



International Foster Care Organisation

IFCO around the World

IFCO's Mission

IFCO is the **only International Network** for the promotion of family based solutions for out-of-home children based on the Convention on the Rights of Children (UNCRC) stating that children have a right to grow up in a family environment. IFCO promotes foster care as an important alternative for children without parental care through the enabling of the exchange of knowledge and experience.

The International Foster Care Organisation (IFCO) is the only international organisation devoted solely to the promotion and support of family-based and foster care in the world. IFCO was established in 1981 in Oxford (UK) for the exchange of information, knowledge and experience between all organisations for foster care and foster care parties worldwide. In the twenty-five years of its existence IFCO has proven to be of great impact in developing family-based care worldwide.

IFCO's Activities

IFCO organises **conferences, seminars and trainings** and **projects** to supports the development of foster care in countries where formal foster care is not yet developed or needs improvement. IFCO always works in cooperation with National/ local governments and non-governmental organisations in projects and consultancy. IFCO is involved in the **worldwide** movement to develop minimum standards for all types of out-of-home care based on the **UNCRC** in the **International NGO Group of the UN Committee of the Rights of the Child** and a **European project** Quality 4 Children where we develop standards and the implementation in 32 countries in Europe. Through this and the expertise of the proposed consultants also knowledge about standards for institutional care is in place.

IFCO's International Presence

IFCO has a **pool of international experts, trainers, consultants** and **individual as well as organisational members worldwide**, and is active in projects all over the world, cooperating with public or private bodies, Universities, NGO, Governments and UN or EU entities.

- **IFCO's Membership**

Individual members 2005 : 296, mostly professionals in Child Care, Social Work, Health Care, and agencies for Child Protection, plus foster carers and Young people in Care.

Countries where members are present : over 50

Organisational members : 58

Donors : +/- 60 institutional donors participate regularly in sponsoring IFCO

- **IFCO's Partners and Contacts with an international scope**

IFCO regularly cooperates and works with the following partners, presents worldwide : UNICEF, United Nations Committee for the Rights of the Child, the NGO working group of the Committee for the Rights of the Child, European Union, European Commission, the Dutch Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sports, the Dutch Ministry of Justice, Cordaid, ISS (International Social Services, Geneva), Warchild, SOS-Children's Villages (Austria), FICE (Fédération internationale des Communautés éducatives), ICDI (International Child Development Initiatives), Everychild, Save The Children, Defence for Children International, Bernard van Leer Foundation, and more.

- **IFCO's Projects**

IFCO is involved in a number of projects worldwide. For the development of European Standards for the care of Out-of-Home Children IFCO co-operates with **FICE** and **SOS Children's Villages** in a Pan-European Project: Quality4Children. In this project IFCO also co-operates with **UNICEF/ISS** and the **NGO working group** established by the **UN Committee on the Rights of Children**. IFCO is member of this NGO group and participates actively in the development of worldwide standards for the care for children without parental care. IFCO organised a worldwide consultancy of its members in this respect and organised the consultancy and input of young people with care experience in the NGO group.

IFCO has been involved in 2004 in a project in **Surinam**, and is at present cooperating with an NGO in **Venezuela**. IFCO has established a **network in Latin America**, including **146 foster care partners in 10 countries in the region**. Another network is currently active in **Eastern, Central Europe and throughout the Former Soviet Union (including representatives and members in Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Georgia, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia)**. **Africa** is also included, with projects in **Kenya and South Africa**, so far.

Finally, along with our next International Conference in **New Zealand**, in February 2007, a **Far East Network** is currently being set up – along with projects in **India, South Korea, China, Pakistan**.

Recent consultancy is provided to the Government of **Romania** where IFCO is making an action plan together with the Ministry (Direction for Child Protection), and in cooperation with **European Union and European Commission**.

- **IFCO's Public Image :**

IFCO is a recognised and respected international organisation, known to many actors of Child Protection and Child Rights internationally.

Its **Visibility** is even increased by its **new bilingual website** (English and Spanish), regularly updated, and the fact that it appears on the top list of results on many requests using Child right / Child care / Child Protection key words on **Google**.

IFCO's Publications :

A publication by IFCO, "**Stakeholders in Foster Care**", on a research on foster care around the world, has been translated in 4 languages (English, Spanish, Bulgarian, Ukrainian, Russian and soon Romanian), and is being spread throughout Europe.

IFCO's Magazine, The Informer, is available in English and Spanish, and to be found in several University Libraries throughout the world.

- **Conferences organised by IFCO throughout its history...**

2007	Hamilton	New Zealand (International)
2006	Bratislava	Slovakia (Regional)
	Bucharest	Romania (Project)
2005	Madison, WIS	USA (international)
2004	Prague	Czech Republic (Regional)
	Paramaribo	Surinam (Regional)
2003	La Plata	Argentina (International)
2002	Tampere	Finland (Regional)
2001	Veldhoven	The Netherlands (International)
2000	Cork	Ireland (Regional)
1999	Melbourne	Australia (International)
1998	Budapest	Hungary (regional)
	Manilla	The Philippines (Regional)
1997	Vancouver	Canada (international)
1996	Los Angeles	USA (Regional)
1995	Bergen	Norway (international)
1994	Berlin	Germany (regional)
1993	Dublin	Ireland (International)
1992	Gent	Belgium (Regional)
1991	Jonkoping	Sweden (international)
1990	Athens	Greece (Regional)
1989	Michigan	USA (International)
1988	Lunteren	The Netherlands (Regional)
1987	Leeds	United Kingdom (International)
1985	Christchurch	New Zealand (Regional)
1983	Leuven	Belgium (International)
1982	Beekse Bergen	The Netherlands (Regional)
1981	Slagharen	The Netherlands (International)
1979	Oxford	United Kingdom (International and creation of IFCO)