

Webinar

“Missing children in the European Union”

Jointly organised by EMN Cyprus, EMN Greece, EMN Italy,
EMN Luxembourg

3 December 2020, 10.00 – 13.00 (CEST)

Overview of the event

Children are one of the most vulnerable groups of migrants, recently the phenomenon of migrant children going missing has received increased attention both at the level of Member States and the European Union. In response to this concern, the European Migration Network, at the request of the European Commission, prepared an EMN Inform “How do EU member states treat cases of missing unaccompanied minors?”.

The first part of the webinar will not only present the key findings of the EMN Inform, but will also provide participants with insights from the efforts of the Council of Europe on the topic of migrant minors as well as highlight the synergies between the work of the Council of Europe and the European Commission on this subject.

Several NGOs were invited to reflect on the outcomes of the EMN mapping exercise that was carried out for the development of the Inform “How do EU member states treat cases of missing unaccompanied minors?”. Missing Children Europe was one of the organisations which provided feedback and input for the EMN Inform and who has been working and raising awareness on the issue of children disappearance in the European Union for several years. During the webinar they will talk about gaps between policy and practice as well as about the required solutions.

Representative of the European Commission will provide an overview on the recent policy developments as well as elaborate on upcoming policy changes to address the matter of missing children.

Second part of the webinar will present good practice examples from several Member States, namely, Belgium, Cyprus, Greece and will end with a presentation about missing UAM’s phenomenon in Italy.

A detailed agenda of the webinar can be found below.

AGENDA	
10.00 – 10.05	<p>Introduction</p> <p>Magnus Ovilius, Head of Agencies and Networks Coordination Sector and Chair of the EMN, DG HOME, European Commission</p>
10.05 – 10.15	<p>Welcome words</p> <p>Anne Kayser, Adviser, Office of the Secretary General's Special Representative on migration and refugees, Council of Europe</p>
10.15 – 10.30	<p>EMN Inform "Missing unaccompanied minors in the EU, Norway and the United Kingdom": presentation of the key findings</p> <p>Adolfo Sommarribas, EMN Luxembourg</p>
10.30 – 10.45	<p>Outcomes of the research "At a crossroads: Unaccompanied and separated children in their transition to adulthood in Italy"</p> <p>Anna Riatti, UNICEF</p>
10.45 – 11.00	<p>The gaps between policy and practice and the need for European solutions</p> <p>Federica Toscano, Missing Children Europe</p>
11.00 – 11.15	<p>Recent and upcoming policy developments</p> <p>Marta Kuljon, Policy assistant at the European Commission, Coordinator for the rights of the child, DG JUST</p>
11.15 – 11.30	Q&A SESSION
11.30 – 11.40	BREAK
11.40 – 11.55	<p>Good practices and challenges in dealing with disappearances of unaccompanied minors. A Belgian case study</p> <p>Sofia Mahjoub, Policy Coordinator at Child Focus Belgium, the Foundation for Missing and Sexually Exploited Children</p>
11.55 – 12.10	<p>Missing Children – Practices and Challenges</p> <p>Marina Efthymiadou, Social Welfare Services, Ministry of Labour, Welfare and Social Insurance of Cyprus</p>
12.10 – 12.25	<p>Good practice example from Greece</p> <p>Irene Agapidaki, the Special Secretary for the Protection of Unaccompanied Minors, Greece</p>
12.25 – 12.40	<p>Overview about missing UAM's phenomenon in Italy</p> <p>Elvira Tassone, State Police Central Directorate of Crime Prevention</p>
12.40 – 12.55	Q&A SESSION
12.55 – 13.00	CLOSING REMARKS

Moderator: Zane Rozenberga, EMN Luxembourg