Children and the Mediterranean: Health, Culture and Urban Settings

Held in Genoa in January 2004, the Children and the Mediterranean conference was promoted by the Gerolamo Gaslini Foundation and GENOVA 2004 in cooperation with the World Bank, the Arab Urban Development Institute, the Giannina Gaslini Institute and Lynkeus Srl under the auspices of the President of the Italian Republic, the Italian Prime Minister and the President of the European Commission.
The primary goal of the conference was to enhance the awareness of child issues among policy makers and relevant stakeholders. This three-day event was held on the cruiser Mistral, generously made available by Festival Cruises.

Conceived as a follow-up of the Children and the City conference (Amman, December 2002), the premise of 'Children and the Mediterranean' was that the child's basic rights should be determining factors in public policy decisions.

Almost 900 participants, including the Archbishops of Genoa Tarcisio Bertone and of Milan Dionigi Tettamanzi, European Commission President Romano Prodi, Lord Mayor of Amman Nidal al-Hadid, Nobel-prize winner Rolf Zinkernagel, World Bank Senior Vice President Jean Louis Sarbib, Justice of the Italian Constitutional Court Fernanda Contri, and several other prominent figures, covered a wide range of subjects including

· Health care and Health Education
· Early child development and care of adolescents
· Literacy and social development
· Safety, and political and economic security
· Freedom of movement and freedom from discrimination

The report 'Charting the Mediterranean Child', a product of co-operation between 10 different agencies world-wide and co-ordinated by Lynkeus, opened the proceedings and provided a basis for further discussions. This exhaustive report, an invaluable tool in future policy-making, will henceforth be up-dated and enlarged annually.

At its conclusion, the conference celebrated the inauguration of the Genoa based MedChild Institute (Fondazione Istituto Mediterraneo per l'Infanzia).
The MedChild Institute is committed to establishing a Mediterranean network of longterm cooperation with bodies and prominent research centres with a view to pooling knowledge and resources for the benefit of all Mediterranean countries.

Fondazione Gaslini · Genova Capitale Europea della Cultura · World Bank · Arab Urban Development Institute · Festival Crociere · Gaslini · Lynkeus

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