



Verona, December 4 – 5 2008

“Promoting integration of marginalized children and youth through social inclusion: schooling, vocational training and participation”.

Conference

Joint declaration

In light of the results of the conference, the participants agreed on the following recommendations:

- According all participants and to studies conducted in Italy (Parsec 2008), **second chance street education** has proven as an effective response to the conflicting interests of unaccompanied children and care centres, in that it combines a dimension of play, sport and trust-building with the operators, with education. This method proves more effective in attracting children and bringing them back to their condition of children, to the point of changing the migration project of the children involved and including education in it. It should be highlighted that second chance education should be fully integrated in the formal educational system.
- **Individualised guidance, peer education and holistic outreach work** are crucial elements in reaching children who experience extreme social exclusion and whose social situation hinders their access to social services.
- **Social and cultural mediation, intercultural education** and the presence of cultural mediators in **interdisciplinary street teams** are crucial for both saving children from the streets and for their social reintegration. The exchange of street workers from the country of destination with professionals from the countries of origin can improve the capacity of the care system to overcome cultural resistances and improve the effectiveness of the educational programme provided to unaccompanied children, as in the mentioned report of Terre des Hommes.
- Finally, **vocational training** should be considered as an educational method suitable for older children and youth, which facilitates integration in the job market and develops the “life skills” that are crucial in education, while at the same time coming closer to the concrete needs and plans of these children.
- **European Programmes** could contribute to responding to the challenges posed to the educational system, on the one hand, by financing the non-formal educational activities of civil society organisations; and on the other hand, as part of the existing exchange programmes, the Lifelong Learning Programme could support good practice based training programmes in street education. In particular, it could institutionalise the trans-national exchange of street workers between Member States. Ideally these exchanges should be extended to third countries which are often origin countries of the migration of unaccompanied minors.
- The **OMC in Education and Training** could contribute through setting common principles in the field of social inclusion through education, such as “ensuring that access to school is actually guaranteed to all

children in school age, including trafficked children, unaccompanied minors and street children by 2015". This implies addressing the social inclusion of those groups at risk as an explicit part of the OMC in Education and Training and thereby improving the coordination with the **OMC on Social Protection and Social Inclusion**. For the sake of exchanging good practices, peer reviews could be devoted to successful experiences of non-formal education in the integration of unaccompanied minors and should focus on how to mainstream these positive practices into the wider school system.

- The related benchmarks and indicators would have to be investigated and developed. To achieve this goal, a necessary first step would be to imply stronger efforts at national levels for the coordination and **comparability of definitions and data collection** on migrant children, unaccompanied minors, and street children across the EU. As part of setting indicators and benchmarks, due attention must be paid to the controversial point of ethnic reporting; while improving the understanding of the educational attainment gap affecting migrant children, it should not lead to criminalisation of specific ethnic and national groups nor strengthening existing prejudices or stereotypes.
- The **revision of Directive 77/486/EEC**, whose implementation has so far been patchy, partially due to its very general character, could be a powerful instrument to improve the legal protection for street children from a migrant background and street children (in general). The original Directive should be kept as a common basis and adapted to the upcoming policy challenges, with a view to set a common EU-wide approach to the education of migrant children, not limited to migrants originating from EU Member States, but also extending to third party country nationals and undocumented migrants. This is a necessary first step to ensuring that the right to education is respected for every human being independently from his/her ethnic or national belonging. In particular, the Directive does not currently apply to unaccompanied minors and should thus cover this gap, considering in particular the rising dimension of this phenomenon.

The participants:

AGOSTINO	Filippo	Representative for Eurochild Eurochild – Ass. Amici dei Bambini
AMONCELLI	Rosa	Referent Association Apriti Cuore
BEKAKU	Ajomuzu	Executive Director, Cameroon Association for the Protection and Education of the Child
BRUTTO	Sabrina	Project Coordinator, Istituto Don Calabria
GALDO	Anna	S.O.S. Il Telefono Azzurro Onlus
CALVANELLI	Laura	Project manager, Caritas Diocesana
CARRERA	Luciano	President, Rotary Club Committee
CLARKE	Julia	Programme Support Officer, Consortium for Street Children
CZUCZOROVÁ	Eva	State Adviser, Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of Slovak Republic
D'AMBROSIO	Anna	Advocacy, Lobbying and Fundraising Officer, European Federation For Street Children
DE LORD	Brian	Director, Pupil Parent Partnership
DI CORATO	Mariangela	Istituto Don Calabria
DOLENTE	Frederica	Researcher and sociologue, Associazione Parsec
GELSEI	Bernadette	Director, Megallo Group for Addicts
GOBBO	Don Giuseppe	Progetto Zattera Blu, Vicenza
HAJ-AHMED	Jumana	Adolescent Specialist, UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre
IORIO	Marica	Project Officer, Maestri di Strada Onlus
JORGENSEN	Geert	President, The Joint Council for Child Issues

LAGI	Laura	“CivicoZero” Project coordinator, Protection Area, Save the Children Italy ¹
LE MENER	Erwan	Study and research coordinator, International Samu-Social Observatory
MANAJ	Shkelqesa	Chief of Child Labour Unit, Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities
MASTRANGELO	Maria Grazia	Project manager, Comitato Nazionale delle Comunità di Accoglienza – CNCA
MATTINA	Giuseppe	Istituto Don Calabria, Palermo
MINESSO	Alessandra	Istituto Don Calabria
MORENO	Cesare	President, Maestri di Strada Onlus
MÜLLER	Reinhold	Director, European Federation For Street Children
PADOVANI	Alessandro	Director, Istituto Don Calabria
PARATA	Salvatore	European Officer, Terre des Hommes
PETROLITO	Chiara	Independent
PIO	Bruno	Social Worker, Instituto de Apoio à Criança, Portugal
PISARSKA	Mariana	Executive Director, Alliance for Children and Youth
PORTO	Isabelle	Social Worker, Instituto de Apoio à Criança, Portugal
PROHASKA	Maria	Chairman of Executive Board, Gavroche Foundation
QUATRALE	Elisa	Policy Officer, Reves Network
RAMSAK	Anita	Phd Candidate, Faculty of Applied Social Sciences, Nova Gorica
SILVA	Francesca	New Initiatives Officer, Centro Italiano Aiuti All Infanzia Onlus (CIAI)
SPECHT	Walter	President, International Society for Mobile Youth Work (ISMO)
STECCA	Blandina	Associazione Avvocati di Strada, Padova
WEEDS	Martyn	Project coordinator, Pupil Parent Partnership (PPP)
VISENTINI	Lidia	Codess, Verona



This event is supported by the European Community Programme for Employment and Social Solidarity PROGRESS (2007-2013). The sole responsibility lies with EFSC and the Commission is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information contained herein.

¹ Save the Children Italy, as participant to the Conference, given the conference background and discussion, supports the conference conclusions and recommendations.

However, such recommendations and conclusions, do not represent the general policy of Save the Children on street children, nor its broader overview on children in need of protection.