricity shortage, over 60 persons, mainly from Lviv, Dnipro, Ternopil and region, were able to actually participate in the event.

Like the other two thematic bundle groups, the “Hand-in-Hand” group maintains constant exchange with all members of FICE International.

2. Continued education, knowledge development and networking

2.1 FICE International Online Cafés

First initiated as “Covid Cafés” by Martine Tobé (MSc; FICE Europe Network Co-President and member of the board of FICE The Netherlands) in 2020, the now “FICE International Cafés” provide the members of FICE International (including the members of the National Sections and Member Organisations) as well as guests interested in joining FICE with the opportunity to:

- Discuss current child and youth care realities,
- Exchange good practices,
- Exchange project ideas,
- Support each other with an amount of intervention,
- Inspire each other.

In 2022, a total of 67 persons participated in six online Cafés, many of them several times. They profited from them not only regarding their personal expertise but also brought back topics, insights and ideas to the FICE networks and organisations in their countries. They were from the following 28 countries on five continents:

Armenia	Finland	Philippines	Ukraine	Canada	
Czech Republic	Nigeria	Togo	Bulgaria	Kenya	Lebanon
Netherlands	Switzerland	Brazil	Israel	Rwanda	South Africa
Spain	Benin	India	Romania	USA	Zambia
Austria	Germany	Poland	United Kingdom	Croatia	

The Cafés were moderated by Patrick Reason (FICE Brazil; Secretary General of FICE International). All Cafés consisted of a presentation by a FICE member, followed by a discussion about the topic presented, and concluding with a general exchange by the participants. The topics presented were:

February	Challenges and achievements in alternative care for children and youth during the pandemic	Emmanuel Grupper (President FICE Israel; at the time Co-President of FICE International)
March	Questions and potential measures regarding the mental health of young people in alternative care during the pandemic.	Martine Tobé (FICE The Netherlands; Co-President of FICE Europe)
May	The situation in Ukraine and relevant topics of alternative care for children and youth.	Maximilian Ullrich (FICE Austria; Co-President of FICE Europe)
July	Practice-oriented planning for the quality development of social services.	Dasha Kraveva (President FICE Bulgaria)
September	FICE Canada's struggle for identity and purpose: Entering the FICE International Multilogue"	James Anglin (Ad-Interim President FICE Canada)
November	Child Rights Impact Assessment and Child Budgeting in Finland.	Ira Custódio and Laura Holmi (FICE Finland)

2.2 Live Forums

During the Covid-19 Pandemic, the online Live Forums replaced the Federal Council and General Assembly meetings of all members of FICE International. While the latter had been taking place in person once or twice a year, the Live Forum was held online four times in 2022.

The main purpose of all these formats is the joint coordination and leadership of FICE International and the members' collaboration at the international level (report under 3. below). However, the Live Forums in 2022 also included exchanges and discussions on topics directly related to the quality of services for children and youths. They were:

22 March	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Situation of children and families in Ukraine; work of FICE member organisation UKREDU.• FICE members inform about what their sections/organisations and countries do to help, with focus on neighbouring "FICE countries" Bulgaria, Hungary and Romania.• Presentation by Marya Hemmings (member organisation The Mulberry Bush, England) about their residential center and extensive archive.
17 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• General Assembly and Coordinating Body Elections
29 August	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Challenges, achievements, plans etc. in the different FICE sections / member organisations
29 November	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Challenges, achievements, plans etc. in the different FICE sections / member organisations• Updates from the three Thematic Bundle groups.

2.3 International Congress

After the excellent well attended 34th Congress of FICE International in October 2019 in Tel Aviv, it was planned that the 35th Congress would take place in Dakar, Senegal, in the last quarter of 2022. When it became evident that the West African FICE colleagues were not in a position to hold the event, FICE South Africa offered most kindly to receive the Congress in their country in July 2023, in conjunction with their own bi-annual conference of the National Association of Child Care Workers. Unfortunately they, too, had to come to the conclusion by the end of 2022 that some of the challenges that had arisen due to, and during, the Covid-19 pandemic were still ongoing and could not be overcome sufficiently for the Congress to be possible in July 2023.

While FICE International is looking for an alternative location for a next FICE Congress, it will hold an in-person Federal Council and General Assembly in Belgrade in September of 2023 in combination with a professional conference together with the members of FICE Serbia and further experts from that country.

2.4 Editorial Board

The Editorial Board is chaired by Dr. Emmanuel Grupper (Vice President FICE International, President FICE Israel) Based on the 2019 FICE Congress in Tel Aviv, its more recent work has resulted in two special issues of the open access International Journal of Child, Youth and Family Studies (IJCYFS), a special issue of the open access journal CYC Online of the International Child and Youth Care Network (CYC Net) and a book published in Israel in the Hebrew language. Not least due to the Congress originally planned for 2022 having to be cancelled, the Editorial Board reconvened at the end of 2022, counting with a total of 12 members from eight countries on four continents. It has made a call and will act as editor of a further special issue of each of the aforementioned publications in 2023. These will include articles from experts who submitted papers for the Congress in South Africa that had to be cancelled.

3. FICE International Organisation and Coordination

FICE International is a member led network. At international level, and with the exception of a part-time paid Technical Assistant, its management and activities are all completed in the form of voluntary and unpaid work by members. The same is the case at the level of the Regional Networks and for the greater part of the national sections. Under these conditions, it is a remarkable achievement in itself that the members of FICE International have been able to coordinate their network and collaborate towards its mission in all the many years since the foundation of FICE in 1948. At the same time, how to best organise such a network and collaboration is a question that has been discussed in FICE time and again.

As a main achievement in this regard, 2022 saw the adoption of a new organisation model for FICE International. This model was developed and approved by all FICE members in a large participatory process led by Anna Schmid (FICE Switzerland) and Martine Tobé (FICE The Netherlands) and co-initiated by them with Merle Allsopp (FICE South Africa) and Susanna Hoikkala (FICE Finland) in 2019.

Among its goals were: to share the coordination of FICE International on more shoulders, and to strengthen active participation and collaboration both in the running of FICE at international level and its activities towards its mission and goals. Not only the resulting organisation model, but also the participatory process itself led to a greater involvement of many members and more shared activities at international level.

In total, four online Live Forums of two to four hours were held in 2022 (22 March, 17 May, 29 August, 29 November), replacing the in-person Federal Council and General Assembly meetings during the time of the Covid-19 pandemic. Their main purpose is the joint coordination and leadership of FICE International and the members' collaboration at the international level.

Overall, 34 representatives of 24 National Sections and organisational members as well as some individual members from five continents participated in these Live Forums:

Austria	Japan	Serbia
Bangladesh	Kenya	South África
Brazil	Lebanon	Spain
Bulgaria	Mexico	Switzerland
Canada	England	Ukraine
Croatia	Hungary	USA
Finland	Netherlands	Zambia
Germany	Romania	
India	Serbia	
Israel	South África	

In the Live Forum and General Assembly on 17 May, Executive Council Members Dr. Emmanuel Grupper (FICE Israel) and Rolf Widmer (FICE Switzerland) laid down their roles as Co-Presidents of FICE International and Bettina Terp (MA; FICE Austria) her role as Secretary General. They received many thanks from the members for their engagement and contributions over many years.

In the following elections, Dr. Anna Schmid (FICE Switzerland) was elected President, Dr. Emmanuel Grupper (FICE Israel) Vice President, Rolf Widmer (FICE Switzerland) Treasurer, and Patrick Reason (FICE Brazil) Secretary General. Together, they form the new Coordination Body of FICE International which also counts with the continuous participation of delegates of the Continental Networks: Donald Nghonyama (MA) and Simon Peter of FICE Africa Network, and Martine Tobé (MSc) and Maximilian Ullrich (MA) from FICE Europe Network.

Further main topics of the Live Forums were:

22 March	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Various organisational matters (annual report, newsletter, Cafés, congress).• Organisation of the pre-election process (getting to know candidates etc.)
17 May	General Assembly: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Elections• Further statutory matters• Start of new organisation
29 August	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Formal establishment Task Force Ukraine (see above)• Initiation of further Thematic Bundles “Quality in Care” and “Leaving Care & Empowerment”
29 November	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Editorial board• Finances and membership• Goals and planning 2023• Further establishment of the thematic bundles

After the end of the Covid-19 pandemic, FICE International plans to continue with four such meetings per year, two to three of which will be online and, if possible, one or two will be in-person Federal Councils. Ideally, the General Assembly will take place during an in-person Federal Council meeting.

To maintain the accessibility achieved with online meetings, FICE International will aim to provide online access to in-person Federal Council and General Assembly meetings, also.

In addition to several meetings of the Executive Council in the first half of 2022, the Coordinating Body replacing it met a further four times in the second half and maintained continuous contact with all groups and members throughout.



FICE AFRICA NETWORK IN 2022



National sections participating in FICE Africa Network

The participating national sections are: South Africa, Zambia, Kenya, Ghana, Lesotho, Namibia and West Africa represented by Senegal.

Regional Psychosocial Support Initiatives (REPSSI) which operate in 13 countries in the East and Southern Africa are in negotiations to form part of FICE Africa. REPSSI focus on health and psychosocial support interventions for children.

Meetings held and topics discussed

FICE Africa held 3 virtual meetings in 2022.

- Reports from member countries.
- Preparations for the conference planned in 2023
- Strategies to expand membership of FICE Africa
- Updates of work happening in the continent.
- Documentation of the development of FICE Africa history.
- Update reports on the elections of the FICE International Coordinating Body.

Partnerships

The partnership formed to support FICE Africa is from the Swedish funding organisation called Adoptionscentrum.

While there was no training support provided by this organisation in 2022, the support and interest in the work of FICE Africa continues.

Projects:

- FICE Africa resolved to continuously update its history with all the developed documents to be filed at the FICE International level. The work to organise the documents began in 2021, 2022 and will continue in 2023 going forward.
- The exploration to register FICE Africa as an independent entity that will be able to apply for funding was not successful. It has proven to be difficult to register a cross-country organisation. This initiative will be continued in 2023.
- Planning for the active participation in the FICE International, CYC-net and FICE South Africa (NACCW) conference was done. This was aimed at ensuring that the conference hold a strong African taste accommodating of various countries in the continent.

Documents to support the work of FICE Africa:

The minutes of the three meetings and the presentations as the meetings form part of the supporting documents by FICE Africa.

The legal status of FICE Africa:

Ongoing exploration of FICE Africa & its legal status which will lead to the possible participation in fundraising for the continental structure continues.



FICE EUROPE NETWORK IN 2022



INTERNATIONAL
FEDERATION
OF EDUCATIVE
COMMUNITIES

NETWORK OF EUROPEAN MEMBERS OF FICE INTERNATIONAL

National sections participating in FICE Europe Network

FICE Europe (Fédération Internationale des Communautés Educatives) is a European network (under the umbrella of FICE Inter) that advocates for the rights of children and youth, particularly those who are in care.

FICE Europe collaborates with national and international organizations to promote the welfare of young people and to ensure their active participation in the society. The organization has a membership base of national sections from various European countries.

Meetings held and topics discussed

FICE Europe held 2 virtual meetings in 2022:

During these meetings FICE Europe provided a platform for members from different European countries to come together and discuss issues concerning the welfare of children and youth. One of the main topics of discussion was the crisis in Ukraine, and FICE Europe compiled an overview of the different responses of the various countries towards the situation.

Board Members:

The board of FICE Europe consisted of Maximilian Ullrich (FICE Austria) and Martine Tobé (FICE Netherlands) as co-presidents, Roland Stubi (FICE Switzerland) as treasurer, Zeljka Burgund (FICE Serbia), Elena Matache (Romania, individual member), Olgica Cekic (Serbia, individual member), Carmen Ruth (FICE Germany), and Yoav Apelboim (FICE Israel).

Projects/Actions:

- FICE Europe endorsed the "Joint statement on key recommendations to uphold the rights of Ukrainian children deprived of family care" to show solidarity with children who have been affected by the crisis in Ukraine. This statement is aimed at ensuring that the rights of these children are protected and that they receive the necessary support to overcome the challenges they face.
- FICE Europe, introduced safeguarding guidelines for FICE. These guidelines provide a framework for ensuring the safety and wellbeing of children and youth who are joining FICE projects and activities. The guidelines can also be adapted by national sections to meet their specific needs.
- FICE Europe members actively participated in the FICE Cafe sessions organized by FICE Inter. These sessions provided a platform for members from different parts of the world to share their experiences and discuss issues related to the welfare of children and youth.
- FICE Europe published its newsletter, providing members with updates on recent activities and projects from across the organization's network. FICE Bulgaria shared information about their project "Perseverance, Determination, and Values".

Conclusion:

In conclusion, 2022 was a challenging year for FICE Europe. Despite the lingering effects of the pandemic, the organization persevered in its commitment to facilitate exchange between the members of FICE Europe. The two members' meetings and the participation in the FICE Cafe sessions provided much-needed opportunities for members to connect and collaborate in a virtual environment. However, FICE Europe is looking forward to 2023, where the organization hopes to resume in-person meetings and events.



FICE AUSTRALIA IN 2022

In 2022, Australia was able to return to the FICE family towards the end of the year, due to availability of its President working again within the sector. Teaching Out-of-Home Care (OOHC) workers, who are now mandated to be qualified with a Certificate IV in Child, Youth and Family Intervention or top up their relevant qualifications in youth work, social work. Disability, etc., with four units of competency in Trauma Informed Care. This was introduced in 2017.

On 24th of February of 2023 it was announced that the 3000 young people who leave care (foster, kinship and OOHC) each year, in every state, will now be supported until they are 21, with payments and a case worker. New South Wales is the last state to announce this. Victoria provides the Better Futures program, which has been in place since 2019, and pays \$500 per fortnight to those who leave care, aged between 15 years 9 months and 18 years of age. They are supported until they are 21.

Each state and territory has its own Commissioner or Guardian responsible for supporting and protecting children and young people. Independent statutory bodies that promote improvements in policies and practices for the safety and wellbeing of vulnerable children and young people in, Victoria has just appointed an Indigenous Commissioner to work with first nations children, who are over represented in the OOHC system.

To support organisations there are Child Safe Standards (11 that shape the work that those in the sector and working with children and young people must follow, and a number of other schemes including the Reportable Conduct Scheme. Provided with new powers as of the 1 January 2023, this scheme allows for organisations which work with children and young people to be monitored and identified if workers or clients believe they are not providing safe practice platform.



FICE AUSTRIA IN 2022

Bettina Terp, Christian Posch - Co-presidents

There are 34 members in total; of which 23 organisations and 11 individual members. As of 2021, there are four more organizations and two more personal memberships.

Biggest Achievement 2022:

In the period from February 2021 to December 2022, 27 organisations active in child and youth welfare (CJW) in Austria jointly developed a curriculum for "dual"(extra-occupational) further education (FE) for specialists in the stationary CJW. More than 6000 working hours have been done and the total cost of the project is approximately € 70,000.

An essential starting point for the development of the curriculum are the "Quality Standards for Stationary CJW" (FICE Austria 2019), which were developed cooperatively between 2017 and 2019.

The development of the curriculum is linked to the concern that the FE will be implemented throughout

Austria in the medium term and thus promote a comparable quality of care processes in inpatient facilities of the CJW.

The aim is that the participants of the FE can do justice to the complex and demanding tasks of the static care of children and adolescents by strengthening their professional self-efficacy and confidence in action. The investment in the FE of skilled workers directly benefits the children and young people cared for and their future opportunities as well as society as a whole. Last but not least, the FE is associated with the concern to increase the job satisfaction of the supervising specialists in the stationary CJW in order to counteract the high fluctuation and especially the current staff shortage in inpatient facilities of the CJW.



Important activities 2022

- Guidelines/quality standards for mobile assistance in the context of parenting support

The development of guidelines/standards for mobile assistance (family strengthening) in the context of parenting support started already in 2021. 14 organisations participate in the project under the leadership of FICE Austria and monthly quality circles took place (in presence or via ZOOM). The state of the art know-how and the concrete experiences from practice were put in relation to each other, discussed and critically evaluated. A publication is planned for 2023.

- Exchange on the topic of "staff shortage" in child and youth welfare services

FICE Austria held five ZOOM conferences to address the current and ongoing problem of understaffing in child and youth services. The aim was to exchange ideas, strengthen each other and discuss plans for improvement. More than 20 organisations from the child and youth welfare sector and representatives of the child and youth welfare authorities took part.

In 2023, these meetings will be continued and it is planned to extend the discussion/exchange to the further development of the entire child and youth welfare in Austria and thus also to critically question the framework conditions of social work with children and to work out possible proposals for improvement

General Assembly

The next General Assembly will take place on 17 May 2023 in Linz. In the morning there will be two lectures on the topics of education and training as well as current developments in Austrian child and youth welfare. At the general assembly, the election of the new board is planned. Plans for the coming activities of FICE Austria will be discussed.





FICE BRAZIL IN 2022

Isa Guar - President & Patrick Reason - Vice-President

NECA, a Civil Society Organization of Public Interest (OSCIP) headquartered in So Paulo, Brazil since February of 2005. It was founded by a group of researchers who wish to expand its activities in research and social intervention with child and juvenile population that lives in personal and social risk .

In 2018 the decision was made to associate the Brazilian National Movement with the FICE International Representative in Brazil, the Institution NECA, to form FICE Brazil.

Biggest Achievement 2022:

FICE BRASIL as partner with the Brazilian National Movement for the Rights of Children and Adolescents to live in Family and Community, held the “Seminar of the National Movement for the Rights of Children and Adolescents to live in Family and Community 2022 - Promoting Dialogue on the Guarantee of the Right to live in Family and Community: Event at The Pontifical Catholic University of Minas Gerais in Belo Horizonte. Our first face-to-face meeting since the pandemic, the seminar brought together over four hundred technicians and researchers for discussion. Panels were done on the Prevention of Family Breakdown, Quality in Care, Foster Care and other Family Based Care Models, and Adoption Based on the Best Interest of Children and Adolescents. The panels and workshops will be recorded as a publication edited by the University Editorial Body. There was also the need to organise a public manifestation against the separation of siblings in care, a practice all too common in Minas Gerais and Brazil.

- Foster Care Coalition and Guidebooks

FICE Brazil participated in the Brazilian Coalition for the Promotion of Foster Care, consisting of a working group of civil society organisations, the Brazilian judicial system and federal government.



The Coalition produced a series of six Guides on the Implementation of Foster Care Services in Brazilian Municipalities, all downloadable free of charge and available on the website <https://familiaacolhedora.org.br/> along with a great deal of audio visual training material and an interactive website.

- The Brazilian National Council of Child and Adolescent Rights

Both NECA, represented by the researcher Dayse Bernardi, and the Brazilian National Movement for the Rights of Children and Adolescents to live in Family and Community, represented by Patrick Reason, held seats on the National Council of Child and Adolescent Rights in 2021 and 2022. The council is responsible for both the funding and policy in child rights at a federal level. The role of FICE Brasil is to guarantee that the Council continues to finance, undertake and implement the present evaluation for the revision of the National Alternative Care Plan, which is the major policy document for alternative care and child centred adoption.

- Evaluation of the National Care Plan

In 2022 the process of evaluating the National Plan for the Rights of Children and Adolescents to live in Family and Community was concluded, with the publication of a total of six national reports, of which Patrick Reason coordinated two. The reports are published and available for free download on the website <http://blog.mds.gov.br/redesuas/avaliacao-e-atualizacao-do-plano-nacional-de-convivencia-familiar-e-comunitaria/>

The Report on Broad Intersectorial Workshops for the Evaluation of the National Plan for the Rights of Children to Live in Family and Community was carried out by Federal Government and the civil society representative, the National Movement for the Rights of children to Live in Family and Community (MNPCFC), with support from SOS Children's Villages and the International Organization of Migrants (IOM). Based on data and the opinions collected in these workshops which included professionals from the five macro-regions of Brazil, the



study aimed to evaluate "what has advanced the most"; "what has progressed least"; and "what is still needs to be done", in the three dimensions that are the basis of the PNCFC.

My Life on the Outside (Minha Vida Fora Dali): carried out by the MNPCFC, the study was coordinated by Dr. Luciana Cassarino-Perez, with support from the Institute Making History (Instituto Fazendo História - IFH). The objective was to listen to young care leavers who had recently left care services. 27 young people evaluated their care experience under the three dimensions of the National Plan, pointing out positive and negative aspects and made recommendations as to what still needs to be done.

- Revision of the National Care Plan

During sixteen consecutive weeks half day workshops to Revise the National Plan for the Rights of Children to Live in Family and Community were held online with an average of 50 plus experts from social society, governmental agencies, the judiciary and academia. FICE Brasil was present in all of these workshops with a number of its members and participated as mediator, panellist and speaker in innumerable moments. The product of these workshops is a revised text and plan that will be subject to a national online platform before being submitted to approval in 2023/4 to the National Child Council and then becoming policy.

In Summary

Although COVID offered many challenges and stopped other more regular face-to-face meetings in 2022, it did allow the online participation of FICE Brazil in FICE International in a number of ways and in all of the online events including the COVID Cafés. The Vice-President Patrick Reason led all the COVID Cafés in 2022 with the help of FICE's Technical Assistant and excellent speakers from FICE Bulgaria, FICE Israel, FICE Holland, FICE Finland, FICE Austria and FICE Canada. FICE Brasil members were included in all of the FICE International Thematic Bundles and will endeavour to contribute as much as possible.

In May 2022 our Vice-President Patrick Reason became Secretary General of FICE International.



FICE BULGARIA IN 2022

D-r. Dashenka Kraleva - President

FICE Bulgaria is an association (NGO) with more than 20 active juridical and professional members from the educational and social area. The leading body of the association is the General Assembly (GA), and the operational management is realised by the three Board members: President - D-r. Dashenka Kraleva, D-r. Rossitsa Simeonova and Vessela Alexieva.

The mission of FICE Bulgaria is to work actively for improving the quality of life of the children in Bulgaria. To achieve this mission, FICE Bulgaria adapts and develops new methodologies for working with children at risk (children without parental care, children with disabilities and/or educational difficulties, children from disadvantaged backgrounds and/or minorities, young people in transition to adulthood, young people facing unemployment and social exclusion, etc.), provides training, supervision and consultations to professionals working with children and families at risk. Furthermore, FICE Bulgaria develops and participates in various project for an exchange of knowledge with organisations from Europe as well as the whole world.

In 2022, FICE Bulgaria achieved the following goals:

- Continued implementing the regulation and quality standards for social services in Bulgaria as part of its courses, trainings and supervisions to professionals working with children and families at risk.
- Successfully developed and practiced a specialized course for training professionals working directly with adoptive parents.

The training covers topics important for the preparation and evaluation of families wishing to adopt children in terms of the Bulgarian legislation, the knowledge and skills needed by parents to raise a child, as well as the process of assessing the capacity of prospective adoptive parents.



- Successfully provided professional education for over 80 individuals in two separate specializations:

- 1.) Child and family worker;
- 2.) Social specialist for work with children and adults with disabilities.

- Successfully organized 45 specified training courses childcare to professionals and teachers within various fields including: Casework and case evaluation; Social-emotional education for children based on the “Handbook for social-emotional education for children”; Models for children: education and positive parenting; Supervision models; Trauma pedagogy; Models for quality evaluation for social services; Quality and standards in social work.
- Participated actively in FICE International and FICE Europe activities - FICE CAFÉ, FICE LIVE FORUMs, Thematic Bundles, etc. President - D-r. Dashenka Krалеva became the distinguished guest speaker of the FICE CAFÉ in July. The meeting was moderated by Patrick Reason, Secretary General of FICE International and Vice President of FICE Brazil and featured a brief talk with her.

The consultancy work of FICE Bulgaria was provided to numerous clients in terms of supervision, quality evaluations and others. This specific service of the organization has been developing and expanding further in 2022.

In Summary

FICE Bulgaria works to improve the policies for children and especially the process of deinstitutionalization. The organization is a member of two major NGO networks in Bulgaria: The National Network for Children and the Childhood 2025 Coalition, jointly lobbying for a change in legislation and improving the well-being of children in Bulgaria.

FICE Bulgaria is open to various partnerships on the topics of children with international participation.



FICE CANADA IN 2022

James P. Anglin - President

This year FICE Canada was accepted as a full member of FICE International. An interim Board of 14 volunteers from across Canada was formed with representatives from academic programs, practitioner associations, and child and family serving agencies.

Biggest Achievement 2022:

They have formed a 4-person Executive, a Membership Committee, a Finance Committee, a communications Committee, and a Membership Engagement and Program Committee. FICE Canada have a website, hold monthly Executive and Board meetings, and have a FICE-Canada organizational bank account.

Much of this year has been spent developing committee Terms of Reference, planning and implementing developmental activities, and creating the necessary electronic infrastructures necessary to support FICE Canada operations.

FICE Canada are providing Founding Member certificates to the initial members in recognition of their early memberships and support.

In October, the Alberta Child and Youth Care Association sponsored the National Child and Youth Care Conference in beautiful Canmore, Alberta, nestled in the majestic Rocky Mountains. An information flyer was included in the conference participants' packages and FICE Canada lunch time information session was held, with sign-up sheets for expressing interest in membership. As well, the first face-to-face meeting of FICE Canada Board members was held with an inaugural photo taken and posted on the website.



It was evident from initial discussions that in order for Canadian CYC to have a strong presence internationally, they need to ensure they have strong provincial and territorial sections of the Council of Canadian Child and Youth Care Associations (CCCYCA).

Experience has shown that in order to have strong provincial CYC associations, there needs to be strong collaboration between practitioners and post-secondary educators at the provincial/territorial level.

Discussions to date have also highlighted the critical importance of ensuring strong Indigenous involvement and diversity of participants. We need to include voices and experiences thus far under-represented in our conferences and organizational leaderships. In order to facilitate broad CYC representation, we need to recognize the uneven distribution of privilege and resources and move to better level the playing field of involvement, locally and globally. This will be an ongoing task and commitment of FICE-Canada as set forth in our Bylaws.





FICE CROATIA IN 2022

Petra Hrvoj - President

The greatest success of FICE Croatia in 2022 was the new projects and programs in the field of alternative care and beyond that they initiated as holders, as well as partnerships and international cooperation on projects in the field of alternative care and mental health of experts who work with young people, and other activities that they are carried out in this area. In the same way, the employment of a new person in administrative work greatly facilitated the association's work and development in the desired direction.

Projects implemented by FICE Croatia or in partnership with other organizations:

- Erasmus+ project "Voice of Youth" with Croatian and Serbian participants to encourage young people in alternative care to actively participate in society and fight for their rights.
- "Glas mladih" - a project to encourage young people at risk of social exclusion to active participation in society.
- "Ready to leave care/Spremni za izlazak iz skrbi" - to make it easier for young people in alternative care and prepare them for leaving care.
- "FICE Croatia for Ukraine" project promoting social integration of children from Ukraine in care in Croatia.
- "Caring is Sharing" training course for youth workers, to improve professional competences for working with young people.
- "Meeting all Yourself", exchange of youth workers, and the topic was mental health in working with young people.
- In addition, FICE Croatia participated as a partner in 1 project financed by the European Social Fund, called "Gora"
- "Udomiteljstvo u centru/Fostering in the center", holder Forum za kvalitetno udomiteljstvo djece, project promoting fostering in Zagreb.

Other important activities:

Institutional support for the stabilization and/or development of organizations, volunteering with children from alternative care from



Ukraine, educational and informative workshop for volunteers, participation in working meetings of the Ministry of Internal Affairs related to the situation in Ukraine and Ukrainians located in Croatia, Webinar "Importance of support in work with young people" for experts who work with young people, advocacy for children and young people in care through cooperation and dialogue with the Office of the Ombudsperson for Children, Ministry, associations, participation in educations, webinars of national organizations, Cooperation on 'Reaching-In: promoting children's participation in inclusive public decision making' organized by Eurochild, Project SOCIEUX 2021-24 KAZAKHSTAN: Set-up of a foster care system for minors without , parental support and protection, participation in Eurochild activities organizations - CIAC Group, annual assembly, webinars, participation in FICE International and FICE Europe activities - FICE CAFFE, FICE LIVE FORUMs, Thematic Boundles, FICE Europe NEWSLETTER, participation in the creation and preparation of newsletters, Care Leaver Day - online campaign.

In Summary

In the end, to point out as important for 2022 for FICE Croatia is the employment of a new person on a part-time basis thanks to the Institutional Support for the Stabilization of Associations in Croatia. Among the activities of special importance are all the activities to carry out with children from alternative care from Ukraine who are placed in Croatia. In the work with them, the Mylifejourney book, created by colleagues from the Netherlands, was also used. Significant for 2022 for FICE Croatia is also the increase in the implemented projects and the work on better and greater networking. In addition, work was also done on educating and training experts who are employed in FICE Croatia, as well as volunteers and members of FICE Croatia, in order to improve the organization's capacities and improve the general quality of work.

Most of the activities were in the field of alternative care for children and young people, but efforts were made to encourage the development of the association in other areas as well as to expand the groups it works with.



FICE CZECH REPUBLIC IN 2022

PaedDr. Jana Koubová - Chairman

The activities of the FDD CR were ensured and managed by a duly elected committee.

Activities in 2022:

In the course of the evaluated period, awareness of FDD's activities was gradually improved, mainly through the website. [🔗](#)

Important activities were professional seminars focused on various topics related to the issue of equipment for the performance of the ÚV.

The spring seminar was held in March in Olomouc, the main topics were "Methods and techniques of ascertaining the child's opinion" and "Problems of OSH and PO including legislative changes".

The autumn seminar held in October in Prague dealt with the output of the Persist research in cooperation with the Masaryk Institute of Higher Studies of the Czech Technical University in Prague "Integration of children with DD into society and their adaptation to the labor market", as well as the issue of self-harm as a cheap drug in today's society and the possibilities of therapy and By offering medical stays for children from children's homes covered by the health insurance company.

In 2021, the committee decided to award the Golden Heart award every year to people who help children from orphanages the most. We continued this tradition in 2022, the Kabrd couple received an award for their long-term help to children from the children's home.

An important component of our activity was a series of meetings with representatives of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, and the Environment, the Association of Regions, the ombudsman, non-profit organizations, etc., and the possibility of commenting on various



materials. During the entire period, we maintained contact with the international FICE headquarters, especially by forwarding information about the activities of our FDD and the activities of other members of the international FICE.

The Federation of Children's Homes guarantees the course of the regional rounds of the Sweetest Concert of Children from Children's Homes and the national parade of this concert, as well as the regional rounds of sports competitions for children from children's homes. Due to the covid 19 pandemic, in 2022 these documents for the organization of competitive regional rounds as well as information about the National Show will be presented on the FDD CR website as before.

Several international FICE online meetings took place during the year. The issue of aid to Ukraine, improving the quality of care for children at risk, and quality standards in various countries was mainly discussed. We are particularly interested in the neighboring states. Greater cooperation was established primarily within the framework of international sports games. The plan for 2023 includes a meeting with Slovak homes within the framework of Erasmus, which took place for some homes already last year – Slovakia, Poland, Hungary.

As of 31.12. 2022 FDD has 105 individual members and 31 legal entities. It should also be noted that non-members also participate in events organized by FDD (especially seminars).

At their first meeting after the end of the seminar, the committee members elected among themselves representatives for individual positions and areas of activity.



FICE FINLAND IN 2022

Ulla Siimes - President

The CUCW has been a fundamental actor in promoting the National Child Strategy. The National Child Strategy was launched in Spring 2021. The Strategy aims at creating a child and family friendly Finland, where the rights of the child are fully respected. In 2022 CUCW monitored the implementation of the National Children's Strategy and participated in the preparation and implementation of the final seminar of its monitoring group, as well as in the planning and implementation of several child strategy measures.

Important activities 2022

- The CUCW actively participated in the ongoing discussion.

The CUCW has updated and published a lot of material such as policy papers, blogs, research papers on child rights and child and family welfare in 2022. A completely new policy paper for child protection aftercare and the related recommendations for young people were published.

The renewed Lastensuojelu.info website was published in early spring 2022. The website provides basic information on services for families with children in Finland in 12 languages (also in Ukrainian language). The website is aimed specifically at immigrant parents and professionals who work with them.

The CUCW organizes annually the biggest (over 1000 participants) national child welfare conference for child protection experts and students, social workers, and managers, called Valtakunnalliset lastensuojelupäivät in Finnish ("The Annual Child Welfare summit"). The summit consists of seminars, experts' speeches, and panel discussions. The summit was successfully held in October 2022 as a hybrid event.

At the beginning of summer 2022, the CUCW also organized for the first time the Leader of Dreams - Children's Protection Leadership



Days. It was a completely new concept and around 200 managers working in child protection participated in the seminar.

During year 2022 and forward on, two major national reform projects are taking place: the health and social services reform, which is in its implementation phase, and the comprehensive reform of social security, which will be implemented step by step and will continue until 2027.

As the CUCW wants to promote the participation of children and make sure that young people's voices are heard, the organisation arranges annually a gathering for young people who have been customers in child protection services. In 2022 the gathering was held live, together with other child and family NGO's.

The CUCW coordinates the writing of Supplementary Report to Finland's Periodic Report on the Implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of a Child for the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. Finland's hearing in Geneva was held in 2022.

The CUCW continued to coordinate the national network on the communication of children's rights. The main responsibilities include the compilation of up-to-date information about children's rights on the [website](#), coordination of communications regarding children's rights, sharing knowledge through campaigns as well as planning and organising the Children's Rights Week event annually. The right to safety was the year's theme, that was actively promoted in social media campaigns, school, early childhood education and leisure time material production, as well as in a statement addressed to decision-makers.

- Families at the center!

Project started at the beginning of 2022 with the help of a targeted operating grant from STEA. The aim of the activity is to bring the expertise of organizations to the use of family centers all over Finland. The aim of the program is to promote functional and high-quality services with help of the investors from private sector.



FICE Germany/ IGfH in 2022

Prof. Dr. Nicole Knuth and Prof. Dr. Hans Ullrich Krause (first chairmen), Josef Koch (managing director)

IGfH (Internationale Gesellschaft für erzieherische Hilfen) aims at the professional development and further enhancement of residential or foster care settings as well as family support services - always in the best interest of children and their families. Infrastructures, living and working conditions in public child and youth care should be developed in such ways that the fundamental rights to development, education, protection and participation of children and families are safeguarded. The diverse perspectives, experiences and individual situations of care receivers and care leavers and their families have a high priority within the association.

Biggest Achievement 2022:

The biggest achievement of FICE Germany in 2022 has been the projects of support for self-organized groups of young people, care leavers and parents:

- Listen to us! Insights into residential care – A hearing with young people, parents and politicians inside the national parliament of Germany (Deutscher Bundestag)

On September 19, 2022, young people, who live in residential care, parents and Careleavers stepped into a direct exchange with politicians of the German national parliament and Members of the Ministry and Committee on Family, Seniors, women and youth. The event was supported by IGfH in the context of the former project „Zukunftsforum Heimerziehung“ (Future Forum on Residential Child and Youth Care).

In the aftermath of the hearing, a documentation is now available which bundles central perspectives, experiences of the young people and parents. IGfH strongly supports their demands to implement regularly occurring with politicians and policy-makers on a national level. Download of the documentation: (in German only) [🔗](#)



- Care Leaver Statistics (CLS): Social Participation in the Life Course of Young Adults. A long-term study – Start of the surveys

CLS is the first long-term study in Germany on the so-called "Leaving Care" of young adults - leaving a residential child and youth welfare facility. The long-term study examines the transition of young people between life in foster families or residential groups and other forms of supervised living and adulthood over several years. The study's contents include topics such as personal data, social relationships, housing, leisure, health, school, education and studies, employment and occupation, and the use of assistance.

The Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, which funds the study, provided positive feedback on the completed preparations and expressed pleasure that the CLS study is now starting and young people will be surveyed for the first time this summer.

Project-Website [🔗](#)

- Project finalization – Fachstelle Leaving Care in der Kommune – Beratung und Infrastrukturentwicklung

The project "Fachstelle Leaving Care in der Kommune - Beratung und Infrastrukturentwicklung" is a collaboration between the IGfH and the University of Hildesheim, funded by the Deutsche Jugendmarke Foundation. The project aims to address the growing need for sustainable local infrastructures to support care leavers in municipalities. The project was finalized mainly in 2022 resulting in an information platform [🔗](#)

- Project approval – JUGEND STÄRKEN: Brücken in die Eigenständigkeit" (JUST BEst)

As a follow-up to the finalization of the project „Fachstelle Leaving Care“ which aimed to address the growing need for sustainable local infrastructures to support care leavers in municipalities IGfH and the University of Hildesheim will start the new ESF Plus model program "JUGEND STÄRKEN: Brücken in die Eigenständigkeit" (JUST BEst) on January 1, 2023.



- Start of new research project: Emergency placements – Insights into to young people's and their parents' perspectives

In late 2022, IGfH and Perspektive Institut GgmbH started an exploratory project to research the perspectives of young people (formerly) taken into care by the process of an emergency placement and their parents.

Reflecting on these and similar questions from the perspectives of service users is essential for successful practice, but has not yet been empirically researched in Germany. With the joint exploratory project, we shed light on the perspectives of young people (formerly) taken into care and their parents. The analysis of the perspectives of addressees is the starting point for the development of impulses for the practice of taking into care. To this end, we work together with practitioners from four public and four private service providers who form a continuous project group.

Through the cross-carrier exchange, an accompanying advisory board and the process-related discussion and dissemination of the findings.

In spring and march, we had the Delegates Assembly with 36 attendees.

- The main topics that were discussed were: Unaccompanied minor refugees and the responsibility of the national child and youth care system, Dramatic skill shortening/lack of professional staff members in the field of child and youth care, Effects of the covid-19 pandemic on children, youth and parents but also on professionals, Inflation/Increased costs for energy, Law reform of the German child and youth care act /Social Code 8 aiming towards an inclusive child and youth care system that is both responsible for children with and without disabilities (services for children and young people are falling/fell under a different legal area of responsibility)



NENESZ, HUNGARY IN 2022

Szántó Edina Anna - President

NENESZ association has 31 members, all private persons. No new members joined in 2022 to the association. NENESZ association's activities, professional reports, news and short films about individual programs are available on the association's website: www.nenez.hu

A study trip to Switzerland was realized within the framework of a binational cooperation between Switzerland and Hungary, Creating Futures. The project was launched in 2015 and examined the aspects affecting the self-empowerment of young people living in children's homes with the cooperation of Swiss and Hungarian children's homes. The closing event was led by the president of FICE International, Anna Schmid, who is also the representative of FICE Switzerland and the head of the project, and the participants were the managers and staff of the Hungarian children's homes and the young people of the age between 15-24 living in the children's homes. The focus of the professional work was the creation of a codex. Some principles were formulated at the closing event, which serve as a base to all participating institutions to create the ethical code applicable in their organization. The most important question of the codex is: What must be done in order for the young person to be able to build a sustainable life for him(her)self after leaving the child protection system?

The objective of NENESZ is to provide opportunities for as many children living in children's homes and their companions as possible to spend their free time usefully with cultural and sports programs, to help with talent development, career guidance and career choice. We took part in professional workshops, podcast discussions related to the topic, and last but not least, we helped and supported those fleeing the war taking place nearby. As part of this, NENESZ made the publication My life journey book available in Hungarian for Transcarpathian children.



NENESZ held a general meeting, providing information on its report and annual news, which was attended by 16 members.

In the summer of 2017, the NENESZ association announced a tender under the title Remembered and Touched, how people living and working in child protection and social care see certain stages and events in their lives, what exemplary or instructive experiences they have, and what plans and desires they have that they would like to share with us. A play called Ébredj was created, which was presented in several Cultural Centers and Theaters. The NENESZ association also actively participated in the creation of the play. After this we got to that point where we made a movie series, each episode telling one written storie. One of the goals of the book and the film is to provide a "therapeutic effect" – to help children and adults process their joys and sorrows. The work done with the heart is not always easy, we all have countless memories in our souls that affect not only our children's lives, but also our own lives and personalities, which really deeply touch and touch us. The first episode of the short film: Like a real thing [🔗](#)





FICE INDIA IN 2022

Malay Dewanji – President

FICE India is an NGO composed of 108 members out of which 36 members are organisations. Not all members have been associated with FICE India more than one year and there are members organisations and individual members among them. FICE India's organisational and individual members are all associated with the street and working children at risk. Most of them are part of the residential care system of children at risk.

Important activities 2022

During 2022, many member organisations were involved with the Open Shelter if Street and working children at risk, financially supported by the State Governments and the Union Government of India.

FICE India has also actively practiced residential care, vocational trainings, health care, education and cultural development activities and sports.

In 2022, FICE India held an online meeting for its members and all of them were in attendance.





FICE ISRAEL IN 2022

Emmanuel Grupper - President

The year 2022 was characterized, from the point of view of FICE Israel National Section, in large efforts to come back to normal functioning after the years of the Corona Pandemic. A major effort was geared towards supporting children and their colleagues in FICE Ukraine in the struggle to survive during the war with Russia that started in February 2022.

Important activities 2022

- FICE Israel held an Online Annual General Assembly on 26 June 2022.

32 participants took part in the meeting where they discussed our activity programs and priorities for the future. The Financial Report had been accepted and elections of the new Board were held after the retirement of several members and acceptance of newcomers to the National Section.

- FICE Israel ensured the participation of their members, representatives of FICE Israel in all online meetings organized by FICE International namely, FICE Live Forums, FICE Cafes and FICE International Online General Assembly.

They joined and have been active participants, together with other NGOs, in a lobby event organized in the Israeli Knesset (Parliament), which had the objective of convincing parliament members to increase the funds allocated by the government to residential care programs and youth villages.

- FICE Israel were active participants, together with other NGOs, in a large meeting to increase awareness of policy makers and stakeholders to the need to improve the training and professional level of residential educators, and accordingly, put pressure on the government authorities for the obtention of meaningful increase in the care workers' salaries.



One of the central activities of their National Section is to develop and organize exchange programs between Israeli residential educators and educators in other FICE sections. First, they started this year planning a study visit to residential programs in Hungary with their colleagues NENEZ, from Hungary. Unfortunately, this project had to be postponed to next year.

- Since the beginning of the war of Russia in Ukraine in February 2022, FICE Israel started to plan various pedagogical and social activities that could support children and staff living in such a major crisis.

The main organizer of these activities had been Dr. Alex Schneider, a Board member of FICE Israel that later initiated and is also leading the FICE International Task Force for Ukraine together with Marianna Bilyk from the Ukrainian Education Platform. Their first activity was to organize online meetings between students in Israel with children in the Ukraine.

- Student's cultural exchange was organized in which a combined session via Zoom for 15 students from one school abroad (14-18 years old) and 15 Israeli Students was conducted (in English).

The sessions included either a 20–40-minute opening lecture then students had a chance to take part in a friendly competition between mixed group of students on topics like Geography, Sports, Food computer and General Knowledge.

- FICE Israel invited 15 Ukrainian teenagers from several youth villages in Israel to participate in a panel and make their voices heard.

They all took an active part in the conversation with Tanya Zornicka. The moving exchange of impressions and family stories of these young people were very impressive. The 15 teenagers talked about how they miss Ukraine very much, and on the other hand, they spoke with great appreciation of how good they feel in the youth villages, and how they are supported, strengthened, and well taken care of.





FICE NETHERLANDS IN 2022

Willem Loupattij - Chairman

The Board of FICE Netherlands in 2022 consisted of Willem Loupattij (Chairman), Martine Tobé (Treasurer), Peter vd Pol (Secretary), Stephanie Koenderink (Member), and Elianne Zijlstra (Member). The Board composition remained unchanged compared to 2021.

Important activities in 2022:

- An online FICE Netherlands Masterclass on May 17 with speakers Zeni Thumbadoo and Merle Allsopp from South Africa. Zeni and Merle took FICE NL members on a journey into the world of community-based care.
- A FICE Netherlands Masterclass on October 14, 2022, in collaboration with South Africans Adele Grosse and Peer3, focused on the themes of expertise by experience, parenthood, and resilience.
- The development of the "My Life Journey Book" for children and young people from Ukraine.

The "My Life Journey Book" is an activity book for children from Ukraine. In this book, children can write about their experiences of the journey, memories of Ukraine, and hopes for the future. It strengthens the resilience of children by making them aware of their own strength and sources of support. Alternating with games, questions are asked about their journey, daily life in Ukraine and in the host country, and things that make them happy, such as their favorite music, food, and superhero. The book was compiled by FICE Netherlands in collaboration with Lifebook for Youth, Peer3, and the University of Groningen.

- A presentation by Martine Tobé during the FICE Cafe about the project "Dream it wish it, do it!" which challenged youth councils to organize activities for other young people in youth care to improve their mental well-being.

In addition to these main activities, FICE NL actively participated in meetings of FICE International and FICE Europe.



FICE (ANCES) LUXEMBOURG IN 2022

Geert van Beusekom - President

ANCES has 471 members in 2022. They represent both organizations and individual members. For further information, the complete report can be downloaded (in French) on their website. [🔗](#)

ANCES' most important activities in 2022 were:

- *Relaunch of their professional magazine "arc"*

The first new edition appeared in 2022 (in German): Sozialroute Kinder- und Jugendhilfe (social route of former child and youth welfare institutions in the old town of Luxemburg). Printed edition and digital edition on their website. [🔗](#)

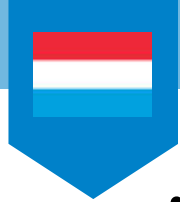
- *ANCES – constant member of the AEF Social Lab:* The AEF Social Lab is a platform for exchange, innovation, and co-construction whose mission is to shape the consultation process for the development of the National Framework for Child and Family Services (AEF).

Over the last 3 years and through various activities, such as conferences, workshops or surveys, children, youth in care, stakeholders and professionals in child and youth welfare are to be consulted.


You can visit the AEF Social Lab website for insights into the work of recent years and a current calendar. [🔗](#)

- Exchange and collaboration with the German speaking section in FICE: Zoom meetings with the German-speaking group of FICE (Switzerland, Luxembourg, Austria) took place in May and November.

The exchange concerned issues and developments in child and youth welfare. In consultation with Christian Posch from FICE Austria, ANCES arranged contact with the responsible services in Luxembourg regarding training courses. Luxembourg is currently developing a training catalogue for child and youth welfare services. Austria has launched a current modular training (Curriculum for the dual practice-oriented further training of professionals on the basis of the FICE quality standards). The question of a possible cooperation is to be discussed.



- Position paper concerning the law project to amend the youth welfare system in Luxembourg: In the context of the draft law 7994 "Projet de loi portant aide, soutien et protection aux mineurs, aux jeunes et aux familles", ances was asked from the Luxembourgish ministry of education, youth and children (MENJE) to prepare a position paper to be published by the Chamber of Deputies. In this context, ANCES organized a focus group with six selected experts in the field of social work in Luxembourg.

The main issues were critically discussed in order to formulate a position paper. The position paper was published on the webpage of the Chamber of deputies and can be downloaded (in French) [here](#). 

- "Schlüsselsituationen" a reflection tool for key situations in social and educational work

ANCES has been a member of the Swiss network "Key Situations" for several years. Schlüsselsituation was launched as a reflection model for social work and is accessible via an [online platform](#). The platform, which is now active in Switzerland, Germany and England, is also to be made accessible in Luxembourg via ances.

The aim was to inform the representatives about key situations and to discuss the possibilities and importance of a training offer for the field of child and youth welfare in Luxembourg.

- Symposium in collaboration with the University of Saarland: 1st Symposium of the Großregion (border regions Luxemburg, Belgium, France, Germany). The topic was "Quo Vadis" - Qualification levels in social professions in the German-speaking region.

It dealt with the trend towards specialised education and training courses at all qualification levels. The German and Luxembourgish experts, covering all qualification levels, discussed the reasons and effects on professionals, addressees and the labour market on the background of the increasing challenges in society. Education and training must be complemented by adequate further training and offered throughout life.





FICE ROMANIA IN 2022

Prof. Toma Mares - President

FICE Romania's objectives are the defense of children's rights, the continuous improvement and information of FICE Romania's members and sympathisers in the direction of working with children, especially those who have difficulties in terms of access to school, family conditions, etc. It was also at the heart of our work last year.

Important activities in 2022

Under these conditions, the programmes, campaigns, reference actions, own initiatives of FICE Romania have been carried out consistently:

- The "Collegial Solidarity" campaign

Through more than 2500 communities in 31 counties, members and sympathizers of FICE Romania tried to contribute through collections and donations to support children, families and educational establishments in need.

- The National Children's Book Festival

"The Joy of Reading" has already reached its 18th edition (festival director - Prof. Sorin Ivan) and aims to develop interest in reading, cultivate creativity based on reading. The framework of the event, as for almost all activities in the educational environment, was provided by the online environment.

- Debate "Adolescents and education, where to?"

Continuation of the national project "Adolescents, where to?"; defined as a debate and research project on young people today, in the perspective of the next decades, the project aimed to initiate debates with the purpose of raising awareness and mobilizing civil society to address, reduce and solve the problems faced by adolescents in Romania. A particular merit in the elaboration of the project and its development belongs to Prof. Ioan Neacșu, Vice President of FICE Romania.



- The campaign "19 days of activism to prevent and combat abuse against children and young people"

These activities were complemented by conferences, seminars and symposiums on topics such as: civilised behaviour, prevention of juvenile delinquency, but also of the consumption of risky substances, multiculturalism and tolerance, education in rural areas, road safety education, creativity in pre-school education, etc.

- National conference "Integrated mechanisms in the process of social and professional integration of young people leaving the protection system", held on 17 June 2022 in Pădureni commune, Vaslui county, and the national symposium on "The role of the family in the development and education of young people - experiences of good practice in defending children's rights", held on 30 September 2022 in Cumpăna commune, Constanța county.
- National conference "Prevention of child abuse and violence reflected in public policies" took place in Bucharest, under the patronage of the European Affairs Committee of the Romanian Senate, with the participation of 153 members from 23 FICE member areas and representatives of the partners involved in the organisation of the event.

As in 2021, the organization of online meetings FICE Cafe and FICE Live forum continued in 2022, focusing on ways of care for children and young people, exchange of best practices, project ideas; participants' interknowledge; organization of thematic working groups, contagion of ideas (taking ideas, suggestions among participants), analysis of quality standards of residential/non-residential services for children and young people, multiple crises in the contemporary world: wars, migration, poverty, illiteracy, the link between pandemics and young people's mental health, supporting young people leaving the care system, the role of the family in educating children, etc.

- In 2022, the journal of social assistance and pedagogy "Child Social Protection" continued to appear. Also under the aegis of FICE Romania, papers presented at national and international conferences were published in volumes.



In 2022, FICE Romania continued its collaborations, partnerships and cooperation with local public administration institutions, governmental institutions, pre-university education establishments, higher education institutions, school inspectorates and non-governmental organisations, proving that it represents an authoritative voice, a professional reference in the training, education and protection of the young generation.

FICE Romania has a long-standing collaboration, reaffirmed in 2022, with the National Anti-Drug Agency, whose representatives constantly participate in educational events and actions appreciated for their information content by teachers, parents, students from 39 counties (about 140,000 participants).

FICE Romania has developed in 2022 a partnership with the Association of Directors of General Directorates of Social Assistance and Child Protection, an organisation permanently involved in social, educational and scientific activities, with the beneficiaries being children with a variety of problems requiring help and guidance.

During the past year, active dialogue was maintained with the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Family, Youth and Equal Opportunities, the National Authority for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the National Authority for the Rights of the Child and Adoption, the National Agency against Trafficking in Human Beings, the Committee for Culture, Education and Health of the Romanian Senate through the presence and involvement of Senator Gabriela Cretu.

Conclusions

The Bureau of the National Committee of FICE Romania followed the quality of the actions and periodically analysed the development of the activities according to the provisions of the FICE Romania Statutes, based on the annual activity programmes, with a wide participation of some sections/branches such as Vaslui, Neamt, Caras-Severin, Calarasi, Constanta, Iasi, Arges, Tulcea, Suceava, Ialomita, sector 5 Bucharest.



FICE SERBIA IN 2022

Zeljka Burgund - President

FICE Serbia has achieved active cooperation with its members, in accordance with program activities for year 2022. and with a focus on the exchange of experiences within the members, education in new developed programs for professionals, as well as the international cooperation.

Planned activities of the Association in 2022:

In the first quarter, the usual activities of the administrative end of the previous business year were carried out (preparation of reports for last and work plans for next period, meetings of the Main and Supervisory Board were held, documentation for the coming Assembly was completed. "FICE Serbia" members were informed about the proposed dates for holding Annual Assembly and vocational gathering in 2022.

In the second quarter of 2022. it was held election Assembly of the Association, on April 14 th 2022. and one- day vocational meeting, dedicated to current developments in the segment of child and family care in Serbia, as well as trainings for more than 120 employees in child and youth care, members of FICE Serbia.

During the summer, when the level of activities were usually reduced, a study visit of a group of 6 professionals-members of FICE SERBIA to the Netherlands was planned and prepared. This project was planned for year 2020. when the implementation had to be postponed due to the emergence of the coronavirus and the pandemic that affected the whole world.

Realization of the study visit to the Netherlands and participation in the creation of the magazine "Alternative MOD-DOM", whose creator is our partner Organization "Kinderperspective", the host of our



study visit program and a long-term partner in many activities.

Continuous FICE Serbia activities throughout 2022 were:

- Cooperation through formal and informal activities members of FICE Serbia

Presence at events (seminars, conferences and educations), regional and international meetings (online) and attendance at events organized by our partners (UNICEF, MODS, Center for child rights etc.)

- Continuation of the project "CHAT Counseling service for youth" that FICE Serbia is implementing in partnership with its member Center for the Protection of Infants, Children and Youth from Belgrade.
- Support of important activities of the members (Support in the development the new rulebook on Foster Care Center Belgrade... etc.

FICE Serbia joined the UNICEF Campaign on parenting and non-violent education, and through a series of interviews in print and online media, it tried to affirm the Association FICE Serbia primarily through the activities of its members, whose missions are based on the Convention on Rights of the child, with emphasis on respecting the right of every child to social protection, family life and protection from all forms of abuse and neglect. After this campaign, the media's interest in the activities and professional views of FICE Serbia on certain issues concerning the care of children, youth and families increased, primarily through requests for interviews and guest appearances on some of the current topics, especially certain sensational headlines that compromise the entire profession and employees in the social protection system.

- Vocation meeting (Professional exchange of members) of FICE SERBIA on 14. April 2022

The Annual meeting of the members of FICE Serbia and the exchange of information is an activity that our Association has nurtured since its foundation.



During the presentation of themselves and their institutions, the attendees mentioned at the very beginning, as a major challenge, the lack of professional workers in social protection organizations and institutions, the increasingly complex problem of the target group they work with, the change of generations in their organizations that is not accompanied by adequate mentoring of young experts, education without personal contact (online seminars, conferences, etc.), which do not result in the expected improvement of skills and knowledge of participants, high responsibility, but little power...On the other hand, very positive information was also shared about important topics: about the accreditation of the basic case management program in Vojvodina, professional support in the field through cooperation with social welfare inspectors, about the conducted research on the protection of children with behavioral disorders, gender sensitivity analysis in homes for children without parental care, preparation of training programs related to communication with young people, education to support trainees and mentors...etc.

- Training "Basic concepts for alternative support in crisis" for members of FICE Serbia

Among other activities, developed a training program for professionals, as an additional tool for responding in crisis situations, when there is no possibility of direct communication with the target group (Covid-19 experience). One of the outcomes of the development of the training program and its accreditation is the Practice Manual, which you can download from this link that was delivered to all participants in 2022. [🔗](#)

- Study visit of a group of experts, members of FICE Serbia to the Netherlands

The Newsletter of this activity is part of the Annual report. Despite the long report, we did not manage to list all the realized activities of FICE Serbia in 2022.



FICE SOUTH AFRICA (NACCW) IN 2022

Elwin Gallant - President

FICE South Africa conducts its provincial elections every even year. 2022 was a year of provincial elections where provincial membership elect their provincial executive committee. The newly elected provincial executive committee members were orientated in the work of leading the provincial structures in child and youth care work.

Important activities in 2022

FICE South Africa continued with the further development and replication of the Isibindi Ezikoleni (Courage in Schools). The Isibindi Ezikoleni model provides a holistic package of individual, group and whole school services which are aligned with the 10 priority areas of the South African Department of Basic Education's Care and Support for Teaching and Learning (CSTL) Framework. The core characteristics of child and youth care work underpin the delivery of these services, including: life space work, working in the moment, relational practice, the best interest of the child, participation – child and family and flexible working hours.

- The Isibindi Ezikoleni model aims to improve school attendance/re-integration back to school; reduction in school drop-out; improved grade progression and improved psychosocial wellbeing of vulnerable and at-risk learners. Isibindi Ezikoleni provides services at four levels: individual, group, class, and whole school, with each service targeting different categories of learners.
- The programme draws on the following key elements and approaches maximizing its benefits to beneficiaries and communities in a cost-effective and efficient way.
- Cadre of CYC Workforce in Schools: CYCWs are Social Service Professionals statutorily registered with the South African Council for Social Service Professionals to render services to vulnerable children. CYCWs are well positioned for placement in schools and enables the CYCWs' career pathing in the education and ECD sector.



-Partnership and Co-Funding ('Piggyback Approach'): The concept of a 'piggyback approach' is used in the model as it leverages on existing systems and funding in place to reach beneficiaries and maintain the sustainability of the programme. This includes schools, district offices and provincial and national offices.

FICE South Africa collaborates with partners in the social and health sectors. This approach allows for the programme to be augmented with other activities with support from current and potential future stakeholders not yet identified and for the CYCWs to specialize in areas of service depending on the partnerships established.

FICE South Africa designed its programmes on Isibindi Ezikoleni to respond to the State President's approach in service delivery which is through the District Development Model.

Project impact on learners

- Increased school attendance by learners attending school irregularly or who had dropped out of school and assisted to be re-admitted back to school.
- Improved knowledge of learners on key topics impacting them, such as Sexual and Reproductive Health, HIV/AIDS, substance abuse, child protection, teenage pregnancy and other topics facilitated by CYCWs
- Improved school performance through homework supervision, reading clubs and study groups.
- Improved parenting and school attendance by young mothers. These mothers were supported to attend school and learn to better care for their children through Early Childhood Development (ECD) support by CYCWs.
- Improved behaviour management for learners in conflict with the school regulations such as with bullying. CYCWs use a 'restorative justice' approach.
- Improved identification of child protection cases where learners have disclosed abuse and/or neglect for the first time with CYCWs



Project impact on family level

- Improved family strengthening in family work. CYCWs visited homes of vulnerable learners and supported the family during these visits.
- At a parental level, there have been cases of change in the home environments, caregiver attitudes of 'problem' learners.
- Improved access to social assistance with CYCWs helping to access social grants and documentation.
- Improved access to social and other services through referrals to social service professionals and other practitioners. For instance, during child protection cases and other cases in need of multidisciplinary teamwork.

Project impact on school level

- Improved 'school culture' through shifts in the 'school tone' towards a better working environment with at-risk learners supported and nurtured.
- Improved shifts in school staff working with learners. Steps were made in creating shifts attitudes of school leadership and teachers towards at-risk and 'problem' learners – towards a more supportive and nurturing environment for them.

In 2022, FICE South Africa held the provincial Biennial General Meetings in 2022. Provincial leadership was elected to lead the membership. An average of 60 members in the nine provinces attended the provincial biennial general meetings.

The Provincial biennial general meetings focussed on:

-Election of new office bearers for the following 2 years:

- Provincial membership growth
- Continuous training, development and challenges facing the sector of child and youth care work.
- Development and support of the NACCW youth forums
- Presentations on the South African Council for Social Service Professions.
- Overall report and performance of the Provincial structure in the past two years.



FICE SPAIN IN 2022

Monica Concepción Gómez - President

Throughout this year, FICE Spain has focused our actions on the prevention of the institutionalization, the promotion of different forms of foster family, the improvement of residential care quality, the empowerment of the youth and the care leavers, to promote the cooperative work to develop tools that guarantee the real participation of families and children in vulnerable situations, the promotion of social mentoring aimed at families and boys and girls in vulnerable situations, and the exchange of good practices between Fice entities and study their scalability or replicability at National and international level.

FICE Spain has been composed by 8 member associations/organizations in 2022 (from Galicia, Basque Country, Catalonia, Aragon, Balearic Islands, Castile la Mancha, Andalusia, and Canary Island). In 2023 one more association (from Extremadura) joined us, being a total of 9 members nowadays.

The total of beneficiaries supported by our member associations is higher than 33.000. More than 1.600 professionals are part of our member associations and nearly 120 childcare programs are offered by the FICE Spain organizations.

At International level, we have met international organizations as FICE International, FICE Europe, Eurochild (and its member associations), the Università degli Studi di Trieste, Fondazzjoni Sebħ, Cospe and SKID to get to know them and to let them know our innovative project Redes AFE, that started in 2022 with the organization of the triennial project based on Specialized Foster Care.

In addition, we have attended the different training courses (Buicasus and VIDAS Platform) offered by the Ministry of Social Rights and the 2030 Agenda and the Tellus Foundation Solidarity Program awards ceremony.



On the other hand, we have started the search of resources and services for FICE and its member entities: we have facilitated meetings and future visits by Fondazzjoni Sebħ to some of the FICE entities, we have facilitated the future participation of 7 young persons from FICE Spain in a youth exchange (based on the topic “entrepreneurship”) in Italy.

Biggest Achievement 2022:

Regarding the development of projects, we started our project “Redes AFE”. “Redes AFE” (that means Specialised Family Foster Care Network) is focus on children in foster care with special need or circumstances who cannot be fostered in voluntary families because their characteristics or needs cannot be covered by the voluntary foster care families. [🔗](#)

Redes AFE is a programme financed by Next-Generation funds to carry out the Specialised Family Foster Care modality on an experimental basis in: Madrid; Cataluña, Navarra and Euskadi (Bizkaia, Araba).

The project is going to be developed between 2022 and December 2024, with the aim of manage and improve a model that could be transferred to the other regions. The implementation will be done in around 60 cases, and it will be developed through the organizations FICE España, Agintzari and Resilis.

Moreover, we have applied for a project (not selected) in the HORIZON SDG call of Tellus Foundation, we have applied with the project called “TICImpulsa3” for the European Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Fund Call and we have sent a brief project to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation for the holding of congresses.

Next year, 2023, we expect to develop next projects in order to work for the Prevention of the institutionalization; the Quality in the institutionalization, and the Deinstitutionalization.



FICE SWITZERLAND IN 2022

Roland Stübi - President

In 2022, FICE Switzerland's main contributions to quality services in alternative care for children and for children on the move were:

- Solidarity with the children and families of Ukraine in collaboration with Ukraine Education Platform UKREDU:

- > Distribution of information provided by UKREDU regarding situation of children of Ukraine to Swiss members.

- > Distribution of the excellent MyLifeJourneyBook . [🔗](#)

- > FICE Switzerland member Rolf Widmer evacuated 40 foster children (ages 4 months to 18 years) with their foster families from the cities of Mariupol, Poltawa and Cherson, which were particularly affected by the Russian attacks, to Switzerland. He looks after them with his organisation Tipiti since April 2022.

- In June, FICE Switzerland was able to make a donation to UKREDU to provide 33 internally displaced families, including 67 children, with basic food packets (oil, rice, flour, pasta, salt, sugar etc.).

- FICE Switzerland is in continuous contact with UKREDU and actively supports the FICE International Special Task Force Ukraine. In addition to trying to contribute to the alleviation of suffering of Ukrainian children, FICE Switzerland supports all efforts of FICE International regarding:

- > support of the re-establishment of quality child and youth care in Ukraine after the war,

- > learning how FICE International as an expert network can best give support to children, youth, their families and those who work with them in situations of war and other emergency situations.

- Project Creating Futures: participatory organisation development for empowerment in residential care

Creating Futures is a collaboration of FICE Switzerland with the FICE network NENESZ in Hungary. Young Experts (aged 14 – 24), leaders and staff from youth homes in Switzerland and Hungary together develop innovations to promote the self- empowerment of young



people. They do so in a way which in itself promotes empowerment at the level of each of these groups and their organisations as a whole. In 2022, a major phase of developing concrete innovations concluded.

Most focussed on young people as «experts of their own lives» participating to a higher degree in improving the youth homes and strengthening their own empowerment.

Creating Futures combines participation and empowerment with organisation and quality development in a novel way and opens new perspectives for residential care in Switzerland and internationally. Not least because of the very positive feedback from the participants, FICE Switzerland wants to make the Creating Futures approach accessible to other committed youth homes in the future. In addition, it wants to make the understanding of young people as "experts of their own lives"; the pivot of its activities in the future even more than in previous years. Film 2022 Further films and publications (bottom of page). [🔗](#)

- Professional education:

Since 2013, FICE Switzerland offers an international seminar to students of social pedagogy and social work at Zürich University of Applied Sciences. In 2022, it focussed on De-Institutionalisation. A Care Leaver, Patricia from the Netherlands, and representatives of six different FICE National Sections were in dialogue with the students: Merle Allsopp (South Africa), Martha J. Holden (USA), Laura Holmi (Finland), Patrick Reason (Brazil), Anna Schmid (Switzerland) and Martine Tobé (Netherlands).

Anna Schmid taught regarding the Creating Futures project and approach in a course on «User Involvement» at ZHAW and on residential youth care at the Bern University of Applied Sciences.

The collaboration with CIF Council for International Fellowship continued in order to organise the next professional exchange programme in Switzerland.

Several members of FICE Switzerland participated in the FICE International Cafés.



Further international contributions

In 2022, Roland Stübi, president of FICE Switzerland, again worked as member of the board of FICE Europe Network. In June 2022, Rolf Widmer, member of FICE Switzerland, was elected again as Treasurer of FICE International, and Anna Schmid, member of the board of FICE Switzerland, as President of FICE International.

Anna Schmid in becoming president of FICE International, she took on the role of now promoting the implementation and further development of the new organisation together with her colleagues in the Coordinating Body and all members of FICE International.

As is its tradition, FICE Switzerland in 2022 continued its collaborations regarding the further development of FICE Networks in other countries, including, among others, FICE Brasil and NENESZ in Hungary.

Anna Schmid collaborated actively in the Thematic Bundle “Quality in Care” of FICE International.

Further activities:

- Joint organisation of the professional exchange programme in Switzerland together with CIF Council of International Fellowship by FICE Switzerland president Rolf Stübi. It will next take place from 22 March to 7 April 2023. [🔗](#)
- Membership and participation in the Child Rights Network Switzerland by FICE Switzerland board member Christoph Hug. [🔗](#)
- Advisory Board member in the research project «Residential youth care in personal life» (StePLife [🔗](#)) of the Universities of Applied Sciences of Eastern Switzerland and North Western Switzerland by FICE Switzerland board member Anna Schmid.
- Presentation at the Community of Interest in Quality of Child Protection IGQK regarding Leaving Care by FICE Switzerland board member Patrick Seigerschmidt. [🔗](#)
- Participation in the International Network on Participation of Children in Alternative Care (INPAC) by FICE Switzerland board member Anna Schmid.

UKRAINIAN EDUCATIONAL PLATFORM IN 2022

Mariana Kashchak - President

Since the 24th of February, “Ukrainian Educational Platform” has changed its main activities. Since the beginning of the war, Ukrainian Educational Platform has focused on the following main areas: provision of food, shelter, hygiene, as well as psychosocial support.

Biggest Achievement 2022:

In the first days, together with SOS Children villages and UNICEF, they created the “Hub station” - the place of safety, education, and support for IDPs and local children, and 20 children’s spaces in Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk and Ternopil, Kharkiv, Cherkasy, Kirovohrad, Dnipro and Zaporizhzhia regions.

- FICE supports Ukraine

Together with “Make me smile”, they helped about 500 people in shelters in Zhovtantsy, Lopatyna (Lviv region), and at the train station in Lviv (March-April 2022). Also, there was a shelter in the Obroshyno community that accommodated 90 IDPs, including 22 children. UEP organized an additional 10 sleeping places for shelter.

UEP supported an orphanage evacuated from the city of Zaporizhzhia. There are 170 children in this orphanage, ages from 2 months to 6 years old. Supported 40 families with 96 children (6 children have disabilities) with food and hygienic supplies and bed sheets (May 2022).

In April, with the support of FICE International and Mulberry Bush, training on working with trauma was held for employees of social service centres in communities, employees of children's centres, psychologists, and other people who worked with children at that time.

- Special task Force “Hand in hand” for Ukraine

In August, a working group to support Ukraine was created on the basis of FICE. The group united participants from different countries. It have already held 3 meetings of the working group and developed the following main areas of work: training specialists, educators nurses, and



volunteers who will be working with traumatized children; educational and psychological activities among young people (youth and teenagers), increasing the proficiency of Educators to operate in crisis situations.

Within the framework of the working group, we conduct activities for Ukrainian specialists.

On 29 December 2022, the lecture "Understanding Children's Coping Mechanisms: A model for dealing with traumatic events" was conducted for more than 60 participants who work in the social sphere all over Ukraine.

The invited lectures, Dr. Irit Ben Mordechai and Dr. Bob Chernick from Israel ,gave a unique opportunity to understand the peculiarity of working with children in traumatic situations and what the main resource can be applied to support them.

On January 24th, Mrs. Tanya Zhornitska, principal of School №26 in Odessa and vice president of the Ukrainian High School Principals' Association, was a guest at the annual educational leadership conference of Israeli teachers to share her experience in leading a school with 650 children from the very beginning of the war in Ukraine until these days. This was an occasion to hear firsthand about the situation of children and youth and their educators during the war.

The event took place At Neve Hadassah youth village on the 24 th of January. Members of FICE Israel's Board, including Prof. Emanuel Grupper and Dr. Alex Schneider, participated. Representatives of the Administration for Residential care, Ron Fraizler, Yossi Zaguri, and Ira Kostioski took part too.

Later the visitors moved to the cultural hall of Neve Hadassah. A group of young people from Neve Hadassah gave an impressive musical performance. The tribute was particularly moving when one of Neve Hadassah's girls, sang Leonard Cohen's song "Halleluiah", in the Ukrainian language.

15 Ukrainian teenagers who were absorbed in several youth villages in Israel Were invited to this event to participate in a panel and make their voices heard.

They all took an active part in a conversation with Tanya Zornicka. The moving exchange of impressions and family stories of these young people was moderated with professionalism and great sensitivity by the residential supervisor Ira Kostiuski. The boys and girls, told one by one how long they had been in the youth village, which city in Ukraine they came from and what was the background for their departure from Ukraine and arrival in Israel. It was evident that the teenagers were very moved by the meeting with Tanya. As an experienced educator, she knew how to talk with them and encourage them. It was moving to hear how much the families of these teenagers were affected by the war. For most of them, the family split up and is currently scattered in different countries. The 15 teenagers talked about how they miss Ukraine very much, and on the other hand, they spoke with great appreciation of how good they feel in the youth villages, and how they are supported, strengthened, and well taken care of. As the conversation went on and on, it was evident how important it was for the youth to meet someone who reminds them of their former world that they miss so much... They hugged Tanya and asked to take pictures with her, and it was moving to see that this was a strong, emotional, and meaningful experience for them.



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