

**Cities for Children WG2 Housing and Space for Outdoor Activities  
14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> May 2009**

Protocol

Moderator: Mrs. Marianne Labre, City of Ghent

Location: Town Hall, Collegezaal, Botermarkt 1, Gent

Participants:

Bern, Switzerland	Peter Schnyder
Cologne, Germany	Gabriele Menke
Stuttgart, Germany	Julia Droege
Tartu, Estonia	Kristel Altosaar
Tartu Estonia	Andres Pool
Zurich, Switzerland	Eva Sanders
Zurich, Switzerland	Pascal Kreuer

**Thursday 14th May**

Welcome by Mayor Daniël Termont, City of Ghent

Presentations:

- Klaas Ballegeer, Youth Policy, Youth Center “General Introduction”
- Kathleen Snoeck, Director of the Youth Center “Youth Policy in Ghent”
- Irmine Vermandere, Service for Housing and Social Housing: “Housing Policy related to Youth”
- Doctor Sven De Visscher, University Ghent, Doctoral thesis: 'The social-pedagogical relevance of the environment for children'

All presentations under: [www.citiesforchildren.eu](http://www.citiesforchildren.eu)

## Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May

### Study Visits to 'Rommelwaterpark' and 'Bijgaardepark'

#### Presentations:

- Peter Schnyder, City of Bern: "Benchmarking Childfriendly City Policy":

The group found the idea of benchmarking using data about financing and staff members dangerous, as this could also serve as an argument for some cities to cut down their budgets or staff involved in this topic.

- Marianne Labre, Youth Center, City of Ghent "Play Layer"

Mrs. Labre developed the idea of the "Play layer", which she describes as a spiderweb of informal and formal spaces within the city, 10 years ago within the Youth Center of the City of Ghent. At the heart of this idea is the networking and connection between all municipal departments which are involved in the creation of public play spaces for children and youth.

Key to achieving connections to various departments and institutions is to learn their language and approach them in terms that they will understand. It is also important to give employees time and space to develop creative solutions. The goal is to develop long-term strategies, not short-term solutions.

#### Discussion:

The discussion of the group centered around the future development of the Network as a whole:

- The Best practices that are exchanged within the Network were described as the "bricks", while the "cement" between the bricks is missing; one good practice does not make a childfriendly city!
- This "cement" is a common vision which shows politicians a holistic picture of what is necessary to make a city childfriendly. Until now, the Network does not have a clear vision or strategy or a clear goal orientation in respect to the its tasks
- Question: in which context are we working within the WGs? – The WG work must have a reference to the whole sense of the Network
- A common vision would also enable it to survive crisis or local elections
- Childfriendly policy should be a cross-sectional task, which is incorporated into decision-making on all levels and through all topics (similar to gender-mainstreaming)

#### Future steps:

- A collection of working methods is to be collected within the WG (Ex. Elasticband method). This would give other cities practical support in realising their childfriendly policy
- Ms. Labre will prepare the presentation for the Annual Conference in Stuttgart
- The responsibilities on different political levels for decisions which affect childfriendly city planning should be looked at, so that the question can be

answered, on which level the responsibility for a childfriendly city lies;  
*Suggestion:*

	<b>City</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>EU</b>
<b>Politicians</b>			
<b>Officials</b>			
<b>Organisations</b>			
<b>Children</b>			
<b>Private Institutions</b>			
<b>Media</b>			
<b>Networks</b>			
<b>Private Sector</b>			