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Organised in cooperation with:

Socialstyrelsen

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1. Emerging issues: facts and policy response
   - ➤ Overview
   - ➤ Communication on protection of children in migration

2. Way forward: available tools and working together
   - ➤ Legal framework
   - ➤ Funding
   - ➤ Technical and operational support

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Overview

"all third country nationals below 18 years old, who migrate to and within the EU territory, be it with their (extended) family, with a non-family member (separated minors) or alone (unaccompanied minors), whether or not seeking asylum"

- **100,264** children arrived to Europe (via Greece, Italy, Spain and Bulgaria) in 2016, of whom 34% were unaccompanied or separated. In the first quarter of 2017, this number amounted to **5,384,** including 69% unaccompanied or separated children [*source: UNHCR*]

- The total number of child asylum applicants in 2016 amounted to **413,025**, out of those **62,453** were lodged by UAMs. During first quarter of 2017, an additional **50,201** children claimed asylum in Europe. [*source: Eurostat and UNHCR*]

- **369,625** children received international protection in the EU in the period from 2011 to 2016 [*source: Eurostat]*

- The main Countries of Origin: **Afghanistan** followed by **Syria, Iraq, Eritrea** and **Somalia.** Almost 90% of UAMs applying for asylum are **boys** aged between **16 and 17 years** (69%) [*source: EMN 2016 Annual Report*]

Policy response

- ✓ Commission Communication on the protection of children in migration of 12 April 2017

  - ➢ Council Conclusions of 8-9 June

  - ➢ Commission Communication on the Delivery of the European Agenda on Migration of 27 September

Comprehensive approach

Comprehensive approach

- **all** children in migration at **all** stages of migratory journey
- all elements are **interlinked**:
  - ➢ EU external action: root causes and protection along the journey
  - ➢ identification and registration
  - ➢ reception in the EU
  - ➢ access to status determination and procedural safeguards
  - ➢ durable integration solutions
- **cross-cutting** actions
- **immediate** response and **long term** resilience

Available tools: Legal framework

Existing acquis

➢ EU Charter of Fundamental Rights

➢ Asylum (Reception Conditions Directive, Asylum Procedure Directive, Qualification Directive, Dublin Regulation, Eurodac Regulation, EASO)

➢ Council decisions on relocation from Greece and Italy

➢ Migration (Return Directive, Schengen Borders Code, Family Reunification Directive)

➢ Security (Anti-trafficking Directive, SIS II)

Available tools: Legal framework

Legislative Reform

➢ Frontex $\longrightarrow$ European Border and Coast Guard

➢ Reform of Common Asylum System (Asylum Procedure Regulation, Reception Conditions Directive, Qualifications Regulation, Dublin Regulation, Eurodac Regulation, European Union Agency for Asylum Regulation, Union Resettlement Framework Regulation)

➢ SIS II proposal

Available tools: funding

- ➤ Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF)
- ➤ Internal Security Fund (ISF)
- ➤ Emergency Support Instrument
- ➤ Mobility Partnership Facility (MPF)

- ➤ Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme
- ➤ European Structural and Investment Funds
- ➤ Fund for Aid to the Most Deprived
- ➤ EU programme Erasmus+
- ➤ European Social Fund (ESF)

Available tools:
Technical & operational support

➢ Hotspots approach

➢ EU Agencies (EASO, Frontex, Europol, FRA)

➢ Relocation and resettlement

➢ Missing children hotlines

Ways forward: working together

➤ **coordinated follow-up** (EU, national, regional local levels, with civil society, UN agencies international organisations)

➤ **numerous platforms for work** (experts groups and committees, EMN, Urban Agenda for the EU, …

and …conferences and seminars like this one!)