By Way Of Introduction

The International Labor Organization (ILO) through the International Program on the Elimination of Child Labor (IPEC) in Albania issues a bimonthly E-Newsletter aiming to inform about the progresses Albania has made towards prevention and elimination of child labor with emphasis on the elimination of the worst forms of child labor.

World Day against Child Labour—Albanian Flag against Child Labour

One of the main aspects of the IPEC Country Programme in Albania is the awareness raising which is given a special focus on the occasion of the World Day Against Child Labour – 12 June.

On 12 June, ILO launches the World Day Against Child Labour as a way to highlight the worldwide movement to eliminate child labour, with a priority on its worst forms. The observance, to take place every 12 June, is intended to serve as a catalyst for enhancing this growing movement against child labour.

The World Day provides an opportunity to gain further support of individual governments as well as that of social partners, civil society and other – such as, schools, youth groups and media – for the ILO campaign against child labour.

In this context, one massive competition among all Tirana children’s art works dedicated to the children’s rights with emphasis on the worst forms of child labour is organized for this event. Therefore, all primary and secondary schools of Tirana are instructed to gather two weeks before this event at the main square of Tirana (in front of Tirana Municipality) to paint and to draw on the following topics:

- I have the right to go to school.
- I have the right to feel respected.
- I have the right to play
- I must not work.
- Children must not be exploited.
- Municipality of Tirana should care for us.
- What makes a child happy?

The Competition comprises three nominations on drawing/painting. The best children’s works are collected to design two flags: one flag on children’s rights and another one against child labour. This flags are submitted to the Albanian Vice Prime-Minister on the 1st of June during the proceedings of the National Conference on Children’s Rights and to the Minister of Labour and Social Affairs.
On the occasion of the Children’s Day, Albanian children raised the Albanian Flag against Child Labour at the main Albanian institutions (Prime Minister’s Office, in line Ministries and Tirana Municipality). This flag was designed with the best children’s drawings selected after one massive competition (22 May 2004) among all Tirana’s children dedicated to children’s rights with emphasis on the worst forms of child labour.

Working children and children at risk had the opportunity to meet and talk about their lives and their concerns with both the Minister of Labour, Mr. Engjell BEJTAJ and the Mayor of Tirana, Mr. Edi RAMA. Both politicians mentioned the commitment of the Albanian Government to put child labour issue high on its political agenda and to effectively tackle the problem.

The Albanian Minister of Labour and Social Affairs will present a copy of the flag against child labour to the ILO Director General during the International Labour Conference.

The same events will be organized for the 12 of June in two other Albanian cities: Korca and Shkodra.