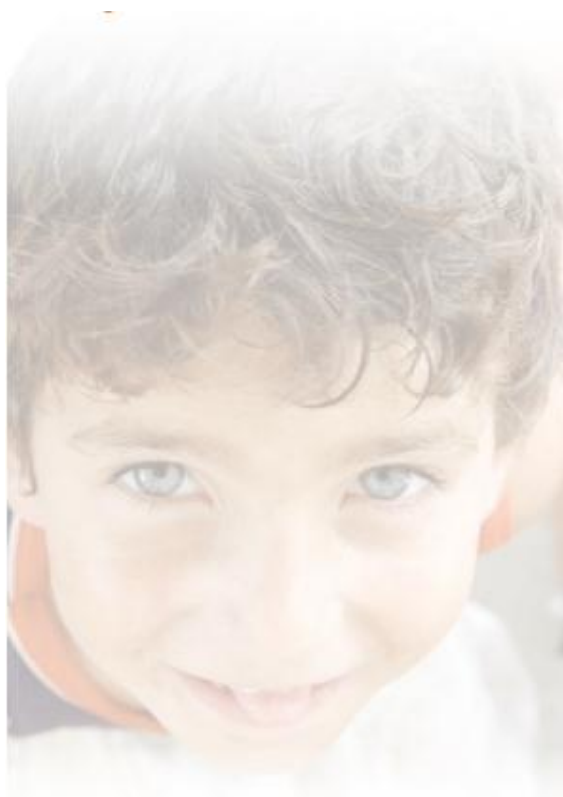


The event is organized with the support of the European Economic and Social Committee



Terre des Hommes and Nathalie Griesbeck, Member of the European Parliament,

Invite you to

EU Public Conference

“Closing a protection gap for European children on the move!”

Terre des Hommes and its partners will launch five transnational research reports on the protection of children on the move in six European countries in the framework of Mario II project

**European Economic and Social Committee, Rue de Trèves 74 - Trèves Building,
Conference room TRE 7701 - 7th floor
1040 Brussels - Belgium**

Thursday 5 March 2015 – 2.30 – 5.30 p.m.

BACKGROUND:

The legislative and policy developments in recent years promoting child rights in all EU actions and in protecting specific groups of children, such as children on the move, are positive and welcomed. Nevertheless gaps in legislations, policies and their implementation still remain. The current categorization approach continues to leave an important number of children unprotected.

Children are normally categorized according to their vulnerabilities (e.g. child labour, trafficked children, unaccompanied minors...), administrative status (e.g. undocumented children, asylum seekers...), nationality (e.g. EU citizens, third-country nationals...), origins (e.g. Roma, Ashkali children..) rather than being protected simply because they are children. This creates discrepancy, fragmentation and discrimination in protecting all children. This also creates “hierarchies” among categories with a different degree of protection among children.

As result, this fragmented approach very often results in hampering specific groups of children, such as European children on the move, to access protection services that they are entitled to as children under domestic legislation and policies as well as international standards. As a consequence of not belonging to a specific category these children are put at higher risk of abuse, exploitation and trafficking.

Based on street observations, interviews and discussions with children, caretakers, stakeholders and key community members, the research reports will provide participants with an in-depth understanding of:

- ✓ The profile of European children on the move: migration and work patterns
- ✓ The vulnerability factors during their migration path
- ✓ The obstacles for an integrated and inclusive child protection system
- ✓ The need to use a common terminology of children on the move to ensure a better functioning of child protection systems
- ✓ Migration and mobility of children in the Western Balkans: a phenomenon to be better explored.

The conference will bring together experts, professionals and policy makers to share views, good practices and strategies for the development of a regional model for transnational protection of children on the move.

Registration:

Please, register **by 27 February 2015** at tdh-europe3@terredeshommes.org (Antonios Koulianos) by sending the following details: name, organization, function and e-mail contact. Phone: +32 2 893 09 51.

DRAFT AGENDA:

Time	Description	Intervention
14h00 – 14h30	Registration	
14h30 – 14h35	Welcoming	Brenda King , <i>Chief Executive, African & Caribbean Diversity, European Economic and Social Committee</i>
14h35 – 14h45	Opening	Nathalie Griesbeck , <i>Member of the European Parliament, ALDE Group</i>
Session I		
	What protection for European children on the move?	Moderator: Nathalie Griesbeck , <i>Member of the European Parliament, ALDE Group</i>
14h45 – 14h55	Presentation of the transnational research reports – results and findings	Pierre Cazenave , <i>Mario Project Coordinator, Terre des Hommes Foundation in Lausanne, Regional Budapest Office</i>
14h55 – 15h05	Challenges and protection gaps analysis: what possible solutions?	Daphne Bouteillet-Paquet , <i>Senior Advocacy Officer, Save the Children EU Office</i>
15h05 – 15h15	Mapping of child protection systems in the EU – preliminary findings	Georgia Dimitropoulou , <i>Child Rights expert, Fundamental Rights Agency of the European Union</i>

15h15 – 15h25	Protection of European children on the move from trafficking: towards a post-2016 EU Strategy	Representative from DG Home - European Commission (TBC)
15h25 – 15h35	Child mobility and migration: a growing challenge in the Western Balkans	Jean-Eric Paquet, Director for the Western Balkans, European Commission.
15h35 – 16h00	Questions and discussions with the floor	
16h00 – 16h15	Coffee Break	
Session II		
	How to improve national and transnational protection for European children on the move?	Moderator: Salvatore Parata, Head EU Office, Terre des Hommes International Federation
16h15 – 16h25	A national stakeholder's view – the case of France	Representative of national public authority from France (TBC)
16h25 – 16h35	The perspective from the EC on integrated child protection systems	Margaret Tuite, EU Child Rights Coordinator, European Commission
16h35 – 16h55	Protecting European children on the move: bilateral vs regional approaches?	Representative from Permanent Representation of The Netherlands to the EU (TBC) Representative from the Latvian EU Presidency (TBC)
16h55 – 17h20	Questions and discussions with the floor	
17h20 – 17h30	Closing session	Kathleen Cravero-Kristoffersson, President Oak Foundation (TBC)
End Conference		



The project Mario is co-financed by the Daphne programme of the European Union and the Oak Foundation

