



END CHILD PROSTITUTION
CHILD PORNOGRAPHY &
TRAFFICKING OF CHILDREN
FOR SEXUAL PURPOSES

ECPAT Belgium
Annual Report 2012

1. INTRODUCTION

In 2012, ECPAT Belgium has worked hard to consolidate its structure at the internal and external level in order to ensure consistency to its actions and enhance its visibility.

At the internal level, the ECPAT Belgium Board and the General Assembly have been enlarged, with new members from very different sectors that will enrich the work of ECPAT Belgium. The relations with the other child rights NGO's have been more institutionalised. ECPAT Belgium rethought its fundraising strategy in order to raise funds more efficiently and ensure the long-term financial sustainability of our organisation. Finally, the communication has been improved through a new website and a regular activity on social networks (Twitter, Facebook).

At the external level, the number of advocacy activities on the EU institutions has increased. ECPAT Belgium had more opportunities to have its voice heard on trafficking issues (EU Commission, Committee of the Regions, GRETA) and commercial sexual exploitation of children (joint action with Missing Children Europe). ECPAT Belgium is now partner of three EU-funded projects, together with other ECPAT groups and Terre des Hommes, aiming to fight against child pornography online (Make-IT-Safe), child sex tourism (Don't Look Away) and to provide better protection to children on the move (Mario II). ECPAT Belgium continued to support small projects outside Belgium (Roumania, Columbia).

At a thematic level, ECPAT Belgium seeks consistency in all projects undertaken in order to tackle any kind of commercial sexual exploitation as stated in its mandate: child pornography, child trafficking, child sex tourism and child prostitution. The latter will be further developed in 2013, as ECPAT Belgium is willing to make a research on minors involved in prostitution in Belgium and will support a similar study in Senegal.

2. ECPAT BELGIUM and the ECPAT INTERNATIONAL network

ECPAT Belgium is the official member of ECPAT International in Belgium. Being part of global network means that ECPAT Belgium shares a common goal - eradicate commercial sexual exploitation of children - with more than 80 other groups in the world. It also means that each group follows the same "Strategic Directions" in order to achieve this goal.

ECPAT International started in 1990 as a three-year campaign to End Child Prostitution in Asian Tourism (ECPAT). It is now a global network of organisations and individuals working together for the elimination of child prostitution, child pornography and the trafficking of children for sexual purposes in over 80 countries. The ECPAT International Secretariat is based in Bangkok. Every three years, all the ECPAT groups meet at the General Assembly and approve the "Strategic Directions".

The activities undertaken globally by the movement focus on 5 axes: awareness-raising, care and protection to the victims, advocacy, research and publication, child and youth participation.

ECPAT Belgium started in 1994 as a network of organizations active in the fields of human rights, child rights, peace, developing countries, and social problems in Belgium. Its main objective was to create a national group which could relay the international ECPAT campaign against commercial sexual exploitation of children. In 2004, it became a non-profit organization (asbl).

Unlike other ECPAT groups, ECPAT Belgium is not a grassroots organization but a second line organisation. It follows the "Strategic Directions" with a special focus on:

- Awareness-raising campaigns on commercial sexual exploitation of children
- Lobbying to ensure an effective application of the legislation (national and European level)
- Trainings in schools and with the private sector
- Partnership with the tourism industry (travel agencies, tour operators, airlines, etc.)

3. CAMPAIGNS

a. "Stop Child Prostitution" campaign

Launched for the first time in 2004, the Stopchildprostitution.be campaign has been relaunched in 2007 and 2010 with new visuals. Sexual exploitation of children in tourism is a gross violation of the rights of the child. However, it is still tolerated in some countries. ECPAT Belgium and its partners want to remind that nothing can justify sexual exploitation of children (exotic experience, impunity abroad, local beliefs,...) and perpetrators of such offences can be prosecuted in Belgium for an abuse committed abroad.

The three campaigns "Stop Child Prostitution" were the result of a close collaboration between partners from the public and the private sector. A dynamic working group ensures the set up and follow-up of the campaign. It gathers members of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Defence, Justice, Police, Federation of the Tourism Industry, Belgian Carriers Federation, Child Focus, Plan Belgium and the Samilia Foundation.

Since the re-launch of the campaign in June 2010, leaflets and posters have been displayed all over the country through the partners of the campaign, the tourism fairs, presentations in schools, the website www.stopchildprostitution.be, etc. They give information on the phenomenon and means to report it. All reports left on the website are relayed to the Police afterwards. Since 2004, around 30 reports have been recorded.

Thanks to its growing contacts with the tourism industry, ECPAT Belgium was invited several times to present its campaign “Stop Child Prostitution” at tourism fairs.

- 14-15 January 2012: Jetair Reishapening Beurs, Antwerp. Large public and professionals.
- 11-12 February 2012: Altervoyages, Liège. Alternative tourism fair for large public.
- 25-26 February 2012: BelAsia, Wemmel. Tourism fair focused on Asian countries.

Each event gave the opportunity to create contacts with other NGO’s, potential volunteers, to meet officials or members of the tourism sector.

Following the Jetair Reishapening Beurs, ECPAT Belgium and Jetair decided to include a specific part on the commercial sexual exploitation of children in the Jetair brochures available per continent (Asia, North America, Latin America, Africa, Australia and Europe). Up to now, there was only a short description of ECPAT International at the beginning of the brochure.

Even if ECPAT Belgium is not a Local Code Representative (LCR) of the "Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children against sexual exploitation in travel and tourism", Katlijn Declercq attended the Annual General Meeting of "The Code.org" on 10 March in Berlin, where she had the opportunity to discuss the possibilities for a stronger commitment from the Belgian companies against child sex tourism.

Beside, ECPAT Belgium has developed contacts with Thomas Cook, ACCOR and is regularly mentioned in the Tourism Industry Federation publications that are displayed to all the TIF members.

b. “Stop Sex Trafficking of Children and Young People”, end of Year 3

In August 2009, ECPAT International and The Body Shop launched a three-year campaign to strengthen protection of children from sex trafficking. According to the United Nations, 1.2 million children are victims of trafficking each year. The first year of the campaign (2009-2010) was aimed to raise awareness on the phenomenon. Year 2 was dedicated to drafting national recommendations for better protection of children against trafficking which have been relayed during Year 3 to the national governments, European institutions and international bodies (See Annual Report 2011).

In August 2012, at the very end of the campaign, ECPAT Belgium drafted a 5-page report to assess the progress made during the campaign in Belgium to better protect children from sexual exploitation. It was published as an “analyse” by the CODE (cf infra).

ECPAT International published the report “Creating Change through Partnership” to present the results of the campaign at the global level. It shows how the ground breaking ‘Stop Sex Trafficking of Children and Young People’ campaign has inspired governments across the world to take action against human trafficking. Twenty countries worldwide have committed to protect children from sex trafficking by either changing laws or adopting international human rights standards.

4. PROJECTS IN BELGIUM

a. Research "Minors in situation of sexual exploitation in Belgium"

Even if Belgium has made efforts to combat sexual exploitation of children on its territory, this phenomenon still exists. Cases of prostitution, pornography and trafficking involving minors regularly come up in the news. However, the real extent of the problem and its impact on youngsters is not sufficiently known. This is why ECPAT Belgium together with the Samilia Foundation has drafted a project in order to launch a research on minors involved in prostitution in Belgium. The main goal of the project is to have a better picture of the phenomenon both on a quantitative aspect (statistics) and on a qualitative aspect (typology of the minors, type of prostitution, history, ...).

Answering these questions would allow to set up appropriate responses to address the issues of identification, protection of the minor, but also to prosecute the "users" of sexual services offered by minors.

The research will focus on 5 cities: Antwerp, Ghent, Charleroi, Brussels and Liège. Questionnaires will be sent to the first-line actors and interviews will be carried out with adults involved in prostitution, as experience shows that minors are very difficult to find and often reluctant to participate. This research on the ground will be done by students from three universities, partners of the project under the lead of one professor: the University of Ghent (Pr Gert Vermeulen), University of Liège (Pr Michaël Dantine) and the Facultés Universitaires Saint-Louis (Pr Cartuyvels). In parallel, roundtables, focus groups, expert group, will enrich the content of the research.

The project has been submitted to the Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Interior and Equal Opportunities, Joëlle Milquet, but several unexpected circumstances (resignation, change of priorities, etc.) have temporarily delayed its treatment by the administration.

5. PROJECTS OUTSIDE BELGIUM

a. “Preventing Trafficking in Persons” project, Year 3

In the framework of the campaign “Stop Sex Trafficking of Children and Young People”, ECPAT Belgium, in collaboration with the Samilia Foundation and ACSIS¹ launched the pilot project “Preventing Trafficking in Women and Children” in Bucharest. The initial length of the project was 6 months, from October 2010 to April 2011 but it was rapidly extended both in time and in the area covered.

ECPAT Belgium participated to the elaboration of materials (handbooks for beneficiaries and professionals and translation of the dvd "10 min.") that were used during the prevention workshops organised to raise awareness of ACSIS beneficiaries on risks of being trafficked.

Due to its positive outcomes among beneficiaries, the project was renewed for one year, from April 2011 to May 2012. It was renamed “Preventing Trafficking in Persons” and reached 550 young people and 51 professionals.

In May 2012, ECPAT Belgium decided to support the project one more year in order to extend the prevention activities to a bigger number of schools in Bucharest. 1000 young people attended the workshops together with 60 professionals. In order to conclude the activities, an essay contest was organised on the topic of trafficking: 30 students took part to the event and wrote very personal texts about cases they have heard. The most interesting essays were rewarded.

On 27th of September 2012, ECPAT Belgium took part to a meeting that was initiated by the Samilia Foundation in Bucharest with the CEO of Delhaize Europe. The objective was to see to what extent the Mega-Image supermarkets (recently opened by Delhaize in Bucharest) could hire ex-victims of trafficking/women in precarious situation in order to secure their financial situation and avoid (re)trafficking. The Delhaize team gave its support to this social inclusion initiative, opening new perspectives for the prevention work in Romania.

2012 was the last year of the "Stop Sex Trafficking of Children and Young People" campaign which also meant the last year of funding from The Body Shop. Consequently, ECPAT Belgium decided not to participate financially to the year 3 of the programme in Romania, but continued to give its expertise and any other kind of help (contacts, ...) for the sustainability of the project.

b. Golondrina project, Year 2

This is the second project which was partly funded by the “Stop Sex Trafficking of Children and Young People” campaign. It started in March 2011 as an awareness-raising campaign

¹ ACSIS is a Romanian NGO based in Bucharest, which offers material, psychological and social help to young mothers in precarious situation.

launched in the educational community of Santafe, Candelaria and San Cristobal (Columbia). The objective was to train 350 teachers, 350 fathers and 350 students in order to prevent sexual abuse of children. It was done through visits in colleges, conferences and workshops. 2100 students (7-17 years) were reached, 380 computer and social science teachers and 20 fathers.

In 2012, the project focused on lobbying the local governments to include the eradication of the commercial sexual exploitation of children and prevention of sexual abuse in their agendas. Indeed, each local entity has the obligation to draft an action plan. This is an opportunity to remind the governments that the Law 1098 on children and adolescents has to be implemented and that they have the duty to prevent/eradicate commercial sexual exploitation of children. In total, 3 departments and 35 municipalities have been visited (close to Bogota).

c. Sénégal

Mid-August 2012, ECPAT Belgium was contacted by Action, Jeunesse, Environnement (AJE), a NGO based in Dakar which works in the field of human rights/child rights. Its main objectives are to develop appropriate methodologies to respond to socio-economic and political challenges and to support initiatives of children from disadvantaged background. In line with these goals, AJE presented to ECPAT Belgium a project aiming at drawing a picture of the commercial sexual exploitation of children in Senegal, using the "Participative Research Action".

This methodology puts the children at the center of the research process: they collect the data among the young people involved in prostitution, they identify and prioritize the problems, they analyse them and try to find the root-causes. They also collaborate in order to draft concrete actions to tackle the issue. The whole process is facilitated by social workers from AJE. In order to present the findings of the study, the proposed actions will be reformulated by academics.

The research will take place in Dakar but also in Tikine, Toubacouta, Thiaroye, Ben Baraque and Malika.

Participation of children has always been promoted and used inside the ECPAT International movement. This is why ECPAT Belgium fully supports the AJE project which has been agreed on in 2012 but will effectively start in 2013.

6. LOBBYING ON THE EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS

a. Focal point on the EU institutions

Due to its location in Brussels, ECPAT Belgium is also responsible, together with ECPAT International, for coordinating the lobbying on the European institutions. Since 2002, it has been very active as ECPAT International does not have a EU office. Lobbying is done on a thematic approach (namely CSEC and trafficking) and on an institutional approach (EU, Council of Europe, OSCE, NATO etc.). The work is conducted in collaboration with the Secretariat and other major child rights NGOs: La Strada, Save the Children, Terre des Hommes, Amnesty International, Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe (for the issue of trafficking) and Missing Children Europe, ENACSO, NSPCC and Save the Children (for CSEC issues). ECPAT works also closely with UNICEF EU Office in Brussels.

ECPAT Belgium represented ECPAT International at different events at the European level, as an expert or as a participant. The exhaustive list is attached. Only the most important meetings have been mentioned below.

As expert:

- Committee of the Regions Consultation on the Working Document on the EU Strategy towards the Eradication of Trafficking in Human Beings, 25 September 2012, Brussels
- 19th International Congress on Child Abuse and Neglect, 9-12 September 2012, Istanbul
- 3rd Lanzarote Committee meeting, 15-16 October 2012, Strasbourg
- Making Prevention Work: Addressing the Root Causes of Human Trafficking in Europe, 4-5 December 2012, Sofia
- Thematic workshop on the implementation of the EU Directive to combat sexual abuse, 14 December 2012, Brussels

As participant:

- Launch of the ENACSO's report: "Protecting Children Online, the next click", 30 May 2012, Brussels
- Launch of the ILO EU27 figures on forced labour, 10 July 2012, Brussels
- Working together towards the eradication of trafficking in human beings: the way forward, 18 October 2012, Brussels
- Samilia Foundation's Conference "Forced prostitution and economic exploitation", 18 October 2012, Brussels

- "Child sex tourism and big sportive events", 23 October 2012, Paris
- Putting victims' rights into practice: how to implement EU directive on victims' rights across the EU, 26 November 2012, Brussels
- Access to Justice: Ensuring Compensation for Trafficked Persons, 28 November 2012, Brussels
- Fighting Child Pornography on the Internet: between legislation and concrete action, 29-30 November 2012, Madrid
- Launch of the Global Alliance against Child Sex Abuse Online, 5 December 2012, Brussels

b. Group of Experts Against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA) Report

ECPAT Belgium coordinated the Alternative Report of the Belgian NGO's on the implementation in Belgium of the Council of Europe Convention against Trafficking in Human Beings. La Strada International and Anti-Slavery International contacted ECPAT Belgium in the perspective of a visit of the GRETA experts, the Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings which monitors the implementation of the Convention by each Party and draws up country evaluation reports. In order to balance the official report given by the Belgian authorities, GRETA asked for an Alternative Report from the NGO's.

ECPAT Belgium gathered the NGO's active in the field during a roundtable (25 May 2012) and coordinated the drafting of a common report that was sent at GRETA on 13 June 2012. The report contains information about the current situation in Belgium and what could be improved to better identify and protect victims. ECPAT Belgium collaborated with the shelters for victims of trafficking in human beings, the shelters for unaccompanied minors and the Samilia Foundation.

On 1st of October 2012, the GRETA delegation interviewed ECPAT Belgium during its country visit to Belgium in order to have more details about the Alternative Report. This meeting took place together with two other child rights organisations: Plateforme Mineurs en Exil and Child Focus. ECPAT Belgium particularly insisted on the need to review the conditions for obtaining the status of victim of trafficking and to suppress the unjustified discrimination between EU and non-EU unaccompanied minors.

The GRETA country report of Belgium is expected in the first semester of 2013.

c. Missing Children Europe thematic workshop

On 14th of December 2012, one year before the deadline for transposing the EU Directive on combating the sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children and child pornography, Missing Children Europe organised a thematic workshop to assess the progress made by 11 Member States to implement the Directive.

ECPAT Belgium was asked, together with ECPAT International, to coordinate the review of what was defined as topic 6: "Assistance, support and protection measures" for child victims. The results of the questionnaires sent to the 11 Member States on the topic were analysed and presented by ECPAT Belgium during the day.

ECPAT Belgium also contacted and coordinated with the two other speakers on this topic: Fabienne Druant (Public Prosecutor Office, Brussels) and Maria Keller-Hamela (Nobody's Children Foundation, Poland).

The contribution of ECPAT Belgium was compiled in the final report of the workshop issued in February 2013 and circulated to the MCE members.

d. Belgian Child rights NGO network

ECPAT Belgium is member of the "Coordination pour les ONG des droits de l'enfant" (www.lacode.be) and the "Kinderrechtencoalitie" (www.kinderrechtencoalitie.be) in charge of writing the "NGO's Alternative Report" analyzing how Belgium complies with the implementation of the Convention on the rights of the Child. This implies that the child rights NGO's meet on a monthly basis and exchange information about their work and common projects.

In August 2012, ECPAT Belgium has written an analysis "Trafficking in children in Belgium, which protection?" for the CODE assessing the progress made during the campaign "Stop Sex Trafficking of Children and Young People" to better protect children from trafficking in Belgium. This analysis has been circulated through all the contacts of the CODE and published on its website.

ECPAT Belgium is also associated to the work of the Belgian National Commission on the Rights of the Child and the General Delegate on the Rights of the Child.

ECPAT Belgium is member of the Platform "Child rights in the Development Cooperation" coordinated by UNICEF Belgium. Since September 2012, the Platform has developed trainings on "Child Rights in the Development Cooperation" for the BTC, the Belgian Development Agency. ECPAT Belgium has been involved in the process and has also taken this opportunity to participate on a more regular basis to the meetings of the Platform.

In March 2012, ECPAT Belgium took the initiative to draft a Memorandum of Understanding with Child Focus, in order to better define the scope of action and modalities of collaboration between the two organisations, which work on similar issues.

7. SUPPORT TO STUDENTS

Raise awareness of the public on the issue of CSEC is one of the main activities of ECPAT Belgium. Schools are places where prevention is of utmost importance. ECPAT Belgium is frequently asked by students from high schools with a specific focus on tourism to give a presentation about its work. On 30 April 2012, ECPAT Belgium went to the Institut Notre-Dame de la Sagesse (Schaerbeek).

On 7 May 2012, Anne-Marie Van Broeck, teacher in tourism at the University of Leuven, invited ECPAT Belgium to give a presentation on child rights and tourism. The presentation focused on the work of ECPAT to combat child sex tourism and was followed by questions raised by very interested students.

ECPAT Belgium is also frequently interviewed by students from both high schools and universities.

Twice a year, ECPAT Belgium also works with interns for a length of 3-4 months. In 2012, it was a future social worker from the ISFSC (February-April) and a student in Sociology (Master in Development) from the University of Brussels (October to December).

8. COMMUNICATION

a. New technologies

ECPAT Belgium has refreshed its two websites.

- www.ecpat.be to present the work done in Belgium, the awareness-raising campaigns, the news in the field, etc.

In 2012, the website got a new design, easier to read and with more information about the ECPAT Belgium projects, the news in the field, the upcoming activities, etc. It is divided in eight sections: homepage, commercial sexual exploitation of children, actions, projects, news, documentation, contact and help us! It is easier for the ECPAT team to post new articles, to adapt the previous ones, to add pictures, videos, etc. It is also easier for the users to find information about our activities, to know more about the ECPAT network, to access legislation or to offer their help. The website is available in French and soon in Dutch.

- www.childprostitution.be to support the campaign "Stop Child Prostitution". It contains the latest news of the campaign, a reporting form for suspicious cases, etc.

ECPAT Belgium is also very active on Facebook and Twitter. More than 100 people like the Facebook page and follow ECPAT Belgium on Twitter. On average 50 people see each new Facebook post.

b. ECPAT Belgium in the media

ECPAT Belgium has been contacted to give an interview to Radio Seraing on 29 February 2012.

c. ECPAT Belgium publications

- "Rapport alternatif des ONG belges adressé au GRETA sur l'évaluation de la mise en oeuvre de la Convention du Conseil de l'Europe contre la traite des êtres humains en Belgique", May 2012 (coordination)
- "La traite des enfants en Belgique, quelle protection?", August 2012
- "Comments of ECPAT International on the CoR Working Document on the EU Strategy towards the Eradication of Trafficking in Human Beings 2012-2016", September 2012 (coordination)
- "Recommandations d'ECPAT Belgique sur la mise en oeuvre de la Convention du Conseil de l'Europe contre la traite des êtres humains en Belgique, présentées lors de la visite du GRETA", October 2012

9. FUNDRAISING

In 2012, ECPAT Belgium has decided to rethink its fundraising strategy and to set up a more sustainable and effective approach to funding agencies, with the help of two members of the newly appointed General Assembly: François Nzabahimana, former accountant and fundraiser at "Entraide et Fraternité" and Sylvie Bianchi, consultant for European Daphne projects.

Since 2010, ECPAT Belgium has received a grant from the Brussels Region called ACS, which covers the salary expenses of Ariane Couvreur. For any other activities (projects, campaigns, etc.), ECPAT Belgium needs another source of funding and applies on a project-basis for public/private subsidies (National Lottery, Ministries, Development Cooperation, ...).

From 2009 to 2012, the ECPAT-The Body Shop campaign drew funds for specific projects that have been aforementioned: "Preventing Trafficking in Persons" in Romania and Golondrina project in Columbia.

In 2010-2011, ECPAT Belgium's cause was endorsed by two organisations: L'En Conscience and Masaga. The collaboration worked during these years but we did not manage to secure funding with them for the next years.

For all these reasons, ECPAT Belgium decided to explore other sources of funding at the French Community level and the European level.

- French Community level, "Lifelong learning education": this funding is available for any non-profit organisation in the French-speaking part of Belgium, which contributes to raise awareness of the general public (or directly offers services) on its cause. A "contrat-programme" is set up for 5 years between the organisation and the French Community. This is a great opportunity of small organisations like ECPAT Belgium to secure funding for a longer period. ECPAT Belgium meets the criteria to apply for these funds and was advised by different persons who are closely working on this programme to wait for another year in order to prepare carefully the application.

- EU level: ECPAT Belgium associated with other ECPAT groups and NGO's applied for European funding.

* EUROPE AID: ECPAT Belgium is an associate partner of the 3-year project "Don't look away – be aware & report the sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism!" that has started in October 2012. The project is coordinated by ECPAT France and gathers 16 ECPAT groups in the European Union. ECPAT Belgium is responsible for implementing the campaign in Belgium, promote the reporting mechanisms established at the European level and contribute to training the tourism industry on the topic.

* DAPHNE: together with 4 other ECPAT groups, ECPAT Belgium is part of the 2-year project "Make-IT-Safe Peer-Experts - Empowering children and young people to become responsible digital citizens through enhancing their capacity to protect themselves and their peers against online abuse and promote online safety for children and young people as peer-experts". The project will start in January 2013. As partner, ECPAT Belgium is responsible for implementing the project in Belgium and to organise closing conference that will take place in Brussels.

* OAK FOUNDATION: ECPAT Belgium is an associate partner of the 2-year Mario II project "Joint action to protect Central and South East European migrant children from abuse, exploitation and trafficking in Europe", coordinated by Terre des Hommes International. Together with Terre des Hommes EU Office based in Brussels, ECPAT Belgium will be

responsible for advocating the cause of migrant children at the EU level and monitoring the existing policies on the topic. The project will start in January 2013.

ECPAT Belgium also worked closely on a fundraising strategy (cf supra).

In November 2012, Ariane Couvreur attended the two-evening training organised by the City of Brussels on how to improve fundraising among organisations. The training was given by Hugues d'Ydewalle (Give Wisely).

10. THE TEAM

- Sophie Jekeler, volunteer since 1994 and President of ECPAT Belgium since 2004.
- Danielle Van Kerckhoven, administrator of ECPAT Belgium: daily coordination of the organization since 1993 – part time.
- Katlijn Declercq, coordinator since 1994, then administrator of ECPAT Belgium. Since 2002, Focal Point on European Institutions for ECPAT International. Since 2011, Regional Representative for Western Europe to the ECPAT International Board – part time.
- Ariane Couvreur, Project Manager, ECPAT Belgium: management of the different projects, since 2010 – full time.

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The Annual Assembly of ECPAT Belgium took place on 19 December 2012. Two new administrators were elected: David Boulanger and Augustin Nteziyaremye.

11. CONCLUSION AND PROSPECTS FOR 2013

In 2012, ECPAT Belgium had the opportunity and the willingness to enhance its structure internally and externally. New fundraising strategies, better communication, more visibility at the EU level and more involvement in European projects have been achieved. With this stronger basis, ECPAT Belgium is able to draw a strategic plan for the years to come and enhance the sustainability of its actions and its funding. This, keeping in mind the axes followed by ECPAT International: awareness-raising, lobbying, research and participation of children.

At the national level, ECPAT Belgium will continue to coordinate the "Stop child prostitution" campaign, with a special focus on the drafting of a general code of conduct to combat sexual exploitation of children that could be implemented in the structures of the different

partners. As regards to the new projects, we are hoping to launch a research on minors in prostitution. At the European level, three new EU-funded projects will start in 2013: "Make-IT-Safe", "Don't Look Away" and "Mario II". Besides, ECPAT Belgium will continue the advocacy work with the EU institutions. Outside of Europe, the study on commercial sexual exploitation of children will be launched in Senegal, with a particular emphasis on youth participation throughout the project.

One of the biggest challenges for ECPAT Belgium is to enhance its visibility at the national and European level. Even if we are recognised as experts in the field, ECPAT Belgium is still not very well known by the large public, the media and among the politicians. In 2013, we will work to be more visible, notably through the elaboration of a more efficient communication strategy, together with our webmaster, David Boulanger. Being better known will also help us to explore more fundraising opportunities.