

# ESN Seminar

Migrant children and young people

Social inclusion and transition to adulthood

Stockholm, Sweden  
23 - 24 October 2017

Organised in cooperation with:



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# Migrant children and young people

## Social inclusion and transition to adulthood

Stockholm, 23-24 October



This event is organised in cooperation with ESN member Socialstyrelsen, the National Board of Health and Welfare, and the City of Stockholm

## WELCOME WORD

Dear colleagues,

We would like to warmly welcome you to our seminar on migrant children and young people organised in cooperation with the Swedish National Board of Health and Welfare. We are delighted to host this event in Sweden, as it was one of the countries most affected by the arrival of asylum-seeking children in 2015 and 2016. This seminar will facilitate the exchange of knowledge and practice around major issues facing migrant children and young people such as access to education, healthcare, protection, and their transition to adulthood, particularly for unaccompanied children.

The European Social Network (ESN) has undertaken research and various activities in 2017 to explore how public social services have been integrating migrant children and young people in their host societies following the beginning of the refugee crisis in 2015. In a comprehensive questionnaire, we collected the views and practices of our members and external professionals on the reception, provision of access to services, and social inclusion of migrant children and young people. With this seminar, we intend to facilitate mutual learning between more than 160 participants from 20 countries about the challenges and opportunities of different approaches in the provision of adequate access to services such as accommodation, healthcare, and education to facilitate young migrants' integration in our societies.

ESN believes that migrant children and young people have great potential within our societies. Helping them discover and nurture this potential and supporting their social inclusion is a key role for social services.

We hope that this seminar will be a great opportunity for you to learn more about how social services are developing and implementing relevant policy and practice in different European countries, and exchange experience with ESN members and partner organisations. We encourage you to contribute to the discussions online on [Twitter @ESNsocial](#) using [#migrantchildren](#) and on our [LinkedIn group \*Social Services in Europe\*](#).

Best wishes,



Christian Fillet  
Chair, European Social Network

## BACKGROUND

In 2015, the arrival of migrants in Europe reached unprecedented numbers. According to Eurostat, 1,322,825 migrants applied for asylum in the EU in 2015 and 1,260,630 applied in 2016<sup>1</sup>. Among them, 95,205 unaccompanied children applied for international protection in EU countries in 2015, and 63,280 in 2016<sup>2</sup>. Therefore, European countries face the challenge of supporting these children but must also explore the many opportunities to nurture their potential to contribute to our societies.

When it comes to unaccompanied children, social services are key for guaranteeing their protection and development through ensuring access to mainstream care, education and health, as well as programmes fostering their long-term social inclusion. International, national, regional and local authorities are all called on to coordinate their efforts to create adequate legal, policy and practice frameworks that ensure unaccompanied children receive the best possible protection and support along the lines of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

ESN has been working on issues related to unaccompanied children and young people since 2005, when it published its first report on the social inclusion of young asylum seekers<sup>3</sup>. Some of the issues highlighted in the report are still of relevance today, and actually even more important given the exceptional number of children and young people arriving in EU countries since 2015. ESN members in public services across Europe signalled to ESN the various challenges they were facing to support migrants' inclusion as a result of the refugee crisis. This led to ESN conducting a questionnaire and publishing a second report in 2016 analysing the impact of the refugee crisis on local public social services<sup>4</sup>.

This topic also featured prominently at the 2016 European Social Services Conference in The Hague, where we dedicated a panel discussion to the topic of integrating refugees, including practices on unaccompanied migrant children. We also specifically addressed legal and practice frameworks to support unaccompanied children at the launch of the publication 'Investing in Children's Services: improving outcomes'<sup>5</sup>, which reviews children's services in 14 European countries to contribute to the implementation of the European Commission's Recommendation 'Investing in children'<sup>6</sup>. ESN's policy director Alfonso Lara Montero also wrote an article<sup>7</sup> for the British newspaper the Guardian and a paper<sup>8</sup> for the social services magazine 'Servicios Sociales y Política Social' on this issue.

The issue is now more relevant than ever as social services must continue to take steps towards the social inclusion of these children, making sure that the initial investment pays off in the long run by nurturing and developing their potential within our societies.

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<sup>1</sup> EUROSTAT (2017), Asylum and first time asylum applicants – Annual aggregated data (rounded), available at: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/tgm/table.do?tab=table&init=1&language=en&pcode=tps00191&plugin=1> (last accessed 13/09/17)

<sup>2</sup> EUROSTAT (2017), Asylum applicants considered to be unaccompanied minors – Annual data. Available at: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/tgm/table.do?tab=table&init=1&language=en&pcode=tps00194&plugin=1> (last accessed 13/09/17)

<sup>3</sup> ESN (2005). *Promoting inclusion for unaccompanied young asylum seekers and immigrants – A duty of justice and care.*. Available at: <http://www.esn-eu.org/raw.php?page=files&id=187> (last accessed 13/09/17)

<sup>4</sup> ESN (2016). *The impact of the refugee crisis on local public social services in Europe.* Available at: <http://www.esn-eu.org/raw.php?page=files&id=2174> (last accessed 13/09/17)

<sup>5</sup> Lara Montero, A. (2016). *Investing in Children's Services, improving outcomes.* Available at: <http://www.esn-eu.org/raw.php?page=files&id=2062> (last accessed 13/09/17)

<sup>6</sup> European Commission. Recommendation - Investing in Children: breaking the cycle of disadvantage (2013/112/EU). Available at: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=CELEX:32013H0112> (last accessed 05/10/17)

<sup>7</sup> Lara Montero, A. (2016). 'EU states are denying child migrants essential services', The Guardian, available at: <https://www.theguardian.com/social-care-network/2016/aug/23/child-migrants-denied-essential-services> (last accessed 13/09/17)

<sup>8</sup> Lara Montero, A. (2016). 'La crisis de los refugiados y el impacto en los servicios sociales públicos en Europa', *Servicios Sociales y Política Social*, Vol. XXXIII, n. 111 (August 2016), pp. 13-27

In March, we developed an online questionnaire to help us identify key issues for the social inclusion of migrant children and young people. The questionnaire was submitted to public social services, local authorities and third sector organisations working with migrants and migrant children. We received a total of 50 completed questionnaires from 19 European countries, and identified three main issues to be addressed in the short term: housing, the development of integration strategies and support for unaccompanied children.

The questionnaire also aimed to identify key issues concerning access to education and training, healthcare and guardianship, as well as specific national legislation for unaccompanied children. Thanks to the questionnaire, we discovered specific practices in relevant areas of work with migrant children and young people, including care and protection for unaccompanied children, families, and migrant young people's transition to adulthood. These practices will be uploaded to ESN's practice library, providing an excellent resource for social services professionals and others to learn about innovative approaches on the reception and integration of migrants.

### **AIM OF THE SEMINAR**

At ESN, we have a specific mission to support our members on the ground. Therefore, this seminar is taking place in Sweden, one of the countries most affected by the arrival of asylum-seeking children in 2015 and 2016, and will support Swedish members and partners in learning about policy and practice in other European countries. The seminar is organised in cooperation with ESN member, the Swedish National Board of Health and Welfare, which issues local authorities with guidance for service development.

The seminar will enable a broad analysis of the state of play in international, European, national and local policies concerning unaccompanied children and young migrants to ensure their effective inclusion and smooth transition to adulthood. Starting from the development of international instruments and policies, a number of key themes will be explored, namely major issues around access to education, health, care and protection services, the importance of strengthening refugee families' integration, transition to adulthood, and future scenarios for policy and practice.

Participants will have the opportunity to discuss with European and international policy-makers the key issues that local social services face when it comes to the reception and social inclusion of unaccompanied children and migrant young people. Furthermore, participants will take part in two group discussions. The main outcomes from the group discussions will form the basis of a report that ESN will publish after the seminar.

This report will reflect the wider themes and issues showcased during the seminar. This will include policies developed at national, European and international levels complemented with examples of practice developed by local public social services on the theme of migrant children and young people's social inclusion and transition to adulthood.

## PROGRAMME

**Monday, 23 October** (Room 'Djurgardssalen' – First floor)

08:30	<b>Registration of delegates</b>
09:00	<b>Welcome and setting the scene</b>
–	<i>Chair: Christian Fillet, Chair, European Social Network</i>
09:45	<b>Åsa Regnér</b> , Minister for Children, the Elderly and Gender Equality, Ministry of Health and Social Affairs, Sweden <b>Anna Maria Corazza Bildt</b> , MEP, Co-Chair, Children's Rights Intergroup, European Parliament <b>Olivia Wigzell</b> , Director General, National Board of Health and Welfare, Sweden
09:45	<b>Session 1: International organisations overview on reception and support of migrant children and young people</b>
–	<i>Chair: John Halloran, Chief Executive, European Social Network</i>
11:15	<b>The protection of children in migration: emerging issues and ways forward</b> Maria Zuber, Coordinator on Minors, Directorate-General Migration and Home Affairs, European Commission <b>Migrant children and young people's access to rights and services</b> Astrid Podsiadlowski, Head of Sector Rights of the Child, Equality and Citizens' Rights Department, European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights <b>Health of young migrants and refugees</b> Soorej Puthoopparambil, Consultant, WHO Regional Office for Europe <b>Psychosocial support for young refugees' wellbeing</b> Guglielmo Schininà, Head of Mental Health, Psychosocial Response and Intercultural Communication Section, International Organisation for Migration Questions and answers
11:15	<b>Coffee break</b> (served outside 'Djurgardssalen' and on the ground floor)
–	
11:45	
11:45	<b>Session 2: Unaccompanied children in the care system</b>
–	<i>Chair: David Brindle, Public Services Editor, The Guardian, United Kingdom</i>

<p>13:15</p>	<p><b>Trafficking of unaccompanied children – prevention and individualised victim support</b></p> <p>Lucio Melandri, Senior Emergency Manager, Refugee &amp; Migrant Crisis in Europe, UNICEF</p> <p><b>Guardianship standards for unaccompanied children in Europe</b></p> <p>Jantine Walst, Coordinator, Programme for Separated Children in Europe, Defence for Children, Netherlands</p> <p><b>Reception and integration of unaccompanied children in the Scandinavian countries</b></p> <p>Anna Gärdegård, Project Leader, Nordic Welfare Centre</p> <p><b>The care, protection and education model for unaccompanied children in Ireland</b></p> <p>Jessica Farnan, Manager, Separated Children's Service, City of Dublin Education and Training Board, Ireland</p> <p>Questions and answers</p>
<p>13:15 – 14:15</p>	<p><b>Lunch break</b> (<i>served in the restaurant, ground floor</i>)</p>
<p>14:15 – 15:30</p>	<p><b>Session 3: Strengthening the integration of migrant families</b></p> <p><i>Chair: Thomas Dunning, Principal Social Worker, TUSLA Child and Family Agency, Ireland</i></p> <p><b>Family services for single mothers with young children</b></p> <p>Cornelia Stolzenberg, Head of Department for Integration Management, City of Hannover, Germany</p> <p><b>Early interventions and accessible parent support as a means for integration</b></p> <p>Marianne Gabrielsson, Project leader, Children and Youth unit, Department of Social Services, City of Stockholm, Sweden</p> <p><b>Integrating migrant children and their families – the Maltese context</b></p> <p>Maryanne Gauci, Service Manager, Appogg Agency, Foundation for Welfare Services, Malta</p> <p>Questions and answers</p>
<p>15:30 – 16:00</p>	<p><b>Coffee Break</b> (<i>served outside 'Djurgardssalen' and on the ground floor</i>)</p>

<p>16:00</p> <p>–</p> <p>17:15</p>	<p><b>Session 4: The transition to adulthood of unaccompanied children</b></p> <p><i>Chair: Jennifer Davidson, Director, the Centre for Excellence for Looked After Children in Scotland, United Kingdom</i></p> <p><b>Education and labour market integration of young migrants</b></p> <p>Emily Farchy, Economist, OECD</p> <p><b>Access to education and training for young migrants</b></p> <p>Ulf Wallin, National Coordinator, Folk High School Skåne, Sweden</p> <p><b>The Youth College – skills-based education and training opportunities for 1,000 young migrants in Vienna</b></p> <p>Renate Schober, Project Manager for Integration, Vienna Social Fund, City of Vienna, Austria</p> <p>Questions and answers</p>
<p>19:30</p>	<p><b>Reception and dinner: hosted by the City of Stockholm</b></p> <p>Welcome from Eva Louise Erlandsson Slorach, President of Stockholm City Council</p>



**Tuesday, 24 October** (Room 'Djurgardssalen' – First floor)

08:30	<b>Registration of delegates</b>
09:00	<b>Introduction</b> Alfonso Lara Montero, Policy Director/Deputy CEO, European Social Network
09:10 – 10:00	<b>Group discussion on unaccompanied children in care</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reception of unaccompanied children</li><li>• Integration and experience in care system for unaccompanied children</li><li>• The integration of refugee families</li></ul> Questions and answers
10:00 – 10:30	<b>Project forum</b> <i>Chair: Chris Kuypers, Director, National Association of Local Governments for Social Welfare, Netherlands</i> <b>CURANT: a peer-oriented cohousing project for young refugees</b> Jolien De Crom, Project Coordinator, Public Centre for Social Welfare Antwerp, Belgium <b>Health education and access to healthcare for unaccompanied migrant children</b> José Maria Atienza Borge, Project Coordinator, Doctors of the World, Melilla, Spain <b>The Asylum Healthcare Platform and the web-based toolkit: monitoring health to provide the right intervention at the right time</b> Henrik Tunér, Project Manager, Mission Mental Health, Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions, Sweden <b>Blue Dot: a day centre for refugee and migrant children and women in Athens</b> Panagiota Metheniti Paraskeva, Social Worker, Solidarity Now, Greece
10:30 – 11:00	<b>Coffee break and project exchange</b> ( <i>served inside and outside 'Djurgardssalen'</i> )
11:00 – 12:00	<b>Group discussion on unaccompanied children's transition to adulthood</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ensuring a positive and person-centred transition to adulthood</li><li>• Preparing and integrating unaccompanied children into the labour market</li></ul>
12:00	<b>Panel discussion: Moving forward on policy and practice</b>

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*Chair: Alfonso Lara Montero, Policy Director/Deputy CEO, European Social Network*

**Raquel Cortés-Herrera**, Deputy Head of Unit, Directorate-General Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission

**Mahboba Madadi**, Chair, Coalition for Unaccompanied Minors, Sweden

**Petra Rinman**, Head of Unaccompanied Minors Knowledge Centre, National Board for Health and Welfare, Sweden

**Francesc Iglesias I Riumalló**, Secretary for Social Affairs and Families, Regional Government of Catalonia, Spain

Questions and answers

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13:15

**Closing and Lunch** (*served in the restaurant, ground floor*)

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## KEY THEMES

### International organisations overview on reception and support of migrant children and young people

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)<sup>9</sup> was signed in 1989 and has been ratified by 195 states, including all EU Member States. The Convention represents the first binding international legal instrument to address the rights of children and provides the highest level of international standards and guidelines for national and regional implementation. Some of the articles of the Convention cover, although not exclusively, the situation of unaccompanied children, such as the right to non-discrimination, the right to life, survival and development, the right to express their views and the opportunity to be heard and guaranteed that their best interest is at the heart of any actions concerning them.

At European level, the Treaty on the European Union and the Charter of Fundamental rights are the main legal tools for the protection of children, although European institutions have also agreed additional specific legal and policy frameworks. The European Commission (EC) adopted the European Agenda on Migration<sup>10</sup> in 2015, which combines different initiatives and legal instruments concerning migration such as relocation mechanisms, a common European asylum policy, developing safe ways to reach the EU and a new European migration policy. The effective protection of children in migration is key in the migration policy proposed by the Commission.

However, there are gaps when it comes to implementation. Because of the lack of effective mechanisms to identify children, many of them have disappeared or fallen victim to human trafficking or smugglers<sup>11</sup>. Moreover, the age assessment of unaccompanied children is still a major issue together with the appointment of guardians<sup>12</sup>. The age assessment represents a very delicate phase for unaccompanied children, since as observed by the European Union Agency on Fundamental Rights (FRA), inadequate age identification measures have led to children being treated as adults and placed in detention<sup>13</sup>. FRA has also noted that some children undergo extreme stress and anxiety regarding age assessments and the possible implications for their asylum application.

The reception of unaccompanied children is one of the major challenges that EU countries are facing today because of the complexity of the problem. A major concern is the use of detention to host migrants and asylum-seekers, including unaccompanied children<sup>14</sup>. On top of the physical impact of the journey, the experience of detention can cause physical and psychological trauma, which can have a tremendous impact on wellbeing in the long-term. To improve the response of national systems to migrant children, training, guidance, operational support and funding are crucial. The European Commission has given momentum to the protection of unaccompanied children through a communication on the

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<sup>9</sup> UN (1989). Convention on the Rights of the Child, available at: <https://www.unicef.org.uk/what-we-do/un-convention-child-rights/> (last accessed 13/09/17)

<sup>10</sup> European Commission (2015). European Agenda on Migration. Available at: [https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/european-agenda-migration\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/european-agenda-migration_en) (last accessed 13/09/17)

<sup>11</sup> Arpita, M. (2016). *The story of missing children: unaccompanied minors in the prevailing refugee crisis*. Border Criminology Blog – University of Oxford Faculty of Law, available at: <https://www.law.ox.ac.uk/research-subject-groups/centre-criminology/centreborder-criminologies/blog/2016/09/story-%E2%80%98missing> (last accessed 13/09/17)

<sup>12</sup> FRA (2015). *Guardianship systems for children deprived of parental care in the European Union*. Available at: <http://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2015/guardianship-children-deprived-parental-care> (last accessed 13/09/17)

<sup>13</sup> FRA (2017). *European legal and policy framework on immigration detention of children*. Available at: <http://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2017/child-migrant-detention> (last accessed 13/09/17)

<sup>14</sup> European Parliament (2016). *Briefing - Arbitrary detention of women and children for immigration-related purposes*, available at: [http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2016/577991/EPRS\\_BRI\(2016\)577991\\_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2016/577991/EPRS_BRI(2016)577991_EN.pdf) (last accessed 13/09/17)

protection of children in migration<sup>15</sup> released in April 2017. The communication focuses on identification and protection procedures, durable solutions and effective guardianship systems.

In addition to the challenges related to reception, there is a need for long-term integration and social inclusion strategies. Access to education, accommodation, healthcare as well as psychosocial support is key for promoting successful integration. As the International Organisation on Migration (IOM) assessed, psychosocial support is also crucial, especially when it focuses on strengthening resilience and social support<sup>16</sup>. In this respect, community-based care that builds on local culture and provides continuity in learning, socialisation and development is a key element for integration<sup>17</sup>. Access to healthcare is another important issue. As noted by the World Health Organisation (WHO), many barriers still exist, including communication difficulties, cultural issues, accessibility, and bureaucratic barriers<sup>18</sup>.

### **Unaccompanied children in the care system**

According to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, the term unaccompanied child refers to “any child aged below 18 who is separated from both parents and is not being cared for by an adult, who by law or custom has the responsibility to do so<sup>19</sup>”. The UNCRC states that every child must be guaranteed the same rights. Therefore, the reception of unaccompanied children and their social inclusion have put significant pressure on social services who are directly responsible for guaranteeing a number of rights outlined in the Convention. Some of these rights include access to accommodation, education and healthcare.

In its report ‘Investing in Children’s Services, improving outcomes’, ESN pointed out that asylum-seeking children are entitled to access services such as education, healthcare and child protection. However, the reality is often very different<sup>20</sup>. ESN members have noted that in general, there are too few interpreters, social workers and foster families. Schools have also experienced difficulties in meeting the needs of unaccompanied children and some healthcare services, such as dental care, have struggled to meet demand<sup>21</sup>. Social services have also had difficulties in following up on suspicions of violence and distress in private family homes or children’s homes accommodating asylum-seeking children<sup>22</sup>.

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<sup>15</sup> European Union. Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council – The protection of children in migration. SWD (2017) 129 Final. Available at: [https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we-do/policies/european-agenda-migration/20170412\\_communication\\_on\\_the\\_protection\\_of\\_children\\_in\\_migration\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we-do/policies/european-agenda-migration/20170412_communication_on_the_protection_of_children_in_migration_en.pdf) (last accessed 13/09/17)

<sup>16</sup> IOM (2016). *Psychosocial support crucial for migrants says IOM Expert*. Available at: <https://www.iom.int/news/psychosocial-support-crucial-migrants-says-iom-expert> (last accessed 13/09/17)

<sup>17</sup> International Committee of the Red Cross (2004). *Inter-agency guiding principles on unaccompanied and separated children*, p. 50. Available at: <https://shop.icrc.org/principes-directeurs-inter-agences-relatifs-aux-enfants-non-accompagnes-ou-separes-de-leur-famille-990.html> (last accessed 13/09/17)

<sup>18</sup> WHO (2015). *Public health aspects of migrant health: a review of the evidence on health status for refugees and asylum seekers in the European Region – Health Evidence Network Synthesis Report 44*. Available at: [http://www.euro.who.int/data/assets/pdf\\_file/0004/289246/WHO-HEN-Report-A5-2-Refugees\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.euro.who.int/data/assets/pdf_file/0004/289246/WHO-HEN-Report-A5-2-Refugees_FINAL.pdf) (last accessed 13/09/17)

<sup>19</sup> UNHCR (1987), *Note on Refugee Children EC/SCP/46*, available at: <http://www.unhcr.org/uk/excom/scip/3ae68ccc18/note-refugee-children.html> (last accessed 13/09/17)

<sup>20</sup> Lara Montero, A. (2016). *Investing in Children’s Services, Improving Outcomes*. Available at: <http://www.esn-eu.org/raw.php?page=files&id=2062> (last accessed 13/09/17)

<sup>21</sup> Lara Montero, A. (2016). ‘EU states are denying child migrants essential services’, *The Guardian*, available at: <https://www.theguardian.com/social-care-network/2016/aug/23/child-migrants-denied-essential-services> (last accessed 13/09/17)

<sup>22</sup> *Ibid*

According to the EU Reception Conditions Directive<sup>23</sup>, asylum-seeking children should have access to education until an expulsion measure is actually enforced. Moreover, the directive establishes that access to the education system should not be postponed for more than three months from the date when the application for international protection was lodged on behalf of the child<sup>24</sup>. When it comes to primary and secondary education, FRA also noted that some children might need specific support before joining regular schools<sup>25</sup>. However, a number of barriers prevent access to education. Sometimes accommodation is too far from the school, which represents a deterrent together with the difficulties to learn the language or being in a school level that is not the most appropriate for the child.

Regarding healthcare, although all EU Member States provide emergency healthcare, access to prevention programmes, treatment for chronic diseases or primary care is sometimes limited<sup>26</sup>. Accessing healthcare is also difficult due to language and cultural barriers, therefore, the cooperation between health and social services is key to ensure that refugee children receive the right care. As noted by WHO, health systems alone cannot guarantee high-quality care for refugee and migrant groups, especially for those who are more vulnerable, such as children and young people<sup>27</sup>.

### **Strengthening the integration of migrant families**

Compared to other migrant families, refugee families do not choose to migrate but do so to flee from war, danger or persecution. Therefore, they are very vulnerable and often have specific needs to successfully integrate into society.

Starting from basic needs such as accommodation and healthcare for all members of the family, social services are also responsible for helping parents find employment which can ensure the financial sustainability of their families<sup>28</sup>. Cooperation between social and employment services is crucial to successfully integrate parents in the job market of the host country. Social services are also responsible for guaranteeing that children integrate into the education system<sup>29</sup>. According to a study conducted by FRA, several EU Member States face difficulties in providing asylum-seeking families with childcare facilities and these difficulties are mainly due to long waiting periods, language barriers, accessibility in terms of distance, insufficient guidance and lack of information on opportunities, low expense allowances for asylum seekers and challenges in supporting traumatised children<sup>30</sup>.

Social services have strong case management responsibilities since they need to provide educational support, language training, career and educational counselling, mental health care, and social integration support.

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<sup>23</sup> European Union. Directive 2013/33/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down standards for the reception of applicants for international protection (recast). Available at: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32013L0033&from=EN> (last accessed 13/09/17)

<sup>24</sup> FRA (2017). *Current migration situation in the EU: Education*, p. 7. Available at: <http://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2017/current-migration-situation-eu-education> (last accessed 13/09/17)

<sup>25</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 8

<sup>26</sup> Doctors of the World (2012). *Access to healthcare for vulnerable groups in the European Union in 2012*. Available at: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/document/activities/cont/201302/20130208ATT60776/20130208ATT60776EN.pdf> (last accessed 13/09/17)

<sup>27</sup> WHO, *Migration and health: key issues*. Available at: <http://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/health-determinants/migration-and-health/migrant-health-in-the-european-region/migration-and-health-key-issues#page-wrap> (last accessed 13/09/17)

<sup>28</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 60

<sup>29</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 77

<sup>30</sup> FRA (2017). *Current migration situation in the EU: Education*, p. 7. Available at: <http://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2017/current-migration-situation-eu-education> (last accessed 13/09/17)

Some families are also more vulnerable than others, such as single mothers or families where domestic violence has occurred. These vulnerable families need special attention from social services who need to find the best solutions to help them overcome their traumatic experiences and empower members of the family to guarantee their social inclusion.

### **Transition to adulthood of unaccompanied children**

Among the many challenges for unaccompanied young migrants without a family, the transition to adulthood is a major one. For many young migrants, reaching 18 can be associated with a loss of privileges as access to public services such as housing and legal representation may become restricted. Although progress has been made in some cases where the provision of care has been extended beyond the age of legal adulthood to former unaccompanied children who are enrolled in an education, training or employment programme, or to those who are particularly vulnerable, such extensions typically last only up to the age of 21<sup>31</sup>, though in an increasing number of countries the age threshold is being raised to 24 or 25.

In a study conducted in 2014, the Council of Europe and the UN Refugee Agency highlighted that reaching adult age has a significant impact on the psychological wellbeing of asylum-seeking unaccompanied migrant children because of their specific vulnerability and needs<sup>32</sup>. Psychological support is key for their wellbeing and it should include specific counselling on the transition to adulthood as a strategy to help children cope with their anxiety. In addition to psychological support, access to education, training, job coaching, job search support, and adequate language support are crucial to guarantee successful integration in the host countries.

Access to education and to the labour market are important factors in the transition to adulthood. Asylum-seeking unaccompanied children are entitled under EU law to access primary and secondary education<sup>33</sup>. Unfortunately, this right is not always guaranteed for children approaching the age of adulthood because compulsory education often ends between the ages of 15 and 16<sup>34</sup>. When it comes to access to higher education, a number of barriers have also been identified, such as lack of information, lack of advice and individual guidance, lack of recognition of credits and qualifications particularly when missing documents, inadequate language support provisions and lack of adequate financing<sup>35</sup>.

Access to education and to vocational programmes has proved to be fundamental to ensure the financial independence of young adult migrants<sup>36</sup>. The education system can support migrant young people by helping them discover their skills and improve their abilities which

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<sup>31</sup> OECD (2016), *Making Integration Work: Refugees and others in need of protection*, OECD Publishing, p. 45, available at: <http://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/docserver/download/8116031e.pdf?expires=1505485380&id=id&accname=quest&checksum=9001580546CAA7EAFDAAF2221BC76243> (last accessed 13/09/17)

<sup>32</sup> UNHCR/CoE (2014). Unaccompanied and separated asylum-seeking and refugee children turning eighteen: what to celebrate?, available at: <https://rm.coe.int/unhcr-coereporttransitionadulthood/native/1680724c42> (last accessed 13/09/17)

<sup>33</sup> European Union. Directive 2013/33/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council layim down standards for the reception of applicants for international protection (recast). Available at: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32013L0033&from=EN> (last accessed 13/09/17)

<sup>34</sup> CoE (2014). *Unaccompanied and separated asylum-seeking and refugee children turning eighteen: what to celebrate?*, available at: <https://rm.coe.int/unhcr-coereporttransitionadulthood/native/1680724c42> (last accessed 13/09/17)

<sup>35</sup> European Students' Union (2017). *Refugees welcome? Recognition of qualifications held by refugees and their access to higher education in Europe – Country analyses*, p. 4, available at: <https://www.esu-online.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/ESU-Are-Refugees-Welcome-WEBSITE-1.compressed-1.pdf> (last accessed 13/09/17)

<sup>36</sup> *Ibid*, p. 30

is crucial for building a better life in the country where they settle<sup>37</sup>. Moreover, access to the labour market can then be easier. There is also solid evidence that education can help young migrant adults make friends and find mentors, and provides them with useful skills such as independence, problem solving, critical thinking, teamwork and self-esteem<sup>38</sup>.

## SESSION NOTES

### **Session 1: International organisations overview on reception and support of migrant children and young people**

The first session of the seminar aims at providing an overview of international organisations' contributions to policy-making in terms of protecting migrant children and young people. The session will start by addressing the main issues addressed by the European Commission in the recent Communication on the protection of children in migration. The session will continue with the presentation of existing gaps in the implementation of fundamental rights of migrant children and young people as analysed by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights. Next, participants will hear the latest policies and tools to promote the health and access to healthcare of migrant children and young people from the World Health Organisation. Finally, the session will focus on the provision of psychosocial support for the successful integration of migrant children and young people in their host countries through the work of the International Organisation for Migration.

### **Session 2: Unaccompanied children in the care system**

The second thematic session focuses on unaccompanied children in care. One of the major problems identified recently is the number of unaccompanied children that disappear and become victims of trafficking, therefore methods to strengthen protection mechanisms and give support to victims will be analysed. The issue of guardianship is strictly related to this problem given the role of guardians in safeguarding unaccompanied children. The appointment of a guardian is one of the first measures of protection for unaccompanied children. In general, a guardian is responsible for the legal representation of the child and supports children in accessing services such as healthcare, accommodation and education that are key for their personal wellbeing. Guardian's tasks vary somewhat in different countries as their role is mainly regulated by domestic law, therefore some core standards for guardians will be presented as a guideline to inspire policy and legal frameworks. Finally, the session will offer an overview on reception and integration procedures for unaccompanied children in Scandinavian countries and in Ireland.

### **Session 3: Strengthening the integration of migrant families**

The third session of the seminar aims to analyse practices on the integration of families in their host countries. Compared to other families, refugee families face additional challenges that make them more vulnerable. In addition to traumatic experiences from difficult journeys, war, persecution and financial problems, refugee families are also faced with the challenge of integration in their host country. A lack of language skills, having to adjust to the new culture and accessing services whilst guaranteeing the stability of their families are some of the issues that make their integration process more difficult. Moreover, children and young

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<sup>37</sup> UNHCR (2016). *Missing out – Refugee education in crisis*, p. 5, available at: [http://uis.unesco.org/sites/default/files/documents/missing-out-refugee-education-in-crisis\\_unhcr\\_2016-en.pdf](http://uis.unesco.org/sites/default/files/documents/missing-out-refugee-education-in-crisis_unhcr_2016-en.pdf) (last accessed 13/09/17)

<sup>38</sup> *Ibid*, p. 5

people migrating as part of a family have specific needs that should be addressed to guarantee that they receive appropriate care and are given opportunities to integrate in their new countries. The practices that will be presented during this session will focus on different aspects of families' integration in communities across Europe, accounting for a number of contexts and different welfare systems. The audience will discover family services for single mothers developed in the City of Hannover, early interventions and parenting support for migrant families in the City of Stockholm and integration programmes for migrant families in Malta.

#### **Session 4: Transition to adulthood of unaccompanied children**

The fourth thematic session of the seminar aims at highlighting some of the issues that affect migrant young people when turning 18 after growing up in the care system. To ensure the best possible transition to adulthood, education and vocational training are critical, together with professional development and job coaching so that migrant young people can access the labour market. During this session, participants will listen to an overview of integration strategies for migrant young people in the labour market in different European countries as well as the major challenges they face according to OECD research. International initiatives will be complemented with local examples aimed at ensuring young migrants' successful transition to adulthood and independent living, such as 'Folk High School Skåne' in Sweden and the 'Youth college' in Vienna.

#### **Project forum**

This session offers an opportunity to listen to four different services provided by social services across Europe. Aiming at facilitating the transition to adulthood, CURANT offers cohousing solutions to young migrants turning 18, together with an integrated approach to social inclusion which involves language lessons, vocational training, education and counselling support. In Spain, Doctors of the World targets unaccompanied migrant children living in or outside reception centres in Melilla in northern Africa, which has become an entry point to Europe for many unaccompanied migrant children. Through workshops on health education, drug prevention and wellbeing, this project helps children develop healthy habits and promotes their access to healthcare. The Asylum Healthcare Platform was developed specifically to support county councils and regions in Sweden in the provision of health assessments, mental health services and support plans for asylum seekers, including unaccompanied children. Finally, the Blue Dot day centre in Athens provides free childcare, psychological support for women and case management to ensure the social inclusion of migrant children and women.

#### **Panel discussion: Moving forward on policy and practice**

Since 2015, EU countries have been faced with an unprecedented refugee crisis. The number of unaccompanied children and young people fleeing their home countries has increased, putting great pressure on social services across Europe. There is a need for effective and timely actions for the protection of unaccompanied children, especially those aiming at guaranteeing their social inclusion in the long term and a successful transition to adulthood and independent life. The panel discussion aims to pinpoint the next steps in terms of policy and practice based on the lessons learnt in the last two years, as well as the presentations and the discussions held at the seminar.



## Migrant children and young people - Social inclusion and transition to adulthood

ESN Seminar, 23 - 24 October, Stockholm



## Speakers

### Welcome and setting the scene

#### Christian Fillet

Chair,  
European Social Network

Christian was elected as Chair of ESN in 2015. Prior to this, he served as ESN's treasurer for six years. He is director of social and health services for the City of Bruges in Belgium and is also a member of the Board of the Flemish Directors Association (VVOS). He specialises in non-profit management, accounting and social law.



#### Åsa Regnér

Minister for Children, the Elderly and Gender Equality,  
Ministry of Health and Social Affairs, Sweden



Åsa has been in office since 2014 and one of her primary commitments is to strengthen children's rights, stating that: "United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child will become Swedish law". Between 2013 and 2014 she was country director for UN Women in Bolivia and from 2007 to 2012 she was secretary-general of RFSU (the Swedish Association for Sex Education). She has a long-standing career at ministerial level, having covered various roles as a director, political and strategic adviser.

#### Anna Maria Corazza Bildt

Member of the European Parliament, Co-Chair of the Children's Right Intergroup,  
European Parliament

Anna Maria is a member of the European Parliament, elected by the Swedish people in 2009 and in 2014. She chairs the European Parliament Intergroup on Children's Rights, which aims to promote children's rights and ensure that the best interest of the child is taken into account in EU internal and external action. Also, she has led some of the legislative work undertaken by the European Parliament on the implementation of a Directive to combat the sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children and child pornography.



#### Olivia Wigzell

Director General,  
The National Board of Health and Welfare, Sweden



Olivia is the director of the government agency for health and social services in Sweden. She is also the Swedish representative in the WHO Executive Board and chair of the OECD Health Committee. She is a board member in national advisory bodies and at Örebro University. Previously, she was director at the national agency for assessing healthcare and social services interventions and at the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs.

## Session 1: International organisations overview on reception and support of migrant children and young people

**John Halloran**  
Chief Executive,  
European Social Network



John is the chief executive of the European Social Network (ESN), a learning organisation which brings together people who plan, manage and deliver social care and health services in national, regional and local government, regulatory bodies and research organisations from 34 countries. Supported by the European Commission, ESN promotes social inclusion and better life chances through the delivery of quality social services. John has previously managed public welfare services in the UK where he has been responsible for community services for older people, people with disabilities and other vulnerable people.

**Maria Zuber**  
Coordinator on Minors, Directorate-General Migration and Home Affairs,  
European Commission



Maria has worked at the European Commission since 2010 and dealt with various portfolios concerning human rights, migration, asylum, security and international trade before coordinating issues related to minors. She has led on the EU's conclusion of the UN Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, negotiated mobility chapters of the EU free trade agreements and coordinated relations of the Commission with the Council of the EU on home affairs. In 2016, she spent six months in Thailand in Save the Children's Bangkok office as a member of the Programme Development and Quality Team.

**Astrid Podsiadlowski**  
Head of Sector Rights of the Child, Equality and Citizens' Rights Department,  
European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights



Astrid has multiple areas of expertise with respect to the work of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, including child-friendly justice, child poverty, discrimination and social inequalities, migration and integration and research methodologies. She is a social and cross-cultural psychologist by education and has previously held academic research and teaching positions in Europe as well as New Zealand and the USA.

**Soorej Puthooppambil**  
Consultant,  
WHO Regional Office for Europe



Soorej works as a consultant at the Migration and Health Programme at WHO Regional Office for Europe, contributing to evidence generation on issues related to the health of migrants and refugees. He has worked at the University of Limerick, Ireland, where he developed a model for introducing trained interpreters in healthcare settings. Also, he has evaluated migrant health policies in the southern European member states for the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

**Guglielmo Schinà**  
Head of Mental Health, Psychosocial Response and Intercultural Communication Section,  
International Organisation for Migration (IOM)



Guglielmo is a world renowned expert in psychosocial care for vulnerable migrants and trafficking victims, especially those affected by wars and disasters. He has worked as a manager of psychosocial programmes, psychosocial technical advisor and trainer in more than 30 countries in Europe, the Middle East, Africa, Asia and the Caribbean for international organisations, including UNICEF and the United Nations Development Programme.

## Session 2: Unaccompanied children in the care system

### David Brindle

Public Services Editor,  
The Guardian, United Kingdom

David is the public services editor of The Guardian newspaper. He specialises in social policy issues and has won awards for his coverage of health and social care and the voluntary sector. He is a regular conference chair and speaker. He is chair of NDTi, the National Development Team for Inclusion, a not-for-profit social change organisation, and is vice-chair of Recovery Focus, a group of mental health and addiction charities founded by Richmond Fellowship.



### Lucio Melandri

Senior Emergency Manager, Refugee & Migrant Crisis in Europe,  
UNICEF



Lucio has extensive experience in coordinating emergency responses and humanitarian interventions in countries like Jordan, where he has coordinated the UNICEF response to the refugee flows. In the 90s, he was an instructor of International Humanitarian Law for the International Movement of the Red Cross and worked as a director for international NGOs. He also served as a senior humanitarian adviser for the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

### Jantine Walst

Coordinator, Programme for Separated Children in Europe,  
Defence for Children, The Netherlands

Jantine has been working since 2014 for Defence for Children, one of the most renowned international NGOs advocating for children's rights. Within the organisation, she leads the Separated Children in Europe Programme, a network of 31 NGOs across Europe, seeking to improve the situation of separated children through research, shared policy and advocacy at national and regional levels. In addition, she has first-hand experience with unaccompanied migrants by giving legal assistance at the children's rights helpdesk of Defence for Children.



### Anna Gärdegård

Project leader,  
Nordic Welfare Centre, Sweden



Anna Gärdegård works as a project leader for 'Newly arrived children and families in the Nordics' at the Nordic Welfare Centre, an organisation under the Nordic Council of Ministers. Previously, Anna worked within the social services in Stockholm and at the Karolinska Institute on implementation research.

### Jessica Farnan

Manager of the Youth and Education Service for Refugees and Migrants,  
City of Dublin Education and Training Board (CDETB), Ireland

Since its creation in 2001, Jessica has managed and developed the youth and education service for refugees and migrants, which aims to respond to the diverse and often complex needs of young refugees and unaccompanied children. In collaboration with other agencies, Jessica has advocated for and consulted on the development of intercultural policies and practices across the education and youth sector. Jessica also worked with the Irish Refugee Council and has been a member of the Board of Access Ireland - a cultural mediation and refugee integration project.



## Session 3: Strengthening the integration of migrant families



**Thomas Dunning**  
Principal Social Worker,  
TUSLA Child and Family Agency, Ireland

Thomas Dunning works at TUSLA, the Irish Child and Family Agency which is responsible for children's wellbeing. He is the principal social worker within the team for separated children seeking asylum and is coordinator of a special project to bring unaccompanied minors from Calais to Ireland as part of a programme for refugees. He has been an expert for working groups of the European Asylum Support Office and an ambassador of the Irish Model of Care and Protection for Unaccompanied Children throughout Europe.

**Cornelia Stolzenberg**  
Head of Department for Integration Management,  
City of Hannover, Germany

Cornelia Stolzenberg has been head of the Department for Integration Management at the City of Hannover, in Germany, since 2015. Her professional and educational backgrounds combine social services and anthropology with more than 30 years of experience in Germany as well as in African countries. She has been working in the field of support for refugees in Germany, empowerment of underprivileged groups in East and South Africa and in issues that young people may face when they migrate to different countries and come into contact with different cultures.



**Marianne Gabrielsson**  
Project leader, Children and Youth Unit, Department of Social Services,  
City of Stockholm, Sweden

Marianne has been working for 10 years at strategic level in the field of child protection and family support. This includes areas such as parental support and early intervention, child protection using the practitioner approach called 'Signs-of-Safety', child sexual exploitation and domestic violence, protection of children in situations of conflict and divorce among a number of other issues. She is currently project and process leader at the department of Social Services of the City of Stockholm.

**Maryanne Gauci**  
Service Manager,  
Appogg Agency, Foundation for Welfare Services, Malta

With a background in social work, Maryanne has been working in this field for over 30 years and has been managing services for refugees at the national welfare agency, APPOGG, for the past 17 years. She is the agency's liaison person on human trafficking, which involves workforce training, co-working with the police on identification of victims of human trafficking, coordination of colleagues on assessment of victims and service delivery to ensure the social, mental and health care of victims.



## Session 4: The transition to adulthood of migrant young people

### Jennifer Davidson

Director,  
Centre for Excellence for Looked After Children in Scotland (CELCIS), United Kingdom

Beyond her role at CELCIS, Jennifer is also the executive director of the Institute for Inspiring Children's Futures, a joint venture within the University of Strathclyde (Glasgow) between the Centre for Youth and Criminal Justice (CYCJ), CELCIS and the wider research community. It provides practice and policy guidance and implements innovations in children's services. Jennifer leads international projects for the implementation of the UN Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children, as well as national change programmes in children's services. Also she is a founding member of the US National Campaign for the Ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.



### Emily Farchy

Economist,  
OECD



Emily is an economist working in the International Migration Division of the OECD where her work is primarily focused on the labour market integration of migrants and their children. Emily has worked as part of the OECD Skills Strategy Team and on urban and regional labour markets. Prior to joining the OECD, Emily worked as an economist with the World Bank where, in addition to research in the Office of the Chief Economist, she worked on social protection and school to work transitions in East Asia.

### Ulf Wallin

National Coordinator,  
Folk High School Skåne, Sweden

Ulf has extensive experience in the field of education and teaching to migrants. He leads the 'Folkuniversitetet', a national association that offers a wide range of adult education services all over Sweden. He will present the example of Folk High School, a free education programme for unaccompanied young people between the ages of 17 and 21 who can be closely supported through individual help and small groups during their learning.



### Renate Schober

Project Manager for Integration,  
Vienna Social Fund, City of Vienna, Austria



Renate has been heading the Department for Social Welfare of the City of Vienna since 2007. In 2015, she started to focus on assistance for refugees and from 2016 she has been coordinating the project 'Integration from Day One' providing shelter, basic education, German language courses, preparation for the labour market and a variety of special education measures.

## Project forum

### Chris Kuypers

Director,

National Association of Local Governments for Social Welfare, (LCGW) The Netherlands

Chris works as director at LCGW, a professional association of public servants from Dutch local government. LCGW is a network platform that supports mutual exchange of knowledge and experiences. Chris has extensive experience as a trainer and event manager. He has trained many social service officials, adopting an approach focused on innovation and the development of improved social services during a period of profound change for the sector.



### Jolien De Crom

Project Coordinator of Cohousing project CURANT,  
City of Antwerp, Belgium



Jolien is the project coordinator of the cohousing scheme CURANT of the City of Antwerp, Belgium. The project is part of the Urban Innovative Actions (UIA), an EU Initiative to address urban challenges. CURANT provides measures for the integration of unaccompanied young refugees in Antwerp through a buddy system involving local young people. Jolien has an educational background in social work and sociology and has experience caring for and promoting the inclusion of unaccompanied children, having worked first in a regional asylum centre and then as an intercultural mediator for the City of Antwerp, providing integration courses to immigrants.

### José María Atienza Borge

Project Coordinator,

Doctors of the World, Melilla, Spain

Since May, José is a project coordinator with Doctors of the World and has a multitude of experience in the provision of healthcare to migrants and other vulnerable people. In 2007, he started as a project officer, assessing over 50 projects in 14 Spanish regions in the fields of migration, prostitution and trafficking and prevention of female genital mutilation. In 2013, he also worked for Doctors of the World in Angola. In 2004, he trained Pakistani NGOs on children's rights and in 2006 he worked in Athens as an educator with Muslim migrant children at risk of social exclusion.



### Henrik Tunér

Project Manager, Mission Mental Health,

Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions, Sweden



Henrik manages the project 'Health in Sweden for Asylum Seekers and Newly-arrived Immigrants'. It is a project for the nationwide implementation of initiatives on positive health development for asylum seekers and newly-arrived immigrants. Henrik has a background in business administration and communications, from the global commercial world as well as from the NGO sector.

### Panagiota Metheniti Paraskeva

Social Worker,

Solidarity Now, Greece

With a background in social work and administration, Panagiota works at Solidarity Now, an organisation established in 2013 providing support to people affected by humanitarian crises. Previously, she worked for the City of Athens, assisting the staff of the municipality in providing help to migrants and refugees. She has extensive experience in working with vulnerable groups, especially in the field of gender-based and domestic violence, sexual & labour trafficking, crisis intervention and child protection.



## Panel discussion: Moving forward on policy and practice

### Alfonso Lara Montero

Policy Director,  
European Social Network

Alfonso has led ESN's work promoting the European Recommendation 'Investing in children: breaking the cycle of disadvantage'. Beyond that and as a part of his work at ESN, he has been in charge of an international multi-annual project to contribute to the implementation of the Recommendation. The project analysed policies and services for children, including unaccompanied children, in 14 European countries and resulted in a publication that Alfonso authored. He has also written on migration and public social services for specialised magazines and news outlets and lent his expertise in the field of children and migration for training public administration officials.



### Raquel Cortés Herrera

Deputy Head of Unit, Directorate-General Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion,  
European Commission



Raquel Cortés Herrera is a lawyer working for the European Commission since 2003. She is currently deputy head of unit in DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, and she worked previously in the Secretariat-General (2009-2016) and in DG Competition (2003-2009). Before joining the Commission, she worked for four years as assistant professor of International Public Law, International Economic Law and European Union Law at the Balearic Islands University (Mallorca, Spain).

### Mahboba Madadi

Chair,  
Coalition for Unaccompanied Minors, Sweden

Mahboba is the president of the Coalition for Unaccompanied Minors, active in Sweden since 2012. Self-organised unaccompanied young people from different countries run the organisation. It was born from the experiences of young migrants who too often found themselves not represented in those projects that aimed to fight for their rights. The Coalition is a forum where young migrants work towards integration and participation in the community where they live. It organises recreational activities, supports education and strives to ensure equal opportunities and involvement in society.



### Petra Rinman

Head of Unaccompanied Minors Knowledge Centre,  
National Board for Health and Welfare, Sweden



Petra is a social worker and in her current role, she works on developing knowledge on the integration of unaccompanied children and young people in Sweden and building cooperation between social services, healthcare and education. Previously, she worked as a national coordinator for child and youth care. Before that, she worked on inquiries about child abuse and neglect in institutions and foster homes.

### Francesc Iglesias i Riumalló

Secretary for Social Affairs and Families,  
Regional Government of Catalonia, Spain

Francesc has a degree in Economics and Business and PhD studies on Economic Theory at the University of Barcelona. At the latter, he taught Applied Economy and Social Economy. He has also been professor of Sociology, Labour and Business at the University of Vic, in Catalonia. He has held various senior positions in an advisory role for public bodies and institutions, including the Parliament of Catalonia.



## List of Delegates

Name	Role & Institution	Country
Frederik Abbemo	Programme Officer, National Board of Health and Welfare	Sweden
Michael Abrecht	Social Worker, City of Offenbach	Germany
Oriol Amorós	Secretary, Regional Government of Catalonia, Ministry of Employment, Social Affairs and Families - Equality, Migration and Citizenship	Spain
Lisa Asselman	Programme Coordinator, Public Planning Service (PPS) Social Integration	Belgium
Therese Åström	Project Manager, Swedish Agency for Health Technology and Social Services Assessment	Sweden
José Maria Atienza Borge	Project Coordinator, Doctors of the World	Spain
Åsa Backlund	Associate Professor, University of Stockholm, Department of Social Work	Sweden
Pernilla Baralt	State Secretary, Swedish Government	Sweden
Anna Benedictsson	One Third Sweden	Sweden
Cecilia Bergling Naclér	Manager Advocacy, SOS Children's Villages	Sweden
Benedicte Bergseng	Analyst, OECD	International
Fanny Bertrand	Project Leader, Pas-de-Calais County Council	France
Helena Bezjak Burjak	Head of Board, Association of Centres for Social Work (CCSW)	Slovenia
Annika Billing	Programme Director, SOS Children's Villages	Sweden
Magdalena Bjerneld	Researcher, University of Uppsala	Sweden
Mykola Bohoslavets	President, International Centre for Diplomatic Cooperation	Ukraine
Flora Bolter	Research Officer, National Observatory for Child Protection	France
Hedda Boretti	Adviser, Children, Youth and Family Foundation (BUFETAT)	Norway
Sara Borgh	Coordinator, City of Upplands-Bro	Sweden



David Brindle	Public Services Editor, The Guardian	United Kingdom
Eleonora Camilli	Journalist, Redattore Sociale	Italy
Ulla-Britta Capingsalas	Project Leader, Gothenburg Region Association of Local Authorities	Sweden
Kerstin Carlsson	International Coordinator, National Board of Health and Welfare	Sweden
Ulrica Celec	President, Swedish Network for the Convention on the Rights of the Child	Sweden
Antonella Ciocia	Researcher, National Research Council Institute for Research on Population and Social Policy (IRPPS - CNR)	Italy
Nadia Coggiola	Medical PhD, University of Torino	Italy
Anna Maria Corazza Bildt	MEP, Co-Chair of the Intergroup on Children's Rights, European Parliament	EU
Lene Cordes	Head of Department, City of Malmö	Sweden
Raquel Cortés-Herrera	Deputy Head of Unit, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission	EU
Jennifer Davidson	Director, Centre for Looked After Children in Scotland (CELCIS)	United Kingdom
Rita de Castro	Section Manager, City of Botkyrka	Sweden
Jolien De Crom	Project Coordinator, Public Social Services Antwerp	Belgium
Kerstin Dejemyr	Operations Developer, Swedish Police	Sweden
Esther Díaz Jiménez	Social Educator, Regional Government of Asturias	Spain
Thomas Dunning	Principal Social Worker, Child and Family Agency (TUSLA)	Ireland
Kate Eccles	Team Manager, City of Brighton and Hove	United Kingdom
Rannveig Einarsdóttir	Director, City of Hafnarfjörður, Department of Social Services	Iceland
Cecilia Ekstrand	Officer, Swedish Association of the Visually Impaired	Sweden

Katarina Ekström	Social Worker, City of Kungälv	Sweden
Annika Eriksson	Head of Unit, National Board of Institutional Care	Sweden
Maj Fagerlund	Jurist/Legal Officer, Ombudsman for Children	Sweden
Carina Falkewall	Head of Social Welfare, City of Gothenburg	Sweden
Emily Farchy	Economist/Policy Analyst, OECD, International Migration Division	International
Jessica Farnan	Manager, City of Dublin, Education and Training Board	Ireland
Christian Fillet	Chair, European Social Network, and Director, Public Social Services Bruges	Belgium
Terry Fitzsimons	Director of Service, Misty Croft Ltd	Ireland
Catherine Fleri Soler	Service Manager, Appogg Agency	Malta
José Manuel Flores Campos	Project Coordinator, Regional Government of Andalusia, Agency of Social Services and Inclusion	Spain
Claus Forum	Chief Executive, HUMANA – Private Care Company	Sweden
Anders Fransson	Coordinator, City of Upplands-Bro	Sweden
Eva Franzen	Director, National Board of Institutional Care, Research and Development	Sweden
Åsa Frostfeld	Inspector, Employment Service	Sweden
Marianne Gabrielsson	Project Leader, City of Stockholm	Sweden
Anna Gärdegård	Project Manager, Nordic Welfare Centre	Sweden
Maryanne Gauci	Service Manager, Appogg Agency	Malta
Patrick Genevaux	Director, Haute-Marne County Council, Department of Social Services	France
Fanny Georges	Programme Officer, European Programme for Integration and Migration (EPIM)	Belgium
Maria Ger	General Director, Regional Government of Castilla-la-Mancha, Department of Families and Minors	Spain
Jenny Göransson	Operations Developer, Swedish Police	Sweden

Alexandra Göransson	Deputy Head of Department, City of Stockholm	Sweden
Alfred Grixti	Chief Executive Officer, Foundation for Social Welfare Services	Malta
Sandra Gullberg	Head of Department, City of Åre	Sweden
Åsa Gustafsson	Advisor, Friends Foundation	Sweden
Lina Gyllensten	Research and Evaluations Manager, LUMOS Foundation	United Kingdom
Amir Hashemi-Nik	National Coordinator, County Administrative Board of Stockholm	Sweden
Kausar Heaney	Service Manager, Renfrewshire Council	United Kingdom
Åsa Heimer	Programme Officer, National Board of Health and Welfare	Sweden
Lina Helgstrand	Evaluator, Research and Development Centre in Care and Social Work (FoU Centrum)	Sweden
Liselotte Hogewind	Operational Manager, Resto VanHarte – Charity	Netherlands
Helene Holmström	Head of Operations, City of Gothenburg	Sweden
Marie Hugander Juhlin	Child Rights Officer, UNICEF	Sweden
Francesc Iglésies Riumalló	Secretary, Regional Government of Catalonia, Ministry of Employment, Social Affairs and Families – Social Affairs and Families	Spain
Henrik Ingrids	Coordinator, National Board of Health and Welfare	Sweden
Elin Insulander-Hjelm	Head of Unit, City of Gnesta	Sweden
Alexandra Isacu	Civil Servant, City of Cluj-Napoca	Romania
Berit Israelsson	Administrator/Project Coordinator, Agency for Youth and Civil Society	Sweden
Lisa Jacobson Flöhr	Process Manager, City of Gothenburg	Sweden
Suzanne Jenner	Project Leader, CARITAS Sweden	Sweden
Harri Jokiranta	Deputy City Manager, Huoltaja Foundation	Finland
Jean Luc Kabisa	Integration Officer, City of Östersund	Sweden
Eva Kågström	Inspector, Health and Social Care Inspectorate	Sweden

Linda Karlsson	Project Leader, Gothenburg Region Association of Local Authorities	Sweden
Marie-Anne Karlsson	Programme Officer, National Board of Health and Welfare	Sweden
Maud Karlström	Inspector, Swedish Schools Inspectorate	Sweden
Stavros Katsilis	Secretary General, City of Igoumenitsa	Greece
Catrine Kaunitz	Programme Officer, National Board of Institutional Care	Sweden
Miran Kerin	President, Association of Centres for Social Work (CCSW)	Slovenia
Amanda Klint	Integration Coordinator, City of Karlstad	Sweden
Chris Kuypers	Director, National Association of Local Governments for Social Welfare (LCGW)	Netherlands
Kristen Langfeldt	Head of Reception Centre, Children, Youth and Family Foundation (BUFETAT)	Norway
Miguel Laparra Navarro	Vice-President, Regional Government of Navarra, Department of Social Rights	Spain
Kajsa Laxhammar	Legal Officer, National Board of Health and Welfare	Sweden
Katica Lažeta	Head of Service, Ministry of Social Policy and Youth	Croatia
Ove Ledin	Expert, Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (SALAR)	Sweden
Dalia Lev Saleh	Director, Ministry of Social Affairs	Israel
Arvid Linden	Coordinator, Swedish Agency for Participation	Sweden
Annica Linsford	Operations Developer, City of Karlstad	Sweden
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Muskilda Osteritz Gallastegi	Assistant to the Vice-President, Regional Government of Navarra, Department of Social Rights	Spain
Maja Österlund	Programme Officer, National Board of Health and Welfare	Sweden
Graham Owen	Social Services Director, City of Trosa	Sweden
Johanna Palmstierna	Planning Officer, Research and Development Centre in Care and Social Work (FoU Centrum)	Sweden
Oana Parvulescu	General Director, City of Arad, Community Development and Care Directorate	Romania
Herbert Paulischin	Social Worker, Austrian Association of Social Workers	Austria

Claudia Paulo	Director, Santa Casa da Misericordia de Lisboa	Portugal
Maren Pettersen	Adviser/Lawyer, Children, Youth and Family Foundation (BUFETAT)	Norway
Johannes Philipsen	Project Leader, Resto VanHarte - Charity	Netherlands
Marija Pletikosa	State Secretary, Ministry for Demography, Family, Youth and Social Policy	Croatia
Astrid Podsiadlowski	Head of Sector, European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights	EU
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Soorej Puthooppambal	Consultant, WHO Regional Office for Europe	International
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Daniel Salehi	Process Specialist, Migration Agency	Sweden
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Pär Vikström	Analyst, Public Health Agency	Sweden
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Jantine Walst	Coordinator, Defence for Children	Netherlands

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Anders Widholm	Deputy Director, Ministry of Employment	Sweden
Olivia Wigzell	Director General, National Board of Health and Welfare	Sweden
Linda Zetterman	Inspector, Swedish Schools Inspectorate	Sweden
Maria Zuber	Policy Officer, DG Migration and Home Affairs, European Commission	EU

#### ESN staff

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Valentina Guerra	Policy Officer	EU
Leyre Merchan Paules	Policy Officer	EU
William Hayward	Policy Officer	EU
Hana Bellova	Executive and Business Support	EU
Aurelia Mandato	Conference Organiser	EU
Anita Alfonsi	Senior Communications Officer	EU
Tihomir Popovic	Membership and Project Officer	EU



## PRACTICAL INFORMATION

### TIMES AND VENUES

The seminar will take place on the 23<sup>rd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> of October at Elite Hotel Marina Tower, Saltsjökvärns kaj 25, Stockholm (Nacka), Sweden. The seminar will start on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> October at 09:00 and will finish on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> October at 14:00. Registration will open at 08:30 on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of October.

### DINNER ON 23 OCTOBER

The City of Stockholm will host a dinner reception on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of October. The dinner will take place at 19:30 at Stockholm City Hall (Stadshuset), Hantverkargatan 1, 111 52 Stockholm.

#### How to get there:

ESN has arranged transportation to Stockholm City Hall from the seminar venue. Please find the times below:

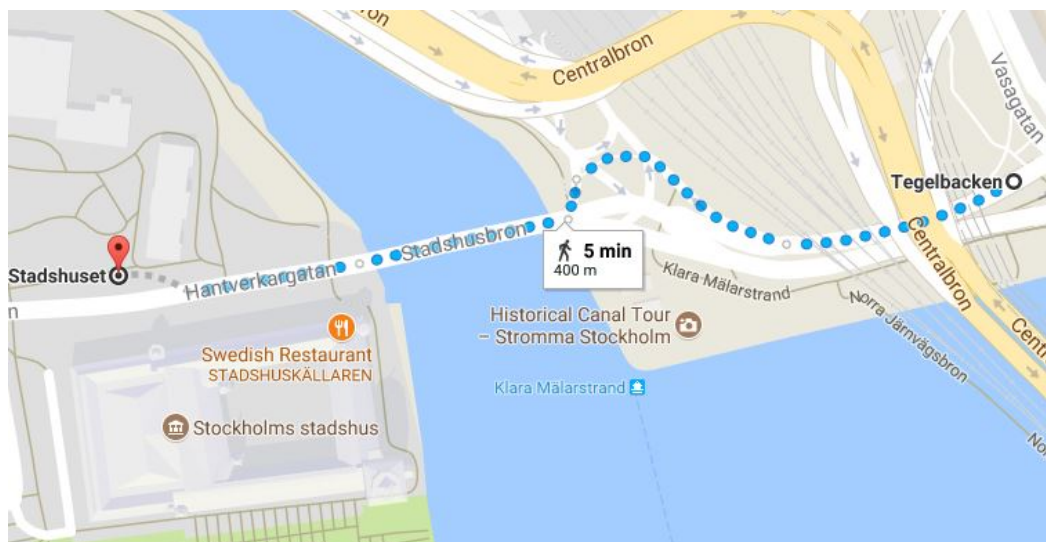
19:00 - from Elite Hotel Marina Tower to Stockholm City Hall (Stadshuset)

21:30 – from Stockholm City Hall (Stadshuset) to Elite Hotel Marina Tower

*By public transportation:*

By bus: n. 53 from bus stop Saltsjöqvarn (5 minutes walk from Elite Hotel Marina Tower) to bus stop called Tegelbacken.

From Tegelbacken bus stop to Stockholm City Hall (Stadshuset) (4-5 minutes walk)



*Please do not forget to bring your **dinner invitation** if you are joining us for the reception. Dinner invitations will be distributed at the registration desk.*

## HOW TO GET TO STOCKHOLM

### From Stockholm Arlanda Airport to Stockholm Central Station

Stockholm-Arlanda Airport is located 40 kilometres (25 miles) north of Stockholm City. The City Centre is easily accessible by train and bus:

**By train:** Commuter trains (operated by the public transport company in Stockholm, SL) to Stockholm depart twice an hour from Arlanda Central Station in Sky City. Total travel time between the airport and Stockholm Central Station is 20 minutes.

**By bus:** Flygbussarna Airport Coaches departs every 10-15 minutes between Arlanda Airport and the City Terminal (located next to the Central Station). Travel time to/from Arlanda: 35-45 minutes.

### From Stockholm Central Station to Elite Hotel Marina Tower

The hotel is easily accessible by bus. **Bus 53 (direction Henriksdalsberget)** departs from the Central bus stop every 10 minutes. The bus stop is outside the central station on Vasagatan street. Once you exit the station, take few steps on the right. The bus stop is opposite the restaurant “Sportsbar and Restaurant”. Depart the bus after 14 stops at **Saltsjöqvarn** bus stop. The hotel is a few minutes’ walk/300 metres from the bus stop, and the total journey takes about 30 minutes.

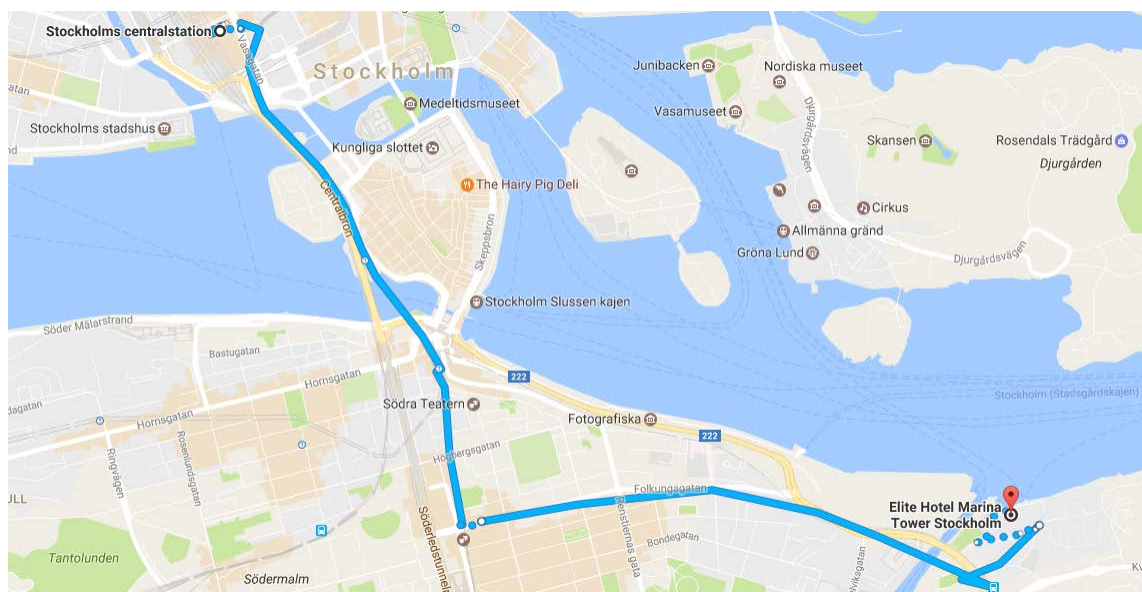
Please note, that ESN will not reimburse taxi receipts when public transportation options are readily available as in this case.

## ADDRESS

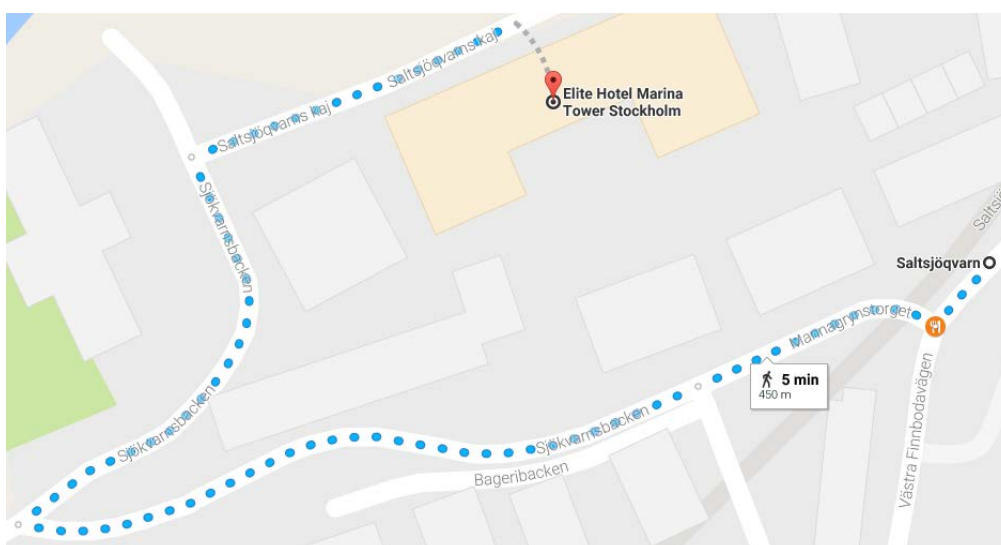
### Elite Hotel Marina Tower

Saltsjöqvarns kaj 25, 131 71 Nacka, Stockholm, Sweden

From Stockholm Central Station to Elite Hotel Marina Tower with **bus 53**.



From Saltsjöqvarn bus stop to Elite Hotel Marina Tower; 3-5 minutes' walk.



## YOUR TIME AS FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION TO ESN'S WORK

You may be aware that *ESN is required to contribute 1€ of every 5€ spent* under our EU grant. As a public sector employee, the working time (in days) that you spend in ESN activities is treated as a financial contribution to ESN's work. For this reason, we would be very grateful if you could send us a scanned copy of your most recent pay-slip, as this may be subject to an audit by the European Commission.

We realise this is personal information, however it is vital for ESN's financial sustainability. We guarantee confidentiality. Please send this information by email to Tihomir Popovic ([tihomir.popovic@esn-eu.org](mailto:tihomir.popovic@esn-eu.org)) (pdf scanned document will do), and get in touch with us if you have any questions. If you have any concerns about sharing your data, we can provide you with our confidentiality statement, which we believe will provide you with every assurance.

# Follow the seminar on social media



**#migrantchildren**



**Social Services in Europe**

The European Social Network (ESN) is the independent network for local public social services in Europe. It brings together people who plan, finance, research, manage, regulate and deliver local public social services, including health, social welfare, employment, education and housing. We support the development of effective social policy and social care practice through the exchange of knowledge and experience.

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