Themes: Children & Families; Country: France; Language: English; Year: 2014; Event: European Social Services Conference 2014 (Rome)

**Programme’s name** | Interagency collaboration to collect data on child protection
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**Original title:** | Collaboration inter-institutionnelle pour la collecte de données sur la protection de l’enfance

**Organisation / Country:** | ONED (National Observatory for Children in Danger – Observatoire National de l’Enfance en Danger) / France

**Website:** | [ONED](http://www.oned.gouv.fr) (English resources are available [here](http://www.oned.gouv.fr))

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**Summary:**

ONED (National Observatory for Children in Danger) was created by a law from 2004 and seeks to respond to the need for more data on child abuse and preventive strategies. It was important to have an understanding of the needs of this target group, as different organisations work on this issue and operate at different levels. All stakeholders from policymakers to caseworkers need to have accurate data. The lack of a central institution gathering scientific publications and studies based on professionals’ work also bolstered the creation of ONED. ONED consistently stimulates a stronger cooperation between ministries, child welfare services and NGOs. Its missions are specified by law:

- providing consistent quantitative data for a better coordination of interventions;
- census and assessment of prevention, screening and care practices;
- research;
- international comparisons;
- providing professionals access to research and other resources.

The data collection system was built by ONED along the [European Statistics Code of Practice](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/), especially along principle 9, the **Non-excessive Burden on Respondents:**

> "The reporting burden is proportionate to the needs of the users and is not excessive for respondents. The statistical authorities monitor the response burden and set targets for its reduction over time. (…)"
9.4: Administrative sources are used whenever possible to avoid duplicating requests for information.
9.5: Data sharing within statistical authorities is generalised in order to avoid multiplication of surveys.
9.6: Statistical authorities promote measures that enable the linking of data sources in order to reduce reporting burden

Data on child protection:
- 275,000 minors in the child protection system – 87 percent are concerned by judicial measures;
- 21,000 young adults (18 to 20 years) in the child protection system, mostly concerned by administrative measures.

The ONED monitoring system is based longitudinal data along 130 variables with six categories:
1. General information on children: date of birth, gender, school information, disability, etc.
2. Source reporting the situation: date and contact of the person;
3. Characteristics of the care givers and the household: family composition, parental responsibility, socio-
demographic information about the two main caregivers and/or parents;
4. Information on the situation after assessment: type of danger and/or maltreatment, alleged perpetrators, family issues, etc.
5. Measures undertaken: date, duration, kind of measure, type of placement ...
6. End or renewal of measures: date and reason.

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<th>Issues:</th>
<th>Challenges:</th>
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<td>The monitoring system is very detailed and thus difficult to set up.</td>
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<td>The implementation phase should be planned thoroughly, with training sessions and tools to help professionals enter data in a coherent way.</td>
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<td>For coherent data collection: There remains a need to clarify definition and counting methods.</td>
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| Resources: | Net spending on child welfare services reached €6.9 billion in 2012 (+1.6 percent compare to 2011) in line with the increased number of service users (+2.2 percent) |

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<th>Objectives:</th>
<th>Collecting statistical data on size and living conditions of the target group</th>
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<td>Identifying best practices in prevention, screening and care</td>
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| Outcomes: | ONED annual reports have become more and more detailed including complex information collected from county councils. Thanks to the consensus-building process between professionals and experts from different sectors, the variables have been split into four groups based on accessibility. This allows a more detailed implementation: instead of implementing at once a fairly detailed data collection system, county councils have the possibility to set different implementation targets, starting for instance with easily obtainable data requiring no information exchange between services. The 10th Annual report to the Government and Parliament, published in May 2015, introduces the first detailed scoreboards that have been realised through this method. Then, ONED has a better knowledge of the population and types of measures implemented at the county level which is a considerable improvement compared to previous years. |
| **Evaluation:** | Increased information sharing especially on the ONED central database is important for public policy evaluation. Policymakers are able to monitor the progress made toward achieving the goals defined in the framework of the UNCRC as well as the national legislation (5 March 2007 Law on child protection). They can also assess the impacts of prevention initiatives or early screening procedures and the outcomes on the life trajectories of children leaving care. |