

European Forum on Street Children 2012

"Unaccompanied minors victims of violence: Origins, manifestations, and prevention strategies to overcome the 'hidden' phenomenon of children suffering in the shadow. A challenge to European and national child rights policies"

11-12 October
Verona, Italy



Violence against children is in general a hidden phenomenon, even more for most vulnerable groups like unaccompanied children whose situation is marked by isolation, ignorance of their rights, deficient communication channels to social workers, youth authorities and justice as well as a lacking access to social services. Still many Member States' authorities don't comply with the regulations on the treatment of unaccompanied minors as a part of the international conventions they signed as well as relevant EU legislation as recently shown in studies of the Fundamental Rights Agency. These are some of the main obstacles to efficient intervention to protect these children against violence and to elaborate sustainable specific strategies of prevention and protection. The growing awareness of this phenomenon on the European level became evident in the Expert Seminar organized by the European Commission on "Invisible Children" in 2010 and the specific mentioning of the problems of most vulnerable children such as unaccompanied minors and particularly children victims of violence, both in the DAPHNE III Annual Work Programme 2012 and the EU Agenda for the Rights of the Child (2011) in which the EU clearly calls for the elimination of all forms of violence against children. The EU 2010 Action Plan on Unaccompanied Minors stresses the need of procedural guarantees and an appropriate representation of these children to prevent from any violation of their rights.

The European Forum on Street Children 2012 will undertake to illuminate the complex background situation as well as the reasons and types of violence against unaccompanied minors. Furthermore it will identify main targets for structural change in this area in order to implement the goals of the EU Agenda for the Rights of the Child and elaborate strategic policy design jointly with Member States' authorities for a common European approach against violence on unaccompanied minors. It will provide an exchange of best practice among key stakeholders from civil society, NGOs, EU, national and local authorities and research on efficient methods of prevention and protection of these most vulnerable children against violence. Last but not least it intends to stimulate the EU inter-institutional exchange on a better co-ordinated action (Commission, EP, FRA) in this field.

Target group: Representatives from EFSC member organisations, Representatives from national governments, EU institutions, NGOs, welfare associations, universities, national, regional and local authorities



EFSC

The European Federation for Street Children (EFSC) is a non-profit Luxembourg-based association committed to the improvement of the rights and living conditions of children at risk, particularly street children.

As a platform for lobbying and advocacy towards the European Union, we provide non-governmental organisations, both inside and outside the EU, committed to this cause with information and advice concerning all children and youth-related policies and assistance programmes of the EU and facilitate the exchange of best practice between them.

EFSC aims at the improvement of rights and living conditions of young people at risk by raising public and political awareness with the EU Institutions.

EFSC promotes and facilitates a better mutual exchange and cooperation between EU policy makers, national governments and NGOs working for children and youth at risk. To achieve this goal, we organise seminars and conferences for our partners, professionals, experts, researchers and politicians to encourage networking and information exchange at international, European, national and local level.

For further information about EFSC's mission and objectives, please consult our statutes : <http://www.efsc-eu.org>

EUROPEAN FEDERATION FOR STREET CHILDREN - EFSC HELP US SAVE CHILDREN FROM THE STREETS

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Istituto don Calabria is a non-profit organization that works with youth in difficulties since the early 1900's. The initiative dates back to the Second World War, when through the goodwill San Giovanni Calabria (founder) made this type of assistance work become the specific mission of the organisation.

Over time Comunità San Benedetto has developed many types of diversified services targeted to minors in discomfort. Following the socio-cultural and legislative development of the recent years, the organization's structure has increasingly changed in order to better adapt to the specific contexts and ensure the required quality standards of their work.

The headquarters in Verona, manage diurnal and residential centres. Intervention strategies in the field of rehabilitation and education for minors in situation of discomfort and juvenile offenders also take place there. In the last ten years, Istituto don Calabria has in addition expanded their work scope through a project office dedicated specifically to the



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PROGRAMME

Thursday 11th of October, 2012

- 13.30 Registration of participants
- 14.00 Welcoming speeches and Introduction:
- Alessandro Padovani
Director **Istituto don Calabria**
- Reinhold Müller
Director **European Federation for Street Children**
- Elisabetta Gardini (tbc)
Member of the **European Parliament**
- Edgardo Iozia
Member of the **European Economic and Social Committee**
President of **Prosolidar - ONLUS**
- Jasmina Byrne
Specialista Tutela Minorile
UNICEF Istituto di Ricerca Innocenti
- Flavio Tosi
Mayor of the City of Verona
- 15.30 Coffee Break

I. Making the 'invisible' visible:

Forms and root causes of violence against unaccompanied minors in Europe. The humanitarian, legal and political dimension of the phenomenon.

Moderation: Reinhold Müller, Director EFSC

- 16.00 **Silvia Spinuso**, Project Officer **International Organization for Migration** *Assessing origin families' behavior to better understand the migratory paths and related needs of unaccompanied migrant children once in Italy*
- 16.45 **Nevena Milutinovic**, Child Protection Co-ordinator **Save the Children North-West Balkans** *The Balkans as a transition region for unaccompanied minors and trafficking of children. Comprehensive protection of children on the move against violence*
- 17.30 **Jasmina Byrne**, Child Protection Specialist **UNICEF Research Centre, Florence** *Child Trafficking in the Nordic Countries: Rethinking Strategies and National Responses.*

- 18.00 **Stefania Congia** Director Dpt. for Integration Policies and Protection of Foreign Minors **Italian Ministry of Labour** *Unaccompanied minors and asylum seekers in Italy with a special focus on violence: Facts, main tendencies and national strategies for rehabilitation and integration*
- 18.30 **Study Visit** The way back into society for children and youth at risk: Overcoming traumatic experiences and gaining self-esteem through education, participation and vocational training. The rehabilitation projects of Istituto don Calabria.
- 20.30 Dinner

Friday 12th of October, 2012

II. From Prevention to integration:

Best practice approaches of NGOs and local authorities to break the vicious circle of violence and social exclusion for children at risk. Case studies from Italy and other EU countries.

Moderation: Alessandro Padovani, Director IDC

- 09.00 **Aurea Dissegna**, Public Guardian for Minors **Office for the Protection and Guardianship of Minors in Veneto** *From emergency support to re-integration: the Italian experiences related to legal assistance and representation targeted to unaccompanied minors subject to violence in the country of destination*
- 09.40 **Szilvia Gyurkó**, Director of Child Rights **UNICEF, Hungary** *Child abduction and sexual abuse of children: Root causes and main tendencies in Central and Eastern Europe*
- 10.20 Coffee Break
- 10.50 **Carla Chirico**, Information, PR & Sponsorship Officer **European Federation for Street Children** *The EFSC project ESCAPE (Daphne III): Prevention of marginalised minors against violence through strengthening of life skills, self-confidence and conflict solving - a trans-national street/peer violence prevention and contrast programme*
- 11.30 **Isabel Porto**, Project Officer **Instituto de Apoio à Criança** *Re-valorization, self-estimation and participation: Key elements for the re-habilitation of children suffering under violence. The process-oriented approach of IAC's juvenile inclusion centers in Portugal*
- 12.15 **Open debate**
- 12.30 **Lunch**

III. Panel Discussion

Prevention and Protection of unaccompanied minors against violence: How to improve the co-operation between the EU, international and national authorities
European Policy Concepts in the light of Member States scenarios

14.00 **Adoption of a Joint declaration**

14.30 **Panel Discussion**

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Director Dpt. for Integration Policies and Protection of foreign minors

Italian Ministry of Labour

Aurea Dissegna

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Member of the **European Economic and Social Committee**
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Nevena Milutinovic

Child Protection Co-ordinator

Save the Children, North-West Balkans

Cesare Moreno, President

Associazione Maestri di Strada ONLUS

Serenella Pesarin

Director General, Implementation of Legal Provisions
Italian Ministry of Justice

16.15 **Concluding Remarks**



EFSC EUROPEAN FEDERATION
FOR STREET CHILDREN



Istituto don Calabria