

THE UNICEF REGIONAL MONITORING PROJECT (MONEE)

In 1992, UNICEF embarked upon a major project to monitor the impact on children of the tremendous social and economic transition taking place in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.

The fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 symbolised the collapse of communism. The countries of the region were catapulted into a period of rapid political, economic and social changes. At times of crisis, children are always the first to suffer. As the new nations struggled to cope with economic collapse and political upheaval, UNICEF was concerned that the needs of children might be overlooked. By gathering data specific to children and women, the Regional Monitoring Project aims to hold up a lens to what the transition means for children and to advocate for social safety nets for them.

The MONEE Project provides a unique source of information on the social impact of the transition years. It has made a major contribution to the international debate on the directions of public policy, drawing attention to emerging issues for children, women and families across the region and keeping the interests of children on the agenda.

The work is carried out by a small team of researchers based at the UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre in Florence, Italy, together with a range of external consultants. This team of economists and other social scientists works closely with the network of central statistical offices and research centres covering each country in the region. The work is made possible by financial support from the Government of Italy and the World Bank. Principal funding comes from the UNICEF Regional Office for Central and Eastern Europe, the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Baltics.

Outputs/Activities: The project's main outputs are:

- Annual Regional Monitoring Reports
- TransMONEE, a menu-driven downloadable database
- Innocenti Working Papers, and other publications linked to the themes of the MONEE project.

The annual Regional Monitoring Report provide an analysis of overall welfare trends, explore a specific issue and include a comprehensive statistical annex. This year's report, *A Decade of Transition*, provides an authoritative review of the human impact of ten years of socio-economic change in the region. As well as examining the broad sweep of change that has taken place, the report also looks at income inequality and child poverty, health, education and the situation of children deprived of a family upbringing.

The MONEE team's research is also used to compile the "TransMONEE Database", a stand-alone electronic database that includes a vast range of social and economic indicators collected for the project, and for a range of background publications such as Innocenti Working Papers. Members of the MONEE team

During its nine-year life span the project has grown in scale from the first report which covered nine countries to encompass all 27 countries in transition in the region. This has made it increasingly difficult to merge the analysis of trends and policy in one report. The MONEE Project is now preparing for a change of approach that would separate the monitoring of trends from the in-depth studies. The solution will be an annual Monitor report focusing solely on trends, and larger themed reports taking an in-depth look at specific issues. In this way, the MONEE Project will be able to cater more effectively for the needs of different audiences.

For more information please contact Patrick McCormick, Communication Officer, UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre, on (39) 055 203 3354. For more information on the MONEE project and to access the TransMONEE database, see our website: www.unicef-icdc.org