**Paper proposal for the 3rd ISCI conference – York 27-29 July 2011**

Title:

**Poverty and inequality among children in economically advanced countries: the Innocenti Report Card series**

**Leonardo Menchini,** UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre

Email: lmenchini@unicef.org

The paper presents the main results of the *Innocenti Report Card 9* on inequality in child well-being as well as the approach and the preliminary results of the research on multidimensional poverty among children in rich countries.

The *Innocenti Report Card 9* (released in December 2010 with the title “The Children Left Behind”) proposes a methodology to measure inequality in child well-being and compare its levels across countries. The Report focuses on the gap between the children in the middle and those at the bottom of the distribution in nine well-being indicators, grouped in the 3 dimensions of material well-being, health and education. The situation of the child in the middle (i.e. the median of the distribution) may be considered as the ‘normal living standard’ for the children in the individual society: falling too far from that standard implies for a child the risk of exclusion from the living conditions prevalent in her/his country. The comparison across countries of the very different performances in limiting bottom-end inequality allows the report to argue that falling behind the national standards is manifestly not inevitable and that there is a clear policy space to protect children from the risk of exclusion.

In the second part of the presentation, the approach and the preliminary results of a research on multidimensional poverty in rich countries will be discussed. Recent data on child income poverty will be presented and discussed along with data on material deprivation. A key aim of the paper is to discuss the relevance of income poverty data in understanding the living conditions of children. Possibly the research will make use of the new data on child material deprivation collected in the 2009 round of EU-SILC.