

The institutional organization

A multidisciplinary team

To carry out its missions, the Observatory relies on its multidisciplinary team consisting of 16 people under the responsibility of a director. This includes project managers and research officers from various fields (child welfare, law, sociology, political science and public statistics). Two secretaries, a librarian and an editor complete the team.

The Scientific Committee

The Scientific Committee is **a body of expertise, advice and proposals**. It reviews and assesses research projects and papers in the framework of the Observatory's yearly call for research, for which it proposes a theme that is ultimately defined by the Board. It may also be consulted by the director of the Observatory on any matter within its expertise.

Today chaired by **Professor Marcel Jaeger** (Cnam, *Conservatoire national des arts et métiers*, Paris), it consists of **16 members** : eight French and European researchers appointed individually for four years and eight representatives of organizations that sponsor research in the field of child protection.

Public interest group

"Enfance en Danger"

LEGAL STRUCTURE : Public interest group

BOARD OF DIRECTORS :

MINISTRIES

- Directorate-General for Social Cohesion
- Directorate-General for Public Education
- Directorate General for the Judicial Protection of Youth
- Directorate of Research, Studies, Evaluation and Statistics
- Directorate-General for Health
- Directorate-General for Youth, Popular Education and NGOs
- Directorate of Criminal Affairs and Pardons
- Directorate-General of the National *Gendarmerie*
- Central Directorate for Public Safety
- Directorate-General of Local authorities

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- 22 - Côtes-d'Armor
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- 37 - Indre-et-Loire
- 44 - Loire-Atlantique
- 49 - Maine-et-Loire
- 59 - Nord
- 66 - Pyrénées-Orientales
- 67 - Bas-Rhin
- 69 - Rhône
- 71 - Saône-et-Loire
- 76 - Seine-Maritime
- 84 - Vaucluse
- 93 - Seine-Saint-Denis
- 95 - Val-d'Oise

ORGANISATIONS (NGOs)

- French Association for Information and Research on Child Abuse - AFIREM (*Association française d'information et de recherche sur l'enfance maltraitée*)
- National Convention of Child Protection Associations - CNAPE (*Convention nationale des associations de protection de l'enfant*)
- National Federation of schools for parents and educators - FNEPE (*Fédération nationale des écoles des parents et des éducateurs*)
- National Union of Family Associations - UNAF (*Union nationale des associations familiales*)
- La Voix de l'Enfant

President : **Hermeline MALHERBE**, *President of "Conseil général des Pyrénées-Orientales"*

Vice-presidents : **Sabine FOURCADE**, *General Directorate of Social Cohesion*
Martine BROUSSE, *La Voix de l'Enfant*

Managing director, GIP : **Marie-Paule MARTIN-BLACHAIS**

Director, ONED : **Gilles SÉRAPHIN**



Observatoire National
de l'Enfance en Danger

English



All ressources of the
Observatory are
available on its website :

www.oned.gouv.fr

Some of them are in English. You will find them on
the page « *In English* » from the tab « *Votre profil* ».



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The context of creation

The National Observatory for Children in danger was created by the January 2, 2004 law and aims to answer the long-identified need for more data on child abuse and the means to prevent it. This and the lack of a central institution gathering scientific publications and studies based on professionals' work were two of the main reasons which led to the creation of the Observatory. The January 2, 2004 law highlights the role of the Observatory in collecting statistical data, and identifying best practices in "prevention, screening and care".



The National Helpline for Children in Danger

"119-Allô Enfance en danger" is the other service of the public interest group (GIP Enfance en danger, GIPED) that comprises the Observatory. Both services have their own missions and procedures but they cooperate closely. "119-Allô Enfance en danger" is, in the field of French social helplines, the only service whose existence stems from a legislative decision, which confers it a number of legal obligations.

Half of GIPED's funding comes from the state, and half from the departments. A technical committee of specialists assists the service.

The March 5, 2007 Law gives SNATED two main missions:

- **A prevention and protection mission** : To listen to, assist, inform and advise via telephone any person confronted with a situation where a child is in danger or at risk to become so, especially when the calls are from the children themselves, so as to identify these situations and facilitate the protection of minors in danger.
- **A transmission mission** : To transmit any information giving rise to concern regarding these children to the *département* - based relevant services, to which the "cellules de recueil des informations préoccupantes" (CRIP).

The role of the Observatory

It can be summed up in one main sentence : "better knowledge of children in danger is a guarantee for better prevention and care". Therefore the Observatory consistently stimulates a stronger cooperation between ministries, child welfare services and NGOs. These three units are the basis of the Public Interest Group on childhood in danger (GIPED) of which the Observatory, along with child helpline "119-Allô Enfance en danger", is a part of. The role of the Observatory, which is specified by law, can be presented in five missions : providing consistent quantitative data for a better coordination of interventions ; census and assessment of prevention, screening and care practices ; research ; international comparisons ; establishment of an online resource centre (www.oned.fr).

Providing consistent quantitative data for a better coordination of interventions

The Observatory is currently refining its data-collection system with the local authorities in charge of child protection (*départements*) . The aim is to improve consistency regarding data entry, preventing double counts, and above all, providing better knowledge of childhood in danger (prevalence, life trajectories and comparisons with reference population). The Observatory's analyses will be based on the anonymous data transmitted by local-level Observatories of

International comparisons

The Observatory is an active member of the ChildONEurope network. The Observatory follows the activities of European and other international institutions working in child welfare. The Observatory may be interested in various practices implemented in different countries inasmuch as these examples can be of interest for the French situation.

Census and assessment of prevention, screening and care practices

The Observatory is focused on structures and practices in child welfare. After visiting the different institutions and collecting information, our research team analyses practices. The resulting reports are made available online so as to inspire reflection and dialogue between practitioners.

Annual report to the Government and Parliament

Each year, the Observatory submits a report to the Government and Parliament. This annual report consists on the one hand of figures relating to children in care and, on the other, of a qualitative analysis of the evolution of child protection services' practices.



Research

Each year, the Observatory publishes two calls for research: one is very broad and the other is focused on a theme. The process follows the following general rhythm: proposals must arrive in April and the results are communicated to researchers in June. The research projects should last less than 18 months. The scientific committee selects and ranks the projects it finds most promising, and the resulting list is submitted to the board. Moreover our website collects and showcases all research on childhood in danger published since the creation of the Observatory in 2004. Finally, the Observatory hosts researchers from France and around

Sharing information

The website aims to be a resource centre and spread knowledge and best practices in the field of childhood in danger. It also promotes the emergence of networks bringing together actors of child protection and both French and international researchers. It enables exchanges between all professionals working in child protection. A regular newsletter, *La Lettre de l'Oned* keeps all actors of child protection informed of what is happening in the Observatory.

Last but not least, the Observatory organises thematic conferences and workshops gathering representatives from local authorities (*départements*). It also regularly takes part in symposiums and other events.

