



ANNUAL PROGRAMME 2006

A. European Forum on Excluded and Street Children 2006:

Child inclusion as a challenge to the Mediterranean Partnership of the EU - The consequences of migration on children at risk in the Southern European Member States: Analyses, Concepts and Strategies

Learning Objectives:

The Southern European countries which border on the EU need to be given specific attention concerning child inclusive policies, taking into consideration the specific migration problems within these countries. This need has been underscored by the Schengen Convention, now integrated into the EU framework, and the Treaty of Amsterdam, which states that the EU must be maintained and developed as an area of freedom, security and justice in which the free movement of all people, including children, is guaranteed, in conjunction with appropriate measures with regard to border controls, political asylum, immigration and the prevention and combating of crime.

The conference will be a forum for critical discussions about all aspects of the consequences of migration for at-risk children in these countries and about current issues relating to this phenomenon, which is of growing importance to the social and political integration of the EU. Furthermore, it aims at the improvement of the communication between the various national and pan-European levels of policy making, governance and social intervention, as well as at early prevention methods. Finally, it will contribute to the creation of permanent networking links between these different levels in order to ensure a better coordinated and sustainable joint action, such as in the field of unaccompanied migrant children, the fight against child trafficking and exploitation, as well as the reintegration of ethnic minorities.

EFSCW expects about 60 participants, representing, among other organizations, the European Union (Commission and Parliament), international organizations (such as the Council of Europe and UNICEF) as well as local and national authorities, researchers, European NGOs, educators, businesses, the media and social workers from Southern European countries such as Italy, France, Spain, Portugal and Greece. Naturally, the specific Italian situation will be specifically considered in the overall discussion. At-risk children are one of the most vulnerable groups in Europe. Therefore, newly coordinated active policies and specific solutions, which take into consideration these target groups have to be discussed and the best practices need to be supported and promoted within the European Union.

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The European Commissioner Frattini has already confirmed his participation in the forum to confirm the strong commitment of the European Commission to the protection of children's rights and to present the main objectives and measures of the Commission's new communication on this topic which will be adopted in mid-2006.

Participants: 60

Venue: Representation of the European Commission and the European Parliament in Rome

Date: 16–17 February 2006

B. Seminars

1. *Fundraising and project management seminar: EU funding and assistance programmes of relevance to NGOs from Europe and developing countries working for children and youth at risk*

- **Learning Objectives**

1. Conveyance of information and a knowledge-based approach for ways of making autonomous use of all relevant EU assistance programmes for project financing of European and international organisations working for children and youth at risk (in Europe and with a special focus on third-world countries)
2. Acquiring knowledge and practical project management skills relevant for the successful mastering of the EU application process and the understanding of the EU application process by means of concrete working examples.

- **EU Funding and Assistance Programmes presented**

DAPHNE II, COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAMME TO COMBAT SOCIAL EXCLUSION 2002 – 2006, YOUTH (IN ACTION), ECHO, THE EUROPEAN INITIATIVE FOR DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS, THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND, TACIS AND THE EUROPEAN NEIGHBOURHOOD AND PARTNERSHIP INSTRUMENT

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- **Participants' Profile**

10 – 15 representatives from social NGOs working for child and youth protection exercising their activities for at-risk children and youth in the EU Member and Accession States and in developing countries.

Venue: EFSCW Headquarters, Brussels

Date: 27 - 28 April 2006



2. Capacity expansion and exchange seminar on social intervention methods (Mobile Youth Work) for street children and other children at risk – with a special emphasis on third-world scenarios.

- in cooperation with the International Society for Mobile Youth Work (ISMO) -

Learning objectives:

Knowledge transfer about the modern methods of social and street workers with the objective of supplying sustainable support and integration for abandoned and street children will be emphasized. During this process, special attention will be given to illustrating successful methods of intervention in crisis situations (interdisciplinary approach in regard to psychological, medical and social aspects). Community-based approaches will also be introduced, which include a view to the systematic and sustained reintegration of all factors of influence and identification of individuals in the immediate surroundings, the extended social environment and, above all, from the viewpoint of children and young people.

The methods of the Mobile Youth Work will be presented in an exemplary fashion. Special emphasis will be placed on third-world and developing countries, which are characterized by often insufficient or entirely lacking security, educational and health systems within a society, as well as an especially serious danger for at-risk children from epidemic disease (AIDS/HIV), child-trafficking and sexual abuse. The contents and methods of the seminar will be organized and introduced by social workers and project managers with years of practical experience, and by psychologists, educators and specialists in the areas of child safety youth homes.

Participant's profile: Specialists and disseminators from NGO's which are operational direct on-site (currently EFSCW member organizations), representatives of child protection organizations as well as public child and youth agencies

Venue: EFSCW Headquarters, Brussels

Date: 31.05./01.06.2006

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3. Violence against street children and the role of local authorities in the development of community based intervention strategies.

Learning objectives:

Violence directed at children, especially in distinctively dangerous situations, such as is the case with street children, not only has extreme phases which are limited in their duration, but also a permanent structural dimension. Incidences of violence, due to missing systematic indicators, usually remain undetected over a period of time. This seminar aims to make the reasons, forms of manifestation and the consequences of violence on children in such situations clearer. The professional methods that are available for the early assessment will also be discussed. Additionally, the various forms of preventative intervention will be introduced.

Local authorities must play a major role if these measures are to be successfully implemented, since they have access to background information about the specific local conditions and the social environment. They have the needed expert resources which are required for the resocialization. An intensive network of the NGOs that are involved with the supervision of the children is critical for the enduring success of the integration. The necessary methodology is additionally available through these resources.

Additionally, the opportunities and possibilities for professional and financial support within the framework of the EU action programmes (for example; Daphne II) for projects involved with the prevention of violence as well as the required contextual and method-based know how for their successful use - also by the smaller NGOs (for example; EFSCW member organizations) - will be presented.

Participant's profile: This seminar is directed not only toward professionals (social workers, street-workers) from the social NGOs, who work with the affected individuals on a daily basis, but also toward the responsible staff of the local public agencies.

Venue: EFSCW Headquarters, Brussels or Rome

Date: September 2006

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C. Conferences

Social inclusion of Roma children in the educational process as a challenge to the EU expansion process in South-East Europe

Learning objectives:

The Romas suffered substantially during transition years because they were generally less equipped than the majority of the population in benefitting from the transition to a market economy. Today, the probability of the Romas entering poverty is 8 to 10 times higher than those in mainstream societies in Central and Southeast Europe. With regard to the social inclusion of Romas, two crucial points have to be taken into consideration: the family structure of Roma groups where children sometimes suffer from their family situation; and secondly, the culture, the tradition, and the specific way of life of such ethnic groups.

The social inclusion of Roma children is a cross border problem in Europe that must be tackled by long-term prevention and inclusion strategies carried out in close cooperation with Roma families and tribes. Furthermore, in Eastern Europe about 50% of the Roma population consists of minors under the age of 20 and this figure is increasing in size.

Within this context, EFSCW will organise a forum with the support of its partner organisations, and will possibly be in close cooperation with the Roma Education Fund and the Open Society Institute. The main objectives of this forum will be to: raise public awareness on this issue, and, exchange best practices that contribute to closing the gap in educational outcomes between Roma and non-Roma populations. These objectives result from the observation that, across countries, 70-80% of the Roma population have not obtained a primary school education, and very few have been able to complete both primary and secondary education.

Commission representatives will present relevant European policies as well as the funding available at national and European level for implementing projects on the inclusion of Roma street children in the educational system.

Participant's profile: 15-20. Central and Southeast European EFSCW partners and NGOs, representatives of Roma groups, representatives of local and national authorities, EU and international institutions

Venue: Brussels

Date: December 2006

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