

The event is organized with the support of the European Economic and Social Committee



Terre des Hommes and Nathalie Griesbeck, Member of the European Parliament,

Invite you to

EU Public Conference

“Closing a protection gap for European children on the move!”

Terre des Hommes and its partners will launch five transnational research reports on the protection of children on the move in six European countries in the framework of Mario II project

**European Economic and Social Committee, Rue de Trèves 74 - Trèves Building,
Conference room TRE 7701 - 7th floor
1040 Brussels - Belgium**

Thursday 5 March 2015 – 2.30 – 5.30 p.m.

BACKGROUND:

The legislative and policy developments in recent years promoting child rights in all EU actions and in protecting specific groups of children, such as children on the move, are positive and welcomed. Nevertheless gaps in legislations, policies and their implementation still remain. The current categorization approach still brings an important number of children to be unprotected.

Children are normally categorized according to their vulnerabilities (e.g. child labour, trafficked children, unaccompanied minors...), administrative status (e.g. undocumented children, asylum seekers..), nationality (e.g. EU citizens, third-country national...), minority origins (e.g. Roma, Ashkali children..) rather than being protected simply because they are children. This creates discrepancy, fragmentation and discrimination in protecting children. This also creates “hierarchies” among categories with a different degree of protection among children. Children on the move are the less protected.

As result, this fragmented approach very often results in hampering specific groups of children, such as European children on the move, to access protection services that they are entitled to as children under domestic legislation and policies as well as international standards. As a consequence of not belonging to a specific category these children are put at higher risk of abuse, exploitation and trafficking.

Based on street observations, interviews and discussions with children, caretakers, stakeholders and key community members, the researches will provide to participants an in-depth understanding of:

- ✓ The profile of European children on the move: migration and work patterns
- ✓ The vulnerability factors during their migration path
- ✓ The obstacles for an integrated and inclusive child protection system
- ✓ The need to use a common agreed terminology of children on the move to ensure a better functioning of child protection systems
- ✓ Migration and mobility of children in the Western Balkans: a phenomenon to be better explored.

The conference will bring together experts, professionals and policy makers to share views, good practices and strategies for the development of a regional model for transnational protection for children on the move.

Registration:

Please, register **by 27 February 2015** at tdh-europe3@terredeshommes.org (Antonios Koulianos) by sending the following details: name, organization, function and e-mail contact. Phone: +32 2 893 09 54

DRAFT AGENDA:

| Time | Description | Intervention |
|------------------|---|--|
| 14h00 – 14h30 | Registration | |
| 14h30 – 14h35 | Welcoming | EESC Representative |
| 14h35 – 14h45 | Opening | Nathalie Griesbeck , <i>Member of the European Parliament, ALDE Group</i> |
| Session I | | |
| | What protection for European children on the move? | Moderator: Nathalie Griesbeck , <i>Member of the European Parliament, ALDE Group</i> |
| 14h45 – 14h55 | Presentation of the transnational researches – results and findings | Pierre Cazenave , <i>Mario Project Coordinator, Terre des Hommes Foundation in Lausanne, Regional Budapest Office</i> |
| 14h55 – 15h05 | Challenges and protection gaps analysis: what possible solutions? | Daphne Bouteillet-Paquet , <i>Senior Advocacy Officer, Save the Children EU Office</i> |
| 15h05 – 15h15 | Mapping of child protection systems in the EU – preliminary findings | Georgia Dimitropoulou , <i>Child Rights expert, Fundamental Rights Agency of the European Union</i> |

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| 15h15 – 15h25 | Protection of European children on the move from trafficking: towards the post-2016 EU Strategy | Mirya Vassiliadou, EU Anti-Trafficking Coordinator, European Commission (TBC) |
| 15h25 – 15h35 | Child mobility and migration: a growing challenge in Western Balkans | Simon Mordue, Director for Enlargement Policy and Strategy,, European Commission (TBC) |
| 15h35 – 16h00 | Questions and discussions with the floor | |
| 16h00 – 16h15 | Coffee Break | |
| Session II | | |
| | How to improve national and transnational protection for European children on the move? | Moderator: Salvatore Parata, Head EU Office, Terre des Hommes International Federation |
| 16h15 – 16h25 | A national stakeholder's view – the case of France (tbc) | Representative of national public authority from France (TBC) |
| 16h25 – 16h35 | Towards an EU Guidance on integrated Child Protection Systems – preliminary findings | Margaret Tuite, EU Child Rights Coordinator, European Commission (TBC) |
| 16h35 – 16h55 | Protecting European children on the move: bilateral vs regional approaches? | Representative from Permanent Representation of The Netherlands to the EU (TBC) Representative from the Latvian EU Presidency (TBC) |
| 16h55 – 17h20 | Questions and discussions with the floor | |
| 17h20 – 17h30 | Closing session | Kathleen Cravero-Kristoffersson, President Oak Foundation (TBC) |
| End Conference | | |



The project Mario is co-financed by the Daphne programme of the European Union and the Oak Foundation

