

**Child Protection Sub-Working Group**  
**08.12.2021 Minutes of Meeting**

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Wednesday, 08 December 2021 at 10.00-12.00 a.m., via Webex</b>	
<b>Participants:</b>	Special Secretary for the Protection of UAMs/ MoMA, EASO/Directorate of RICs/MPRICs, DRC, Praksis, UNICEF, NCR, ELIL, Faros, EASO/ RIS HQ - Directorate of North Greece Facilities, MoLSA, IOM, Equal Rights Beyond Borders, GCR, Athens Comics Library, Velos Youth, SOS Children’s Villages, ELIX, Arsis, Safe Passage, DCI.	
<b>Chair:</b>	<b>UNHCR:</b> Theodora D. Tsovili ( <a href="mailto:tsovili@unhcr.org">tsovili@unhcr.org</a> )	
<b>Agenda</b>	<b>Innovative projects</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ CADRE project: Promotion of alternatives to detention with the aim of elimination of the detention of migrant children/ International Court of Justice - Greek Council for Refugees - <b>GCR</b></li> <li>➤ Efivos project/ Young Journalists’ Programme – <b>Network for Children’s Rights (NCR)</b></li> <li>➤ Child protection Psychosocial/ Sports/ Arts/ Integration projects – <b>Athens Comics Library</b></li> </ul>	
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>CADRE project: Promotion of alternatives to detention with the aim of elimination of the detention of migrant children/ International Court of Justice - Greek Council for Refugees</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>As of February 2021, the ICJ-EI (International Commission of Jurists) is implementing a two-year project on ‘Children’s Alternatives to Detention protecting their Rights in Europe (CADRE)’</b>, seeking to promote the expansion, implementation, and improvement of viable and effective alternatives to detention for migrant children in full respect of their rights in the European Union.</li> <li>➤ <b>The project is being implemented in Malta, Bulgaria, Poland, Belgium, Hungary, Italy and Greece</b> and its aim is to contribute to ending the resort to detention of children in migration by giving practical solutions/promoting viable alternatives.</li> <li>➤ <b>The basic targets of the project are the training of professionals who work with migrant children, raising awareness on the issues of detention and ensure effective and consistent application of the EU and international law.</b></li> <li>➤ <b>The activities include 3 transnational workshops, the development of training modules and conduct of trainings.</b></li> </ul>	<p><b>Action Points:</b> N/A</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>One of the main challenges is the right of remedies;</b> many of the UAC detained have no access to legal representation, to an effective remedy and to a multiple sphere of rights.</li> <li>➤ <b>In the final workshop, the abolition of protective custody of children in Greece was given as a good example among others. National Emergency Response Mechanism was also presented as a good practice from Greece.</b></li> <li>➤ <b>UNHCR informed the working group that a review ‘Lessons Learnt’ exercise took place</b> between SSPUAM, UNHCR and all the partners/actors involved in the NERM. Feedback on the progress of the Mechanism in 2021 will most probably be presented in the first working group of 2022.</li> <li>➤ <b>Some alternatives to detention include case management, accommodation centers, family-based care, etc.</b> It is argued that even the alternatives to detention might be violating children’s rights and there should be the possibility to challenge them.</li> <li>➤ <b>GCR invited the participants to express their interest in participating in the national workshop that will take place in 2022.</b></li> </ul>	
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>EFIVOS project/ Young Journalists’ Programme – Network for Children’s Rights (NCR)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>The EFIVOS project, active for the past two years, is built up upon the Young Journalists’ Programme that has been implemented since 2016.</b></li> <li>➤ <b>Young Journalists’ Programme started in Schisto Refugee Camp in 2016;</b> it aims on technical skills development, building self-esteem and self-confidence, and it has been recognized as a good practice from the Council of Europe.</li> <li>➤ <b>The EFIVOS project involves partners from six European countries</b> and its goals, among others, are to digitize the newspaper and train young people from disadvantaged backgrounds to produce their own digital context.</li> <li>➤ <b>The components of the project are</b> editorial management, getting familiar with the writing style of an article, content production, reportage photography, structured interviewing process, graphic design, webcasting, web-radio, Development of online tools, an online newspaper.</li> <li>➤ <b>A methodology handbook has been created, a step-by-step guide for professionals to create teams of young journalists who can run their own newspaper.</b> There are also training modules on the issue; all content is available on <a href="http://efivos.eu/">http://efivos.eu/</a>.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Action Points:</b> N/A</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>The team invited any interested actor who would be willing to initiate similar activities to come in contact with them for support.</b></li> </ul>	
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Child protection Psychosocial/ Sports/ Arts/ Integration projects – Athens Comics Library</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Athens Comics Library is not purely a humanitarian organization but have been working with children for over a decade.</b> They are part of a non-profit organization called Comicdom press founded in 2004.</li> <li>➤ <b>Since 2008, they have been designing and facilitating educational workshops using comics/storytelling as a means to intrigue and encourage curiosity to the children (self-directed knowledge) and to develop several social skills.</b></li> <li>➤ <b>In 2016, they started working more closely with refugee communities;</b> they created a manual on how comics can be used as a tool to booster emotional intelligence and social skills for refugee children and their caregivers.</li> <li>➤ <b>The content of the manual was cocreated with the refugee communities;</b> in this framework, they facilitated mixed workshops with local and refugee children and continue doing so.</li> <li>➤ <b>Their projects include, among others, Baytna Hub</b> which provides high quality preschool education and specialist psychosocial support to children 0-6 and their parents and the ‘Welcome through football’ initiative, in partnership with AEK F.C.; the children are practicing football while are also attending educational workshops fostering social skills and capacity building.</li> <li>➤ <b>They also continue with other activities such as educational workshops through comics and storytelling, trainings, capacity building, etc.</b></li> <li>➤ <b>They informed the working group on the Refugee Week initiative</b> and invited interested actors to participate in the planning meetings. Lastly, their contact details were shared and called any interested actor to come in contact with them.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Action Points:</b> N/A</p>