

**The Ombudsman for Children in Norway**

**The rights of the Child today  
and  
Solidarity with future  
generations**

Conference on a sustainable future,  
Budapest 24-26 april 2014

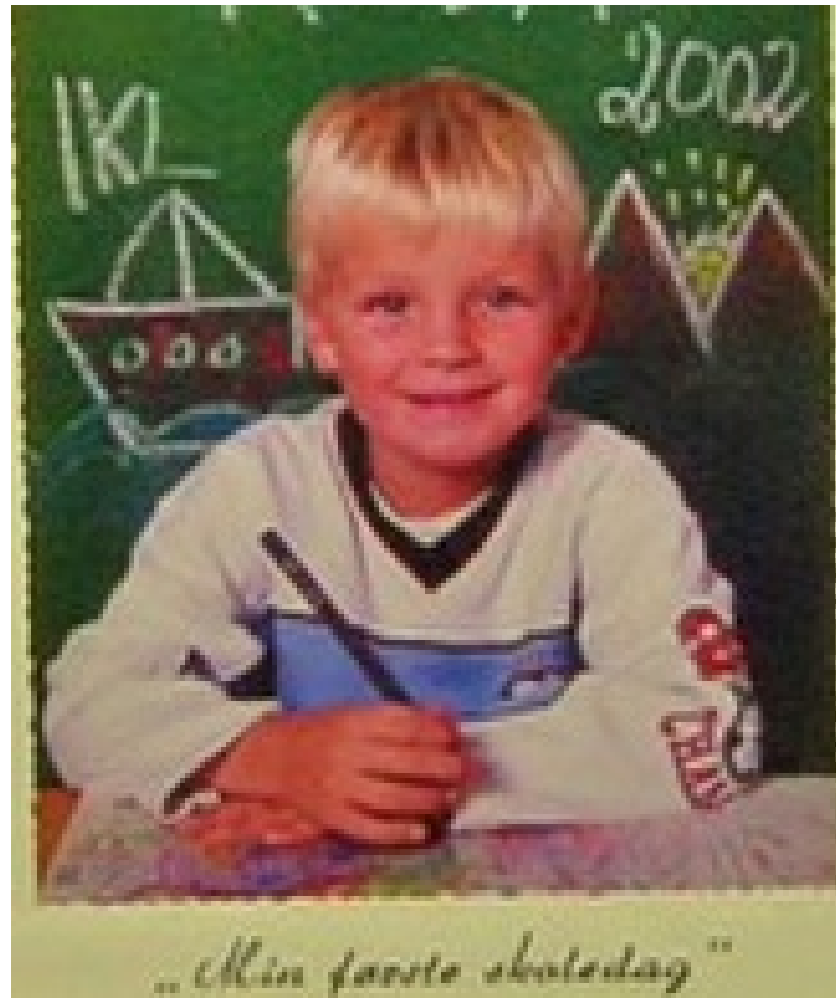


**BARNEOMBUDET**

# What is an ombudsperson for children?

- Independent institution
- Spokesperson for children
- Influencing policy makers and practitioners to take greater account of rights of children
- No formal power

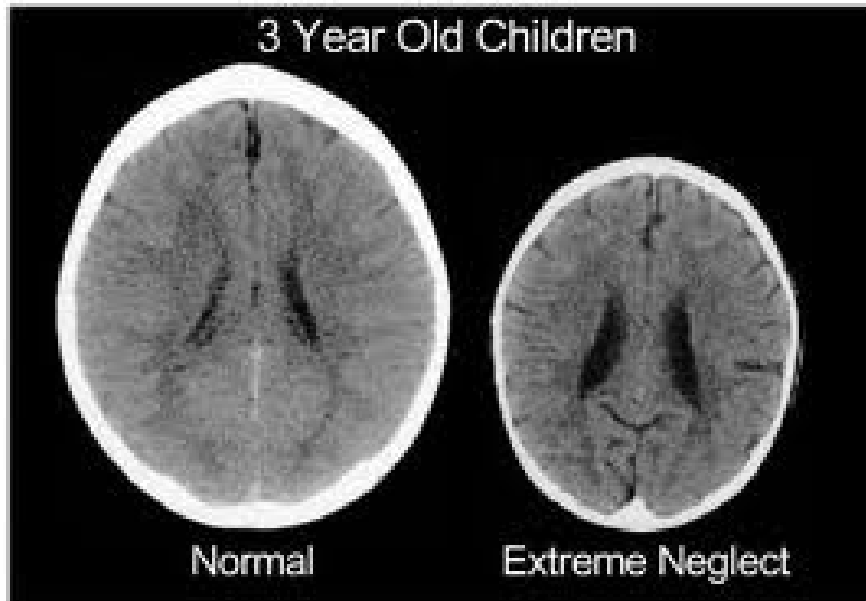








**Experiences from early childhood has a high influence on the development of the brain.**



Dr. Bruce Perry,  
The Child Trauma Academy, Houston, Texas



# Basic Rights

## UNCRC

- ☐ The right to Participation (Art 12)
- ☐ The right to Education (Art 28, 29)
- ☐ The right to Leisure, Play, Culture (Art 31)
- ☐ The right to Protection (Art 19, 34, 35, 36)
- ☐ The right to Healthcare (Art 24)
- ☐ The Right to Adequate standard of Living (Art 27)



**When a child experience  
chaos, neglect, threats,  
violence and other adversity,  
their potential is stunted,  
distorted and fragmented**





**Increased risk for more self-absorbed, impulsive, aggressive, violent and anti-social behaviour.**



# CHILD POVERTY AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION IN EUROPE

A matter of children's rights



Save the Children

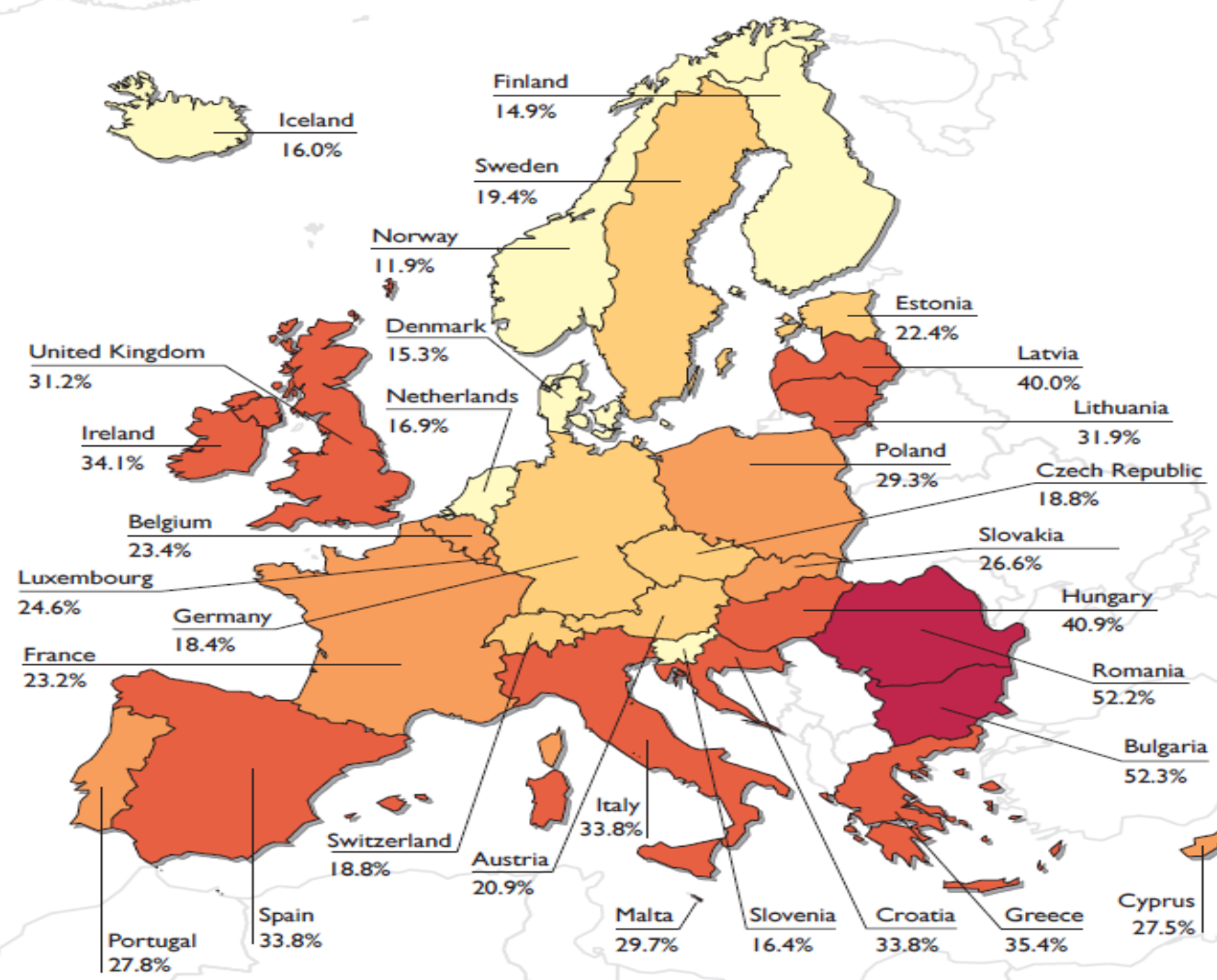
# Report 2014



Close to 27 million European children are in the risk of being excluded from society because of poverty. In countries such as Sweden, Germany and Switzerland, 20 % of the children belong to low-income families.



FIGURE I: CHILDREN AT RISK OF POVERTY OR SOCIAL EXCLUSION (AROPE) (%) 2012



Source: EU-SILC 2013 (Retrieved January 2014) – Data for Ireland refers to 2011



..is he the future?



..or she?



# We need their competence



**They are experts in being children**









**kart i skolen beta**

Kartlagg  Topografisk  
 3D-Modell  3D-Modeller  
 Generell kartinformasjon  
 Kartkoder  
 Medie (10)  
 Historien  
 Geografi  
 Kartografi  
 Kartveg  
 Kartens problematik  
 Kartografenes arbeid  
 Historiske kart  
 Kart, vind og klima  
 Kart og miljø  
 Kart- og kartbruk  
 Kartprosjekt  
 Kartutvikling  
 Kartografenes arbeid  
 Kartografi og kartografi  
 Kart  
 Kart og geograf  
 Kartografi

EPSS 10450 4 14  
 202 81 00 134 771 00  
 EPSS 4101 4 14  
 87 8021 7 11 134 00  
 Skoleidrett 1 7070200

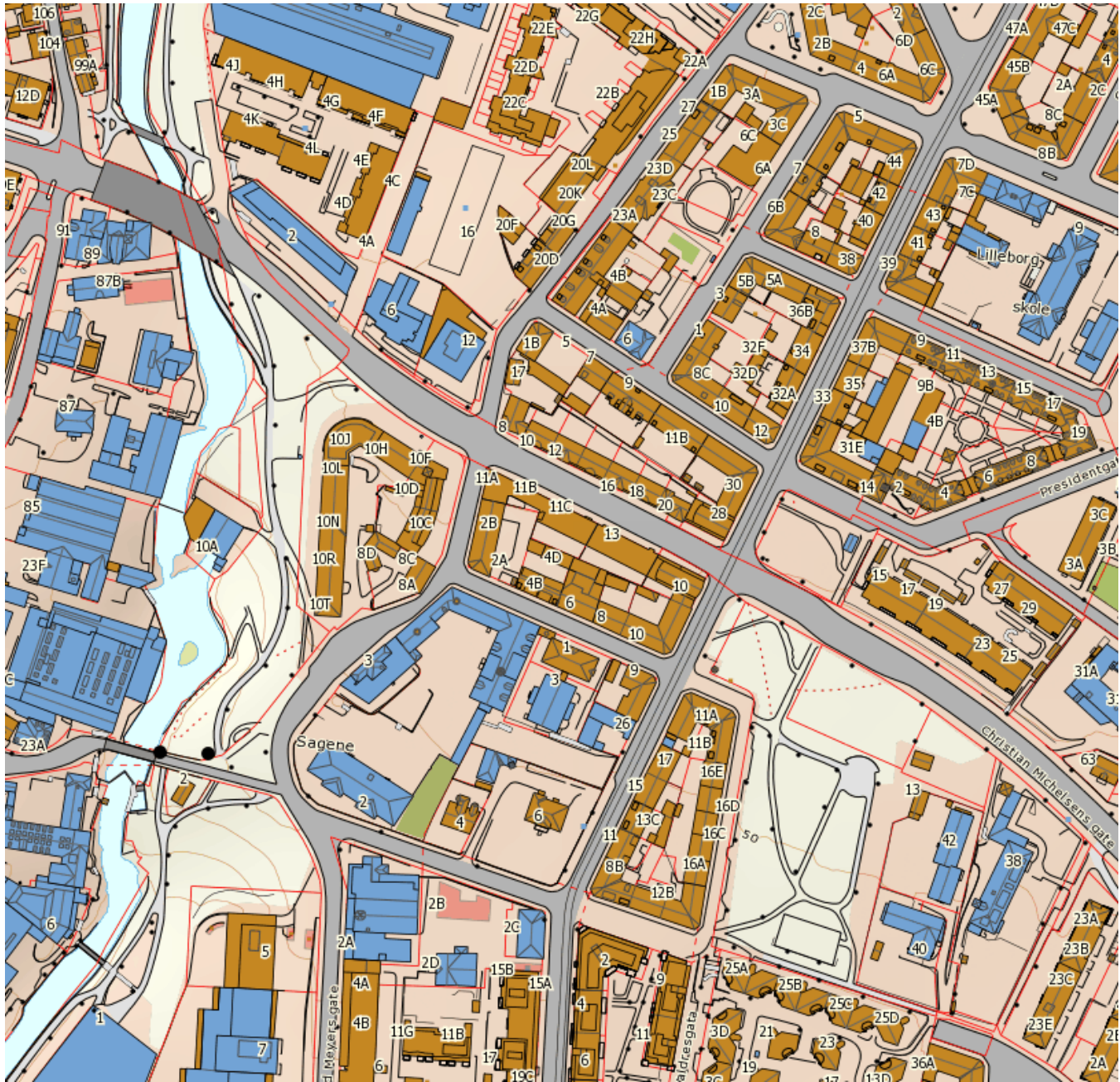
0 km  
 100 m

Kart  
 Resultat  
 Help  
 Logg inn

**Skoleidrett**  
 24.04.2008  
 Skoleidrett  
 Skoleidrett  
 Skoleidrett  
 Skoleidrett

Skoleidrett - Et digitalt kart for skolebruk





# Tracking children

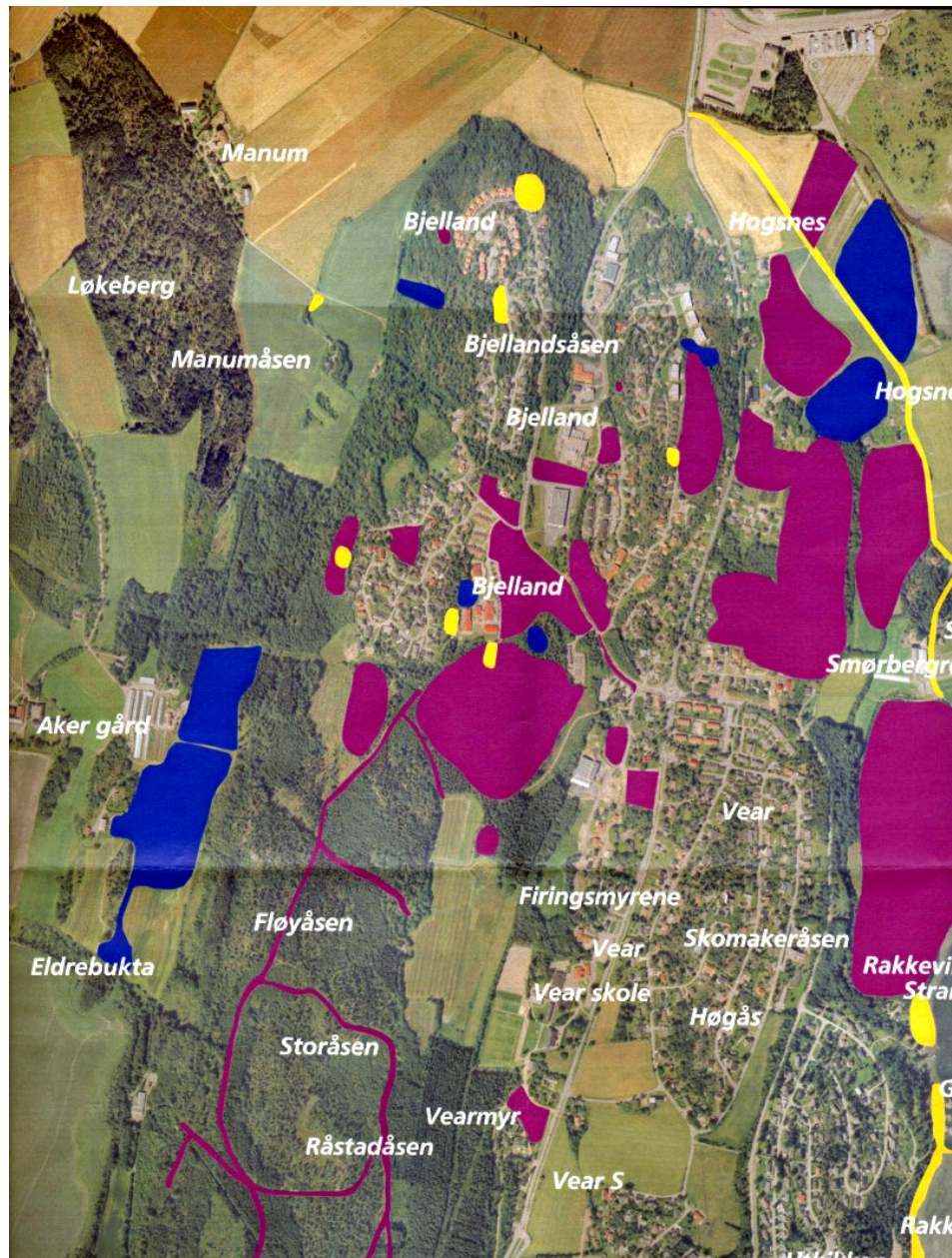
Areas used:

All year

Winter

Summer

## Child Impact Assessment



# Safety net

NGOs

Social services

Correctional service

School

Child welfare

Kindergarden

Local community

Health service

Family

Police



**Child Impact  
Assessment**

**Family**

**Health  
service**

**Schools**

**Local  
priorities**

**Child  
welfare**

# The Constitution of Norway

## ☰ Article 110 b

Every person has a right to an environment that is conducive to health and to a natural environment whose productivity and diversity are maintained.

☰ Natural resources should be managed on the basis of comprehensive long-term considerations whereby this right will be safeguarded for future generations as well.





## **§1 Purpose**

The purpose of this Act is to contribute to promoting the interests of children in society.

## **§3 Duties of the Ombudsman**

The duties of the Ombudsman are to promote the interests of children vis-à-vis public and private authorities and to follow up the development of conditions under which children grow up.



# Investigation

- The Ombudsman has the right to access all relevant information in any case concerning children.
- Access to all institutions for children.



# Tools

- **Statements**
- **Analysing existing law, policy and practice**
- **Advisory service**
- **Commenting on proposed new legislation**
- **Undertake inquiries and produce reports**
- **Lobbying**
- **Meetings**
- **Speeches**
- **Media**



# Examples of focus areas

## ☰ Protection

- Child welfare authorities
- Domestic violence
- Children with divorced parents
- School: bullying,

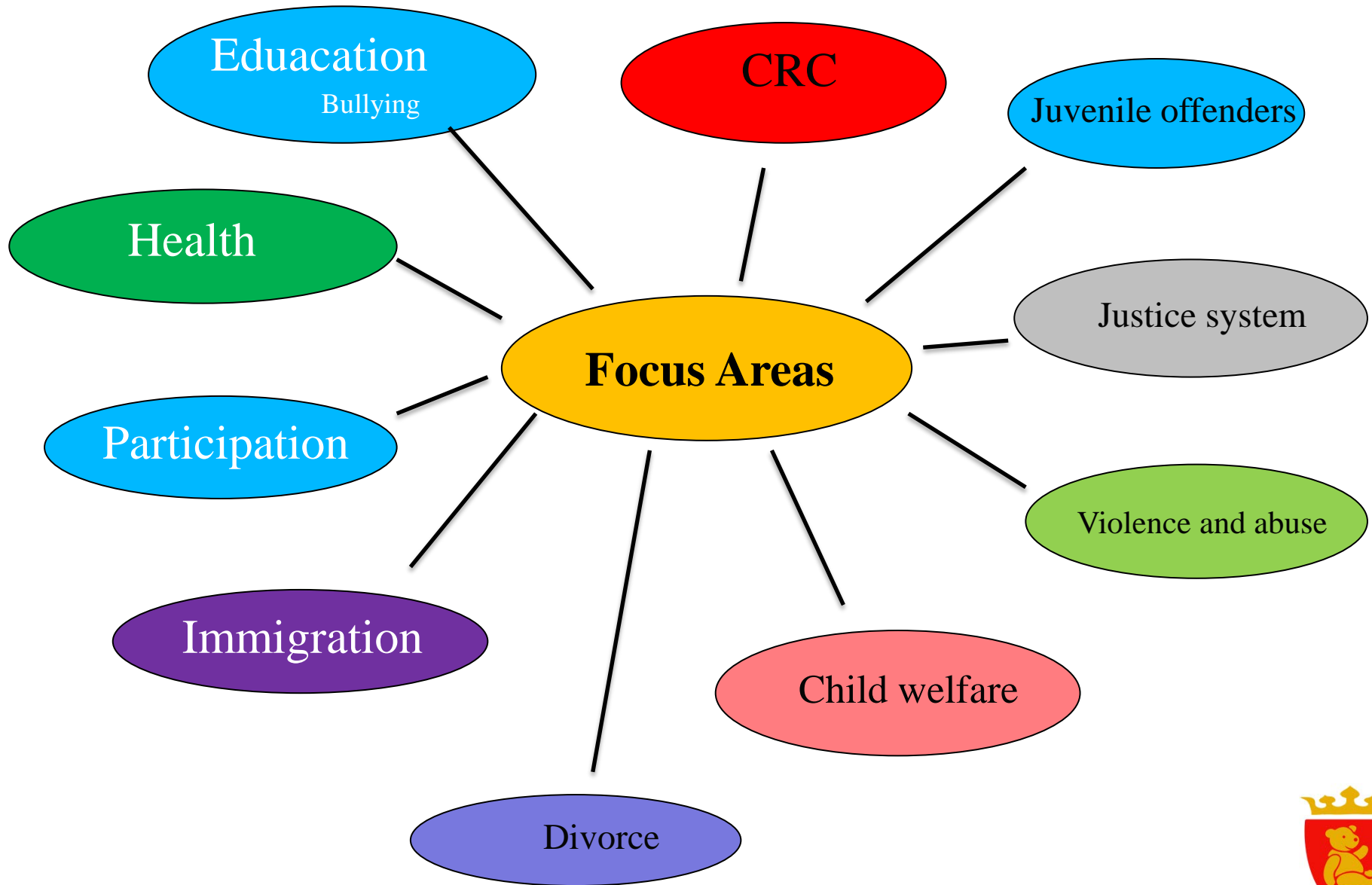
## ☰ Provision

- Health care – psychological and somatic, disabled children
- Schools - physical working conditions

## ☰ Participation

- Dialogue instruments
- Expert groups



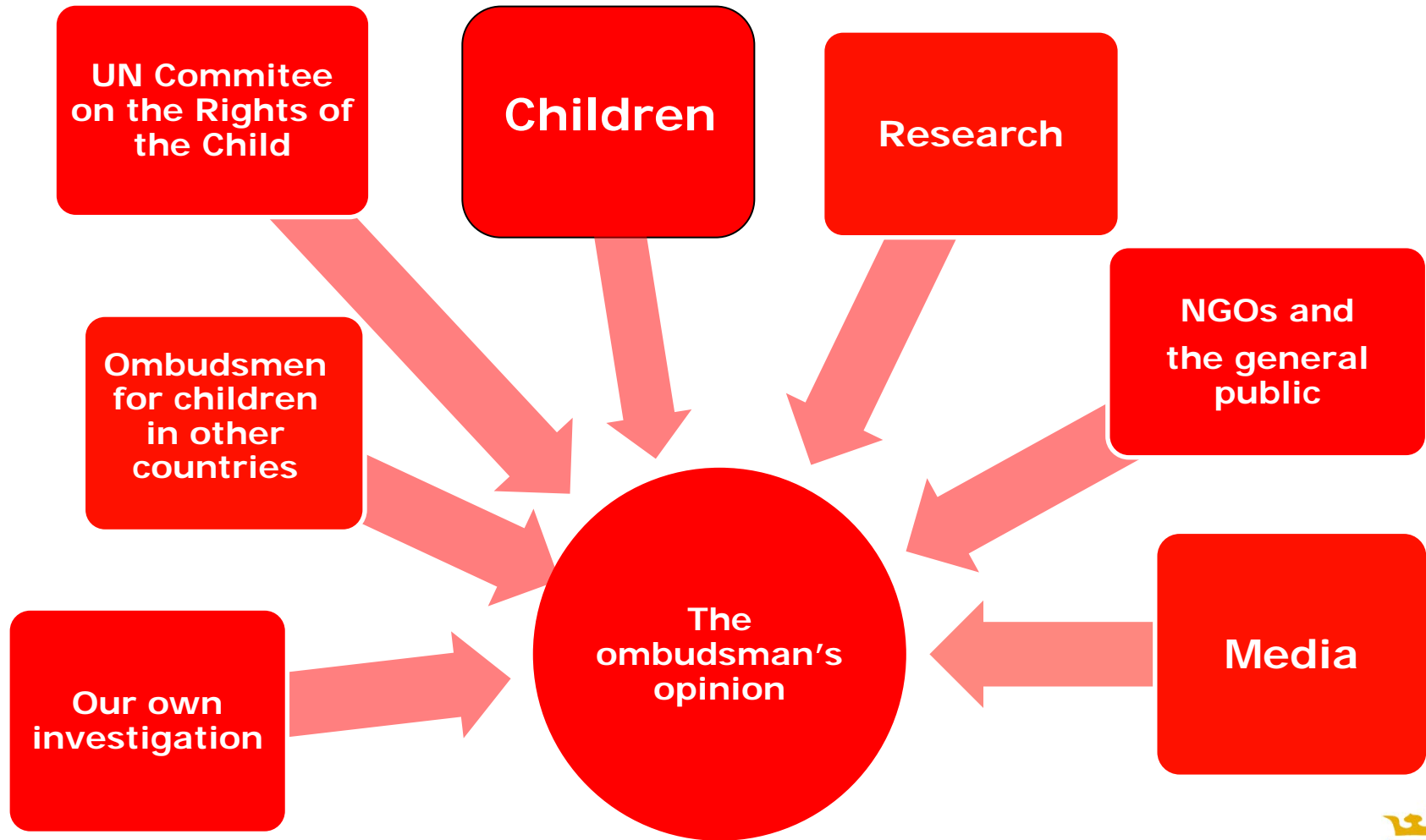


# Expert groups

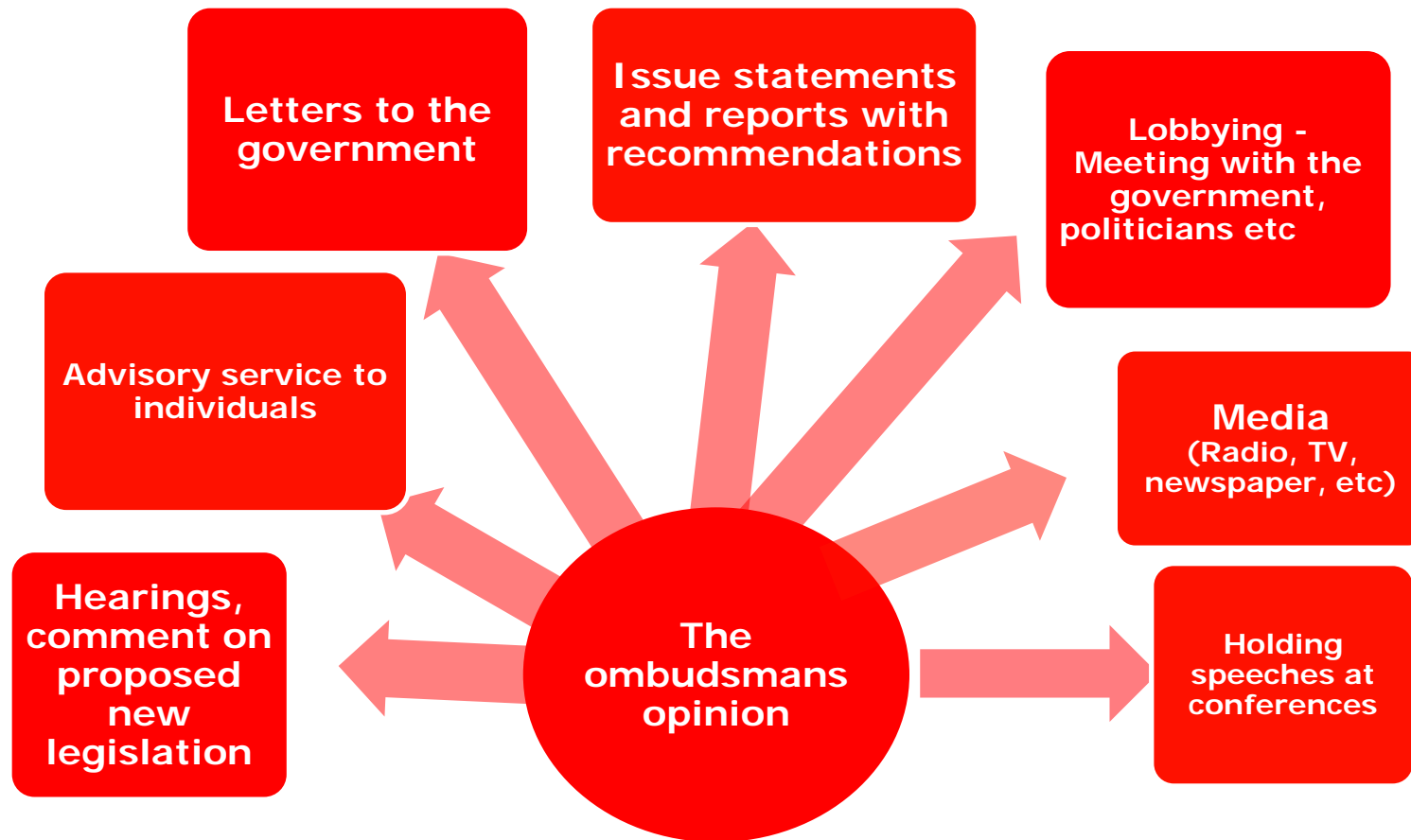
- ☐ Child victims of sexual abuse
- ☐ Children exposed to domestic violence
- ☐ Children with parents in prison
- ☐ Minorities
- ☐ "Drop-outs"
- ☐ Children in poor families
- ☐ Roma children
- ☐ Children in split families with high conflict level
- ☐ ect



# We gather information from:



# Then we take action









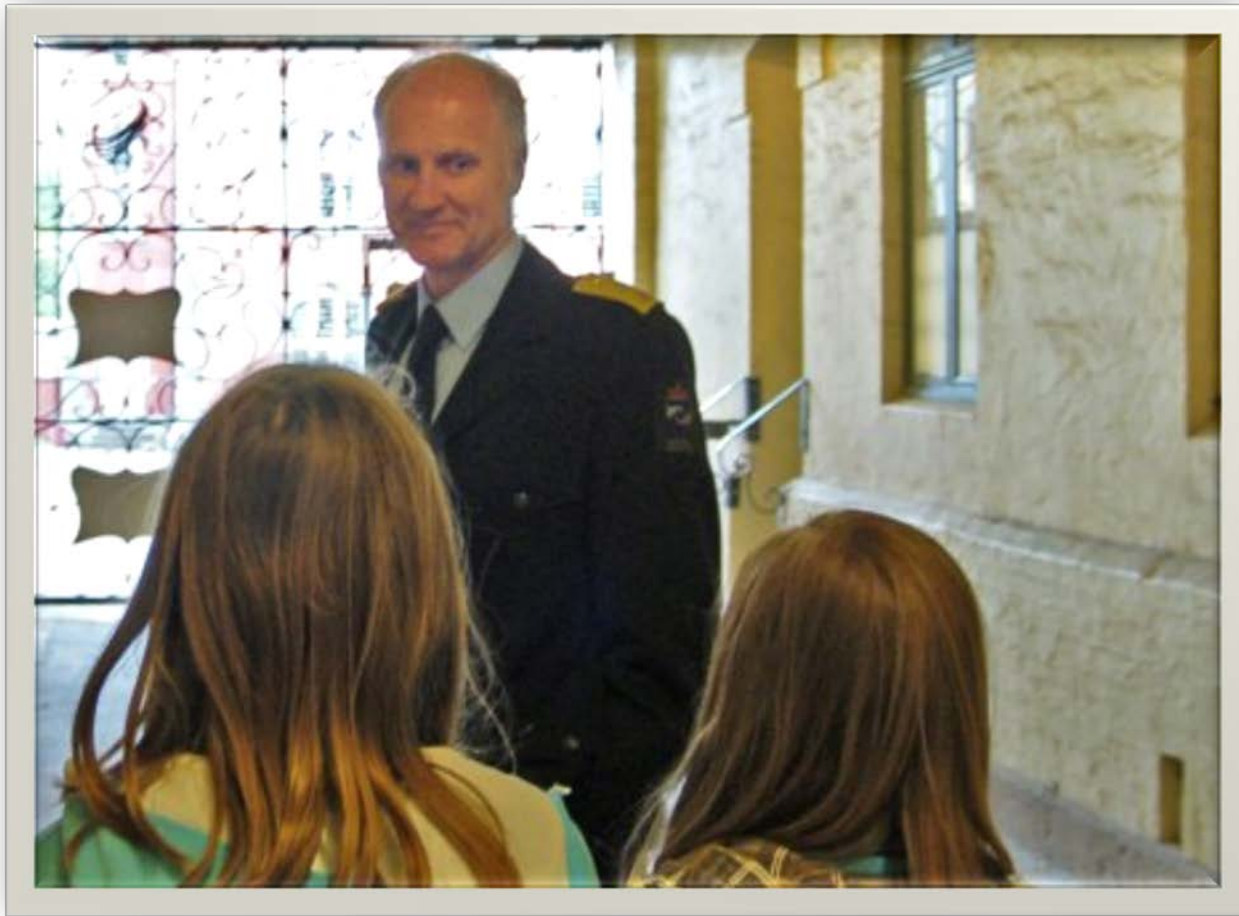
# Expert Group on Incest

Sexual abuse committed by someone you know



THE OMBUDSMAN  
FOR CHILDREN









**Expert Group on Incest**  
Sexual abuse committed by someone you know



THE OMBUDSMAN  
FOR CHILDREN



**This is all about HOW you  
involve children**

**...not IF you shall involve  
them**



**Childhood is not an  
illness that passes—**



**Childhood lasts for  
a lifetime...**





**..and it lasts  
through  
generations**



Thank you for listening

