specialised solving. The interpretation of the High Court of Cassation and Justice, that Article 4 of the law only applies to decisions issued after the enforcing of Law No. 554/2004 is seen as a limitation of previous existing rights.

A systematic presentation of issues and problems concerning the administrative law, as well as a sharp analyse of the concordance of administrative laws with the goal of administrative activity and fundamental citizens’ rights, the book does not resume at students needs but presents opinions useful for those legisrating or enforcing the law.

Paul Popovici


The publication at Argonaut Publishing House, in Cluj-Napoca, 2010, of the volume entitled *Children’s Rights. A Theoretical and Applicative Outlook* by Ioana Boldiş is an important editorial event in the specialized literature in our country. The concern with children’s rights has scarcely been represented in books, being a theme mostly approached from the viewpoint of the national legislation or meant only for a limited number of experts.

In the very structuring of this book there took part experts in social assistance, law and psychology, four co-authors being mentioned (Mihaela Bâlaj, Adrian Boldiş, Anca Rusu and Andreea Ulici). Their contribution is to be found in chapters five, nine and ten.

The volume opens new outlooks concerning the understanding of children’s rights, trying to draw attention not only upon the theoretical content, but also on the way in which these rights act in everyday life. We may find in it most of the basic concepts of children’s rights, doubled by recent specialized studies, the book being therefore accessible to experts belonging to more than one professional field.

Along 314 pages, the volume is structured in ten chapters, followed by bibliography. The content and quality of the book are accompanied by a clear, rigorous style, bringing together theoretical concepts and practical aspects, thus, building up a bird’s view image upon children’s rights.
The approached theme might be a challenge for all those interested in this field, a starting point that arises questions, debates, a deep investigation of some theses and, why not, the minute research of some practices (which haven’t been investigated very much lately) regarding children’s rights in our country.

The first two chapters deal with key-aspects of the Convention on the rights of the child, its history, conceptual assertions (child’s superior interest, capacities in development, etc.) as well as aspects of the law that make possible the understanding of the way legislative tools work both at a national and international level.

The third chapter approaches the right to life, bringing to light recent debate theses, such as abortion, cloning and the reproductive biotechnology.

The next chapter tries to deal with extremely vulnerable children in a most careful way. We cannot talk about a single right here, but of a number of rights interfering with each other, as for instance the right to health, protection against exploitation or violence. Whether we talk about exploitation through work, sexual exploitation, children involved in armed conflicts or exposed to media violence, it is absolutely necessary that the informational control of the people concerning these aspects should increase, also including books like this one, works that draw attention upon the gravity of this situation compared with the shy measures which have been taken to improve it.

Chapters five and six deal with the right to education, non-discrimination, spare time, but mostly with all these rights brought under the umbrella concept: „children participation”. How much should we empower children with their own lives, how much can we allow them to make their own choices, to what an extent are they able to make themselves heard? Although the paper does not give ultimate answers to these questions, the existence of some pro-and-con viewpoints make such partial answers easier for those interested in them.

The displaying of some new tendencies in education (E-learning, Internet platforms, etc.) only shows how rapidly the approach should adapt and re-configure itself, as well as the application of rights in practice.

Chapter seven presents the child as part of the family. The evolution of familial patterns, new approaches of parenthood, the importance of measures of child’s protection are only some of the discussed subjects.

The next chapter deals with juvenile delinquency, describing the major theses in specialized literature regarding the factors which release and favour the phenomenon, referring again to some recent themes, such as offence in school and informatic offences committed by the under-aged.

The one but last chapter is focused upon psychological aspects regarding
children’s rights, mostly upon the understanding by the children themselves of their own rights. Very interesting seem the data regarding the increase of the degree of understanding, at the same time with cognitive development, a fact that might help those programmes which deal with information about children of various ages.

The final chapter does not conclude the work, on the contrary, it adds the last piece to this complex puzzle summarizing the main legislative tools, both national and international ones, so that they may help those interested to access the existent legislative sources.

The work is well structured, in chapters which show both the positive aspects and the traps of the approached theme, bringing together strong arguments of several research domains, without overpassing the area of neutrality and objective manner of discussion.

The book is a useful tool not only for experts but also for all those whose activity meets child’s rights, its usefulness being the rigorous theoretical grounding and a wide frame for presenting data of connected domains (social assistance, law, education, psychology, etc.). A synthetic opinion is given by Marioara Petcu, Ph.D. on the fourth cover of the volume: „By the quality and novelty of specialized information, by its constant reference to recent achievements in the domain, the book opens the way towards a deeper study of child rights both for experts and those who want to enlarge their horizon and knowledge in this direction.”

Emil POP