



HFC
"Hope
For
Children"



ANNUAL REPORT

2019



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MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR- GENERAL

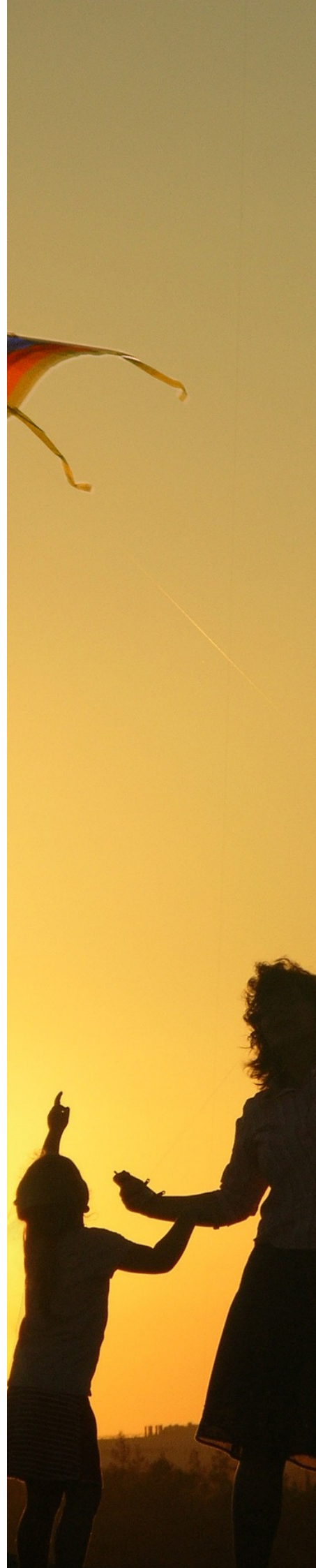
Dear Friends and Supporters,


In 2019, we celebrated the 30th birthday of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. It is a privilege for us to recognize the CRC as the main power source to set our goals and to achieve them.

“Hope For Children” CRC Policy Center is always on the front line when it comes to protect, support and promote children’s rights. We strongly believe that every child has the right to a full and productive life, thus, it is our duty, as a society, to create a safe and enjoyable environment for each one of them.

2019 has been a challenging year for us. First, we undertook the management and operation of two new shelters for unaccompanied children to intensify the hosting capacity of children’s shelter “Home For Hope”. This new challenge in which we decided to launch ourselves gave us the opportunity to expand the provision of multi-disciplinary services through a holistic approach to even more unaccompanied children in Cyprus who are under the legal guardianship of the Social Welfare Services and the care of “Hope For Children” CRC Policy Center.

At local level, our organization expanded its services and trained teachers, educators, social workers, parents, guardians, volunteers, police officers and children with the aim to increase their knowledge and develop their skills. Significant and crucial steps ahead have been made in terms of protection from sexual abuse and exploitation of children through the Children’s House commitment, in line with the Icelandic Barnahus model as well as through every professional, public authority and institution collaborating with us with passion and





During 2019, “Hope For Children” CRC Policy Center also strengthened its connections with international partners, collaborating and coordinating many different projects related to children’s rights and their needs, always taking into account the best interest of the child.

As a part of our actions on youth participation, the final conference for Transnational Youth Forum has been held in October 2019. It has been a great opportunity for young people and professionals from all around Europe and the world to debate on the matter of the integration challenges faced by Children on the Move in the education systems. The different points of view helped the participants to find new initiatives in order to contribute to the social inclusion of migrant children.

For this, and for other reasons more, I would like to thank all actors who played a crucial role this year. Teamwork and togetherness always led to the most significant achievements.

Last but not least, I would like to thank the government, national and international institutions and everyone who offered a significant contribution to the success of our initiatives. We are grateful for your support!

We still have a lot to do, so let’s continue the journey together and let’s make 2020’s achievements even greater. We owe it to all children, who are our most valuable resource and our future!

***Nicosia,
Joseph Borghese
Director-General***



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WHO WE ARE

The **“Hope For Children” CRC Policy Center** is an International Humanitarian and Independent Institution based in Nicosia, Cyprus. It was established on standards and principles of the **UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and European Union Law**, and through research , grassroots program design and implementation and advisory services offered to governments and international organizations it defends and promotes children’ s rights. “Hope For Children” CRC Policy Center also cooperate with national, regional and international advocacy institutions in order to improve child welfare systems of behalf of children dependent upon them for protection and care.

The Organization aims to bring together judges, lawyers, psychologists, medical practitioners, mediators, counsellors, mental health workers, media representatives, child carers, teachers and allied professionals to contribute with their expertise in a practical manner through education, legal advice, and other advocacy actions to promote and protect the interests of the most vulnerable, children and the youth.



OUR VISION AND OUR MISSION

The vision of “Hope For Children” CRC Policy Center is to contribute to the promotion of the rights of the child and to support the active participation of youth in society. Its activities and programs are open to all children, regardless of religious, cultural, and other background.

HFC operates also to improve the quality of life of socially disadvantaged children, such as refugees, and children affected by violence and exploitation, through education and social mobilization.

HFC's mission is to raise awareness and respect towards all cultures, following the principles and standards of the UN Convention of the Right of the Child and the European Law. The Organization facilitates also partnerships with local, national, international or European Organizations and Institutions to develop policy relevant to protect and promote children's rights.

In order to achieve its goals, the Organisation develops different projects, activities, campaigns, workshops all based on internal researches.



OUR OBJECTIVES

- **Improve the quality of life** of disadvantage children in Cyprus
- **Empower children and young people** in Cyprus to make them aware and engaged in promoting their rights
- **Educate and raise awareness** regarding the suffering of disadvantaged children in Cyprus
- To enhance the reception of children from conflict areas in Cyprus
- **Sensitize the public and enhance social responsibilities** in Cypriot society through information dissemination and social activities
- To **cooperate and network** with other humanitarian institutions and agencies to defend and promote children's rights
- **To encourage volunteerism** within the Cypriot community, particularly among youth, on issues concerning children
- **To support** the development of **new initiatives** that seek to protect and promote the rights of disadvantaged children
- **To carry out research** concerning children's rights in Cyprus and internationally
- **To provide policy advice and recommendations** at local, regional, and international level
- **To provide reports** to relevant government departments to assist in policy development
- **To organize fundraising event** that contribute to the improvement of children's lives in Cyprus



HOW WE WORK

Advocacy and Policy

HFC advises on **lobbying strategies and tactics**, and carries out advocacy efforts in collaboration with governments, NGOs, international and intergovernmental institutions, and private sector to ensure that the rights of children have a prominent position in their policy agendas.

Humanitarian Affairs

HFC deals extensively with **humanitarian affairs** in the form of psychosocial and legal support to children in need, including victims of abuse, unaccompanied and separated children.

Consultancy and Project Management

The Institution offers expert **advice on proposal writing, implementation, and evaluation of projects**. HFC has wide range of partner Institutions and networks, through which it seeks to enhance funding opportunities that allow the implementation of sustainable projects from which the Cypriot community benefits.

Research and Publications

HFC conducts a broad range of **research of national and international interest**, which is often related to its implemented projects and campaigns. Additionally, HFC compiles recommendations and commentaries of governmental and intergovernmental bodies.



Corporate Partners

HFC works closely with corporations to strengthen the capacity of the corporate sector in responding to children's rights issues and to improve corporations' practices for **promoting the welfare of children around the world.**

Chair Establishment

The Chairs of "Hope of Children" CRC Policy Center nurture **cooperation and collaborative action** between Institutions around the world. In all of its activities, the Chairs act as agents of knowledge on children's rights in policy and practice within the academic community by teaching, conducting research, and providing services to the community.

Programme and Services

The Institution implements a **variety of programmes and campaigns**, covering a wide range of topics relating to children's rights, including: child sexual abuse, bullying, child poverty, missing children, and non-formal human rights education. HFC provides **social, legal, and psychological support** to children and their families on such matters.

Mainstreaming

In all its work HFC **operates under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)**, signed by the majority of the UN Member States in 1990. Consequently, primary goal is to promote the rights of the children. Our institution follows a strict child protection policy, to which all staff members and collaborators abide. HFC does not discriminate on any basis, be it gender, nationality, religion or sexual orientation. In harmony with this principle, we give great importance to a multicultural work environment. HFC employs individuals and welcomes volunteers from all over the world. In all its activities, **HFC fosters a culture of equality, respect and diversity.**



PARTNERSHIPS IN INTERNATIONAL NETWORKS

Hope For Children works closely with a **number of national and European organizations and networks**

- Cooperating partner of the **Council of Europe** for the ONE in FIVE Campaign
- Coordinator for the **Observatory for the Return of Unaccompanied Children**
- **National focal point for the Separated Children** in Europe Programme
- Focal point for the **European Network of Guardian Institutions**
- National Focal Point for the **European Juvenile Justice Observatory**
- Member of the **European Federation for Missing Children Europe**
- Member of the **European Network of Child Friendly Cities**
- Member of the **Destination Unknown Campaign**
- Participant in the **Fundamental Rights Platform of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)**
- Official observer in the **Lanzarote Committee of the Council of Europe**
- Participatory status at the **CoE's Conference of INGOs**



HOPE FOR CHILDREN TEAM

JOSPEH BORGHESE

Director General

HUMANITARIAN DIVISION

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Director of the Humanitarian Division

MS. ANDRIA AGASTINIOTOU

Deputy Director of the Humanitarian
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Care Suport Officer

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Child development officer

MS. VASILIKI PLAINOU

Child Development Officer

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MR. STELIOS STYLIANOU

Liasion Officer



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Coordinator Child Protection
Department

MS. KRISTINA MARKU

Coordinator Child Protection
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MR. ANDREAS MAZERIS

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Clinical Psychologist

MS. MARIAN ANGELIDOU

School Psychologist

MS. MARIA IACOVOU

Coordinator of Psychology Department

MS. CATHERINE DE GEYNST

Former Clinical Psychologist

MS. FAUSTINE COLPIN LAFUMA

Former Care Support Officer



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MS. SOTIROULA PANTELI

Coordinator of Social Department

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MS. RAFAELLA FOTI

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Clinical Psychologist

MS. IRINI GEORGIOU

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Clinical Psychologist



Shelter 1 (boys)

MS. EVI NEOCLEOUS

Coordinator of Children Shelter

MS. MARIA KYPRIANOU

Psychologist

MS. FEDRA BORAEI

Support Officer

MS. FYTOYLA PANAGIOTOU

Support Officer

MS. SOYZANA CHARALAMBOUS

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MS. SHAHD ALQAROUT

Support Officer and Cultural Mediator

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MR. STEFANOS LIVERAS

Support Officer

MR. STEFANOS PAPANASTASIOU

Support Officer

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MS. MARIA GEORGIU

Support Officer

MS. NATASA ANFITOU

Support Officer

MS. ANDRIA YAGNISHI

Support Officer

MS. ATHINA HADJANTONI

Support Officer

MS. ELENI PAPASYMEOU

Support Officer

MS. NEOFYTA CHRISTOU

Support Officer



Shelter 3 (boys)

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Coordinator of Children Shelter

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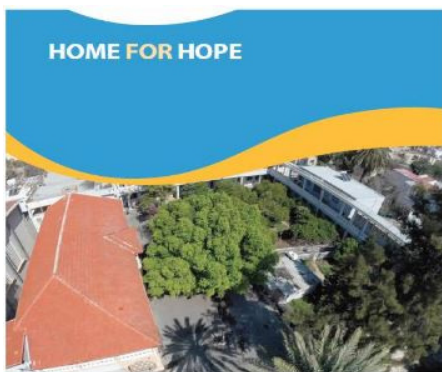
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OUR PROGRAMMES





CHILDREN'S SHELTER: "HOMES FOR HOPE"



Children's Shelters "Homes for Hope"

In July 2014, with the approval and collaboration of the Cyprus Social Welfare Services, "Hope for Children" opened the first private Children's Shelter in Cyprus for unaccompanied children, "Home for Hope".

The program "Homes For Hope" has specific objectives as provide to an effective protection and safety of minors, offer specialized legal services, supply ongoing psychosocial support and counselling.

Also, it works on establishing mechanisms of durable solutions for family tracing, assessment and reunification and on providing strategies for a smooth integration and reception into the host country and reintegration into the country of origin or a third country. "Homes For Hope" receives funding and operates in close cooperation with the Cyprus Social Welfare Services.

The project presents a division in three macro areas which represent the mechanism of the shelters: Rehabilitation Services, Integration Services and Durable Solution Services. They are co-funded by the Asylum, Migration and Integration of the European Fund Unit (90%) and the Republic of Cyprus (10%).

The Director of Social Welfare Services is the referral of the children into the shelters and, according to the National Law, is also the legal guardian of unaccompanied children in Cyprus.

In 2019 HFC started to manage **other two shelter (one for girls and one for boys)** previously under the Government control.

Shelters statistics overview 2019:

- 319 minors hosted (of which 21% are girls)
- In December 123 minors were hosted (of which 33% are girls)
- 86 minors have departed in 2019 (of which 38% are girls)
- 12 departed for EU Dublin procedures (of which 25% are girls)
- 6 foster care 47 naturalizations into Adulthood (of which 17% are girls)



CHILDREN'S HOUSE

Children's House is a **child-friendly, multidisciplinary and interagency reality** based on the **Barnahus Icelandic model** (House of Children) and on European good practices. Its aim is to provide services and support for children sexually abused and to prevent re-traumatization during investigation and court proceedings. Children's House represents a child-friendly and safe environment for abused children.

Among the services provided there are:

- Multidisciplinary/interagency management
- Forensic interview
- Medical examination
- Psychological evaluation
- Psychological therapy and parental counselling
- Social support and rehabilitation

Furthermore, Children's House works to **raise awareness on sexual abuse against children** with key stakeholders and promotes cooperation, through a one-stop-shop approach, between authorities and agencies such as Cyprus Police, Social Welfare Services, Mental Health Services and Medical Services.

The Children's House is funded and supervised by the Social Welfare Services of the Ministry of Labour, Welfare and Social Insurance.

During the 2019 House for Children achieved:

- 66 forensic interviews,
- 98 completed psychological evaluations,
- 41 completed therapies,
- 155 children cooperated with social workers,
- 71 multidisciplinary meetings.



FOSTER CARE

The “Foster Care” programme **started in 2016 as a pilot programme**, co-funded by the Asylum, Migration and Integration of the European Fund Unit (90%) and the Republic of Cyprus (10%) for unaccompanied minors, asylum seekers and beneficiaries of international protection. Today it represents an ongoing step towards the effective care and protection of unaccompanied minors.

The aim of Foster Care programmes is to **recruit, train and choose potential foster care parents for unaccompanied children**. With these programmes, foster care department professionals (registered psychologist and social workers) identify, evaluate, monitor and offer their support to candidate foster parents.

Foster Care department also delivers trainings to future foster parents with the specific aim to boost parental skills and address their behaviour. The programme is implemented with the **collaboration of the Social Welfare Service**, which is the legal guardian of unaccompanied children and, for this, the responsible for placing them in approved foster families.

During 2019:

- 138 families were assessed in order to be foster families;
- Providing support to more than 100 foster families;
- Participation on 16 committees for the approval or non-approval of foster families in cooperation with Social Welfare Services;



Foster care training with foster parents in 2019.



CRC CAMPUS CLUB

The purpose of CRC Campus Club is to educate children on their rights as established in the **Convention on the Rights of the Child** and highlight current issues young people might face in which these rights are violated. Under the supervision of professionals from “Hope for Children” CRC Policy Center and a coordinating teacher from the corresponding school, students attending secondary education level meet to explore various issues, such as cyber bullying, abuse and gender-based violence, understanding the violation of their rights and what they can do to exercise their rights as young people and stop these violations.

During the first part of the programme, weekly Club meetings are held in the schools by the “Hope for Children” trainers, who **teach the students through non-formal education techniques about their rights listed in the Convention on the Rights of the Child and how the selected issues violate these rights and the effects they have on children**. Subsequently, students learn how to identify when their rights are being abused and how to effectively respond and report these incidences. Importantly, they also learn about the resources available for children in regard to the various issues. After the completion of their training, a formal ceremony is held. In this, **students receive certificates, establishing them as Student Ambassadors of the CRC Campus Club**. During the second half of the school year, students exercise their ambassadorial skills. With the assistance of the Club supervisors, students create, organize, and host various events – such as workshops and awareness-raising campaigns – to educate their peers regarding the rights and issues they have studied. The Young Ambassadors also have the opportunity of assisting “Hope for Children” Policy Center at its various events such as at the annual National Forum on the Rights of the Child, organized by “Hope For Children” CRC Policy Center in an official capacity. Through participation in the CRC Campus Club, students strengthen their leadership, communication, organization, critical thinking and observation skills, as well as professionalism.

In 2019, 45 children completed the program and became Children’s Rights Ambassadors and four new groups of CRC clubs have started running.



Second generation of CRC Campus Club students of the English School for becoming official ambassadors of HFC.



BEAT BULLYING PROGRAMME 2019

The Programme aims at **raising public awareness in the educational community through the development of methodologies** in identification, prevention and handling of bullying incidents. Oriented to this, HFC delivers seminars to parents and trainings in schools for the establishment of **peer-to-peer support and education groups** with the cooperation of the Ministry of Education and Culture and the Observatory for School Violence. Moreover, HFC has developed the mobile application “HFCBeatBullying”, which can be used in 23 EU countries, as a tool to prevent and tackle bullying. It contains practical advices but also direct access to the European Helpline for Children and Adolescents: 116111.

In 2019, “Hope For Children” CRC Policy Center completed its collaboration for the second year in a row with Hellenic Bank to raise awareness within the local community towards dealing with violence and bullying in schools. The “Peer Support Groups” program, that was completed in May 2019, has been expanded in more schools due to the sponsorship received from Hellenic Bank.

The need to educate and provide children with necessary knowledge and life skills for dealing with various difficulties emerges from the ever-growing incidence of school bullying, evident from school reports, parents, and the news. The **empowerment of children to fight school bullying** strengthens school community. At the same time, a holistic approach of the phenomenon of school bullying is encouraged through the cooperation of stakeholders, teachers and the family.



Through “Peer Support Groups”, more adolescents had the opportunity to be trained by professionals in order to work as anti-bullying ambassadors and as peer supporters in schools. This idea is based on the philosophy that some messages are better transferred to children by other children or youth.



The main aim of the program is to provide students not only with knowledge about bullying, but mostly with life skills, which are useful in the long run for problem solving and dealing with various difficulties, apart from bullying. Also, through the experience it is expected that children will increase their ability to assert their basic rights for their protection from any kind of violence and abuse, for maintaining a good level of life and for participating in decision making.

The educational sessions lasted 12 weeks and consisted of experiential activities that focused on four basic cores of skills:

- **1. Cooperation,**
- **2. Identification of the peer supporter quality characteristics,**
- **3. Communication and Active Listening,**
- **4. Problem solving.**

The program was implemented with the approval of the Ministry of Education and Culture and it is assessed by the students through questionnaires handed before and after the training.



Staff member of Hope For Children implementing activities of Beat Bullying Programme during 2019.



116000 EUROPEAN MISSING CHILDREN HOTLINE AND CYPRUS MEDIATION SERVICE



Hotline 116 000 is the **European Emergency Hotline for missing children**. The hotline operates in 31 European countries and is backed by trained professionals (such as Social Workers, Sociologists, Lawyers and Psychologists), who support and help the families, the victims as well as the Police. Couples in conflict will be able to use the cross-border family mediation service as a preventive or an intervention tool to settle their in-between conflicts, whether their residence is in Cyprus or in any other European country.

In Cyprus, the line is operated by the consortium "Hope For Children" CRC Policy Center and the Association for the Prevention and Handling of Violence in the Family, in cooperation with the Ministry of Justice and Public Order with whom the Consortium has signed a Protocol.

EUROPEAN HOTLINE FOR CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS 116111

The **European helpline for children's and teenager's support 116 111 is for children and teenagers until 18 years of age**. The helpline 116 111 is free of charge and provides the opportunity to talk anonymously, since it runs under the principles of privacy and confidentiality.

The service 116 111 operates under the consortium of Non-Governmental Organizations, Association for the Prevention and Handling of Violence in the Family (SPAVO) and "Hope For Children" CRC Policy Center (HFC).



CHILD ABDUCTION ALERT MECHANISM



The major objective of the project is **to achieve the immediate response to child abduction in Cyprus and alert the public** in such cases and where the life of a child is at risk. By implementing these objectives, the project contributes to meeting the European Commission's goal of having such a system established in all 27 EU countries.

The project has been built on the already existing **efforts to address and combat the phenomenon of missing children in Cyprus**; specifically, the efforts of the responsible governmental and non-governmental bodies to strengthen their services on dealing with cases of missing children, such as the establishment in 2012 of the European Hotline for Missing Children in Cyprus by the "Hope For Children" UNCRC Policy Center together with the Association for the Prevention and Handling of Violence in the Family (SPAVO).

The Child Abduction Alert System in Cyprus was launched and started operations by utilizing the existing experience and knowledge in EU countries operating the Child Alert. A specialized training addressed to the operators was provided by an expert from EU. Public awareness was raised about the system by organizing conferences, campaigns, publishing press releases, and developing technological communication tools.

An **Internal Operational Manual** was produced, in order to set up the procedures for the activation and deactivation of the system, the ethical considerations, and the procedures for communication with stakeholders that should be followed by the operators. A second manual, the Communication Tool was designed and produced specifically to guide the stakeholders involved. Thus, now the existing child alert system constitutes the direct, timely and detailed notification to the public in relation with the disappearance and abduction of a minor. Public and private authorities/bodies join forces in order to help the efforts of the Police and the European Hotline for Missing Children to trace the child and safely return him/her to his/her family.

This project sets the conditions for the use of the Child Abduction Alert in Cyprus which is highly contributing to the timely response of all stakeholders towards the tracing of the missing minors. Therefore, launching and establishing the Child Abduction Alert in Cyprus enabled all relevant stakeholders to cooperate and work under a unified system to enhance the efforts of the police to address the problem of missing children.



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OUR CAMPAIGN



CHOOSE HOPE 2019



For the 29th **United Nations “Universal Children’s Day”**, celebrated on the 20th of November 2019, “Hope for Children” CRC Policy Center run the “Choose Hope” Campaign (from 20th November until 31st December) highlighting its engagement in the protection of children’s rights.

Christmas Concert on 14th of December for the campaign “Choose Hope”.

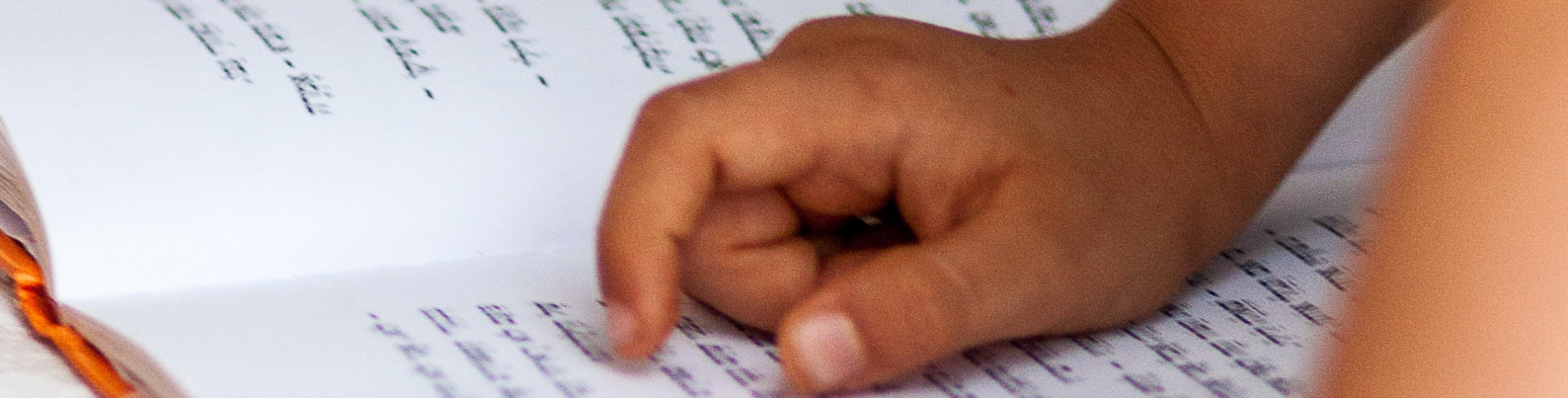




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OUR PROJECTS

PROJECTS COORDINATED
BY HFC



INTEGRA

MULTIDISCIPLINARY MENTORSHIP PROGRAM TO SUPPORT THE ENTREPRENEURSHIP OF CHILDREN IN CARE AND YOUNG CARE LEAVERS.

Hope for Children CRC Policy Center coordinates **INTEGRA project** (ref. **REC-AG-2017/REC-RCHI-PROF-AG-2017-785703**) with partners in Cyprus, Greece, Italy, Spain and Portugal. It aims to address the need to **equip residential care professionals to successfully support the social and professional integration of minors leaving care-systems**. This is achieved by developing tools that act in two strategies: to build the capacity of such professionals as Leaving Care Mentors and to support sustainable multi-agent collaboration.



In 2019 were made 3 partner meeting (Athens, Coimbra, Palermo) to discuss and elaborate the development of the tools. Also, in April a multi-agency meeting has been organized, in order to discuss the online Platform for Cooperation as a mechanism to support integration and sustainable cooperation.

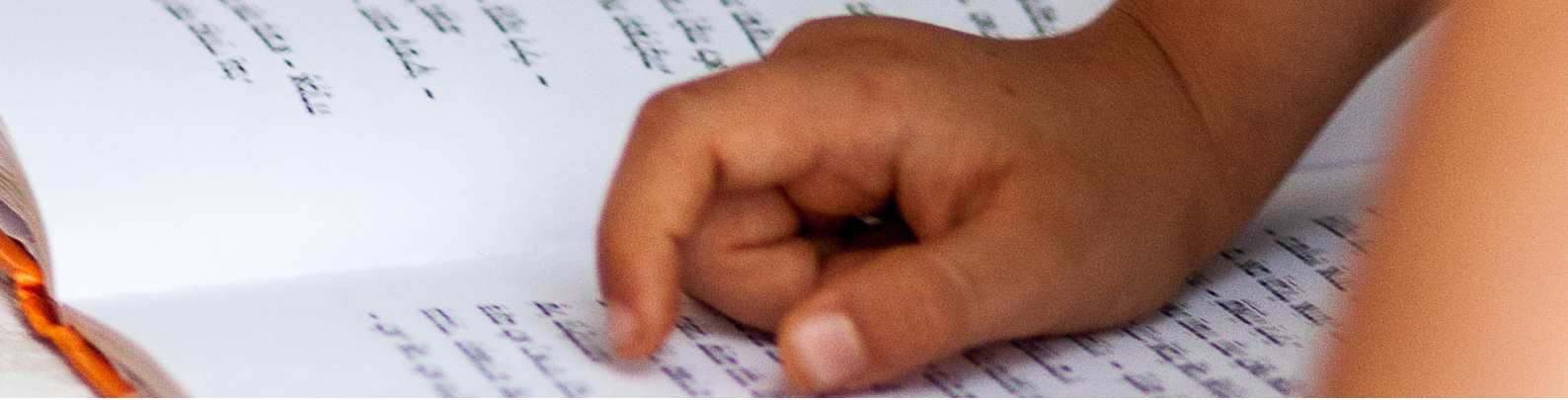
The main products of INTEGRA project are:

- The **Mentoring Integration Programme (MIP)** useful to train and enhance the capacity of residential care professionals as Leaving Care Mentors (LCM) to support the resilience, entrepreneurial drive and forward goal projection skills of children in care;
- The **Platform for Cooperation (P4C)** offers training, apprenticeships and job opportunities as well as other services. This platform responds to the need of the care professionals and mentors to guide and connect children in care with post-care stakeholders (employers, trainers, educators, legal counsellors, advisors etc) on their path to self-determination and community participation.

Caregivers and Legal Guardians of minors in residential care are trained to cultivate trust and work with the minors on a tailored plan of resilience and goal projection. On December they were trained on the Mentoring & Integration Program to know how support the independent life of children ageing out of care using the MIP and the P4C.



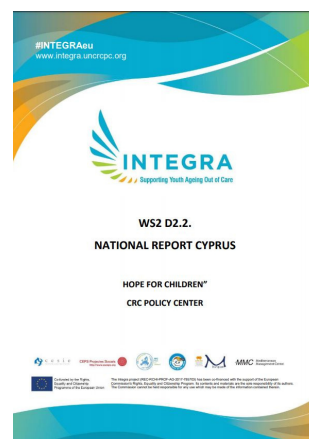
Partners meeting in Athens



On the 23rd of October 2019 **Hope for Children CRC Policy Center signed protocols** with stakeholders to collaborate to facilitate the autonomous living of young people ageing out of care system. The entities who signed the protocols are: **CARDET, Junior Achievement Cyprus, Center For Social Innovation, IOM, EDITC, KOA, KOKEN, Leroy Merlin, NGO Support Centre, SEAL, Sistema Cyprus, Home for cooperation, Visual Voices**

Studies made to develop the INTEGRA project are gather in the:

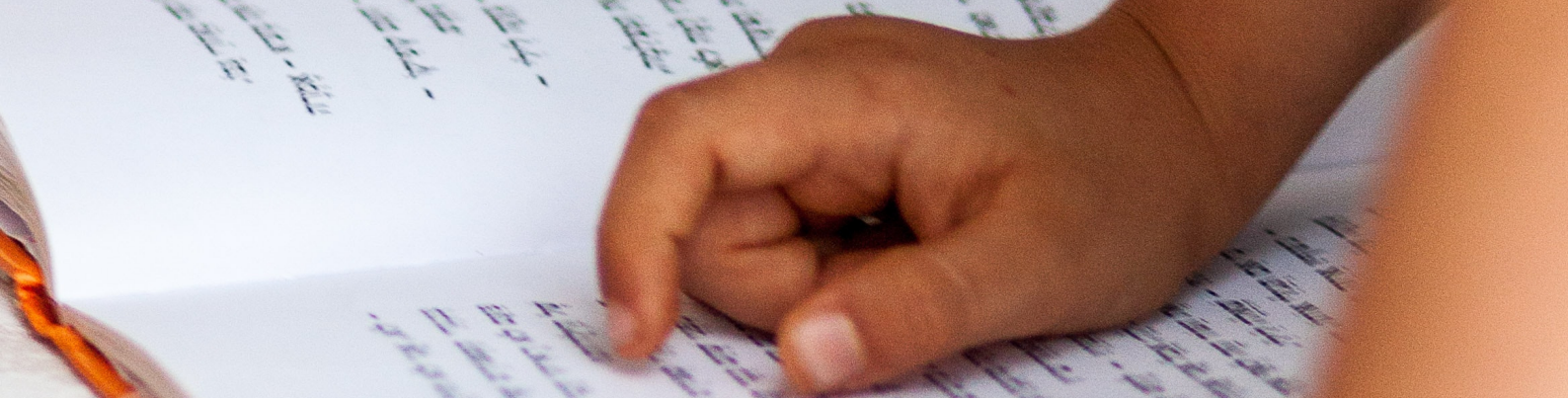
- **National Report on ageing out of care, Cyprus.** The report's aim was twofold: To identify and assess needs of children in care and care leavers before, during the process of ageing out of care To identify and assess needs of residential care professionals connected to the ageing-out support system.



- **White Paper "Ageing out of care into autonomous living".** Proposes tailored solutions to challenges, trends and needs that undermine a successful transition into adulthood.

PARTNERS: MMC Learning Solution (Cyprus); CESIE (Italy); The Smile of the Child (Greece); APCdP (Portugal); CEPS (Spain).

More details are available on the website: integra.uncrcpc.org/



TRANSNATIONAL YOUTH FORUM

TRANSNATIONAL YOUTH FORUM ON THE RIGHT TO EDUCATION: BUILDING A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR THE CHILDREN ON THE MOVE



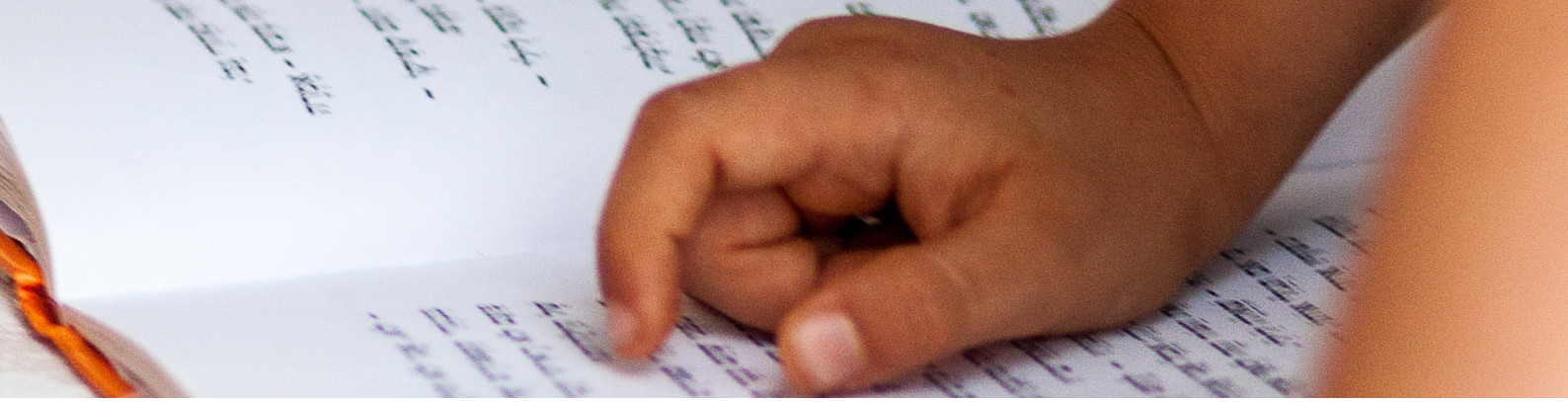
The project Transnational Youth Forum on the **Right to Education: Building a brighter future for the Children on the Move (TYF)** aimed at providing a platform of discussion on ways to build a brighter future for the Children on the Move and reinforce the protection and respect to their fundamental right to education.

Guided by “Hope For Children” CRC Policy Center, universities and organisation in Italy, France and Portugal discussed with key stakeholders in order to **explore the existing gaps and problems in the systems on both national and transnational level**. The goal has been to find out long term solutions to prevent early abandonment of schools, absenteeism and losing of motivation to pursue further studies/higher education.

Led by “Hope For Children” CRC Policy Center, the Forum held in October 2019 has provided a unique opportunity for international youth and academics to jointly debate a pressing topic – the integration challenges faced by Children on the Move in the education systems. Young people across Europe were empowered to conduct research and consult key policy-makers coming together at the Transnational Youth Forum to present their findings on initiatives that contribute to social inclusion of migrant children and engage in dialogue with stakeholders to on the ways forward to collaboratively build a brighter future for Children on the Move.



Transnational Youth Forum 2019, held in October



HIT

HATE INTERRUPTER TEAMS



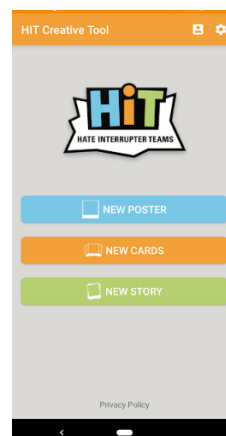
HIT: Hate Interrupter Teams – Youth counteracting hate speech and minorities through participatory and creative campaigning (ref. 807861-REC-AG-2017/REC-RRAC-RACI-AG-2017).

The HIT project is a European project that brings together nine European partners from Cyprus, United Kingdom, Italy, Spain, Greece, Bulgaria, Germany, with the aim to provide youths knowledge and tools to identify and report.

The objective of this project is to contribute to a better understanding of the incidence of hate speech against migrants and other groups, among children and young people, while raising awareness about this issue and promoting its prevention. To achieve this goal, HIT project offers a new model of empowerment of young Europeans through the creation of "Hate interrupter Teams" (HiTs), made up by teenagers from 14 to 19 years old, supported by young mentors and young workers, who teach them how to counteract hate speech and behaviour.

One of the tools used in this project is the **HIT application**, helpful for professionals working with young people in educational contexts to raise awareness on Hate Speech & Behaviour and its negative impact, and to empower young people to counteract the phenomenon through creative tools.

With this App it is possible to create posters, card games, stories using generic or thematic backgrounds, stickers, bubbles, emojis, hashtags, photos from camera or gallery etc. and then share these on all social networks.



During 2019, two **HIT Summer Schools** were implemented, one in Nicosia and one in Larnaca. These 5-day journeys gave to teenagers the possibility to share, create and learn about how to counteract hate speech through creative means.



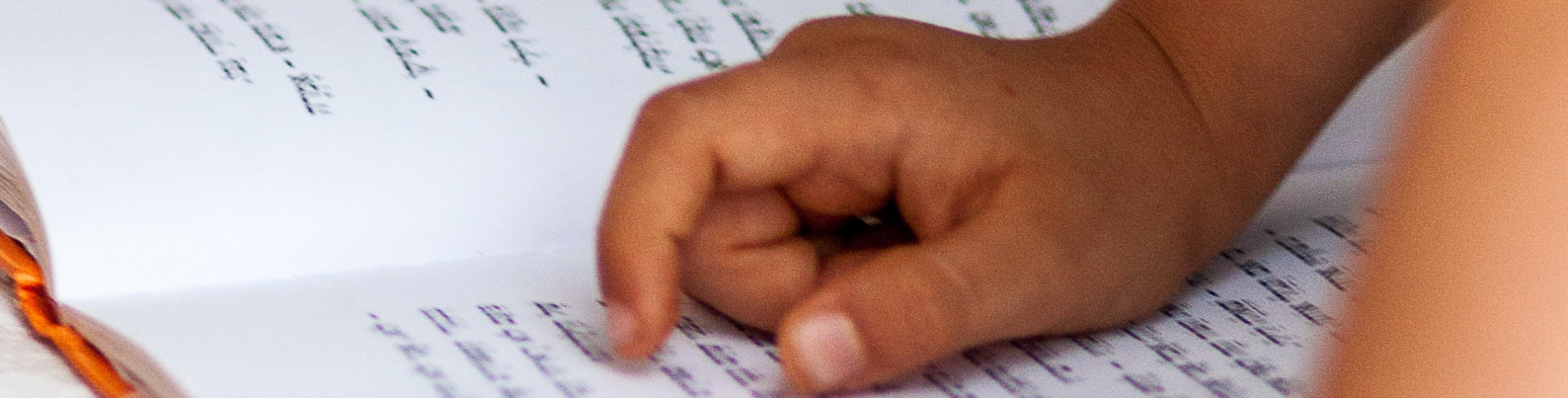
Within the HIT project, on the 4th of November a **seminar with Stakeholder** on “Human Rights and Hate Speech & Behaviour Against Migrants” has been organized.



From the 2nd to the 6th of December Hope for Children participated to “**Hate Interrupter team collaborative workshops**” to get ready for campaigning to counteract hate speech; Scripting for audio-visual; the power of radio as an awareness raising medium; the power of tv as an awareness raising medium; the power of social media as an awareness raising medium.

PARTNERS: Rinova (United Kingdom); Frederick University (Cyprus); The Smile of the Child (Greece); CEPS (Spain); Gender Alternatives Foundation (Bulgaria); Mulab (Italy); Collage Arts (United Kingdom); MetropolisNet (Germany).

More details are available on the website: hitproject.eu



BASE

MIGRANT AND REFUGEE CHILD-FRIENDLY SUPPORT SERVICES IN CASES OF SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE.



Migrant and refugee child-friendly support
services in cases of sexual and GBV

BASE Project (ref. REC-AG-2017/REC-RDAP-GBV-AG-2017/809952) addresses the need to counteract GBV against refugee and migrant girls through the development and sustainability of strategies to nurture inclusive communication and a culture of trust between support service professionals (social workers; health professionals; NGO support officers; psychologists; school staff; law enforcement) victims, families and communities, thus preventing victim re-traumatization and encouraging reporting of GBV.

BASE benefits migrant and refugee girls victims of GBV by improving their experience of support services and procedures, through an inclusive and inter-sector approach targeting migrant/refugee women, support service professionals, and stakeholders. The expected results are summarized in key achievements:

Inclusion:

A) Promote Migrant/refugee girls' voice in the centre of procedures through the transfer of knowledge on the victim's cultural background; B) Inclusion of migrant communities in needs assessment so as to enrich existing practices with intercultural approaches; C) Enhancing communication between migrant communities, authorities, and service providers, increasing resilience;

Expertise:

A) Migrant and refugee women capacitated as cultural advisors, better informed about GBV, judicial procedures, and better equipped to support communication between support service professionals and girls victims of GBV; B) Support service professionals and stakeholders better equipped to communicate with girls victim of GBV. The training events contribute to the enrichment of professional's knowledge and expertise in the field of addressing cultural diversity and understand the impact of cultural specificities in the prevention and the handling of cases of sexual and gender-based violence;

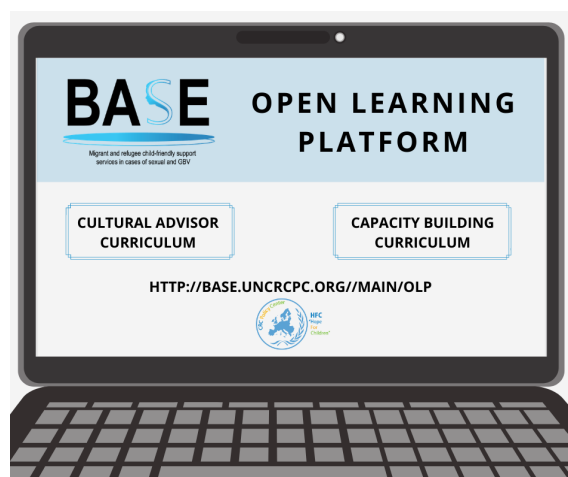
Cooperation:

Improved common inter-sector and multidisciplinary approaches and practices in relation to GBV against migrant and refugee girls through the focus groups, which will gather agencies, authorities and support services handling cases of sexual and GBV;

Empowerment:

A) Improvement of migrant and refugee girls experience during support, disclosure, reporting, investigation procedures in cases of GBV facilitated by the role of the cultural advisors; B) Engagement of migrant/refugee women, and communities, in the counteraction of GBV through an improved understanding of the phenomenon, and of mechanisms to raise-awareness and counteract it.

Hope for Children CRC
Policy Center participating at the
Transnational Cooperation Meeting in
Coimbra, Portugal, within the framework
of the EU Project BASE.



On the **Base Open Learning Platform** you will find a good range of exercises designed to accompany the face to face learning activities included in the cultural advisor curriculum and the capacity building programme. You can find the two full curriculums in the base tools section of the website.

The project partnership developed exercises which the learners can carry out online and self-directed. The online exercises are available in English, Greek, Bulgarian, German, Italian, Slovenian and Portuguese.

PARTNERS:

abif (Germany);
APCdP (Portugal);
CESIE (Italy);
Gender Alternatives Foundation (Bulgaria);
KMOP (Greece);
Rinova (United Kingdom);
ZRS (Slovenia).

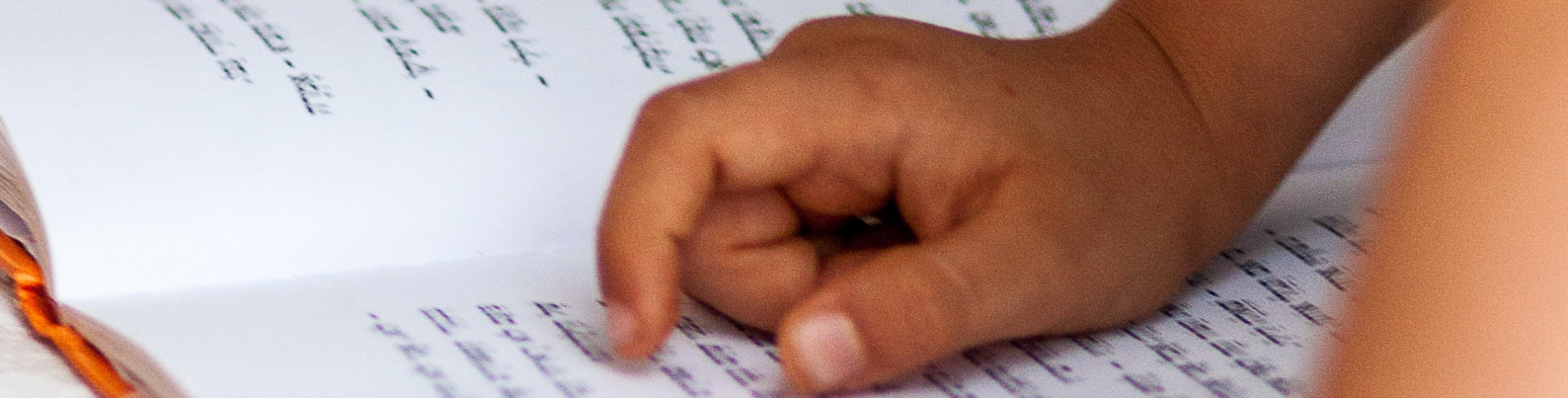
More details are available on the website: base.uncrcpc.org.



HFC
"Hope
For
Children"

OUR PROJECTS

PROJECTS IN WHICH
HFC IS PARTNER



PROMISE2

“COMMITMENT AND CAPACITY BUILDING FOR THE EUROPEAN BARNHAUS MOVEMENT”

With the implementation of the **PROMISE II project (REC-CHILD-AG-2016-01-764236)** the coordinator Council of Baltic Sea States, “Hope for children” CRC Policy Center and the partners aim to:

- Promote the Barnahus (Children’s House) model, which has been recognized by governments, practitioners, children and caregivers as a good practice in protecting child victims. The model embraces multi-disciplinary and interagency cooperation between social services, police, prosecutors, judges, paediatrics and child/adolescent psychiatry;
- Ensure that child victims and witnesses of violence have access to Barnahus model in the project countries so that they can benefit from child-friendly, highly professional, effective, multidisciplinary and interagency response in safe environment,
- Ensuring their rights to protection, support and to be heard
- ; Ensuring commitment of key authorities, agencies and professional by promoting inter-agency dialogue at national level through national strategies roundtables, exchanges and the development of national roadmaps, interagency agreements and frameworks.

The expected results of the project are:

- Multi-agency collaboration, standards and protocols among relevant sectors;
- Sustainable exchange,
- Mutual learning, and practical cooperation routines on the national level;
- Barnahus staff is trained on the existing good practices;
- Promoted The PROMISE network and the communication tools as an advocacy instrument.

“Hope for Children” CRC Policy Center implemented, during 2019, specialized roundtables and trainings for professionals.

In April 2019, HFC realized the “**Forensic Interview Trainings**”, a training for professionals dealing with child sexual abuse issues. Its focus was on Forensic Interviewing of children, especially for children from vulnerable groups. The training was undertaken by psychologists and forensic interviewers from Children’s House in Iceland and Child and Youth Protection Center in Croatia.

The 3rd October 2019 HFC implemented a forensic training named “**Children as vulnerable witnesses – approach and communication skills**”. During this event, the topics presented were the functioning of the Children’s House in Cyprus, the “Child development and memory recall”. It also proposed a discussion about the challenges in dealing with sexual abuse cases and give information on “Children as vulnerable witnesses in court”.

On the 29th November 2019 a roundtable has been organized, in order to present “Promise Tool” and a speech about “**Multidisciplinary Approach in criminal cases with victim children**”.

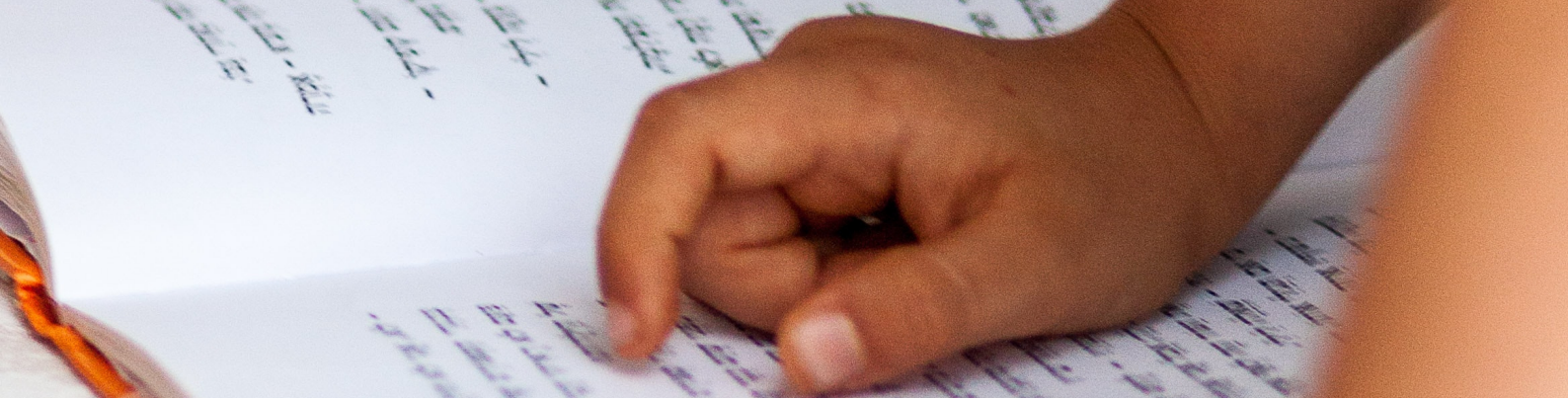


Training of professionals of “Hope for Children” CRC Policy Center and representatives of governmental institutions

PARTNERS:

Council of Baltic Sea States;
Child Circle (Belgium);
SAPI (Bulgaria);
Child Protection Unit (Estonia);
National Institute for Health and Welfare (Finland);
Childhood Foundation (Germany);
Eszter Foundation (Hungary);
Szociális Szolgáltatók Közhasznú Egyesülete (Hungary);
TUSLA (Ireland);
Centre Dardedze (Latvia);
Empowering Children Foundation (Poland);
Save the Children (Romania);
NHS (England).

More details are available on the website: childrenatrisk.eu/promise/



CONVEY

COUNTERACTING SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND HARASSMENT: ENGAGING YOUTH IN SCHOOLS IN DIGITAL EDUCATION ON GENDER STEREOTYPING.



CONVEY project (Ref. just/2015/RDAP/AG/SEXV/8572) aims to design digital educational tools for gender equality. It targets to prevent sexual violence and harassment and positively modify violent behaviours against women and to raise awareness on gender stereotyping and sexualisation of women in digital media.

“Hope For Children” CRC Policy Center collaborate together with other 5 partners, to reach the following objectives:

- **Develop peer-to-peer approaches** to education and awareness-raising on sexual violence and harassment against women by training young people on the effects of gender stereotyping and sexualisation in digital media;
- **Educate and contribute to behavioural change** of young people by developing an educational simulation game and a pilot creative program of gender equality and sexual education, critical digital media literacy;
- **Foster the respect of women’s rights and dignity in schools** through a train-the-trainer program for teachers on the prevention of gender stereotyping and sexualisation in the digital society.

Convey finished in April 2019 with a final Conference in which it was launched the hashtag **#IsayNotoSexualViolence**. It was an opportunity to present answers to all the questions the project had posed in relation to gender-based violence, harassment and gender stereotypes.



Convey International Final Conference in Palermo

More details are available on the website: conveyproject.eu

CONVEY-NOT A GAME



During the conference was also showed the videogame **“CONVEY-Not a Game”** that aims to open discussion and raise awareness on Gender-Based Violence, fostering the respect on women’s rights and to change the behaviour of young people that reinforces gender stereotypes and leads to GBV.

It is available in four languages: it includes 5 chapters with more than 3 hours gameplay, 11 mini-games, achievements, team set-up, “Invite into your team” features and 9 video stories.

The “point-and-click” game of the CONVEY project features an investigation style of gameplay, highlighting both the criminal nature of abuses and at the same time supporting the agency of the players, who will feel more involved and empathetic with the survivors whose crimes they are solving.

Through the development of a game and the implementation of a training programme for teachers and students of secondary schools, the project aims to foster the respect for women’s rights and to change the behaviour of young people that reinforces gender stereotypes and leads to gender-based violence. This game has been produced with the financial support of the Rights, Equality and Citizenship (REC) Programme of the European Union.

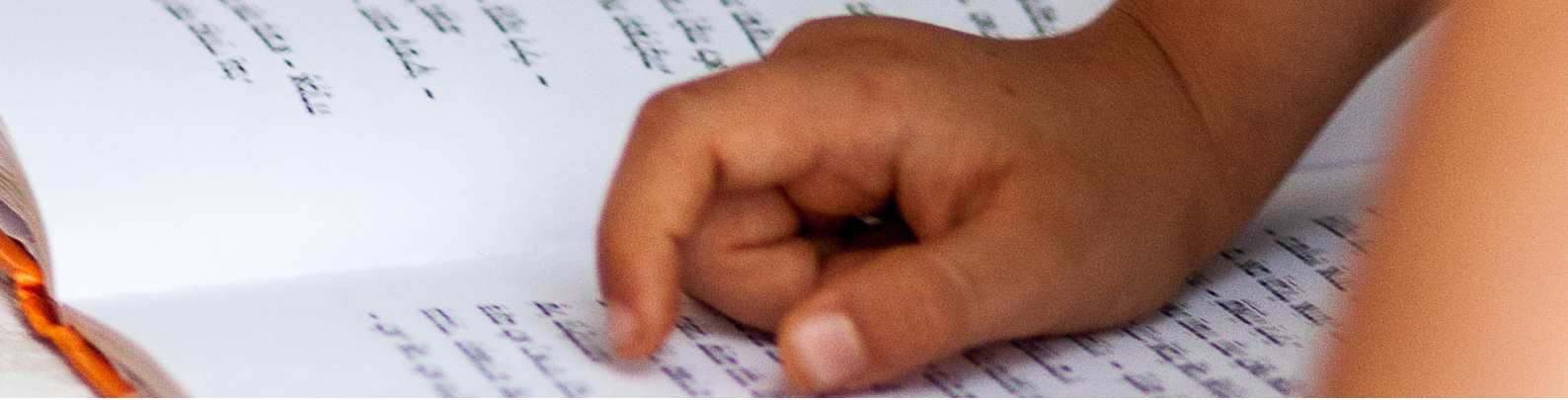
More details are available on the website: Notagame.eu



Teaser for the launching of CONVEY-NOT A GAME

PARTNERS

CESIE (IT),
The Smile of the Child (GR),
Gender Alternatives (BG),
Westminster City Council (UK),
Sexual Violence Centre Cork (IE)



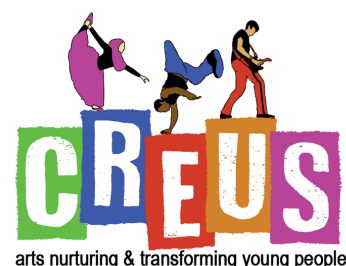
CREUS

DEVELOPING AND NURTURING THE VOCATIONAL TRANSVERSAL SKILLS OF DISADVANTAGED YOUNG PEOPLE THROUGH CREATIVE, NON-FORMAL LEARNING IN UNCONVENTIONAL SPACES

The overall aim of **CREUS Project (ref. 2017-1-UK01-KA202-036681)** is to provide a new approach focusing on 'unconventional spaces' to support the transversal skills of disadvantaged and unemployed young people (16-24 years-old) to maximize their potential in terms of fostering social, cultural and economic inclusion through access to initial VET and labour markets.

Its specific objectives are:

- To design and test **new structured non-formal learning activities** for disadvantaged young people delivered via tutor and peer support in 'unconventional spaces', as opposed to the classroom;
- To create an **innovative series of intellectual outputs** that will support tutors, trainers and peer mentors who use cultural learning in non-formal contexts and 'unconventional spaces' to engage disadvantaged young people;
- To develop **transversal and transferable skills** for disadvantaged young people in order to get access to Vocational Educational and Training (VET) system and employment.

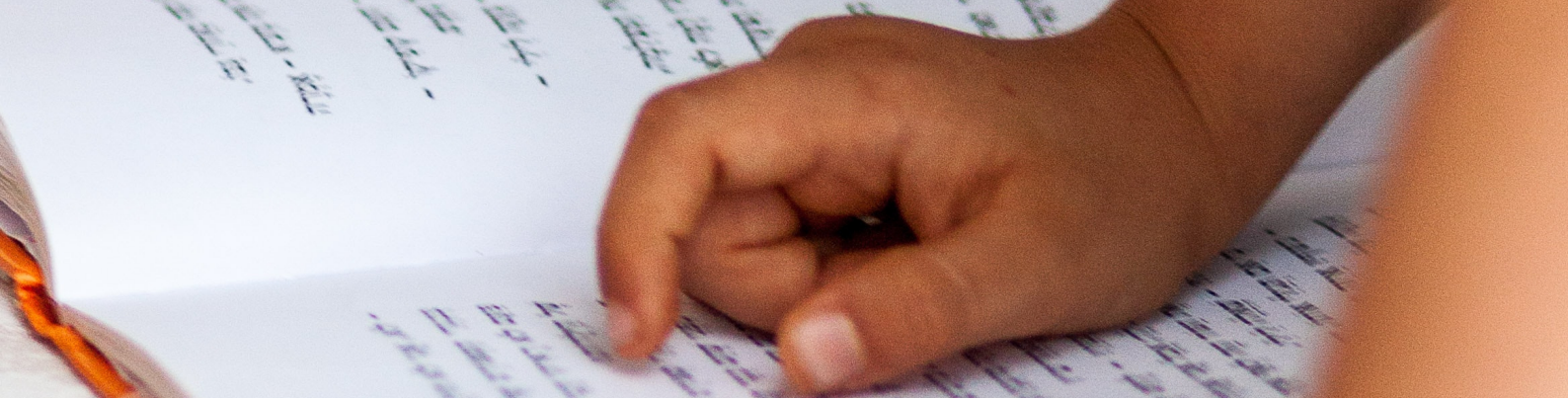


21st May 2019 Europe Partners Meeting



23rd September 2019: "The power of peer-to-peer support through creative practices" to learn more about peer to peer mentoring methodology developed to enhance the skills of disadvantaged young people.

More Information are available on the website: creuseurope.org



KEEP ME SAFE

SUPPORTING YOUTH PEER DEVELOPMENT TACKLING SEXUAL ABUSE

KEEP ME SAFE: Supporting youth peer development tackling sexual abuse (2018-3-UK01-KA205-060055)

is a transnational project bringing together experts from organisations across 6 EU countries (Bulgaria, Cyprus, Denmark, France, Slovenia, United Kingdom) to counteract sexual violence by:

1. Fostering youth agency;
2. Promoting youth worker's capacity to identify risks & counteract them through youth work;
3. Producing a Competence Framework for European youth workers in the field of prevention and an awareness raising of sexual abuse.

The activities promote a youth-led peer support programme that will enable youth-workers to enhance young people's capacity to protect themselves and their peers against sexual abuse:

Keep Me Safe Youth Workers Development Curriculum

To develop the capacity of youth workers in the field of awareness and prevention of sexual abuse of young people.

Keep Me Safe Youth Peers Training

To equip youth workers to facilitate and support young people themselves to form peer support and learning groups, working together through a peer-to-peer support strategy.

Keep Me Safe Mobile Digital APP

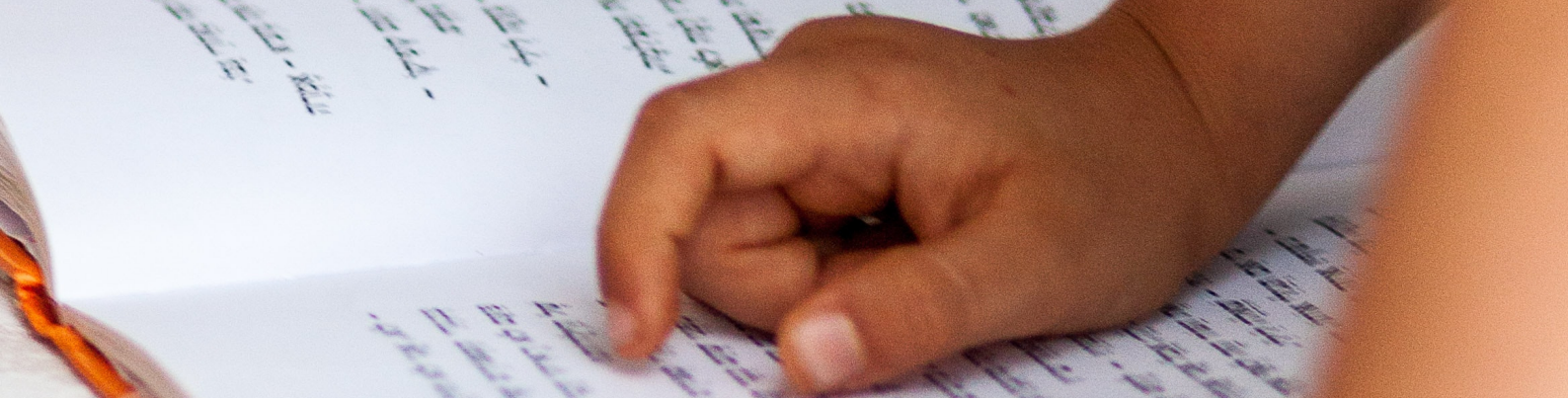
To promote a mobile learning resource that can be used by youth workers and youth peers enhancing access to information and communication strategies.

PARTNERS: Rinova (United Kingdom); London Youth (United Kingdom); Know and Can (Bulgaria); SOSU (Denmark); Eurocircle (France); ZRS (Slovenia).



HFC CRC Policy Center met with experts and stakeholders

More details are available on the website: keepmesafe.eu



EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY CORPS



Previously called European Voluntary Service (EVS), the **European Solidarity Corps (ESC)** is a new European Union initiative that gives young people the opportunity to acquire valuable experiences, to build their skills and to contribute to the society they live in. Both are based on volunteering and aim to promote solidarity as a value, to contribute to strengthening cohesion, solidarity, democracy and citizenship in Europe, while also responding to societal challenges and strengthening communities, with particular effort to promote social inclusion.

In September ended the EVS project **"Stand up for Children's Rights, Initiative and Research"** that had 8 volunteers from Italy, Greece and France: three at the HQ and five at the Shelter of our organization.

In October HFC implemented its first ESC project **"Youth for Hope"** hosting, for one year, 6 volunteers from Italy. Three of them are working at the shelter, under the Humanitarian Division, in the Department of Psychology, Department of Social Workers and Department of Child Development. The other three volunteers work at the Head Quarter under the Research and Development Division that is divided in two units: Education, Awareness and Capacity Building and Justice and Fundamental Rights.

Volunteers working at the Shelter of our organization are involved in the following activities::

- Contribute to the rehabilitation and integration of the unaccompanied children hosted by the Institution;
- Assist with psychosocial support and counselling;

- Establish mechanisms of durable solution for family tracing, assessment and reunification;
- Provide non-formal education seminars and other youth initiatives in order to tackle social exclusion and discrimination, and guarantee protection and safety to the unaccompanied children;
- Organizing workshops and creative activities with the youth of the shelter;
- Development of a creative personal project related to the themes of the organization.

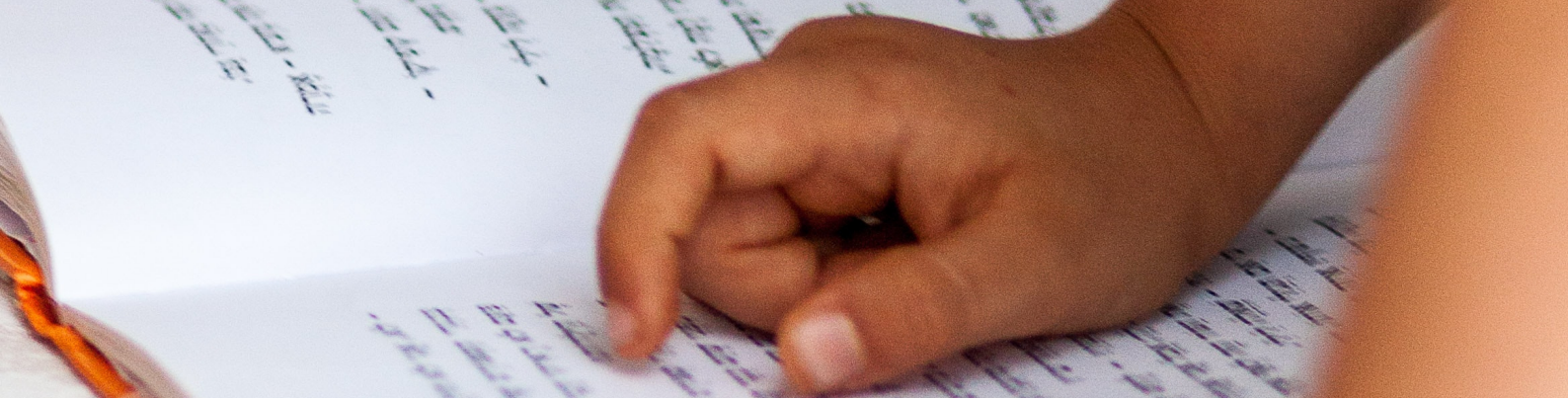
While **volunteers working at Head Quarters** of our organization are involved in the following activities:

- Support of administrative activities, assisting the progress of the regular schedule and activities of the division;
- Following the implementation and the ongoing phases of the projects under the two Units;
- Researches (primary and secondary), survey tasks, country reports on themes and topics connected with the promotion and the protection of children's rights, gender equality and gender-based violence, bullying, child-friendly justice systems, and others;
- Promoting the Organization, its European projects and relative tools on the social media through the creation of dissemination materials (leaflets, pins, banners, posts, notebooks);
- Development of a creative personal project related to the themes of the organization.



ESC volunteers during the On-Arrival Training in Nicosia.

More details are available in the website: https://ec.europa.eu/youth/solidarity-corps_en



#ATTRACT+

TRANSNATIONAL COOPERATION AND NEW TECHNOLOGIES TO TRAIN SOCIAL WORKERS ON TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS



#ATTraCT+ (Ref. 2018-1-FR01-KA204-047947) aims to promote, develop and strengthen the competencies of social workers (and more largely of other relevant stakeholders in contact with identified or potential victims of trafficking) in the identification, support and protection of victims of human trafficking through the design and the implementation of innovative digital tools and methods of training based on a transnational, participatory and open approach.

The tools developed and implemented by #ATTraCT+ use an interactive methodology to give information and training, based on games and peer-to-peer approach, accessible to all professionals or students interested in trafficking and correlated issues.

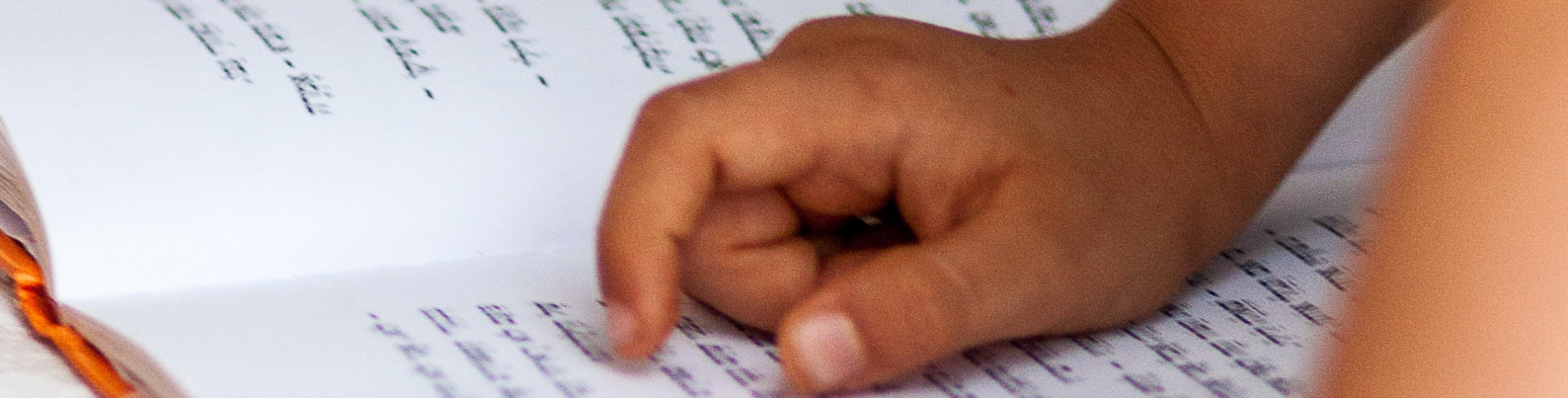
On the 20th of March, a Round Table has been organized by HFC and Cyprus Refugee Council. Representatives of government, agencies, NGOs and partner came from different European countries to talk about procedures and policies to manage victims of trafficking.



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On the 8th of May, our Social Workers represented the Organization in meetings held under the European Project #ATTRacT+ in Paris. They had the opportunity to visit different NGO'S working on issues of domestic slavery, forced labor, and trafficking for sexual exploitation.





MICREATE

MIGRANT CHILDREN AND COMMUNITIES IN A TRANSFORMING EUROPE



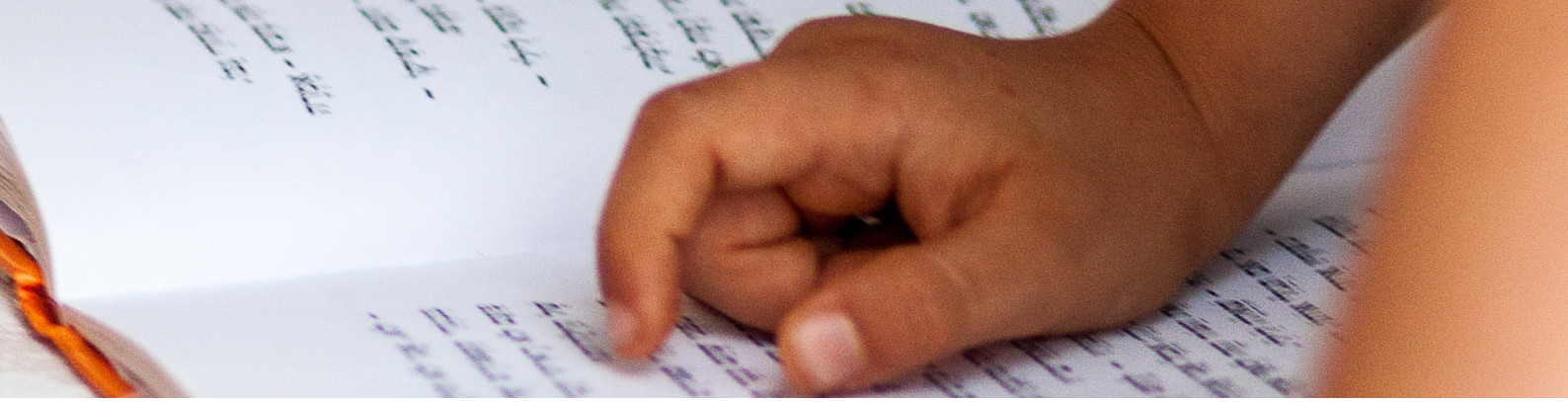
MiCREATE (ref. H2020-SC6-MIGRATION-2018-822664) is a project funded by Horizon 2020 Programme of the European Commission. The overall objective of the project is to stimulate the inclusion of diverse groups of migrant children by adopting a child-centred approach to their integration at the educational and policy level. Stemming from the need to revisit the integration policies on the one hand and consistent with the specific focus of the call on the other hand, the research project aims to a comprehensive examination of contemporary integration processes of migrant children in order to empower them. The project starts from the fact that European countries and their education systems encounter manifold challenges due to growing ethnic, cultural, linguistic diversity and thereby aims at:

- Identifying existing measures for the integration of migrant children at the regional and local level through secondary data analysis;
- Analysis of the social impact of these integration programmes through case studies in ten countries applying qualitative and quantitative child-centred research;
- Development of integration measures and identification of social investment particularly in educational policies and school systems that aim to empower children.

On the 5th of February: Hope For Children CRC Policy Center represented by the Coordinator of the Migration & Integration Unit Ms Christine Shahbenderian, participated at the MiCREATE partners meeting in Slovenia.

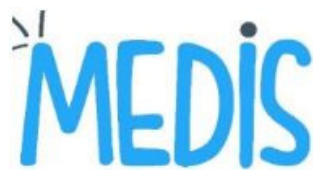


More details are available on the website: micreate.eu



MEDIS

MEDITERRANEAN INCLUSIVE SCHOOLS



MEDIS project (Ref. 592206-EPP-1-2017-1-ES-EPPKA3-IPI-SOC-IN) is implemented by "Hope for Children" CRC Policy Center and partners from Spain, Greece, Cyprus, Bulgaria, Italy and Portugal, under the coordination of World University Service of the Mediterranean (WUSMED). MEDIS Programme consists of different phases carried out in order to prepare the professionals from the educational settings through a structured online courses and face-to-face local workshops with experts. During these courses, the school educators will acquire the required knowledge for the next phase consisting of the practical implementation of the Programme at their schools.

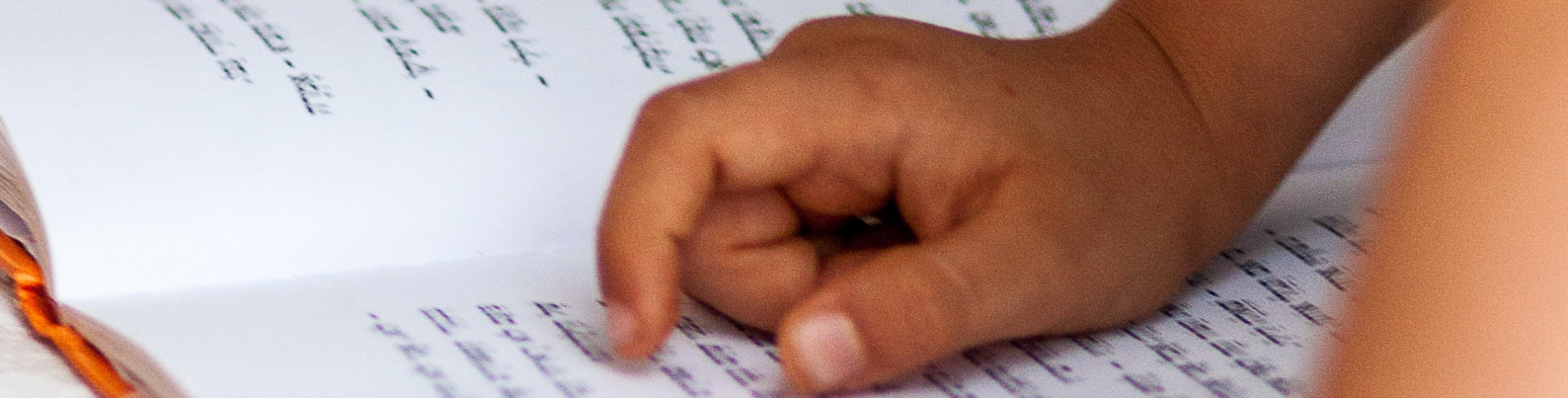
The MEDIS project's main aim is to **strengthen and consolidate social cohesion, intercultural education and local language in a multilingual framework of newly arrived migrants** at primary and secondary schools through the Mediterranean Inclusive Schools Programme.

The final beneficiaries of the project will be migrant children and their families, as they will be provided with an opportunity to acquire knowledge on core values and fundamental rights of the host society and thus to become an integrated part of this society. Finally, final steps will be oriented at upscaling the Programme and rising awareness of the public authorities and the society in order to guarantee the sustainability of the Programme itself.

The main goals of MEDIS are:

- To increase the professional skills of school educators (teachers, psychologists, counsellors, etc.) through capacity building trainings on inclusive methodologies and pedagogical approaches.
- To enhance the social inclusion in, at least, 90 primary and secondary schools in Spain, Greece, Italy, Cyprus, Bulgaria and Portugal by implementing and validating the Mediterranean Inclusive Schools Programme.
- To establish contacts, signing agreements and elaborating policy recommendations for the decision makers at all levels (local, regional, national and European level).
- To raise awareness on the problem of social inclusion of migrant children at schools and to promote cultural diversity and tolerance at school environments.

More details are available on the website: medisinclusiveschools.eu



ALFACA II

ALTERNATIVE FAMILY CARE

ALFACA II project (Ref. JUST/2014/RCHI/AG/PROF) aims to support capacity building on rights of the child and child protection for practitioners and professionals working for and with migrant children in EU territory.

Only a small proportion of unaccompanied and separated children in the EU live in family-based care. The majority is placed in institutional reception facilities. Working with those children means, besides dealing with different backgrounds and different languages, coping with trauma or loss related to the reasons behind their arrival. Preparing host families on these themes can improve the quality and the quantity of the reception and family-based care (FBC) provided and decrease the risk of breakdowns.

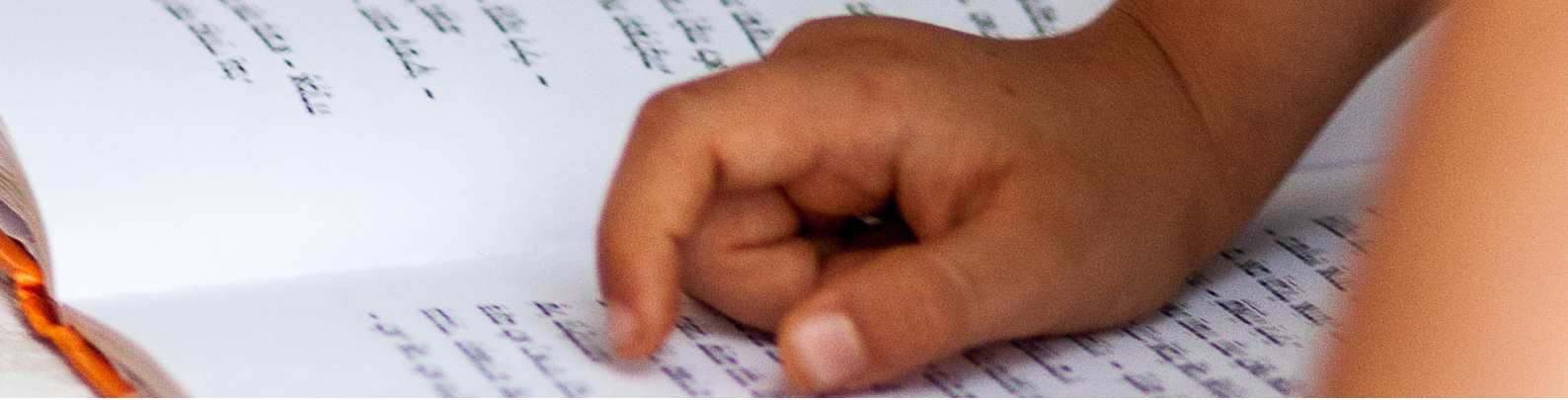
ALFACA II project's goals are reached by the following results:

- Increased awareness and spread practical knowledge on the importance of providing FBC to vulnerable groups of children, especially in the participating countries (Italy, Greece, Belgium, Croatia, Cyprus);
- Provided the possibility to set up FBC as a reasonable alternative to institutional care where it hardly exists (Cyprus, Greece, Croatia);
- More specifically, ALFACA-training directly offered to professionals in several EU Member States and in the countries of partners.

The implementation of the activities consists in the development of the methodologies by conducting a situation analysis and the expert meetings supported by field consultations; collecting and spreading practical knowledge about the state of the art on FBC in the countries involved; writing country reports, action plans and recommendations in order to reach a sustainable system; organizing ALFACA-trainings in the participating countries and several other EU Member States; and dissemination of the outcomes of the project.

PARTNERS: Nidos (Netherlands);
Minor N'dako, Pleegzorg Vlaams-Brabant en Brussel,
Mentor-Escale (Belgium);
METAdrasi (Greece);
Amici dei Bambini (Italy);
Center for Missing and Exploited Children (Croatia).

More details are available on the website: engi.eu/projects/alfaca-ii



CAN-MDS II

COORDINATED RESPONSE TO CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT VIA A MINIMUM DATA SET: FROM PLANNING TO PRACTICE.

CAN-MDS II project (Ref. REC-RDAP-GBV-AG-2017) has as main aim to ensure the availability of necessary resources, training modules and toolkits for building the capacity of professionals working with and for children in reporting and registering CAN cases. In order to achieve this goal, partners pilot the CAN-MDS system in real conditions at different levels in the six members States for testing the extent the system is able to. This guarantees the improving cooperation of professionals within and between child wellbeing- sectors, increase reporting and facilitating the administration of CAN cases. Thus, it provides, at a case level, comprehensive and reliable data essential to inform prevention, identification, reporting, referral, investigation, treatment, judicial involvement and follow-up; at a population level, it provides aggregated data essential to identify trends, measure responses and feed into policy development.

The activities of this project are based on the pilot usage of CAN-MDS system in real conditions and dissemination of projects' results to provide a preparation of training material and toolkits and the conduction of a series of 40 capacities building activities.

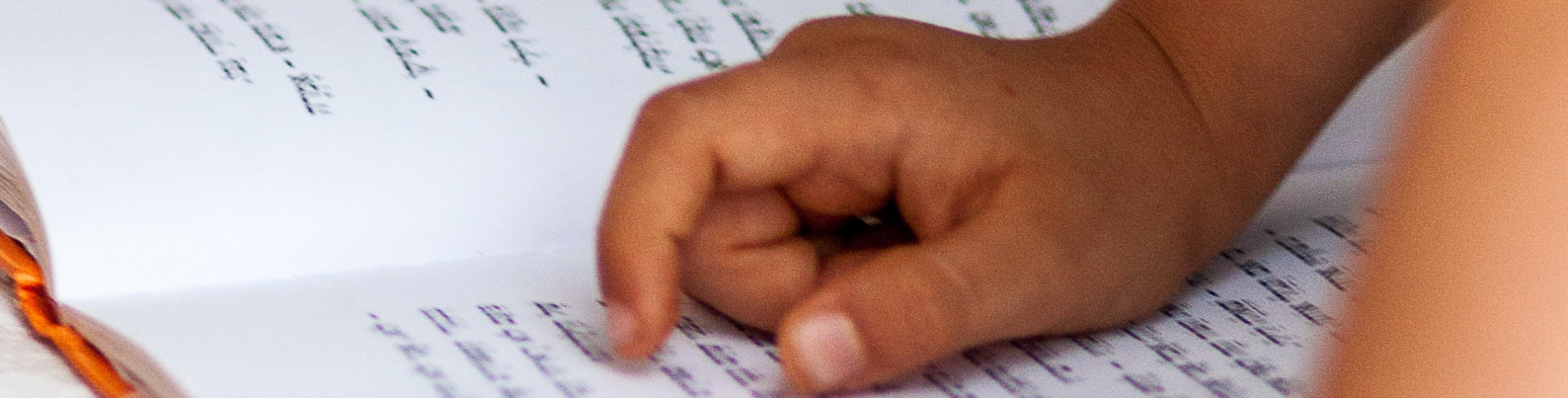
CAN – MDS Policy and Procedures Manual is available online



PARTNERS:

South-West University "Neofit Rilski", State Agency for Child Protection (Bulgaria); Social Welfare Services, Ministry of Labour, Welfare and Social Insurance" (Cyprus); Observatoire national de la protection de l'enfance (ONPE), GIP Enfance en danger (GIPED) (France); - Babes-Bolyai University, Department of Social Work, Federation of the Non-Governmental Organisations for Children, Social and Medical Services Directorate Cluj-Napoca (Romania); Fundacio Aroa (Spain).

More details are available on the website: can-via-mds.eu



CHILD FRIENDLY JT

THE RIGHT OF MINORS TO INFORMATION, TRANSLATION AND INTERPRETATION IN CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS: DEVELOPMENT OF CHILD-FRIENDLY JUSTICE TOOLS.

Child Friendly JT project (Ref. JUST-AG-2016/JUST-AG-2016-06) aims to contribute to the correct implementation of Directives 2012/13/EU on the right of information in criminal proceedings, 2010/64/EU on the right to interpretation and translation in criminal proceedings and (EU) 2016/800 on procedural safeguards for children suspected or accused in criminal proceedings.

The main objectives are related to the **promotion of child friendly justice** by facilitating the comprehension of the information provided to the minors in case they are in conflict with the law, as well as their parents or holders of parental responsibility, through the use of a language adapted to their stage of development.

Thus, the expected results of the project are:

- Improvement of the correct implementation of Directive 2012/13/EU, Directive 2010/64/EU and Directive (EU) 2016/800;
- Improvement in the comprehension of the information provided to minors and their parents or holders of parental responsibility in criminal proceedings;
- Contribution to more child-friendly European Juvenile Justice Systems;
- Improvement in the knowledge of professionals working in juvenile justice system.



Final conference of the EU project “Child Friendly JT. The rights of minors to information, translation and interpretation in criminal proceedings: development of child-friendly justice tools.” Christine Mavrou presenting the findings of the implementation of this program in Cyprus and Cyprus’ recommendations and challenges.

The project has been carried out through the assessment and analysis of the needs of minors in conflict with the law through questionnaires, focus groups, meetings with Public Administration and, then, creating information leaflets and assessing the effectiveness and impact through a pilot study based on pre-post questionnaires. Finally, dissemination has been provided by creating website sections, sending newsletters, distributing leaflets and so on.

The **Pilot Study Plan** of the project has been implemented with boys of the Shelter of the organization. 31 children were involved. The aim of the pilot study was to assess the effectiveness and the impact of three informative leaflets about arrest, trial and pre-trial detention.

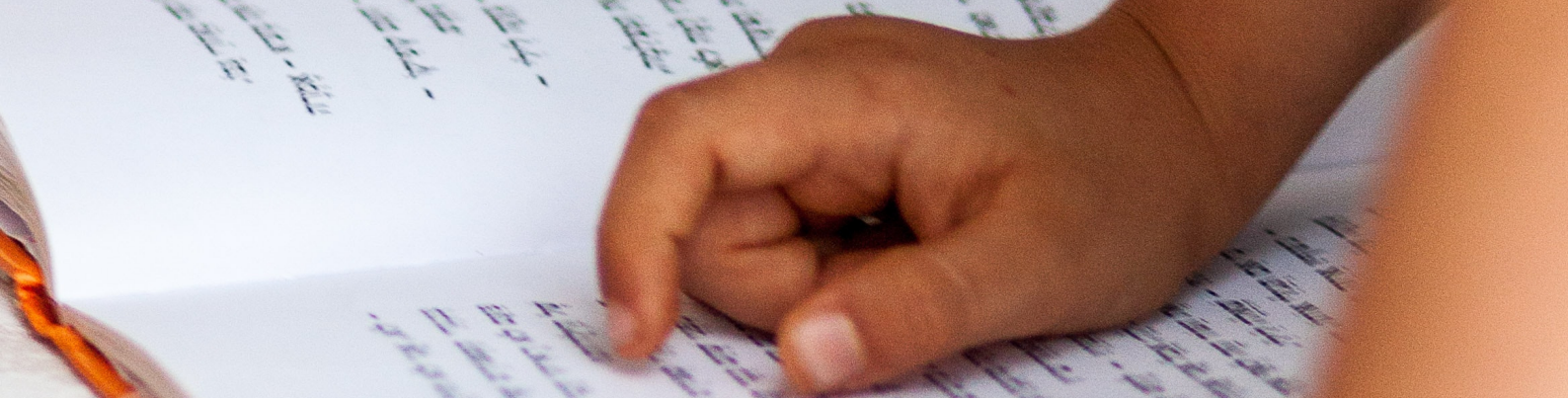


Informative leaflets used for the implementation of the pilot study of the project.

PARTNERS:

Fundación Diagrama Intervención Psicosocial (Spain);
International Juvenile Justice Observatory (Belgium);
Istituto Don Calabria (Italy);
Social Activities and Practices Institute (SAPI) (Bulgaria);
Udruga MOST (Croatia).

More details are available on the website: oijj.org/en/activities/projects/child-friendly-jt



SUPPORTVOC

DEVELOPMENT OF A GENERIC SUPPORT SERVICES MODEL TO ENHANCE THE RIGHTS OF VICTIMS OF CRIME.



Over the last two decades, the flow of migrants and refugees, the expansion of trafficking and the sudden rise in hate crimes have created a new environment that demands changes and measures. Especially from the victim support viewpoint, the specification of minimum standards is of fundamental importance. The Directive 2012/29/EU establishes minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime stating that Member States must ensure access for victims and their family members to general victim and specialist support, in accordance with their needs (Art 8).

In order to contribute to the effective and coherent application of EU criminal law in the area of the rights of victims of crime and, in particular and to the implementation and practical application of the Directive 2012/29/EU, **SupportVoC project (Ref. JUST-AG-2016-760641)** has been implemented in Cyprus, Greece, Bulgaria and Italy aiming at developing a model and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for generic victim support services that will be flexible and adaptable to different national or regional contexts and promoting the cooperation between competent authorities and other agencies or organizations coming into contact with victims



Fourth partnership meeting for the project SupportVoC in Bulgaria. Kristina Marku and Christine Mavrou attended and discussed the findings in regards of the Generic Victim Support Services for Victims of Criminal Offences, together with partners from Bulgaria, Greece and Italy.

The expected results to be achieved in these countries are:

- **Improved knowledge** on implementing national, regional and local generic victim support services, as well as law and criminal justice authorities, legal practitioners and civil-society enforcement;
- **Availability of the model and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)**, methods and tools for the implementation of generic victim support services;
- **Enhanced multi-disciplinary and interagency cooperation** between competent authorities and other agencies or organizations coming into contact with victims to support/facilitate the implementation of the model and SOPs and ensure comprehensive protection of victims;
- Increased awareness of stakeholders on the transposition of Directive 2012/29/EU, especially in relation to the provision of generic support services to crime victims.

The activities of the project are based on the review and the analysis of the national legal frameworks regarding the rights and protection of victims of crime and its application, the development of a model and SOPs for the provision of generic support services to victims of crime, the cooperation between competent authorities and other agencies or organizations coming into contact with victims through the organization of national and transnational workshops, as well as the provision of recommendations and guidelines and, finally, the development of visual identity and information materials, social media campaign, the creation and the maintenance of a project website, information days, and so on.

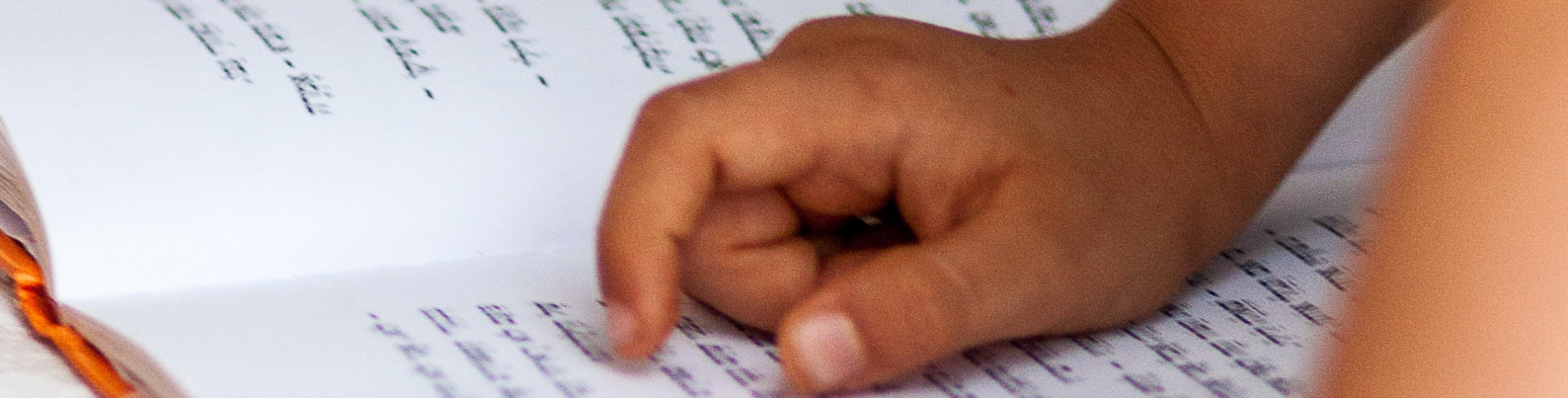
Final Conference of the European Programme SupportVoc, Development of a Generic Support Services Model to enhance the Rights of Victims of Crime. Team of HFC is composed by Κριστίνα Μαυρου, Ζωή Κινικλή and Ευτυχιος Χατζηχρυστοδουλου.



PARTNERS:

Universitat de Barcelona (Spain);
Family and Childcare Centre (KMOP) (Greece);
EKKA National Center For Social Solidarity (Greece);
Animus Association Foundation (Bulgaria); Cesie (Italy).

More details are available on the website: supportvoc.eu



INCLUDE



The aim of INCLUDE project is to **enhance the participation and the wellbeing** of children at all stages of an **international child abduction**: from the start of the case until the enforcement after the return.

The project's expectations are based on the development of **specific tools** that can help to improve the situation of children in cases of international child abduction and the creation of **good practices** to provide better and more child-friendly information to children in all stages of the international child abduction.

Also, it aims at creating ways to **inform children** on a return decision and involve them in the practical organization of the enforcement of the decision and at providing age-appropriate and child-friendly good practices to assist children upon return and after return, so that their **reintegration** can be organized smoothly.

The exchange of good practices and the creation of collaborations between professional stakeholders in the member states is needed in order to improve the daily lives of children in cases of international child abduction and their wellbeing upon enforcement of return decisions.



HFC
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MEETINGS

MEETINGS 2019

- On the 6th of March, "Hope for Children" CRC Policy Center becomes member of the **European Guardianship Network**. The first meeting was coordinated by the organisation Nidos, in Utrecht, Netherlands.
- On the 19th March, HFC attended the "**Information meeting on Grant Management via the Participant Portal**" organized by the European Commission, Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme in Brussels, at the European Commission, Centre A. Borschette



- On the 24th of May HFC attended the 6th meeting of the **Ad Hoc Committee for the Rights of the Child (CAHENF)** of the Council of Europe. The issues discussed in the meeting, among the others, were the protection of the children in the digital environment, children's rights and biomedicine and the rights of children with disabilities.

- On the 3rd of June 2019, the Psychology Department organized a meeting at Ministry of Education on ethical issues for **presenting children cases on the media**. it also organized during the 2019 two **Helplines Network Meeting** with Commissioner for Children's Rights.

- "Hope for Children" was present at the **Lanzarote Committee Observer member** at the 25th meeting of the Lanzarote Convention Committee in Cyprus, on the 15th October 2019.



- On 24th of October HFC attended the "**Conference on Funding for the Rights of the Child**" at the European Commission. 100 participants representing organisations from 22 EU Member States joined the European Commission, DG Justice and Consumers to discuss the EU funding for rights of the child under the Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme (REC). Ms Barbara Nolan, Head of the Fundamental Rights Policy Unit in the European Commission (DG Justice and Consumers),
- On 25th October HFC attended "Information meeting on "**Grant Management via the Funding and Tenders Opportunities portal** - European Commission, Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme", The meeting was held in Brussels, at European Commission bureau, in Berlaymont Building.



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TRAININGS, SEMINARS & WORKSHOPS





TRAININGS, SEMINARS & WORKSHOPS 2019

During 2019 HFC has held these workshops, trainings and events among its departments:

Children's House

Workshops:

- 29/01/2019 - "Kiko and the Hand", Workshop for teachers and children held in Kiperounta Public Kindergarten and delivered by CH staff;
- 13/02/2019 - "Children's sexual abuse" workshop delivered to professors of Alexander College in Larnaka by CH staff;
- 8/03/2019 - "Kiko and the Hand" workshop for teachers and children held in Trachoni Lsol Puplic Kindergarten and delivered by CH staff;
- 6/04/2019 - Workshop to students of Elementary School in Pafos on the topic "Sexual violence and protection";
- 3/06/2019 - Workshop with parents and students at Lefkara Elementary School delivered by CH Staff.

Child Protection Department

Workshops:

- 18/10/2019 - MiiCT's Co-CREATION Workshop
- 9-10/12/2019 - EIN Mutual Assistance Project (Cyprus, Estonia, Greece)

Meeting:

- 7/10/2019 - 1st Meeting of EMN Cyprus

Conferences:

- 3-04/04/2019 - 5th European Migration Forum
- 6/11/2019 - Keep Them Safe: Supporting unaccompanied children with family-based cared and enhanced protection

Seminar:

- 9/2/2019 - MAZI: Seminar on Cybercrime for parents and children at the age of 12-16 years old.



Psychology Department

Workshops:

- 20/2/2019 - Roundtable and workshops on Racism with Gymnasium Students;
- 16/4/2019 - Workshop for parents on communication skills and anger management;
- 25-27/09/2019 - Professionals Workshops of CHI Community of Practice "Children on the Move";
- 25-29/11/2019 - "Friendship Week" at Grammar School;
- 10/12/2019 - Workshop for educators at public school on "How to manage difficult situations in the school environment using a positive approach".

Conferences:

- 5/3/2019 - Psychological Services Presentation to students of Frederick University;
- 12/3/2019 - Lecture to the students at public school on 'Dealing with Bullying';
- 12/4/2019 - Children Volunteering Conference;
- 10/10/2019 - HFC Presentation to Psychology Students at University of Nicosia
- 7/11/2019 - Presentation at Bioethics Conference on 'Mental health of children with migrant background'.

Seminars:

- 6/3/2019 - Seminar for parents on 'communication';
- 7/3/2019 - Training Gymnasium teachers on 'bullying';
- 9/4/2019 - Parents training on 'Learning Disabilities Prevention' in kindergarten;
- 4/9/2019 - Seminar for teachers on 'Dealing with Children on the Move';
- 10/12/2019 - Seminar on educators about Violence/Bullying at school.



Child Development Department

Workshops:

- 7/01/2019 - Cyber bullying, Bullying and Sex Torsion;
- 6/02/2019 - Safer Internet Day;
- 2/04/2019 / 2/07/2019 - Poetry Sessions;
- 26/04/2019 - Gimkana;
- 10/05/2019 - Craft Workshop;
- 20/05/2019 / 2/08/2019 - Photography & Short movies sessions;
- 3/07/2019 / 2/10/2019 - Welcome Through Football

Conference:

- 5/07/2019 - MigrEmpower.

Foster Care Department

Workshops:

- 2019 - Workshops about specific thematic areas in foster care, based to the needs of the foster parents;
- 12/06/2019 - Participation on Discussion about "Child Protection: Prevention and treatment of abuse" organised by University of Nicosia and the Commissioner for Children's Rights - Cyprus;
- 19/10/2019 - Organization of First Aid Workshops in cooperation with "Be prepared Training Center";
- 9/11/2019 - Presentation of Foster Care Program through a workshop for foster care organised by "Filoi Paidikis Stegis".

Conference:

- 8-11/09/2019 - Presentation of Foster Care activities at IFSW Europe Conference: Social Protection and Human Dignity



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EVENTS





EVENT

During 2019, the Psychology Department of our Organization organized two events:

- on the 8th September 2019, in occasion of the **Literacy Day**, a day of activities with children has been organized and has been held at the Mall of Cyprus;
- on the 22th of November 2019, the Department organized a **AISC World Café for Students**. The subject of the event has been "Change".

*The true character of a society is
revealed in how it treats its
children.*

NELSON MANDELA

