



UNICEF is paving the way for child friendly cities

Professor Karen Malone from the Centre for Educational Research has received funding from the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to help implement a program promoting child inclusion in Albania. The research aims to outline steps the Albanian government, community stakeholders and NGOs can take to make their cities more "child friendly", and how to coordinate their respective services more effectively to protect children's rights.

'Child welfare has become a significant priority for nations around the world and governments are now looking for ways to make their cities "child friendly", Professor Malone says. 'A child friendly city is one that promotes children's rights and permits children to have more of a say in decisions that affect them. UNICEF has been encouraging more countries to promote child friendliness in their cities through the Child Friendly Cities Initiative (CFCI), where child friendliness is adopted as a recognised measure of the health of a city. Australia, along with many other countries, has signed on to this initiative, and Albania is looking to do so.' This research will determine the best way the CFCI can be implemented in Albania.

Professor Malone will collaborate with other researchers and Albanian stakeholders – including representatives from all levels of government and NGOs – to find out the best ways to implement the CFCI in Albania. The investigators will conduct a literature and policy review which will be used to draft an implementation method. The draft will be used to consult with stakeholders, including local children, using interviews and group meetings. Their feedback will be used to finalise recommendations for Albania to put their CFCI in place.



Playground in Tirana, Albania. Photograph by Karen Malone.

This project will create a Program Framework, an Action Plan, and ideas for potential pilot projects for Albanian policy makers to use when rolling out their CFCI. It will also produce a media presentation package to inform other stakeholders of strategies to improve child inclusion in decision making processes, and what they can do to help create child friendly cities in Albania.

Project Title: Development of the Framework and Action Plan for Child Friendly Cities in Albania
Funding has been set at: \$34,242 USD
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