



Separated Children in Europe Programme

NEWSLETTER No 22 July - September 2005

In this issue:

- p. 1 Programme update
- p. 2 UNHCR
- p. 2 European Union
- p. 3 Council of Europe
- p. 4 Committee on the Rights of the Child
- p. 4 Changes and developments in law, policies and practice
- p. 6 Detention
- p. 8 Age assessment
- p. 10 Guardianship
- p. 10 Reception
- p. 14 Missing children
- p. 15 Procedures and recognition
- p. 18 Family tracing and reunification
- p. 19 Return
- p. 20 Trafficking
- p. 22 Miscellaneous
- p. 24 Publications
- p. 26 Events
- p. 30 Useful web sites
- p. 32 Reporting organisations

Annex: Statistics on arrivals of separated children seeking asylum & Statistics on trafficked minors

The content has been prepared from publicly available sources and information provided by UNHCR and the participants of the Separated Children in Europe Programme's NGO Network.

Programme Update

Statement of Good Practice

As part of the Daphne II project that SCEP is currently implementing, the Statement of Good Practice has now been translated into 20 languages and printed for national dissemination by SCEP partners.

The new language versions will all be made available at the SCEP web site www.separated-children-europe-programme.org

EU Working Group

- **Return** – A Joint NGO lobbying paper on “Common principles on removal of irregular migrants and rejected asylum seekers” was finalized including SC/SCEP comments and has been distributed to SCEP Network for use at the national level. The EC Proposal for the Return

Directive was issued in September and SC commented on it.

This will be the first piece of EU legislation in the field of asylum and immigration to be submitted to the co-decision procedure (The Commission will forward the Directive to the EU Council and the Parliament at the same time). SC Comments to the proposal were finalized and circulated.

Available at:
http://www.savethechildren.net/alliance/where_we_work/europegrp_pubs.html

- **Biometrics** – The first draft of SCEP's position paper on the use of biometric data will be discussed by the NGO Network at its October meeting.
- **Dublin II study** – The draft Dublin II study by Terry Smith will also be presented and its recommendations discussed at the NGO Network meeting.

SCE Programme meetings

The SCEP NGO Network will meet on October 11th in Copenhagen and a joint NGO-UNHCR meeting will follow on October 12-13th.

Changes with NGO partners & UNHCR

Bulgaria: New SCEP Focal Point at UNHCR BO Sofia is Petya Karayaneva, karayan@unhcr.ch

Czech Republic: New contact person at the Counselling Centre for Refugees is Magda Faltova, magda.f@seznam.cz

France: New contact person at the France Terre d'Asile is Dominique Bordin, dbordin@france-terre-asile.org

Luxembourg: Awaiting appointment of new contact person at Caritas.

The Netherlands: New contact person at DCI-NL is Annemieke Wolthuis, a.wolthuis@defenceforchildren.nl

Norway: New contact person at Save the Children Norway is Janne Raanes, janne.raanes@reddbarna.no

Romania: New SCEP Focal Point at UNHCR BO Bucharest is Christina Bunea, bunea@unhcr.ch

Updated contact information for the SCE Programme management, NGO Network and UNHCR Focal Point is available at www.separated-children-europe-programme.org/separated_children/about_us/contacts/index.html

UNHCR

UNHCR Annual Consultations with NGOs

From 27-29 September 2005 UNHCR convened its annual consultation with NGOs, which included regional sessions as well as thematic round table sessions.

Round table themes included: access to procedures and refugee status determination, detention and alternatives to detention, better addressing gender based violence, involuntary returns and the use of strategic resettlement.

More information as well as the NGO Statements made at the subsequent UNHCR Executive Committee meeting is available at: www.icva.ch/cgi-bin/browse.pl?doc=information#UNHCR

A Thematic Compilation of Executive Committee Conclusions (2nd edition)

June 2005

Pages 72-86 relate to child protection.

www.unhcr.ch/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/publ/opendoc.pdf?tbl=PUBL&id=3d4ab3ff2

Combatting Human Trafficking: Overview of UNHCR Anti-Trafficking Activities in Europe

To request a copy of the study, please email to Malika Floor-Sabar, Floor@unhcr.ch

European Union

UK makes migration and trafficking a priority for EU presidency

The United Kingdom's priorities for the European Union presidency include developing an Action Plan on trafficking in human beings and working for greater EU-wide police co-operation. It also wants to focus on managing migration into the EU through stronger links with the main source countries worldwide and strengthening the EU's borders. More at: www.eu2005.gov.uk

ECRE memorandum

The European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE) has presented a memorandum to the UK Presidency of the European Union, "Putting refugee protection at the heart of the Hague Programme". ECRE makes seven specific recommendations to the UK on how to take forward the Hague Programme agenda on refugee and asylum policy in a way that will lead to the development of a coherent European asylum system that respects refugees' human rights and dignity:

1. Ensure asylum seekers have access to a fair and efficient asylum procedure
2. Create mechanisms to ensure consistent, high quality asylum systems across the EU
3. Ensure returns are safe, dignified and sustainable
4. Include NGOs in evaluating and sharing best practice on refugee integration
5. Introduce a long term residence status for refugees
6. Ensure respect for the 1951 Refugee Convention and human rights when cooperating with third countries
7. Create an EU refugee resettlement programme

www.ecre.org

Comments on EC Green Paper on Economic Migration

The European Commission has published all of the comments it received on its Green Paper on Economic Migration on its website. The Green Paper intends to start a discussion on migration, and all interested parties have been asked to react. The website contains reactions made by NGOs, governments, academia, etc.

europa.eu.int/comm/justice_home/news/consulting_public/economic_migration/news_contributions_economic_migration_en.htm

Useful links related to the European Commission's proposals on migration, integration, asylum and expulsion:

1. Communication on migration and development (COM (2005) 390, 1.9.05):
www.statewatch.org/news/2005/sep/COM_2005_0390.pdf
2. Statewatch analysis: "Migration, development and the EU security agenda" (2003):
www.statewatch.org/news/2003/sep/bhtb.pdf
3. Communication on a common agenda for integration (COM (2005) 389, 1.9.05):
www.statewatch.org/news/2005/sep/COM_2005_0389.pdf
4. EUobserver.com: Commission suggests EU loyalty oath for immigrants (2.9.05):
euobserver.com/?sid=9&aid=19770
5. Communication on regional protection programmes (COM (2005) 388, 1.9.05):
www.statewatch.org/news/2005/sep/COM_2005_0388.pdf
6. Statewatch analysis: "Killing me softly?" Improving access to durable solutions": doublespeak and the dismantling of refugee protection in the EU" (2004):
www.statewatch.org/news/2004/jul/refugees-external-processing.pdf
7. Draft Directive on expulsion (COM (2005) 391, 1.9.05):
www.statewatch.org/news/2005/sep/COM_2005_0391.pdf
8. NGO paper on expulsion: "common principles on removal" (September 2005):
www.statewatch.org/news/2005/sep/NGOremoval.pdf
9. Commission Press conference: Franco Frattini on "migration and asylum package" (Brussels, 1.9.05):
www.statewatch.org/news/2005/sep/01frattini.htm

The EU will give euro 46.452 million in 2005 to help refugees and asylum-seekers on its territory

The United Kingdom and Germany will be the biggest beneficiaries of European Refugee Fund (ERF) as they host the largest numbers. A European Commission Decision of September 20 also sets out funding priorities, which include boosting reception capacity and streamlining asylum procedures.

For 2005, the Commission says the core goal should be to improve the quality of asylum procedures. This should be done by handling claims through a single procedure, getting better information on countries of origin, building reception capacities and helping those who wish to return home to do so. The Commission wants particular attention to be given to the interests of children. Money will also be directed at 'resettlement schemes' in various member states, under which refugees are taken from countries struggling to cope with big influxes and resettled in the EU.

Council of Europe

Resolution on Migration and Integration

In April 2005, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) passed resolution 1437, entitled 'Migration and integration: a challenge and opportunity for Europe'.

This resolution reiterates that governments must guarantee respect for human rights as codified by the European Convention on Human Rights.

In particular, paragraph 9C of the resolution calls on the Council of Europe member states to 'recognise immigrants as persons with fundamental human rights, the respect of which must be ensured in full conformity with international and regional human rights instruments including the provisions of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers and Members of their Families which member states are urged to ratify and implement'.

For the full text:

<http://assembly.coe.int/Main.asp?link=http://assembly.coe.int/Documents/AdoptedText/ta05/ERES1437.htm>

Resolution 1468 and Recommendation 1723 on Forced Marriages and Child Marriages

Adopted by the PACE in October 2005

<http://assembly.coe.int/>

Committee on the Rights of the Child

Denmark: On September 26 The Committee on the Rights of the Child reviewed the third periodic report of Denmark on how it is implementing the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the initial report on the implementation of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the involvement of children in armed conflict.

In the concluding observations the Committee expresses concern on discrimination, family reunion limited to the age of 15 years, conditions in reception centres for asylum seekers and disappearances of asylum seeking separated children.

www.ohchr.org/english/bodies/crc/docs/co/CRC.C.15.Ad.d.273.pdf

Finland: On September 22 The Committee on the Rights of the Child reviewed the third periodic report of Finland on how that country is implementing the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the initial report on the implementation of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the involvement of children in armed conflict.

Concluding observations at

www.ohchr.org/english/bodies/crc/docs/co/CRC.C.15.Ad.d.272.pdf

Changes and Developments in Law, Policies and Practice

Austria: In July 2005 the new Asylum and Alien Police act has passed the Austrian Parliament. The new law will come into force on 1st of January 2006.

Some very critical points of the first draft have been changed during the process. For instance, the Alien Act draft suggested that minors should act without legal representation after the age of 14, thus be deprived of any mandatory legal representation and support. But due to substantial objections this suggestion was dropped. Currently the age limit for legal representation is 16 years - and it will be the same in the new law.

But even so, the new law implies some very significant changes to the current legislation. Most of these will negatively affect separated children.

Numerous regulations will limit the legal protection of asylum-seekers including separated children seeking asylum.

On the positive side, the currently unclear legal representation of separated children in the asylum procedure will be clarified.

Belgium: The Asylum Act may be changed for all asylum seekers; the procedure would be made easier and handled completely by an independent body; the appeals against a negative decision would also be easier; but this proposal has caused a debate and it is not sure that it may become law.

Bulgaria: The Bulgarian Identity Documents Act was amended at 30.08.2005. The amendments will come into force 31.10.2005. The main changes, concerning children are as follows:

Art. 76a With the purpose of the child protection, children shall not be provided with travel documents or the competent authorities shall take away the existing ones when there is information that children have been involved in actions under art. 11 of the Law on the Protection of the Child, during their stay in a foreign country. These measures shall be applied for the period of two years and with the motivated order from the Minister of the Interior or after a position of the Chairman of the State Agency for the Protection of the Child. The Minister of the Interior and the Chairman of the State Agency for the Protection of the Child shall issue a Regulation on the implementation of the above measures. See further comments under Trafficking section below.

Estonia: The Estonian Union of Child Welfare has been active in the process of preparing a new Child Protection Act. One subject that has been discussed is guaranteeing children's rights to children seeking asylum. This includes issues concerning children who may come with their primary caregivers (parents, family members etc) as well as separated children. In the framework of these discussions needed amendments to other legal acts have also been discussed.

Finland: The government is about to formulate an immigration policy in Finland. A working group submitted the proposition for the government's immigration policy programme in June, and NGOs among others have given comments to it by September.

Emphasis is on promoting work-based immigration, but there is also a commitment to give international protection to persons in need.

The best interests of the child is described as one of the leading principles. Separated children are seen to

be in need of special attention and there are even some detailed suggestions given, like e.g. their rights to so called “after care”.

Greece: The Guidelines for Separated Children Seeking Asylum were endorsed by both the UNHCR and the Greek Ombudsman.

A joint publication was issued which has been sent to all state agencies and NGOs. Specifically to three Ministries, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Health and Social Solidarity, Ministry of Public Order, it was sent for comments with view to those Ministries adopting the Guidelines and thus leading to a clear and much needed legislation for the protection of Separated Children (e.g. the urgent need for a guardian for each separated child).

Ireland: The Department of Justice Equality and Law Reform is to publish an Immigration and Residency Bill. It is expected before the end of the year.

In July many NGOs and other organisations and individuals made submissions to the Department. The Irish Refugee Council’s submission is available on the web-site www.irishrefugeecouncil.ie and the Immigrant Council of Ireland’s submission is available on their web-site www.immigrantcouncil.ie

Lithuania: The Law on the Legal Status of Aliens (hereafter Aliens Law), into force since 1 May 2004, has special provisions and guarantees to unaccompanied minor asylum seekers.

The principle of a ‘safe third country’ may not be applied to a minor who is not accompanied by his/her parents or legal representatives while making a decision on the admission of an asylum seeker to the territory.

Article 114 of the Law on the Legal Status of Aliens provides that a minor can be detained in exceptional cases only.

After an unaccompanied minor submits an application for asylum he/she must be accommodated at the Refugee Reception Centre if the guardian appointed to the minor does not desire otherwise (Article 79 of the Law on the Legal Status of Aliens).

Article 9.5 of the Order of the Minister of Internal Affairs of 15 November 2004 on the Procedure of Investigation of the Applications for Asylum, Adoption and Execution of Decisions establishes that during the interviews with unaccompanied minors, the guardian of the child and a legal representative must participate.

Applications of unaccompanied minors should be examined as soon as possible (Article 101 of the Order of the Minister of Internal Affairs of 15 November 2004 on the Procedure of Investigation of the Applications for Asylum, Adoption and Execution of Decisions).

Luxembourg: Changes in the law on youth protection in Luxembourg are in discussion for the moment and Caritas has made a few comments on the new law proposal.

We would like to integrate topics like access to school and education, special housing conditions and specific care for the target group of separated children. There are no official results until now.

The Ministry of Family intends to put the situation of separated children as a priority on the target list in the frame of the ERF Program 2005-2010.

Norway: A Greenpaper on new Immigrations Act was delivered 1 of June.

Slovakia: The new amendment of the Law on the Stay of Aliens is being prepared. The changes will concern tolerated and temporary stay.

An important change concerns the possibility of applying for temporary stay within the territory of the Slovak Republic. For example, when the separated child receives a tolerated stay in these days and he reaches 18 years, he should ask for the temporary stay permission – in spite of his integration - at the representative office in his country of origin. That is not very easy. According to the new amendment, he can process all the documents in Slovakia.

Since 1st September, the new Law on the Social-legal Protection of Children and Youth has entered into force. There are explicit paragraphs on separated children.

Slovenia: The amendments to the law on temporary protection were adopted in 2005. Among other, the amendments also relate specifically to management of separated children.

The amendments to the national asylum legislation are in the phase of preparation.

Sweden: A proposal is being discussed in the Swedish Parliament regarding a resolution on regularization which would allow all people who applied for asylum before 31 December 2004 and who live in Sweden on 1 December 2005 without

any kind of residence status, to apply for a permit based on humanitarian reasons.

Furthermore children suffering from the pervasive refusal syndrome should be allowed a permit even if they sought asylum after 31 December 2004.

The proposal excludes persons who have committed war crimes or crimes against humanity as well as persons who have committed crimes that can render a sentence of six months or more.

Those who are unable to substantiate their identity will receive a temporary permit for one year during which time they must satisfactorily prove who they are. Another qualification ground is that persons must have resided in Sweden during the qualification period, so a person who applied for asylum in Sweden before the stipulated date and was then sent to a "Dublin" country or any other country including the home country cannot return to Sweden before 1 December 2005 and qualify.

The premise for the proposal was that a new appeals system would be introduced on 31 March 2006. On 14 September the Parliament will vote upon the resolution.

(Source: Michael Williams, Chairman of FARR)

Switzerland: The National Council will discuss further restrictions of the Asylum Act at the end of September 2005.

Several NGOs across Switzerland do everything to convince members of the National Council not to allow our country to endanger its long humanitarian tradition by, for example, expanding the system of exclusion from social welfare.

The Federal Government hopes to increase the credibility of Swiss asylum policy by denying access to the welfare assistance system to persons manifestly not in need of Switzerland's protection.

In case that most of the planned restrictions will find a majority within the National Council, the last option is to organize a referendum so that Swiss voters are able to decide which direction Swiss asylum policy will take.

UK: UK Government's 5 year asylum and immigration strategy was published in February 2005 and includes, among others, the following measures:

Invocation of the "cessation clause": Refugees granted permission to stay will only receive 5 years leave (rather than the indefinite leave to remain granted before August 2005). If conditions improve in their country of origin within five years they will be expected to return.

This measure is extremely worrying to Refugee Council for all asylum seekers, and particularly for separated children who need stability and security to rebuild their lives. It is appalling to think that children who are recognised as refugees will be left in limbo for 5 years as they wait to see whether they can remain in the UK.

UNHCR's primary concern is to ensure that any use by the UK Government of the cessation clauses, and also any increased use in Articles 1F or 33(2) of the 1951 Convention, are implemented in line with our advice.

Update on Section 9 of the Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants) Act 2004:

This does not strictly affect separated children, but there are well-founded fears that children will become separated as a result of the implementation of this piece of legislation.

Section 9 allows the Home Office to withdraw support (including accommodation) from failed asylum seekers with families who do not co-operate with procedures for their removal. Some families involved are making arrangements to leave the country, a significant number of families involved so far have disappeared, and RCCP have been informed of 2 children abandoned by their mother who has disappeared.

Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Bill 2005: In June 2005 the UK government published its fourth major asylum bill in its eight-year leadership.

There is a proposal to further restrict appeal rights, particularly relating to refusal to extend leave, and this is likely to affect a disproportionate number of separated young people turning 18.

It also contains a raft of restrictive immigration measures which may make it more difficult for those seeking asylum to reach the UK. These include the wider use and sharing of biometric data, including fingerprinting. It is also expected that the government may introduce additional measures during the passage of the bill through parliament.

Detention

Jesuit Refugee Services co-organises detention meeting

On 29 September JRS, CIMADE and the International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC) co-hosted a meeting in Geneva of NGOs and individuals interested in membership of the

newly-formed international coalition on the detention of refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants. This meeting focused on the development of the coalition and its structure and strategy. This committee includes NGO contacts from every region of the world where refugees, asylum-seekers and/or migrants are held in administrative detention, i.e. kept in detention for reasons related only to their immigration status.

"18 months ago, many of us got together to establish this international coalition on detention. Today, 81 groups from 35 countries have attended the meetings of this new coalition and/or participated in providing information on detention in their countries", said Ms Melanie Teff, Advocacy Coordinator, JRS International.

The coalition seeks to limit the use of this type of administrative detention; to advocate for alternatives to detention, and for the use of the least restrictive forms of detention; to promote greater protection of and respect for the human rights of those held in detention; and to promote the development and adoption of best practices in the use of detention.

(Jesuit Refugee Services, Dispatches No. 178 - 15 September 2005)

Austria: The new Asylum and Alien Police act will allow holding minor asylum seekers and other minors more frequently in detention for pre-deportation and will expand detention time up to 10 months.

Belgium: In 2004 there were 60 separated children who were deprived of liberty because they arrived at the border without papers. They were kept in detention during periods between a few days up to two months.

The Organisation Against the Deportation of Children and Youth without Papers (Beweging tegen uitwijzing van kinderen en jongeren zonder papieren) held a gathering in Brussels on 31 August in front of the office of the Minister for Education. Participants are asking that there be no deportation of school children, and no detention of children and youth in detention centers during the new school year.

users.telenet.be/omnimundo

Czech Republic: The latest draft amendment to the Aliens Act is still waiting to be passed by the Senate and to be signed by the President. During the debate in parliament, the liberal proposal—

lobbied by various human rights advocates and NGOs as well as UNHCR—of unaccompanied minors younger than 18 years of age not be a subject of an administrative detention under any circumstance did not find enough support among MPs.

Instead, the draft amendment proposes to decrease the duration of an administrative detention of unaccompanied minors from current 180 days to 90 days.

Nevertheless this is to be considered as a significant legislative change vis-à-vis unaccompanied minors in the Czech Republic.

In view of the scheduled transfer of administrative responsibility of detention centres from January 2006, the Refugee Facilities Administration (RFA) of MOI is continuing its preparation for the eventual take-over from the Aliens Police.

As part of this process, various detention centres to be maintained by RFA are being incorporated and considered under the scheme of 'right-sizing'/downsizing of asylum and refugee reception facilities currently ongoing in the Czech Republic.

Amongst the foreseen changes in the running of detention centres will be more emphasis and focus on education and leisure activities targeting minors, including separated children, by RFA.

Under the Alien Act (that allows detention of children over 15) there is a new obligation for the Alien Police to ensure a guardian for every child under 18 for whom an administrative procedure of decision on prohibition of stay has started. (The Alien Act is not clearly stating who the guardian should be.)

Germany: In August 2005, the Higher District Court (Oberlandesgericht) of Munich published a decision already rendered on May 9 (file no. 34 Wx 037/05), which dealt with the prerequisites for ordering pre-deportation detention of underage aliens.

Like the Higher District Court of Berlin a few weeks before in a similar case, the court held that a minor who is obliged to leave the country may be detained only under very special circumstances, i.e. if there were no milder means available to reach the intended purpose.

This ruling sets a very high factual barrier to the issuance of detention orders regarding underage aliens.

Greece: Amnesty International has released a report: "Out of the spotlight: the rights of foreigners and minorities are still a grey area".

Greece's geographical location on the south-eastern border of the EU has made it a first-stop destination for migrants and refugees fleeing persecution and seeking protection in the EU.

Most of those who arrive without documentation are detained by the Greek authorities, and many are held in detention for up to three months. Overcrowded detention centres prevent detainees from being able to exercise or maintain their personal hygiene - many detainees complain of health problems such as scabies arising from the limited hot water available for washing.

In some centres, children are being detained with adults and no special provision is made for their specific psychological needs. One of the children that Amnesty International met showed clear signs of stress such as sweating, twitching and crying.

There are allegations that guards in detention centres have sexually abused women detainees. There have also been reports of border police beating migrants on their arrival in Greece. These allegations are not being investigated, and crimes and abuses are going unpunished.

Full report on-line at

web.amnesty.org/library/Index/ENGEUR250162005

Italy: While separated children cannot be detained in "Centres for Temporary Permanence" (CPT), members of the European and the Italian Parliaments have in August found 45 minors in the CPT in Lampedusa (an island close to Sicily where migrants use to arrive from Libya) and other minors in the CPT in Caltanissetta in September.

Lithuania: Despite provisions in the Aliens Law, which are intended to protect children from detention, there have been cases of detention of both separated children and children with families seeking asylum

Although following interventions of the Lithuanian Red Cross lawyers detention orders were cancelled, the trend is worrying and raises an issue of competence of both public officials and judges .

UK: Greater management and oversight is needed into residential short-term holding centres, HM Chief Inspector of Prisons Anne Owers said on July 6 as she published a report on three unannounced inspections.

The three centres inspected - Harwich International Airport, Manchester Airport and Port of Dover - are residential centres at airports and ports holding detainees for up to a week. They hold passengers who have been refused entry into the UK and are

being immediately returned as well as those who have lived in the UK previously and are either due for removal or detention elsewhere.

The key common findings on the centres were:

- A lack of routine and swift access to healthcare
- Insufficient activities or access to exercise
- Inadequate self-harm, suicide and child protection procedures
- Poor access to seek legal advice
- Inadequate fire safety procedures
- Some staff, particularly at Harwich, were insufficiently trained

Above all, the Chief Inspector points to the lack of any regular external management oversight of such centres, an issue that has been highlighted in previous inspections.

www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/ind/en/home/news/press_releases/immigration_short-term.html

The death of a young Kurdish Turk while in detention has prompted renewed concerns about detaining asylum seekers.

The Independent reported on 29 June that Ramazan Camlica, 19, was found hanged on Monday in his room at the detention centre Campsfield House in Oxfordshire. He is thought to have been depressed by prolonged uncertainty over his future, a long-term health problem, the prospect of being forced into the Turkish army once deported and by the death of his mother.

Mr Camlica had been held in detention for at least five months and had been refused bail three times, according to the Independent. Considering that only those facing imminent deportation are supposed to be detained, his length of detention was inordinate, campaigners have said

He is the fifth asylum-seeker in the past 12 months to have taken his life while in detention.

Age Assessment

Austria: During the first months of 2005 NGOs reported an increasing number of age assessments, done by the authorities.

In one case, an officer at the reception centre (Erstaufnahmestelle) Traiskirchen, didn't believe an asylum seeker from Afghanistan to be a minor. Following this, the young man brought documents which confirmed his age. But even the documents did not convince the officer and he refused to correct the age because the authenticity of the document was "not confirmed without any doubt".

The principle “in doubt in favour for the minor” was neglected.

In another case, three minors from Afghanistan, who got stopped by the border guard at the Austrian border, were questioned in Russian language although they did not understand this language properly. In the record the age of the minors was therefore noted incorrectly with 16, 17, and 18 years. During the asylum procedure they tried to correct the age. They informed the officer, that the two youngest are 16 years old and twins. But because of the lack of documents, the officer refused to correct the age. So we have first time in Austria twins with different ages!

In Traiskirchen a minor from Mongolia was declared by an officer as an adult - at least 20 year. As a consequence he was forced to leave the special area for minors within the camp. After several months he was able to prove his age, he brought documents, which gave clear evidence, that he was just 16 years old.

A very dramatic case concerns a girl from Moldova. She entered Austria in 2003 and was interviewed in Traiskirchen, at this time she was 15 years. The officer did not believe her and estimated her age as “at least 25 years”. After this she had to leave the camp, when she came back to the camp to stay there clandestine, she was raped by other asylum seekers. She became pregnant and because of the very difficult situation she had an abortion. Two years later she was able to bring documents which proved her age as a minor.

Because of the harsh critique of NGOs concerning the practice on age assessments, the ministry of interior in June 2005 released new guidelines for age assessments. Until now it seems like the new regulations bring some positive results.

France: The access to the asylum procedure has become longer and more difficult. The asylum procedure is under the Public prosecutor’s control, who designates the “administrateur ad hoc”. The separated children whose medical exams declare them as +18 years old, can start the asylum procedure only as an adult. It is up to the OFPRA to decide whether the young person is younger or older than 18 years old.

Spain: Although the General Prosecutor of the Regional Government of Madrid and the Prosecutor of Minors of Madrid (taking into account the reports of UNHCR, NGOs and medical studies demonstrating the variability and inaccuracy of the Greulich & Pyle age assessment)

informed us that the practice of complementary test to determine the age of those who claim being minors will be carried out, we cannot confirm so far whether this practice is being applied in the entire national territory and its real effectiveness.

Nevertheless, the IMMF (the autonomous government authority that assumes the guardianship in Madrid) has been carrying out the age test to supposed separated children that had presented identification documents. The rampant corruption in the child’s country of origin was cited as reason to assume that they were false. Therefore, many of them were returned, arguing their majority of age.

UK: STAR, Student Action for Refugees, are running a national campaign called “Age Matters”, looking at the issue of age-disputes and demanding a fair and independent age assessment process for separated children.

See www.star-network.org.uk

Age assessment protocol: The Association of Directors of Social Services (ADSS) and the Home Office have been working for some years on developing a protocol which should ensure that the agencies working with separated children whose age has been disputed agree a common age.

While the protocol has been agreed, we are still awaiting a final version to be published and so as yet are unable to comment on its effectiveness. We have concerns that not all of the issues facing age-disputed children will be resolved.

Age assessment and the law: A court case in May 2005 (the I and O case) determined that the Home Office had wrongly detained two age-disputed separated children. The Home Office had received a paediatrician’s report which assessed them to be minors, but only released them from detention on later receipt of a social services report which also assessed them to be minors.

The court ruled that the Home Office should have released the children on receipt of the paediatrician’s report. The children are now able to pursue a claim for compensation from the Home Office.

Guardianship

Austria: An increasing number of separated children are provided guardians. However, differences between the various provinces remain: While the Youth Welfare Agency in Linz refers all cases of separated children residing in its district to the guardianship courts, the Youth Welfare Agency in Vienna is of the opinion that separated children do not require guardians as they receive age-adequate accommodation anyway.

However, once cases become known, the courts now mostly mandate the youth welfare agency to act as guardians – with the exception of one district court in Vienna the decision practice of which has now been challenged before the High Court.

Belgium: The law about the guardianship for separated children entered into force on the 1st of May 2004. Since then, every citizen can apply to become guardian of C (after receiving a specific training). But the law also foresees the possibility for organisation (NGO) to become guardians; this is a professional guardianship system, the guardian being staff at the organisation, like a social worker or a psychologist.

The professional guardianship system took a long time before it started because the organisations didn't receive enough funds to develop it. The 2002 separated children guardianship act has been modified in December 2004 in order to give more funds to the organisations who develop the professional guardianship system.

Now about 10 organisations develop such a system that appears to be much better than the "citizen" system.

In May 2005, the 2002 separated children Act was again modified in order to appoint a provisional guardian for a child who arrives at the border claiming to be minor during the age assessment procedure. This is an improvement as before, those children had to wait a few days without a guardian (that means, without specific protection).

Non-governmental organisations are creating a new NGO to facilitate a network between the organisations who have professional guardians. The aim of this new organisation is to improve the guardianship system, insure the training of guardians, and harmonise the work of guardians.

Croatia: The Centre for Social Policy Initiatives (CSPI) and UNHCR started education of potential guardians for separated children, as envisaged under

the Project "Support to Guardianship System for Separated Children, Foreign Nationals, including Asylum Seekers" (implemented in 2005).

The Project is supported by the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare and the Centres for Social Welfare in Zagreb region that identified the first group of out-of institution collaborators skilled in individual work with children, to be trained as potential guardians for separated children.

The education program is divided in two parts and the second training will take place in October. It is expected that Centres for Social Welfare will identify one additional group of potential guardians to also be trained under the same education program (two training sessions) in November 2005.

Norway: Norwegian Peoples Aid is developing a project towards guardians, and also developing a new model for how to be a guardian for separated children.

Reception

Austria: During the first seven months of 2005 there has been a drastic decrease of asylum applications from separated children (about 50%). At the same time a new facility for separated children has opened in the federal state Upper Austria. As a result of this, for the first time ever, the capacity of facilities for the separated children was higher than the demand.

A special problem occurs in Vienna, because the municipality does not accept new asylum seekers as Vienna has already over-fulfilled the quota. The facilities have big problems due to the shortfall of minors. And due to an inflexible quota system where children cannot choose their place of residence and as a result of broad exclusion grounds (such as criminal and aggressive behaviour), NGOs still report cases of homeless separated children.

In July 2005 the Project EPIMA 2 has started in six federal states. The target group is juvenile and young asylum seekers from 15 to 25 years with preliminary right of residence in Austria. The pilot group totaling 142 young asylum seekers in Austria is to be furnished courses and qualification possibilities.

Methods and structures are to be devised for this target group making for development of their potentials and thus reducing negative effects of forced passivity during the period of their asylum procedure. Thus the vocational access chances upon

obtaining a permanent residence permit (granting of asylum) are greatly enhanced due to the language skills, practical work experience and basic knowledge in the selected vocational fields acquired in the course of this program.

Such pre-qualifications also contribute to integration into the existing educational systems. Basic requirements will include language tuition and provision of competences and skills to manage life within.

Raising awareness within the public is of major concern throughout the entire program and models for social encounter within a labour market-political context are to be developed to this end to enable both the receiving society and the target group to enter into mutual learning processes.

Belgium: There is a proposal to improve the accommodation for asylum seekers which has already been discussed for a long time; it is not sure whether it will be adopted one day.

There is also a new accommodation centre for separated children (for both asylum seekers and non-asylum seekers). It's a centre where children are supposed to stay 15 days upon their arrival to assess their situation and relocate them to other centres, families or homes. There has been such a centre since August 2004 and the new one since May 2005. Each centre has a capacity of 50 separated children. The problem is that while those seeking asylum are quickly relocated to a centre for separated child asylum seekers, there are very few accommodation centres for non-asylum seekers. These separated children stay in this first place for a long time (up to one year), but this doesn't fit for a long term stay.

One of the accommodation centres for separated children who do not seek asylum just announced that they are going to close by the end of the year because of a lack of funding. They organised a press conference to denounce this situation.

Bulgaria: Separated children registered as asylum seekers are placed in the Reception Centre in Bania village, where conditions are specially arranged for their care, such as a social worker appointed to act as children's guardian, cooked food and opportunity to attend Bulgarian language courses organized by the State Agency for refugees, and to go to the local school.

A small number of separated children seeking asylum are placed in the Reception Centre in Sofia, as there are no translators available for some rare languages as e.g. Punjabi in Bania village.

The Bulgarian Red Cross is implementing a project for the Bulgarian language course for separated children granted status in Bulgaria, who are placed in the orphanage in the village of Assenovets.

The Bulgarian Red Cross has conducted training for separated children placed in orphanages on methods to fight violence among themselves.

Czech Republic: The Ministry of Education is currently discussing the need of increasing the capacity of its facilities. There is a need to differentiate care provided to separated children. There are children with different needs and in different situations, i.e. asylum seekers, foreigners who are not asylum seekers, foreign children who committed crime etc. The problem of capacity is discussed mainly in connection to the Alien Act amendment shortening the period of placement of separated children in detention centres.

Separated children who reach 18 in the institutional care and want to stay in facilities of the Ministry of Education and who are studying or in training for future profession can make a contract with the facility to stay in the facility till they graduate. Maximum duration of accommodation is till they reach 26.

Currently this possibility offered by the Educational Law is used by children in practise.

France: About 3.100 separated children have been supported by the government in 2003, 2.300 in the 9 first months of 2004 and more than 3.600 separated children are currently supported by the government.

940 separated children have 'shown up' in Paris; 25 'départements' (of 98) have supported 90% of the separated children.

The 5 main nationalities are: Romanian, Chinese, Maroccan, Albanian, Congolese and more recently Angolan.

Germany: In June/July the Federal Parliament and the Federal Council passed a law which amends the German Youth Welfare Act. In Para 42 of the Youth Welfare Act it is now fixed that the Youth Authority is entitled and obliged to take care for every separated child (which includes also minors 16 years and above who do have legal competence within the German framework of asylum and alien laws) and to appoint a guardian. The exact wording of the law can be found in German language under

Ireland: The Reception and Integration Agency (RIA), a statutory agency working for the Department of Justice Equality and Law Reform, will publish two new policies for accommodation centres for asylum seekers on October 21st.

The policies, which have been developed with the Health Service Executive relate to infant feeding guidelines and child protection.

The infant feeding guidelines are an attempt to promote breastfeeding as best practice where possible in the difficult environment of direct provision centres, which to date proved a difficult environment within which to breastfeed.

The child protection policy sees an effort to write child protection guidelines such as *The Children First: National Guidelines for the Protection and Welfare of Children*, by RIA for all accommodation centres.

This follows RIA recruiting a Director of Child and Family Services in January. Marian Quinn previously worked for the Health Service Executive.

Concern for missing children prompts new service.

Carl O'Brien, Social Affairs Correspondent *The Irish Times*, 20/06/2005

Health authorities are introducing changes to the way unaccompanied migrant children are cared for following concern at the disappearance of more than 250 children in the past four years.

The Health Service Executive (East Coast Area) has stopped placing young people in adult hostels and has developed a new facility for 12- to 16-year-olds. It has also submitted a proposal to the Department of Health to develop services for all unaccompanied minors within national standards for residential services for Irish children in care.

Sixty eight unaccompanied minors disappeared from care last year, while at least 12 disappeared in the first four months of 2005. There are about 210 migrant children in care. Around 20 per cent of these are under the age of 16 years of age. The disappearance of children has prompted concern over the welfare of unaccompanied minors and whether they are receiving sufficient supervision and care.

Research conducted by Dr Pauline Conroy for the International Organisation of Migrants found that around 10 per cent of unaccompanied minors coming into Ireland were the subject of criminal investigation in relation to criminal trafficking or smuggling by adults.

Most children who arrive as asylum seekers or unaccompanied minors stay in hostels which are outside the remit of the Social Services Inspectorate and which do not have to comply with national childcare standards.

The Irish Refugee Council has expressed concern at the "loose" arrangements in place for migrant children compared to Irish children in care. Héilean Rosenstock-Armie, the council's separated children's officer, said that while many social workers were doing positive work under difficult conditions, campaigners had concerns over child protection. "There is very little supervision of these children. A social worker, for example, finishes work at 5pm, so there's very often no one to advocate for them, or monitor them," she said. "For Irish children the ratio of social workers to children can be one to one. Yet it can be a ratio of one to 30 for separated children."

The council has called for project workers to be allocated to children or hostels who could be available on a 24-hour basis.

It has also raised concerns over the lack of child protection measures for children who are reunited with their families. While social services check on children in care who are reunited with their families, there is no such monitoring for families in the asylum system.

The council fears that the lack of child protection arrangements means there is a "tragedy waiting to happen", such as abuse cases which have come to light in Britain.

Other measures the HSE is examining include the recruitment and support of foster families to cater specifically for separated children seeking asylum.

Once-off funding has also been provided to deliver a support programme provided by Barnardos focused on normalising care for the young people, supporting their educational participation and providing a range of activities for them.

Italy: In January 2005 the decree of the President of Italian Republic dated 16th of September 2004 entered into force. This document changes some disposals of the Immigration Law of 2002.

Seven territorial commissions were created for refugee status determination. Before, there was only one national commission, now transformed into a "central commission".

The law decree has appointed identification centres where asylum seekers have to stay until interview by the territorial commission. In practice, these centres have not yet been created.

Separated children cannot stay in “Centres for Temporary Permanence”, nor in identification centres, but have to be transferred, at their arrival, to child acceptance centres.

www.interno.it/legislazione/pages/pagina.php?idlegislazione=615

Lithuania: On 28 April 2005, Seimas (the Parliament) of the Republic of Lithuania adopted amendments to the Health Care Legislation securing access to free health care services at all levels (polyclinics, hospitals and rehabilitation centres) for children granted subsidiary protection status and also for all separated children disregarding their legal status in Lithuania.

The amendments addressed a serious gap in the legislation, which had hampered children from the above mentioned groups access to health care in Lithuania.

Within the In Corpore project funded by Equal programme, the Refugee Reception Centre is currently implementing targeted professional orientation activities for separated children in the age group 16-18 years.

Netherlands: There have been relevant court decisions in the last few months. DCI reacted with press releases. One court decision states that children in illegal migrant situations have a right to social security (kinderen recht op bijstand uitspraak).

Together with the organisation for undocumented people in the Netherlands DCI-NL has organised a meeting with the local authorities and some education experts about the situation of illegally staying youngsters in schools. We will identify what the current problems are and react with a project.

Poland: In September 2005, the Office for Repatriation and Aliens signed an agreement with a Children Home, ensuring possibility of accommodation for 10 separated children seeking asylum. With a previous agreement active since 2003, there are currently two Children Homes (Orphanages) which provide accommodation and care to separated children seeking asylum with a total capacity of 20 places. The effect of the agreement is that separated children are provided with better living and care conditions, which were not available before, when separated children stayed in reception centres for asylum seekers.

UNHCR, in partnership with Association of Legal Intervention (Warsaw-based NGO assisting refugees and asylum seekers), published an information leaflet for separated children about their rights in Poland.

The leaflet provides information on what asylum is, who can apply for it and how to do it. It also includes information about assistance available to victims of trafficking, basics of some EU regulations on asylum (Dublin II and Eurodac) as well as on return possibilities.

The leaflet, published in Polish, English and Russian, was distributed to all facilities and institutions dealing with separated children. Currently Vietnamese, Urdu and Tamil versions of the leaflet are prepared.

A workshop is also planned for staff working with separated children, to help in identification of children who have protection needs.

Portugal: With delay, the government is now preparing the transposition to national legislation of the “reception directive” (Directive 2003/9/CE, of 27th of January).

Slovakia: There is a suggestion for a better collaboration in the area of separated children between the Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Social Affairs. It is about entering of a separated child into the asylum procedure. The child can stay in the facility of Ministry of Social Affairs (a special orphan house) and will go through all that is important to finish the first part of the asylum procedure there. The procedure will be accelerated this way. In the orphan house, there is a less possibility to contact the traffickers. However, the ministries do not speak very loudly about this suggestion yet.

Cooperation has begun between Slovak Humanitarian Council and a specialised Orphan house for unaccompanied minors in Horne Orechove.

Sweden: Save the Children Sweden has for a long time proposed that the responsibility for the reception centres should be handed over from the Board of Migration to the municipalities. The same issue has been brought up at the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child referring to the principle of discrimination in relation to national children.

The Foreign Ministry has now announced that they look positively on the issue of transferring the responsibility for the reception of separated

children to the municipalities and want to change the legislation.

Save the Children Sweden has campaigned for asylum seeking children who have got a negative decision to their request for asylum to get the right to go school. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has now promised that children with a negative decision should now have the right to go to school.

Switzerland: In comparison to last year, the number of new applications for asylum for separated children dropped immensely in the first six months of this year. At the same time, more and more separated children without any legal status are observed in urban areas.

Whereas child appropriate asylum accommodations will have to close down and new concepts of care arrangements will have to be introduced, child protection authorities in the cantons face new challenges in respect to how to deal with separated children without legal status as the costs for protecting them will not be reimbursed by the Federal Office of Migration.

One year after the introduction of the exclusion of persons from welfare assistance who received a non-admissibility decision, the Federal Government is pleased with the result so far.

A total of 4,450 asylum seekers received a non-admissibility decision. 16% of them received emergency assistance. Actually only very few of these 4,450 persons returned to their country of origin. Savings for the Federal Government in regard of these exclusion measures exceeded by far the estimated savings of 10 million Euros for the year 2004.

According to the information of the Federal Office of Migration, groups of persons such as separated children and sick persons receive the necessary protection and support. On the other hand, the Swiss Refugee Council is able to name various examples where a child appropriate assistance has not been put in place in several cantons. Vulnerable persons should not receive a non-admissibility decision since the result of such a decision can be lack of protection and assistance.

UK: National Register for Unaccompanied Children (NRUC) is now “live”. Details of all new asylum applications by separated children are placed on the database by the Home Office. Local authorities that are responsible for looking after separated children

are currently inputting their data, which will be matched to the Home Office data.

Some local authorities are further forward with this than others; it will be many weeks before current cases are all on the database.

Safe Case Transfer: This pilot project to safely transfer the care of separated children from one part of the UK to another is underway.

Approximately 25 children have moved so far. There have been a few initial difficulties because some legal representatives who were expected to pick up the management of the asylum applications of the children who moved are now unable to do so, but others have been found to replace them.

Missing Children

Belgium: A study has been undertaken by Child Focus, which deals with children who disappear in the country. They followed the case of separated children who arrived in 2004 and applied for asylum. They arrived to the conclusion that 161 separated child asylum seekers disappeared during this year. But no difference was made between worrying disappearances and the fact that we know some children try to pursue their journey to reach Great Britain e.g.

Bulgaria: Although there is no statistics available, the observations on the number of cancelled procedures shows that the rate of disappearances remains extremely high.

Czech Republic: Statistics can be offered of admissions and disappearances from one of two specialized centres run by the Ministry of Education for foreign children, the one where children are placed first, after they are transferred from the detention centre. The numbers for the period of January 2005 – 16 of September 2005 are:

- Admissions: Total: 86 (Females : 21; Males: 56)
- Five most frequent nationalities: China: 26, Vietnam: 19, Bulgaria: 15, India: 7, Belarus: 5
- Disappearances: Total: 52
- Nationalities: China 14, Vietnam 8, India 7, Belarus 5, Ukraine 3, Slovakia 1, Algeria 1, Poland 1, Iraq 1, Nigeria 1, Bangladesh 1

Hungary: In 2004, 34 separated children disappeared and in 2005 the number so far is 10 disappearances.

Ireland: According to the most recent figures 250 separated children have gone missing from state care. See related developments under reception.

Netherlands: There is an indication that more and more children with families are disappearing without indications on where they go or end up.

Slovakia: Nowadays we have only one unaccompanied client that is in an accommodation centre longer than 10 months. From March to September 2005, 39 children disappeared, one of them was a girl.

Slovenia: In 2004 and 2005, 242 minors disappeared from Asylum Home. In most cases these were boys from Albania and Turkey that wanted to join their relatives in other European countries.

Sweden: Since January 2005 around 30 separated Chinese children have disappeared from reception-centres after some weeks in Sweden.

UK: No statistics are available for children who have disappeared. Refugee Council Children's Panel, RCCP, are concerned about a number of children with whom they are unable make contact, and those with whom they have had brief contact.

They have reported a small number of children missing to the police and to National Missing Persons Helpline, a UK national charity working with "missing" people and with those searching for them.

Agencies working with separated children have expressed concern at the number of children who "disappear" once they reach 18 rather than be deported, but statistics are not available.

Procedures and Recognition

Austria: With the new Asylum and Alien Police act the exemption of traumatised refugees from the Dublin procedure ceases to apply. Therefore, victims of torture and traumatised asylum-seekers will no longer be automatically admitted to the regular procedure. And thus it will be more difficult for some separated children to access an asylum procedure in Austria.

Denmark: There is increasing concern that the practices in the granting of asylum or other permits

to remain in Denmark for separated children are changing.

The number of children who are granted asylum (asylum, permits to remain in Denmark according to section 9c subsection 3 in the Danish Aliens Act and permission granted according to the Danish Immigration Service/Ministry of Integration upon rejection) has been falling considerably in the period between 2001-2004 (also when the drop in the number of applications is included).

This drop is alarming, and the Minister for Integration has been asked to explain this decrease this past spring. The answer was that there has not been a change in practice. When Save the Children has been raising the same concern to the Danish Immigration Services, the answer has been that the decrease in the number of permits granted might be the result of different developments:

- That the separated children arriving in Denmark are now generally older and the asylum application therefore goes through normal procedures.
- That the separated asylum-seeking children are coming from other countries than was previously the case, i.e. Denmark does not grant asylum to citizens from these countries (e.g. Romania).
- That the conditions in the countries where the refugees in Denmark traditionally came from have changed to a degree that it might be easier to find their parents now.

As the drop in the number of permits to remain in Denmark is alarming, this is an area Save the Children is continuing to observe closely.

Finland: Unfortunately the principles described in the draft immigration policy programme do not seem to be guiding immigration authorities at the moment. There is great concern among NGOs and different actors about a new policy to give only temporary protection to asylum seekers, also to separated children.

The Directorate of Immigration has started to give residence permits with temporary protection quite extensively. It is obviously a new policy of the Directorate, but without clear political decision behind it.

There is a so called B-status given for one or two year to persons who are not seen to need international protection but "technical reasons" why these persons cannot be returned. There are many people from Afghanistan, Iraq and Somalia who have got this kind of temporary protection. There is

also a concerning number of separated children who have got this B-status.

NGOs and people taking care of the reception have criticised this policy, because it puts people in a “limbo” situation: they cannot work, their allowances are smaller, they cannot apply for family reunification, the municipalities don’t have to take them as inhabitants but they end up hanging around in reception centres. This means that integration cannot start at all with these people.

Staffs working with separated children in group homes are very worried. The children themselves cannot understand why some of them are treated like class B people while others are seen as refugees. Many separated children aged 16-17 have got this B-status, but there is also an 8 year old child who has got it.

France: In April and May 2005, 3 circulars from the government have redefined the procedures for separated children regarding asylum and right to stay in the country.

The point is now that separated children cannot seek asylum on their own, they must have a legal representative designated at the beginning of the procedure: a legal guardian or an “administrateur ad hoc”.

Every UASC (unaccompanied asylum seeking child) must start the asylum process in the Prefecture.

The ones who are less than 14 years old are only registered. And as from 14 their fingerprints are registered on the EURODAC database.

The + 16 years old are registered in a database which is called AGDREF, and which is supposed to centralise figures and files shared between the OFPRA and the Prefectures.

The UASCs do not get any documents which mention their status.

Separated children can have access to “right to stay” documents as study documents if the young person is at school/university, or if he is employee in a field which has a lack of workforce.

Ireland: The Dun Laoighre Refugee Project launched an appeal in August entitled P+L+U+S or Please Let Us Stay, asking the government to grant leave to remain to a number of aged-out minors.

To date a number of politicians and church groups have shown their support for the initiative. They drafted a document listing the reasons such an appeal should be considered, below is an overview.

Aged-out minors arrived in Ireland as separated children seeking asylum, without family members or guardians to care for them. They were placed in the care of the Health Boards as separated children. All are now between 18 and 21 years of age (hence they are called “aged-out”) and come under the remit of the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform. The majority have not yet received a decision as to whether they will be allowed to stay in Ireland. Others are living in daily fear of deportation. Some have been living here for up to five years. Most have no immediate family members alive in their birth countries, and are orphans. All applied for asylum in Ireland because they considered that they had a well-founded fear of persecution in their birth countries for reasons set out in the United Nations Convention on Refugees. This fear remains a feature of their lives in Ireland. As separated children seeking asylum, they had unique protection needs; these needs did not disappear upon their “aging-out”.

The total number of aged-out minors currently in direct provision in Ireland is approximately 150. There are others who are living independently, or who are completely outside the system. We estimate the total number to be approximately 250. None of them have children.

This is not a large number of people. In practical terms, it would be extremely feasible to grant them ‘leave to remain’ in Ireland on humanitarian grounds. The asylum system has improved in the last few years, with asylum claims being processed much more quickly. The combination of factors that led to their current circumstances will not be repeated.

Italy: Just 3 children out of 5.573 have received a permit to stay as refugee:

| Permit to stay | Registered by the Committee | % |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------|
| None | 4.159 | 74,63 |
| For minors age Required | 1.109 | 19,9 |
| Foster care | 232 | 4,16 |
| Family reunification | 34 | 0,61 |
| Waiting for foster care | 21 | 0,38 |
| Asylum ¹ | 7 | 0,13 |
| Health | 3 | 0,05 |
| Adoption | 2 | 0,04 |
| Working permit | 1 | 0,02 |
| Humanitarian permit | 1 | 0,02 |
| Protection | 1 | 0,02 |
| Study permit | 1 | 0,02 |
| Tourism | 1 | 0,02 |
| Total | 5.573 | 100% |

Lithuania: For the first time in the history of the Lithuanian asylum system 3 separated children were granted refugee status during the reporting period.

Slovenia: Refugee status has been granted to 4 minors: 2 in 2004, country of origin: Iran, Cameroon; 2 in 2005, country of origin: Afghanistan, Serbia and Montenegro (Kosovo).

The replacement of the Head of the Asylum Section in May 2005 is mirrored also in the asylum 'regime' – there have been practices of deterioration of standards that were agreed upon with the previous Head of the Asylum Section. Up until now, this deterioration was still limited to a few individual cases (separated child asylum seekers whose movement was restricted, asylum application rejected as manifestly unfounded), but unfortunately we can expect that these practices will become regular ones.

¹ We don't know exactly if they have received a permit to stay as asylum seekers or if they have been already recognised as refugees. We also know, by some of the services working on Rome territory, that the data are not reliable, as there have been different cases of separated children seeking asylum/recognised as refugee.

Sweden: The numbers of granted residence permits for separated children have decreased in recent years. From 70-80% some years back until 30 % in 2005.

Switzerland: Between April 1st 2004 and end of March 2005, more than 100 separated children received a non-admissibility decision. It is not known how many of them finally received an emergency aid appropriate for children from the canton responsible for the welfare assistance or how many of them disappeared.

UK: Part of the Government's 5 year asylum and immigration strategy includes a New Asylum Model (NAM). The NAM is fundamentally a new procedure for processing asylum claims, which involves 'segmentation' of claims into different streams depending on the nature of the claim. Each segment may then have a different timeline, or support, housing and reporting arrangements. Implementation began in May 2005 and will be completed by September 2006.

This raises very big concerns for age-disputed children who are treated as adults and as such may be caught up in much accelerated processes, often without legal or welfare advice, sometimes in detention. The Refugee Council has sought information about safeguards for these and other vulnerable clients but have not received a satisfactory response. UNHCR London are intending to provide on-going advice to the Home Office as they implement these changes, particularly in relation to a possible 'manifestly well-founded' stream.

Third Country or Dublin Regulation cases: RCCP have been involved in a growing number of Dublin Regulation cases (approx. 15). They were involved with the prevention of two removals to Greece, but all other cases in which they have been involved have been removed. There is grave concern for the well-being of some of the children involved.

Family Tracing and Reunification

EU: European rules on the right to family reunification for immigrants: deadline for implementation of the Directive expired 3rd October

Directive 2003/86/EC, setting out the rules by which third-country nationals legally residing in one of the Member States may apply for their family members to join them in the Member State of their residence, was adopted on 22 September 2003.

Until now only 6 Member States (Belgium, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Slovenia) have notified their implementing measures to the Commission. Three Member States (Denmark, Ireland and United Kingdom) are not bound by its provisions. With regards to the other 16 Member States who have not notified any implementing measures yet, the Commission will take appropriate procedural steps according to its power conferred by Article 226 of the Treaty establishing the European Community.

For the past twenty years family reunification has been one of the main sources of immigration to the EU. Family reunification measures are not only a way of bringing families back together, but they are also essential to facilitate the integration of third country nationals into the EU. Source: *Memo/05/348*

Belgium: There is a proposal to include the European directive on family reunification in the Belgian law but the debate within the government makes progress difficult.

Finland: A proposal for a change in the Alien's Act is being prepared concerning family tracing and information sharing between different authorities.

A working group gave already earlier this year its report on this and it is assumed that the content of the proposal will be much the same.

It is about confidentiality in reception. Immigration authorities are claiming that people working with asylum seekers should give more information about asylum seekers personal life. They are especially interested on having information on whether separated children seem to have contacts to their family members which they have not told in the asylum interview. NGOs and also the ministry responsible on reception (Min. of Labour) have expressed their concern about the change and see that confidentiality is essential in the services given

to asylum seekers, especially in working with separated children.

Hungary: The Parliament has recently amended the Aliens Act (by Law no. XLVI of 2005) in order to incorporate the provisions of the EU Directive on Family Reunification (among other issues).

The direct line ascendant of first degree or legal guardian, if the refugee is an unaccompanied minor, can be entitled to a permission to stay with a view to family reunification.

The family relationship can be proved in every 'credible' way; the lack of written documentation can not be a reason for rejection.

In some recent family reunification cases, the Office of Immigration and Nationality, Asylum Department proved to be highly co-operative.

Ireland: CADIC is a coalition of NGOs whose focus includes human rights, legal aid, children's rights, asylum and refugee issues, and migrant rights and support. The objective of the Coalition, founded in July 2003, was to prevent the forced removal of Irish children from the State in violation of their rights under national and international instruments, and to carry out such activities related to this aim.

On 14th December 2004 the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform announced the establishment of a new scheme ("the scheme") that would enable all migrant parents of Irish children without status, but residing in Ireland, to apply for residency in Ireland subject to a set of criteria.

This announcement, a positive development and a reflection of the success of the CADIC campaign, fundamentally changed the context in which CADIC was to carry out its activities.

On 1 January 2005, the Irish Nationality and Citizenship Act 2004 came into force. Children born on and after 1 January 2005 are no longer automatically Irish citizens by virtue of birth in Ireland. On 18 January 2005, the scheme was commenced and continued until 31 March 2005. Under the scheme parents had to include a statutory declaration that they had no expectation or entitlement to family reunification – i.e. that if a minor child or a parent was not in Ireland, in the event of the family members in Ireland being granted residency, the remaining family members would not be entitled to join them.

Approximately 18,000 parents applied for residency under the scheme, immigrants, students, undocumented migrant workers and asylum seekers.

As of July 2005, 11,000 of these had been processed, with 160 refusals.

CADIC members met again to discuss the next steps of the campaign and decided that there are still a number of issues relating to the rights and well being of Irish children of migrant parents which CADIC must meet.

These include:

- Assisting families and parents, who have outstanding issues in relation to their applications for residency in Ireland, e.g. some migrant parents who had protection issues, or who came from countries with little or no functioning government were unable to furnish the Department of Justice with a passport, which was necessary to comply with the scheme;
- Addressing the problem of family re-unification for families of Irish Children with one parent or a sibling abroad;
- Monitoring the decision making process on applications for residency and in particular monitoring refusals for residency that might lead to the deportation of Irish children;
- Developing a model of child impact analysis to ensure that all future decisions relating to the Irish child is consistent with Irish and international law and assess the process of ensuring that the best interest of every child are paramount factor in the immigration decision-making process.

In August the recruitment process for a coordinator for CADIC began and it is hoped to fill the position soon so the work plan can move ahead.

Lithuania: In August, the working group established at the Ministry of Interior prepared draft amendments to the Lithuanian Aliens Law, which inter alia intend to secure a possibility for separated children granted refugee status to reunite with their parents in Lithuania.

Norway: International Social Service (ISS) has established a project, financed by the migration authorities (UDI), which aims to start tracing parents of separated children who have applied for asylum in Norway.

Return

Albania: Bilateral discussions have recently begun with the government of UK and relevant NGOs and IOs for the Assisted Return of minors and are still at an early stage. See more below under UK.

Ireland: In July 2005 the Chief of Mission of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) - Dublin and the Principal Social Worker with the Health Service Team for Separated Children visited Lagos and Abuja in Nigeria. The overall objective of the visit according to the IOM newsletter was to contribute to ensuring that safe care plans can be made for separated children who wish to return to Nigeria, through making links with local organisations, which have the professional capacity to:

- visit family members in Nigeria, firstly to confirm that they are related to the children; secondly to clarify the circumstances in which the children left the care of the family and to assess the capacity and willingness of the family to provide safe future care for the child, should he/she return home; thirdly to provide a follow up service to children who do return.
- provide safe, appropriate alternative care for children whose families cannot be traced or whose families are not able, for whatever reason, to provide such care themselves.

A report on this visit is expected soon. Nigerians make up the majority of separated children arriving in Ireland, the majority end up being reunited with family in Ireland. Nigerians also make up the largest percentage of adult applications for asylum in Ireland.

The IOM runs a voluntary assisted return and reintegration programme for unaccompanied minors. Since it started in November 2003, they have had 67 referrals. In 2005 they had 32 referrals. Figures taking part in the returns programme are very low, and country of origin information would lead to client identity, thus such information can not be released. This would be particularly dangerous in the case of a victim of trafficking being returned and the trafficker finding out such information. There is no indication how many, if any of the 67 referrals involved victims of trafficking.

Norway: Norwegian authorities are opening up the possibilities for returning asylum seekers to Afghanistan and Somalia.

Portugal: IOM is responsible in Portugal for the Voluntary Repatriation Programme. When an asylum seeker shows willingness to return to his/her country of origin, the Portuguese Refugee Council directs him/her to IOM in Lisbon, assuring, however, that the return is voluntary and made with safety and dignity. The Portuguese Refugee Council also informs the asylum seeker of

the limit stated in the voluntary repatriation contract: he/she will not be able to enter Schengen territory within the next five years.

Spain: It is very worrying that the Spanish and Moroccan Governments have been working together to stop the migration of Moroccan separated children to Spain, and they intend to build specific centres for returned children in Morocco. This means that the Spanish Government will not have the obligation to contact the family, because all the children will be taken to the Government centre. Repatriations could be the first option, and no analysis on the specific situation to evaluate the best interest of the child would be undertaken, so this practice would violate the Convention on the Rights of the Child

Moreover, the Memorandum on return with the Moroccan authorities agreed on December 2003 continues to be contested by NGOs involved. The Memorandum intends to facilitate returns of minors to the country of origin, Morocco, without the observance of minimum guarantees.

UK: Home Office programme of forced returns of separated children: The Home Office planned programme to return separated children to Albania has been significantly delayed by a range of factors, notably by a change in the Albanian government. The Home Office intend to continue with the programme, but cannot give any estimation of a start date. They are also looking at other countries with whom to develop forced returns programmes. SCEP partners in the UK, along with other bodies and organisations concerned with children's interests continue to meet to express their concerns and develop an advocacy strategy.

Trafficking

The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, decided on 7 July 2005 by Decision No. 685 to attach the 'Addendum to the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings: Addressing the Special Needs of Child Victims of Trafficking for Protection and Assistance' as an integral part and to recommend the endorsement of this decision by the OSCE Ministerial Council. http://www.osce.org/documents/pc/2005/07/15591_en.pdf

Southeast Europe: In 2005, Save the Children recommenced the Regional Child Trafficking Response Programme in Southeast Europe, a 3-year programme which involves: Albania, Bosnia, Bulgaria and Serbia and Montenegro (including Kosovo).

Albania: In January 2005, The Criminal Code of the Republic of Albania, Law 7895 of 1995 was amended providing a specific definition of trafficking in children.

In February 2005, the National Strategy on the Fight against Child Trafficking was approved which considers child victims of trafficking as particular vulnerable victims.

In July 2005 an agreement was approved between the government of Albania and IOM on National Referral Mechanisms for the Reception and Assistance to Victims of Human Trafficking.

In 2005, two cooperation agreements on actions against child trafficking were drafted and are still awaiting signature by the two governments.

Bulgaria: Despite the objections of NGOs a new provision to the Bulgarian National Action Plan against the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, stating that those younger than 18 that have been involved in criminal activities abroad will be barred from leaving the country for 2 years was adopted by the Coordinating expert group on the National Action Plan.

In the view of NGOs this provision is a serious violation of the rights of children to free movement. It implies that the child is guilty and such measures could have a re-victimizing effect thus impeding the psychological recovery of children survivors of trafficking and other forms of abuse.

As NGOs are members of the Coordinating expert group on the National Action Plan, they believe the discussion is not yet closed.

Czech Republic: The Ministry of Interior has started a new programme "Protection of victims of trafficking in human beings with the aim of sexual exploitation". This protection project has existed for over a year in cooperation with La Strada and Caritas.

Currently also victims of trafficking in human beings with the aim of labour exploitation were included to the model. Following this model and a EU Council Directive no. 2004/81/EC from 29th April 2004. The model of protection of all victims of trafficking was organized and in the proposal of

the Alien Act are special articles regulating the stay of the victim at the territory of the Czech Republic. The conditions that have to be met are following: the EU Directive, e.g. the victim has to cooperate with the criminal police, cannot stay in touch with the trafficker etc.

The new form of permission of stay that will be offered for this group is called “protection stay” and the conditions for issuing, prolongation and cancelling of this stay follow the rules laid down by the Directive. Also the conditions of stay for Aliens with this type of stay follows the Directive.

Denmark: In September 2005, the Danish government finalized an action plan to combat trafficking in children as a “supplement to the Danish Government’s action plan to combat trafficking in women”. Save the Children regard this plan as the fruit of 1½ years of advocacy work.

The good news is that the rights of all trafficked children are acknowledged in this plan, including their right to a guardian. For example, the Action Plan states that no children may be returned to their country of origin until their guardian can guarantee that there will be a responsible reception in the country of origin to receive the child.

However, since it is added onto the existing Action Plan, the big drawback with this supplement is that, even though the rights of all trafficked children are recognized in the plan, the initiatives in the plan are merely directed towards children who are victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation. The current Action Plan will be reviewed in 2006 and it is hoped that the next revision will address wider forms of exploitation.

Finland: A national action plan against trafficking was prepared last spring and was given to the government in the summer. At the moment different bodies are giving statements about it.

The Ministry of Labour has taken the responsibility to build the system for trafficked persons and is forming a working group to give a proposal on how to arrange services for victims. The Central Union for Child Welfare has been invited to the working group in addition to two other NGOs.

Greece: Proposal for Bilateral Agreement of Cooperation between Greece and Albania on trafficked separated Albanian minors in Greece. The initiative started with a visit of an official of the Albanian Ministry to the Greek Ministry of Health and Social Solidarity with the presence of ISS, back in 2003, on the occasion of the ISS International

Staff Training Seminar on “Unaccompanied/ Separated Children”.

An agreement is expected to be finalised in the near future, following the approval of the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs (already taken place) and of the relevant Albanian Ministry.

The Agreement will lead to mutual cooperation to safeguard the protection and durable solutions for the trafficked children, involving not only the state authorities, but also specialised international organisations and NGOs.

ARSIS, a Greek NGO of Youth Support with offices in 5 major cities in Greece, and a Terre Des Hommes delegation of Albania are participating in the Programme BACT, Bilateral Actions for Combating Children’s Trafficking.

The Programme involves Greece and Albania where the majority of trafficked children in Greece come from. UNICEF Albania supports the Programme. The Programme is implemented in two Greek cities, Athens and Thessaloniki, where ARSIS through street work locates the children at risk and provides supportive individualised services with view to protect them.

Italy: Under the Italian Law 228/2003 “Measures against Trafficking in Human Beings”, the Italian Government approved on 9 September 2005 the regulations related to the assistance programmes for victims of trafficking, in particular for guaranteeing an immediate support in terms of shelter, health assistance and food. These regulations have yet to be signed by the President of Italian Republic.

The project “Observatory and Research Centre on Trafficking in Human Beings” is now starting. Save the Children Italy is partner in this three years project financed by the EC under the EQUAL Programme.

The purpose of the project is to develop and implement tools for the analysis and monitoring of trafficking in human beings and to develop methodological and operational tools supporting actors involved in the field.

The base for reaching this general objective is the qualified and differentiated partnership, able to connect actors operating in the field on local, national and international level.

The task of Save the Children Italy is to mainstream children rights and issues in the project focusing particularly on the research stream.

Norway: A new national Action Plan on Trafficking (2005-2008) is in force from June 2005.

Save the Children in Norway is conducting an internal study to screen the field of trafficking to Norway.

Poland: In March 2005 the Nobody's Children Foundation and the British Embassy initiated the first Polish publishing and educational program designed to prevent child trafficking in Poland.

The project's major goals were to raise the awareness of the issue of child trafficking among professionals who work with foreign children. The program was targeted at professionals dealing with foreign children in their work (e.g., staff at emergency shelters, refugee reception centres, the police, and the border guard) and to develop procedures of identifying potential child victims of trafficking.

The program was implemented at two levels:

1. Publishing of posters and booklets for professionals: Within the program we published 1.000 posters and 2.000 booklets addressed to the border guard, emergency shelters, refugee reception centres, the police, and the Polish consular services. The materials presented essential information on the issue of child trafficking as well as practical guidelines about how to deal with a potential victim.
2. Training. 'Working sessions' were held, attended by representatives of emergency shelters, refugee reception centres, the police, and the border guard in selected Polish provinces aimed at conveying basic information on the issue of child trafficking, with a special emphasis on the situation in Eastern Europe, and developing – through active involvement of all participants – procedures of cooperation in cases of suspected child trafficking.

These meetings confirmed the need to continue training efforts in the area of providing elementary assistance to foreign children and to develop effective tools and mechanisms of cooperation between different services in order to better recognize potential victims of trafficking.

Miscellaneous

Belgium: The NGO platform that deals with separated children (which has existed since 1999) is working on a recommendation about the guardianship system and about the schooling system for child foreigners. This platform also adopted a charter for its own work, wrote many press releases

e.g. to denounce the lack of funding of accommodations centres.

Bulgaria: Training for the Border Police Officers on rising sensitivity to vulnerable groups, with special attention to separated children. The training is held quarterly at the Training centre of the Border Police service in the city of Pazardjik, so that more officers would have the opportunity to attend the course.

Croatia: The Governmental Office for Human Rights announced the approved grants for NGO projects on the promotion and protection of human rights. Of the total number of 29 approved grants, one project to be undertaken by civil society deals with asylum and 5 projects with human trafficking issues.

Czech Republic: OPU (The Organization for Aid to Refugees) is starting an Equal project: Support of Separated children. The partners of the project are Charles University, Philosophical faculty, Department of Social Work, and the Facility for children of foreigners. The realization period is from July 2005 to October 2007.

The aim of the project is to find reasonable permanent solutions to the situation of separated children. The project will cover weekly visits of lawyers and social workers in the facilities for separated children. Furthermore, the students of social work at the Charles University will participate in the project. They will provide individual assistance to individual separated children based on friendship during the weekly visits at the facility. The students undertake psycho-social training and take the course at the department of social work 'Social work with refugees and migrants'.

This project for unaccompanied minor refugees is launched by OPU in co-operation with AWO Berlin (Germany), Zebra (Austria) from Graz, Slovak Humanitarian Council and Greek Council for Refugees.

The project is predicated on the co-operation between three EU member states (Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Greece) identified to face similar problems in reception and care of unaccompanied minors together with two EU members (Germany and Austria) who are relatively more experienced in dealing with problems of separated children. One of the aims of the project will be to compare the conditions of separated children in these five countries.

OPU has established a SOS mobile telephone line (+420 723-745-978) to be available for unaccompanied minors asylum seekers and other foreign minors seeking assistance or having any queries.

www.opu.cz

The Counselling Centre for Refugees continues with the project of providing social and legal counselling to separated children. CCR is organizing the Steering Committee, having monthly meetings of all relevant actors (governmental and NGO's) dealing with separated children at the national level.

CCR in cooperation with the Ministry of Social Affairs, Ministry of Justice and Police Headquarters is preparing a seminar for judges at the Judicial Academy. The seminar is aimed towards judges who are primarily dealing with cases of separated children, to inform them about amendments in legislation, international treaties, and substantial danger of trafficking.

Several seminars have been organised concerning trafficking and other forms of organised crime.

CCR has attended a seminar about the Programme 'Protection of victims of trafficking' organised by the Ministry of Interior

Finland: There is a strong concern among NGOs that attitudes towards asylum seekers are hardening in Finland. The Minister of Interior has been hard-working on giving statements that do not put protection of people as a priority but instead feed stereotypes towards asylum seekers as being "shopping" best possible statuses in different EU-member states. NGOs continue to fight against these stereotypes in the media.

Italy: Save the Children Italy edited a video with separated children coming from Morocco. The production consists of interviews where children explain their childhood and their integration process in Italy. The video was realised in the summer 2004

In spring 2005, Save the Children Italy in cooperation with the "Cooperativa Il Progetto" ran a project with separated children; the children involved in this project established the web site *www.minorimigranti.it*

Latvia: The project "Step by step" within the European program EQUAL about professional and

social integration of the asylum seekers in Latvia has started.

In the frame of this project are plans to inform society and those who are working with asylum seekers about them, including separated children and work with them.

Luxembourg: 4 boys from Angola, declaring themselves as brothers, aged 7, 9, 11 and 13 years arrived in Luxembourg in July this year. As far as we know, this is the first time so young children arrive unaccompanied in Luxembourg.

Caritas' "Passepartout" is the only institution working with separated children in Luxembourg. We are involved at formal levels such as guardianships, follow-up of procedure and schooling, tracing of relatives in countries of origin as well as at a more informal level which means social care for the children needed because of their young age and the intensity of the experiences they have had.

Netherlands: There is a decrease in the numbers of separated children arriving in the Netherlands. It is expected that no more than between 500 and 600 will arrive in 2005. There are now 3.500 in total under custody at Nidos. The main issue of concern is those who have 'aged out' - the 18+ group.

Portugal: In Portugal, the celebrations of World Refugee Day were promoted by the Portuguese Refugee Council with the cooperation of the United High Commissioner for Refugees and included, among others, the following events: António Guterres, appointed United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, placed the first brick of the new Reception Centre, Day Nursery and Sport complex of the Portuguese Refugee Council, at Bobadela (Loures). A television debate "The State of the World's Refugees" on the Public channel

Slovenia: Slovene Philanthropy has prepared a "Strategy for Issues Dealing with Separated Children in Slovenia 2005-2006" and draft project proposal on accommodation facility for separated children.

A press conference will be organised by Slovene Philanthropy in October or November 2005 in Ljubljana. Objective: Presentation of the Slovene translation of Statement of Good Practice and general presentation of separated children issues in

Slovenia. Presentations by representatives of Slovene Philanthropy and UNHCR Representation in Slovenia.

Spain: The situation at the border with Morocco is quite serious and worrying. The number of immigrants trying to cross the border has increased in the last months, especially in Melilla (the Spanish enclave in North Africa), where there have been incidents with the law enforcement officers who tried to stop them by force.

It is known that many African people (Sub-Saharan) are hidden in the woods close to the border fence (in Ceuta and Melilla). Their situation is very untenable and among these people there are separated children that are at risk of trafficking and prostitution.

Unfortunately some immigrants (4 or 5 from Sub-Saharan Africa) appeared dead some weeks ago, one of them a 17 year old boy from Cameroun. No official reports assure that law enforcement officers are responsible for the deaths; nevertheless NGOs have urged the Spanish Government to investigate and clarify it.

Small boats (pateras) keep arriving to Spanish coasts with minors, Moroccan especially, among their passengers.

More and more East European children (especially from Romania) arrive. They are not separated as their parents are in Spain as well, but they are in situations of high risk, spending much time in the streets, some of them begging or making small thefts.

Publications

Asylum Levels and Trends in Industrialized Countries, Second Quarter 2005.

UNHCR.

Available from www.unhcr.ch/statistics, the data tables can be downloaded in Excel.

Child Trafficking - The People Involved: A synthesis of findings from Albania, Moldova, Romania and Ukraine

International Labour Organisation/International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (ILO/IPEC). 2005

www.humantrafficking.org/collaboration/regional/eur/resources/pubs/ipec_balkana_05.pdf

[Communication of Civil Society]

Periodic Newsletter Published in Greek by the Office of Civil Society, Thessaloniki.

www.civilsociety.gr

Data and Research on Human Trafficking: A Global Survey

IOM

A review of research and data on human trafficking shows that despite a huge increase in the number of publications and studies about human trafficking during the last decade, very little is known on the true extent and impact of human trafficking.

The report, based on a survey of nine regions in the world, notes that most research is limited to mapping trafficking routes and identifying countries of origin and destination. There are few studies based on extensive long-term research while information on the actual numbers of people trafficked continues to remain very sketchy.

Although 140 governments around the world are fighting human trafficking, 75 per cent of research into the issue is focused on Asia and Europe. Nevertheless, the report gives an overview of trafficking trends and root causes in all the regions as well as identifying research gaps.

The report also highlights the fact that research has focused on relatively small samples of survivors identified by law enforcers, NGOs or international organizations. Little study has been done on traffickers, clients and law enforcement agencies themselves.

Similarly, there has been little independent evaluation of counter-trafficking policies and programmes to assess the real impact of different interventions. Without it, the report notes, it is difficult to identify best practices that could be used as models elsewhere.

Although there is much more data around now on human trafficking than 10 years ago, the lack of systematic data collection and the methods used also feature significantly as issues. Better efforts are needed to estimate the scale of the human trafficking and to produce better statistics, the report says, as inadequate data might result in ineffective policies and interventions being implemented.

Dziecko krzywdzone. Teoria, badania, praktyka [Abused Child: Theory, Research, and Practice]

Quarterly journal published by the Foundation Nobody's Children since 2001.

The issue of the journal in October will be on the problem of child trafficking. It will contain a

selection of papers written by both Polish and European experts in combating child trafficking and providing assistance for child victims.

The publication will comprise articles on subjects such as: the characteristics and recent trends in the development of child trafficking, the EU policy against this phenomenon, socio-cultural determinants of the problem, selected European countries' experiences in combating child trafficking and helping foreign children. This will be the first publication in Poland devoted to the problem of child trafficking.

Abstracts are available on the foundation's web-side www.fdn.pl

Enfants étrangers isolés : comment les accueillir ?

10 mai 2005

www.vie-publique.fr/actualite/alaune/enfants-etrangers-isoles-comment-accueillir.html

Guide pratique de prise en charge des mineurs isolés étrangers et demandeurs d'asile

Cahier du social n°7 - mai 2005

France Terre d'Asile published a useful guide to explain the legislation, the partnerships to professionals who deal with separated children. The guide also mentions the Colloque which took place in Paris in February 2005 regarding separated children.

[Guidelines for Unaccompanied/Separated Children Seeking Asylum]

UNHCR and Greek Ombudsman. June 2005.

In Greek

Specific mention is made to the cooperation of expert agencies on an inter-country level, mentioning the role of International Social Service (ISS) on inter-country casework through its international network in 140 countries. The role of ISS is characterised as particularly important in the search for family in the country of origin, the evaluation of the family and social circumstances as well as in the family reunion in a third country followed by ongoing counseling.

Health and Social Education Needs of Separated Children Seeking Asylum

By Dr Pauline Conroy & Ms Frances Fitzgerald
Published by Ralaheen Ltd with the Health Service Executive and the Crisis Pregnancy Agency

[Human Trafficking]

Periodic newsletter published by Youth Support Agency ARSIS. In Greek.

www.arsis.gr

Hvordan går det dem? - En undersøgelse af unge uledsagede flytninges perspektiver på integrationen.

[How are they doing? a study of young separated children's view upon integration]
By Jan Bartnik. September 2005.

Available in Danish at www.uledsagedeunge.dk

Integration ohne Arbeit?

(Integration without work?) was published in May 2005. The book collects the experiences of the project EPIMA 1 and reports about the situation of young asylum seekers concerning labour market, education and apprenticeship.

For more information, contact Heniz Fronek, fronek@asyl.at

Jeunes scolarisés sans papiers : régularisation mode d'emploi.

Réseau Education sans frontières. 2004

<http://www.educationsansfrontieres.org/>

Journey Man - an educational resource for 14-19 year olds

Refugee Council

Video and worksheets giving the teacher the opportunity to raise discussion of asylum seekers and refugees in a variety of educational contexts.

See www.refugeecouncil.org.uk

[Legal status and social work with unaccompanied minors in the asylum procedure in Slovak Republic]

By Katarína Galdunová, Peter Brnula & Pavol Kopinec.

In Slovak

Contact: pavol.kopinec@sbr.sk

Lettre d'information de la plate-forme 'mineurs en exil' has been launched as an electronic newsletter in French and Flemish for news about issues concerning foreigners including separated children.

www.mena.be

Mission d'analyse et de proposition sur les conditions d'accueil des mineurs étrangers isolés en France

Jean Blocquaux, Anne Burstin, Dominique.
Inspection générale des affaires sociales, Paris, 2005
www.ladocumentationfrancaise.fr/brp/notices/054000285.shtml

La politique de l'immigration : Le cas particulier des mineurs étrangers

www.vie-publique.fr/politiques-publiques/politique-immigration/legislation-reglementation-statut-etrangers/mineurs-etrangers/

Publication d'un avis du Comité consultatif national d'éthique (CCNE) du 11 juillet 2005 déclarant l'examen osseux « inadapté » pour établir l'âge des mineurs étrangers.

www.ccne-ethique.fr

Rapport de MSF sur les violences contre les migrants au Maroc

30.09.2005
www.migreurop.org/article858.html

Responding to Child Trafficking. An introductory handbook to child rights based interventions drawn from Save the Children's experience in Southeast Europe. Save the Children, Regional Child Trafficking Response Programme, Southeast Europe, 2004. Published in English & Albanian. Available at www.childcentre.info/projects/trafficking/dbaFile11301.pdf

Second Annual Report on Victims of Trafficking in South-Eastern Europe

Second Annual Report from the Regional Clearing Point presents the main findings of data consolidated from across the region for the period between 1 January 2003 and 31 December 2004, incorporating description and analysis of both quantitative and qualitative data concerning trafficking victims assisted within South-eastern Europe.

http://www.iom.int//DOCUMENTS/PUBLICATION/EN/Second_Annual_RCP_Report.pdf

[Separated Children in Slovenia]

By Seecran (South East European Child Rights Action Network)
Collection of presentations by different authors represented on the round table on Separated Children Issues in Slovenia.
In Slovene
<http://www.seecran.org/main/main.htm>

[Situation of the separated children in the Basque Country]

By Iñigo Lamarca Iturbe, Basque Country Ombudsman (Ararteko)
In Spanish/Basque

Understanding Exploitation: research into the trafficking of minors in The Netherlands

Study by ECPAT The Netherlands in cooperation with Defence for Children International The Netherlands and UNICEF The Netherlands.
Contact: ecpat@defenceforchildren.nl

Young Refugees – a guide to the rights and entitlements of separated children

2nd edition. Save the Children.
A very useful overview of the situation for separated children in the UK.
See www.savethechildren.org.uk or contact c.macarthur@savethechildren.org.uk

La zone des enfants perdus. Mineurs isolés en zone d'attente de Roissy.

Analyse de l'ANAFE de novembre 2004.
www.anafe.org

Events

28 January 2005, Paris
Les mineurs étrangers isolés, un défi à relever
Association Louis Chatin.
Clloque à la Cour de Cassation

4 February 2005, Paris
1985-2005 : 20 ans de décentralisation, pour quels progrès dans la protection des mineurs isolés étrangers et demandeurs d'asile ?
Colloque FTDA – Paris

6 April 2005
Growing up far from home
Organised by Save the Children Italy together with a territorial social service network

Seminar on integration of separated children in Rome. The seminar was attended by 80 persons and it had a follow up in local and specialised media.

11-13 April 2005, Evangelische Akademie Hofgeismar/ Kasse, Germany

Special care for unaccompanied minor refugees in Germany

A conference of the Federal Association for Unaccompanied Minor Refugees with working groups on the new Immigration Act, on psychological/social disturbances endured by young refugees, voluntary repatriation programmes and on minors living as illegal immigrants.

16 April 2005, Paris

Rencontre nationale du réseau Education sans frontières.

20-21 April 2005, Wörrstadt, Germany

An expert seminar on trafficking in children

Jointly organized by the GTZ (German Agency for Technical Co-operation) and the Federal Criminal Investigation Office.

May 2005

UNHCR Croatia and the Centre for Social Policy Initiatives (CSPI) organised a presentation of the Croatian version of the Statement of Good Practice, which was translated and published jointly by UNHCR and the CSPI.

Representatives of the relevant Ministries and state bodies, Office of the Ombudsperson for Children, international and national NGOs participated.

During the event, the UNHCR/CSPI project related to training of potential guardians for separated children foreign nationals, including asylum seekers was presented.

In the discussion participants stressed practical problems, such as accommodation, medical assistance and guardianship of separated children and expressed their interest to further co-operate on the protection of separated children foreign nationals in Croatia.

21 May 2005, Ljubljana

Children in the Enlarged European Union

Regional seminar organised by Seecran (South East European Child Rights Action Network).

Slovene Philanthropy gave a presentation on Separated Children Issues in Slovenia.

27 May 2005, Ljubljana

Training of separated children's guardians

Organised and implemented by Slovene Philanthropy as a 1 day event.

Beneficiaries were future guardians and social and refugee workers (Slovene Philanthropy volunteers). All together there were 19 participants attending the seminar.

7 June 2005, Ljubljana.

Round table on Separated Children Issues in Slovenia

Organised and held by Seecran (South East European Child Rights Action Network)

Beneficiaries were representatives of Centres for Social Work (the responsible institution on appointing guardians), Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs, Section of Immigration and Refugees, Asylum Home and Centre for Foreigners within Ministry of Interior, UNHCR and other related organisations (GOs and NGOs) active in the field of the child issues, migration and asylum.

10 June 2005, Vilnius

Refugee Protection: international standards and their implementation in Lithuania

Organised by a joint initiative of UNHCR and Human Rights Committee in the Parliament.

The conference took place at the Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania. A wide range of politicians, top-level ministerial officials, NGOs and refugee community leaders attended the event.

During the conference a special attention was paid to the situation of refugee children including separated children in particular: reception conditions, protection from detention and family reunification.

27 June – 02 July 2005, Tuheljske Toplice, Croatia

Sixth, final seminar for the police, judicial and NGO workers on trafficking in persons, especially trafficking in women and children.

Organised by Ministry of Interior and IOM.

5-7 July 2005, Ljubljana

Regional Consultation for the UN Study on Violence Against Children - Europe and Central Asia 'Stop Violence against Children – Act Now'

<http://europe-ca.violencestudy.org/>

Organised and held by the Government of the Republic of Slovenia, in collaboration with the Council of Europe, UNICEF, the World Health Organisation, office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and the NGO Advisory Panel.

The conference represented the regional consultation for Europe and Central Asia on the UN Secretary General's Study on Violence against Children. SCEP made a presentation during the workshop on "Violence in residential institutions: correctional facilities and reception centres."

August 2005, Slovak Republic
Course for local offices of social affairs

12-14 September 2005, Dublin; October 2005, Budapest; November 2005, Brussels

International Training Conference on the Identification and Treatment of Victims of Trafficking

Within the framework of its counter-trafficking activities, IOM organised a three-day training conference in Dublin.

The training focused on the Identification and Treatment of Victims of Trafficking. Sixty-eight border guards, police, immigration and customs' officers and representatives from law enforcement training institutions from twelve European Countries attended the conference.

This Training Conference in Dublin was the first of three consecutive training events organised within the framework of the project "Training of Border Guards, Police and Customs Officials in Identifying of and Providing Assistance to Victims of Trafficking".

Thirteen countries, Belgium, Bulgaria, Estonia, Finland, Hungary, Ireland, Lithuania, Moldova, the Netherlands, Romania, Slovenia, Ukraine and the United Kingdom, are participating in the project, carried out with the support of the European Commission's Directorate General's "Justice, Freedom and Security" AGIS 2004 Programme.

Following the first training in Dublin, a second training conference will be held in Budapest in October 2005 and will closely look into the Investigation Techniques of Trafficking Cases.

The Protection of Victims of Trafficking will be subject to a final training conference in Brussels in November 2005.

In December 2005, a final report will be distributed. It will include the materials and recommendations of the three training conferences as well as the results of the research which was carried out in the participating countries.

12-14 September 2005, Bratislava
Coordination meeting between UNHCR, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Social Affairs and NGOs.

16 September 2005, the Netherlands
The yearly thematic day of the Committee on the Rights of the Child on drafting UN Guidelines for children who are without parental care.

20 September 2005, Brussels
New Young Europeans
Organised by British Council
New Young Europeans highlights the dreams and aspirations of young people in Europe today, regardless of their background. Encouraged to talk about their hopes and ambitions, their personal testimonies will be exhibited alongside their portraits. This closing exhibition brings together the extraordinary voices of over 100 young people living across Europe who have participated in the project since 2003.

In each of the ten European cities visited so far (London, Brussels, Cardiff, Cologne, Helsinki, Edinburgh, Cork, Rome, Madrid and Krakow) the project worked with ten young people. Some had never questioned their right to call that city their home; others had recently arrived looking for safety, peace and the chance to rebuild their lives. They all have a remarkable contribution to make and share dreams that transcend national and cultural boundaries.

For more information about the project, contact julia.rawlins@britishcouncil.be

21-23 September 2005, Warsaw
The 9th annual meeting of the European Network of Ombudsmen for Children

Part of the meeting focused on protecting the rights of unaccompanied and separated children. Ombudsmen shared their experience in this field and discussed possibilities for increased advocacy and action. SCEP's Statement of Good Practice was distributed and SCEP staff will follow up regarding the possibilities for greater co-operation in the future.

www.ombudsnet.org

22 September 2005, Dublin
Training event for Ireland en Route members
Ireland en Route is a group made up of NGOs, academics, intergovernmental and statutory agencies, the Health Service Executive and An Garda Siochana (Irish police force) set up to investigate the issue of trafficking of women and children for the purpose of sexual exploitation. The training covered an overview of the international situation, the Irish legal framework, challenges facing the Garda National Immigration

Bureau, social workers perspective on child trafficking and case studies. This training was a follow on from similar training given in June which was overbooked.

23 September 2005, Helsinki.

Towards Agenda for Action Against Human Trafficking. Preventing Means and Victim Protection.

A seminar organised by Unioni – the League of Finnish Feminists and the Diaconia and Society of the Lutheran church.

Janice Raymond from the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women (US) gave her presentation among different national authorities and NGOs.

29 September 2005, Budapest

Promoting social inclusion for unaccompanied young asylum seekers and refugees – duty of justice and care. – Final Project Seminar “Learning and Development”

Organised by the National Institute for Family and Social Policy (NCSSZI)

Presentations and workshops on the following issues: Experiences of the three previous workshops (in Paris, Bologna and Berlin), Communication of the views of asylum seekers, policy and practice recommendations, a developmental “tool kit” to disseminate learning and promote change, Evaluation of the outcomes of the project will be included.

Contact info: Rácz Andrea, andrea.racz@ncsszi.hu

29 September 2005, the Netherlands

Ama platform meeting

30 September-2 October, Larache, Morocco

Immigration and Human Rights

Conference organized by “Asociación Pro-derechos humanos de Andalucía” and “Red de asociaciones del Norte de Marruecos”

Contact: jornadaslarache@apdha.org

October & November 2005, UK

The Refugee Council is hosting major conferences on refugee children.

See www.refugeecouncil.org.uk

3.-4. October 2005, Helsinki

A seminar on honour related violence.

Organised by The Finnish Association for Mental Health and Mannerheim League for Child Welfare.

MA, PhD Salman Asif will hold a whole day workshop. Among many speakers Mr. Ekin Ogutogullari,

a Social Services Manager from ICMC Istanbul, and Ms. Michelle Alfaro, Protection Officer from UNHCR Jordan are giving presentations.

11-12 October 2005, Brussels

Building Social Policies on Fundamental Rights

European Conference organised by Social Platform. Sessions on the right to education and the situation of undocumented migrants.

www.socialplatform.org/code/EN/abou.asp?Page=692

27-28 October 2005, Paris

Conference: on social emergency and crisis intervention

Organised by FEANTSA, the European federation of organisations working with homeless people

www.feantsa.org

November 2005, Ljubljana

One day educational seminar for representatives of relevant authorities and practitioners will be organised and held by Slovene Philanthropy.

Objectives: presentation of Statement of Good Practice; presentation of separated children issues in Slovenia; to raise awareness on separated children related issues among practitioners in various governmental and non-governmental institutions involved in providing assistance and protection to illegal migrants, asylum-seeking and refugee separated children; constitution of multidisciplinary team (representatives of Slovene Philanthropy, UNHCR, IOM, Immigration Authorities, Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs, PIC). Participants: representatives of Slovene Centres for Social Work (the responsible institution on appointing guardians), Asylum and Immigration and Refugees Sections within Ministry of Interior, Centre for Foreigners (a detention facility for illegal migrants), other related ministry officials (e.g. Ministry of Health, Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs, and Ministry of Education), police officers refugee legal counsellors, PIC (Legal Information Centre for NGOs Slovenia) and Foundation GEA 2000.

November 2005, UK

The Home Office is hosting a national conference on unaccompanied migrant children.

Contact: emmachaffin@asphaleia.co.uk

2 November 2005, Prague

3rd National conference on Violence on children.

11-13 November 2005, Slovenia

The training for separated children's guardian will be organised and implemented by Slovene Philanthropy as a 2.5-day weekend event. Beneficiaries are future guardians: Slovene Philanthropy volunteers, students of social work, social and refugee workers, representatives of some organisations active in the field of migration and asylum (GOs and NGOs).

16-18 November 2005, Bonn

The Federal Association for Unaccompanied Minor Refugees organizes its autumn conference with working groups on HIV/AIDS, vocational training (EQUAL), access to school, detention and deportation of minors and on guardianship.

More information on the web under www.b-umf.de/pdf/Ausschreibung%20neu.pdf

22-23 November 2005, Slovenia

Training for social workers and other practitioners working with asylum-seekers and refugees will be organised and implemented by Slovene Philanthropy as a 2-day event. Main subjects: asylum policy in Slovenia, asylum-seekers and refugees, separated children issues in Slovenia and presentation of Statement of Good Practice, integration.

27 August-1 September 2006, Belfast

The Right Justice (Congress theme)
XVII World Congress of the International Association of Youth and Family Judges and Magistrates
www.youthandfamily2006.com/index.htm

Useful web sites

www.drk.dk/sw32119.asp – home page of the European Anti-trafficking network within the Red Cross/Red Crescent.

www.childtrafficking.com – web site focusing on South Asia and beyond. All forms of trafficking are addressed, including trafficking for labour purposes. The website focuses on children and includes the latest information on strategies for trafficking prevention, as well as for the rehabilitation and reintegration of victims of trafficking.

The **new EPIMA 2 web site** will be launched in October 2005. The web site will contain information about the project, about national and

international networking within the project. A link will be provided from:

http://www.asyl.at/projekte/epima_2.htm

Belgium:

www.mena.be – the web site of the platform 'mineurs en exil' (unaccompanied children platform) containing documents, publications, useful addresses, legal advice and a forum for guardians who can give advice to other guardians, send tips, ask questions etc.

www.newintown.be – this website concerning newcomers was started up in May 2004 by the Centre for Equal Opportunities and Opposition to Racism. As yet the English version is not available, but it will be eventually. It gives information for persons arriving in Belgium.

Czech Republic:

www.domavCr.cz

is a web-site run by IOM and the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs with information for foreigners living in the Czech Republic

France:

www.travail-social.com – site du RIME Rassemblement des Intervenants sociaux pour l'insertion des Mineurs et jeunes majeurs Etrangers

www.educationsansfrontieres.org - site du réseau Education sans frontières

www.anafe.org – association nationale d'assistance aux frontières pour les étrangers

Germany:

www.b-umf.de – changed address of Bundesfachverband UMF (The Federal Association for Unaccompanied Minor Refugees).

www.national-coalition.de – changed address of The German National Coalition for the implementation of the UN-Convention on the Rights of the Child.

www.tdh.de – web site of terre des hommes Germany with information on refugee children, a study on child soldiers, a campaign for victims of trafficking and a study on access to school.

www.bamf.de – web site of the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees

Greece:

www.arsis.gr – web site of the Youth Support Agency ARSIS

Hungary:

www.refugee.hu – a portal established within the framework of the Information and Advocacy Centre for the Integration of Refugees and Persons Authorised to Stay supported by ERF Hungary and the UNHCR, to help both the refugees themselves and the professionals in the field of asylum and migration as well as the wider public to gain adequate information about refugee-related issues. Both in Hungarian and English

www.magyarorszag.hu/ugyintezo/ugyleirasok/embalkjog/menekult/kiskoru – a new article, (on an existing site) concerning the legal status of unaccompanied minors. Only in Hungarian.

Italy:

www.meltingpot.org – web site with legislation, news and dossiers related with asylum and immigration issues.

www.cestim.org – in the several sessions proposed by the web site, there are papers, news, studies and legislation on specific topics.

www.asgi.it – ASGI stands for “Association Juridical Studies on Immigration” and collects in depth news on law.

www.stranieriinitalia.com – portal on news on migration.

www.minoriefamiglia.it/categoria.asp?id=41 – web site of the Italian association of the magistrates working with minors.

Lithuania:

www.migracija.lt – in Lithuanian and English

www.asylum-online.lt – in Lithuanian

www.redcross.lt – in Lithuanian and English

Norway:

www.innvandringsnytt.no – newsletter on immigration by the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development. In Norwegian and English

www.udi.no – Directorate of Immigration

www.une.no – Immigration Appeals Board. In Norwegian, English and many other languages

Poland:

www.handelludzmi.uw.edu.pl – the first Polish web site dedicated to human trafficking, created 2005. It contains national and international law acts, description of the problem, latest news, trafficking in media, articles and other materials.

UK:

www.childrenslegalcentre.com – The Children’s Legal Centre offer good advice on a range of issues facing young people, including separated children.

Reporting organisations

Asylkoordination Österreich
Bulgarian Helsinki Committee, Refugees' and Migrants' Protection Project
Bundesfachverband UMF (Federal Association for Unaccompanied Minor Refugees, Germany)
Caritas Foundation Luxembourg, Refugee Office, Passepartout Project
Central Union for Child Welfare (Finland)
Centre for Social Policy Initiatives (Croatia)
Counselling Centre for Refugees (Czech Republic)
Defence for children International – Belgium
Defence for Children International - The Netherlands & Ecpat the Netherlands
Estonian Union for Child Welfare
France Terre d'Asile (FTDA)
International Social Service (ISS) Hellenic Branch
International Social Service, Swiss Foundation
Irish Refugee Council
Latvian Red Cross
Lithuanian Red Cross society
Menedék Egyesület (Hungary)
Nobody's Children Foundation (Poland)
Portuguese Refugee Council
Refugee Council (UK)
Save the Children in Albania
Save the Children Denmark
Save the Children Italia Onlus
Save the Children Norway
Save the Children Spain
Save the Children Sweden
Save the Children UK
Slovak Humanitarian Council
Slovene Philanthropy
UNHCR Austria
UNHCR Croatia
UNHCR Czech Republic
UNHCR in Lithuania
UNHCR Representation in Slovakia
UNHCR Slovenia
UNHCR Spain
UNHCR Sub-Office Nuremberg
UNHCR UK
UNHCR Warsaw

This Newsletter has been produced by Lise Bruun and Jyothi Kanics for the Separated Children in Europe Programme. For more information please contact:

Lise Bruun, Administrative Co-ordinator
LBR@redbarnet.dk
Tel: +45 3524 8524

Jyothi Kanics, Programme Manager
JK@redbarnet.dk
Tel: +45 3524 8536

Save the Children Denmark
Rosenørns Allé 12
DK-1634 Copenhagen V
Fax: +45 3539 1119

Website: www.separated-children-europe-programme.org

Statistics on arrivals of separated children seeking asylum in Europe by March 2005

A = Actual; E = Estimated; P = Provisional; N/A = Not available

| Receiving country | Figures | | Age 15-18 | | Males | Females | Main countries of origin | | Source |
|-------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|---|---|--------------------------------|
| | 2004 | 2005 | 2004 | 2005 | | | | | |
| Albania | 19 child. granted asylum | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | | UNHCR, Tirana office |
| Austria | 1351 ² | 441 ³ P | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | 2004: Nigeria Moldau Gambia Georgia | 2005: Nigeria Afghanistan Serbia– M.negro Algeria Mongolia | Ministry of the Interior (MOI) |
| Belgium | 5994 (A) | 437(A) until 1.8.05 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | Congo, Afghanistan, Guinea, Cameroon, Iraq | | Ministry of Foreign Affairs |
| Bulgaria | 228 A | 108 A (Jan.-July) | 33 (14-15) 195 (16-17) | 30 (14-15) 78 (16-17) | 2004: 223 | 2004: 5 | Afghanistan, Nigeria, India, Bangladesh, Somalia, Stateless persons | | State Agency for Refugees |
| Croatia | 4 A | N/A | 4 | N/A | 4 | - | Cote d'Ivoire Iraq | | Ministry of Interior |
| Czech Republic | 95 A | 63 A (Jan.-Sept.) | 88 A | 56 A | 2004: ⁵ 71 A 2005: 46 A | 2004: 24 A 2005: 17 A | 2004: China Vietnam Chechnya Mongolia Russia | 2005: China Slovakia India Ukraine Vietnam | Ministry of Interior |
| Denmark | 128 A | 71 A Jan-Jul | 95 A (74,2 %) | N/A | 2004: 100 A | 2004: 28 A | Lithuania Afghanistan Somalia Iraq | | The Danish Immigration Service |

² 1351 is the number of asylum seekers recorded as SC. In 281 cases the authority responsible for the asylum procedure, did not believe the age claimed by the asylum seekers and declared them as adults. So the official number of SC for 2005 is 1070. 88 of them are reported as younger than 14 years at the time of application.

³ 441 is the number of asylum seekers recorded as SC. In 61 cases the asylum authority did not believe the age claimed by the asylum seekers and declared them as adults. So the official number of SC for 1 –7 2005 is 280. - 29 of them are reported as younger than 14 years at the time of application.

⁴ After age assessment; in 2004, there were 679 separated children seeking asylum who claimed to be minors (and we know that the age assessment is not a trustful method).

⁵ these numbers are for all age groups, statistic combining sex and age is not available

| Receiving country | Number | | Age 15-18 | | Males | Females | Main countries of origin | | Source |
|----------------------|--------|--------------------|----------------|----------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|---|--|--|
| | 2004 | 2005 | 2004 | 2005 | | | | | |
| Finland | 140 | 158 (Sept 20th) | 119 (14-18) | 135 (14-18) | 2004: 110 2005: 116 | 2004: 30 2005: 42 | 2004: Somalia Afghanist Angola Congo Bulgaria | Somalia Afghanist Iraq Bulgaria Angola | Directorate of Immigration |
| France | 1.222 | N/A | N/A | N/A | 2004: 66% | 2004: 33% | DR Congo, Angola, Turkey, Sri Lanka, Congo Brazzaville | | OFPRA |
| Germany ⁶ | 636 | N/A | N/A | N/A | 2004: 397 | 2004: 239 | 2004: Vietnam, Ethiopia, Turkey, Eritrea, Afghanistan | | Federal Office for Migration and Refugees |
| Greece | 302 | 83 | 278 | 81 | N/A | N/A | Afghanistan, Nigeria, Iraq, Pakistan, Bangladesh | | Ministry of Public Order |
| Hungary | 58 | 28 | 56 A | 28 A | 2004: 50 2005: 26 | 2004: 8 2005: 2 | Nigeria, Moldova, Vietnam, Georgia, Serbia and Montenegro | | Office of Immigration and Nationality, UNHCR |
| Ireland | 127 A | 84 A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | Nigeria, Somalia (figures when applications are below ten are not available due to confidentiality) | | Office of the Refugee Applications Commissioner (ORAC) |
| Italy | | 5573 by April 15th | N/A | N/A | 2005: 4462 (80%) | 2005: 1111 (20%) | Romania, Morocco, Albania, Palestine, Moldavia | | Committee for foreign minors ⁷ |
| Latvia | | 2 ⁸ | | 2 | 1 | 1 | Somalia | | Border guard |
| Lithuania | 11 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 2004: 6 2005: 6 | 2004: 5 2005: 3 | Russia, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Georgia | | Ministry of Interior, Migration Department |
| Luxembourg | 95 | 20 | 95 | 16 | 2004: 9 2005: 14 | 2004: 16 2005: 2 | Nigeria, Angola, Russia, Senegal, Guinea | | Caritas |
| Norway | 412 A | 184 A | 330 | 133 | 2004: 344 2005: 133 | 2004: 68 2005: 51 | Somalia, Afghanis.Iraq Russia Sri Lanka | | UDI (Directorate of Immigration) |

⁶ All figures refer to separated children from ages 0 to 16 only (separated children from the age-group 16 and above who do have legal competence within the German framework of asylum and alien laws constitute the bulk of separated children in Germany, but are not counted separately.)

⁷ The central body that every separated child must be referred to, by law

⁸ Border guard is identifying them. First information is that they are separated children

| Receiving country | Number | | Age 15-18 | | Males | Females | Main countries of origin | Source |
|---------------------|--|--|--|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| | 2004 | 2005 | 2004 | 2005 | | | | |
| Poland ⁹ | 125 | 41 Jan-June | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | Russia, India, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Ukraine, China | National Office of Repatriation and Aliens (Headquarter of Border Guards) |
| Portugal | - | 1 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | Russia | CPR |
| Slovakia | 194 A | 51 A | 180 E | 48 A | 2004: 178 A 2005: 48 A | 2004: 16 A 2005: 3 A | Moldavia, Bangladesh, India, Russia | Archive Slovak Humanitarian Council |
| Slovenia | 159 E | 91 E | 154 | 89 | 2004: 155 2005: 88 | 2004: 4 2005: 3 | Albania, Turkey, Serbia & Montenegro, India, Moldova | Slovene Philanthropy |
| Sweden | 388 | 191 | 200 E | 2/3 | 2005: 2/3 | 2005: 1/3 E | Somalia, Former Yugoslavia, Afghanistan, China ¹⁰ | Board of Migration |
| Switzerland | 824 A | 182 Jan-June | 772 A | 158 A (16-18) | 2004: 672 A 2005: 132 A (16-18) | 2004: 100 A 2005: 26 A (16-18) | Guinea Conakry, Ivory Coast, Somalia, Afghanistan, Nigeria | Federal Office of Migration (FOM) |
| UK | HO ¹¹ 2990 + 2345 age disputes RCCP ¹² 3862 referrals | HO Jan-Jun 1150 RCCP 2186 referrals Jan-Aug | HO 28% 14/15 62% 16/17 RCCP 3115 = 66% 15-18 | RCCP 1795 = 82% 15-18 | 2004: HO & RCCP 65% 2005: RCCP 73% | 2004: HO & RCCP 35% 2005: RCCP 27% | HO Jan-March: Iran, Afghanistan, Iraq, Somalia, Vietnam RCCP Jan-Aug: Afghanistan, Iran, Somalia, Eritrea, Iraq | Home Office & RCCP |

⁹ The data shows the whole number of unaccompanied minors seeking asylum in Poland without division to age and sex (such statistics are not available). However, data received from different institutions varies – and it is hard to judge which information is reliable.

¹⁰ Until July 31 2005, 43 Chinese children have asked for residence and work permit, which is a relatively high number.

¹¹ Home Office statistics published by the UK government

¹² Refugee Council Children's Panel statistics from their own database

Statistics on trafficked minors in Europe by March 2005

Albania: Since July 2002 when determined law enforcement action was taken to prevent the fast-launched trafficking of human beings, including children, across the Adriatic, Albania has ceased to be a country of transit or destination. No cases have recorded since then of children being trafficked into or through Albania. *Source: Minister of State correspondence.*

However, according to IOM in 2003, 6 children victims of child trafficking were repatriated from Albania to their country of origin and in 2004, only 1.

There is no reliable information on the dimension of child trafficking in Albania. Existing data on child trafficking is rarely disaggregated by age and/or gender. Also, numbers and estimates are usually reported without giving information on methodologies and sources of data. However, Albania is referred as a source country for children trafficked for the purposes of sexual exploitation and forced labour. The majority of trafficked children come from Roma minority in Albania but ethnic Albanian children are also trafficked. On the basis of law enforcement statistics 19 children have been identified to have been trafficked in 2003 and 10 in 2004, according to Minister of State Correspondence; IOM claims 17 children in 2003 and 18 children in 2004 were referred to IOM

Internal trafficking: There are no documented cases of internal trafficking,; however outreach social workers have noticed increased numbers of children begging/working on the streets of major cities in Albania during summer season, many of them coming from smaller towns and villages.

Belgium: Estimated 22 children were trafficked to Belgium in 2004. There is a specific procedure for child victims of trafficking but very few children use this procedure; so those figure are probably not accurate and do not reflect the reality. About 1700 (estimated) non asylum seeking separated children arrived in Belgium in 2004 (we don't have the figures for 2005 but they are most probably increasing since there is now a guardianship system which keeps track of all separated children found in Belgium.

Croatia: 4 cases in 2004 (1 male, 3 females) and 3 cases in 2005 according to the Governmental Office for Human Rights.

Czech Republic: We are not able to estimate the figures, out of or experience of the Counselling Centre for Refugees we estimate at least the countries of origin being China, Vietnam, India and Bulgaria

Denmark: According to Danish Red Cross Asylum Department's Annual report, 31 children were trafficked to Denmark in 2004, 26 males and 5 females. Most of the children trafficked for theft stated that they are between 12-17 years old. Nigerian girls trafficked for sexual abuse said that they were between 15 and 17. The numbers do not appear in any official registration of trafficking; they represent numbers gathered from partners in the Danish national network to combat trafficking in children.

In the spring of 2005, Save the Children became involved in the care of two children who were victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation – one from Ecuador and one from Slovakia.

Furthermore in the last month of 2004 and 2005 approximately seven Romanian minors were referred to "Sølager", an institution for juveniles where children caught in theft are placed if there is a concern that they have been exploited by traffickers.

Also in the reception centre for separated children seeking asylum in Denmark, operated by the Danish Red Cross, there have been approximately 30 children from China, about whom the Danish Red Cross are concerned that they might be victims of trafficking (their travels have been arranged, they are carrying money, they do not want to talk or confide in the social workers employed at the centre, subsequent to their arrival at the centre they are constantly in dialogue with somebody via their cell phones, and they disappear after a few days.)

There have also been two Albanian boys in the shelter, about whom there are indications that they might be victims of exploitation for economic purposes.

Most of the cases mentioned above are not documented – they are still only a matter of suspicion. The five main countries of origin in 2005 are China, Romania, Albania, Ecuador and Slovakia.

Finland: There are no statistics on trafficked children. But there are some cases with strong suspects about certain young persons being trafficked. They have been guided to seek asylum because there is still no alternative

system for trafficked persons. There are also no prosecuted cases, even if there is a clause nowadays in criminal code on trafficking. Because of strong evidence needed in trafficking cases the only possibility to bring cases to the court seems still to be on the basis of smuggling, organising illegal immigration. That is a problem for the victims, of course.

Hungary: According to Office of Immigration and Nationality and UNHCR, 26 children were trafficked to Hungary in 2005, 25 of these between 15-18 years old, 24 males and 2 females (all figures are estimates). The main countries of origin are – Nigeria, Vietnam, Moldova, Georgia and Bangladesh. The Office of Immigration and Nationality doesn't have statistics on trafficked children, only on young asylum-seekers who actually arrived to the country by trafficking

Ireland: Trafficking of minors is an area with few accurate statistics. It is mostly based on anecdotal evidence to date. Dr Pauline Conroy's research for the IOM in 2003 investigating trafficking of minors to Ireland discovered 23 cases between January 2002 and May 2003 made up of referrals to IOM or charges pending with the Garda Siochana (Irish police) or cases highlighted by the Health Service Executive, who care for separated children. There has been no other gathering of statistics since then. To understand the problem in Ireland an examination of cases which have come to media attention is one way to examine the situation. There has been no prosecution for trafficking to date.

The most recent case is of a 16 year old Burundi girl who was brought to the Gardaí Station in Drogheda (North East of Ireland) She was in a distraught state and it is alleged she had been held against her will in a house in Drogheda and systematically raped over a period of days. The Gardaí are taking the matter seriously, and have tried to find the location of the house where the girl was held but to no avail to date.

The girl is now in the care of the Health Service Executive and there is a search for any relative she may have as her immediate family is feared dead due to the conflict in her home country. The young girl in this case said she was taken from her home village at the age of 12 by a woman and sold in to the sex trade. She had been in various countries before her arrival in the Ireland and recalls two airports before arrival in Ireland.

The Gardaí believe that the trafficking of young girls in Ireland for the sex trade has become widespread. A special unit has been set up in Dublin to investigate the sex industry further. From the description the girl gave of her journey before she arrived in Drogheda, it can be taken that she entered the State from the North. With the increased immigration controls at Dublin airport, it is alleged that traffickers often uses the North's border and the open travel area between the UK and Ireland. Gardaí along with immigration officers have had to increase their checks along the boarder regions.

A previous case that attracted media attention in 2004 involved a Romanian girl who was brought to Ireland when she was 15 and forced into prostitution by the man who brought her to Ireland. Ruhama, a group working with women involved in prostitution and the sex industry, said they were not surprised by the Romanian girl's ordeal and that it is clearly a problem in Ireland. A report published on trafficking in 2003 by the IOM stated that there is up to a case a week of minors been smuggled into Ireland for various reason including sometimes use in the sex trade. More recently Ruhama has been contacted by up to 100 girls who have been trafficked into Ireland for prostitution though it is unclear how many, if any of these were minors.

(Sources: The Drogheda Independent, The Examiner, The Irish Times, Ireland on Sunday, Irish Independent)

Netherlands: In The Netherlands hundreds of children are victim of exploitation. There is proof that at least 230 children have been exploited in The Netherlands in the period 2003-2005 in prostitution as well as in domestic labour, restaurants and in criminal activities.

This is some of the findings in the report 'Understanding Exploitation: research into the trafficking of minors in The Netherlands.' The report was presented on 7 September 2005 to Dutch parliamentarians. The study was done by ECPAT The Netherlands in cooperation with Defence for Children International The Netherlands and UNICEF The Netherlands, co-funded by Plan The Netherlands.

This study is the first extensive research into the trafficking and (sexual) exploitation of minors in The Netherlands. The report concludes that although the Dutch government has declared the combat of trafficking in minors as a priority, there is a lack of capacity, knowledge and cooperation within law enforcement and care organisation and there is no coordination at national level.

A database contains information on 230 child victims: 73.5% have been exploited in prostitution only, 9.1 % in prostitution as well in other formal and informal labour sectors, and 17.4% have been exploited specifically in

other sectors, such as domestic labour, the hotel and restaurant sector, the cleaning business, the drugs trade and in other criminal activities. Also occasional jobs like manual transport of heavy loads, child care, and distribution of free sheets sometimes are done under exploitative circumstances. Illegal adoption is also included in the database.

Prostitution of minors predominantly occurs in the escort service and in private houses, arranged through the internet and mobile communication.

About 93% are girls and 7% are boys. About half of the girls are victims of a 'loverboy' scam, but the other minors have become exploited in prostitution in other ways. In prostitution most minors, about 40%, are sixteen and seventeen years old. Half of the boys are less than sixteen years old, of the girls about 20% are below sixteen.

In other forms of exploitation minors younger than twelve years old is the biggest group with 35%; the main reason is the number of cases of illegal adoption. 20% of the minors exploited in other sectors are between thirteen and fifteen years old, and 20% are between sixteen and seventeen years old.

Dutch nationals as well as foreign minors are victims of trafficking. Victims come from 31 countries from all over the world. Of the victims of exploitation in prostitution almost 27.7% are of Dutch origin and 30.3% have a Moroccan, Turkish, Surinam or Antilles ethnic background. Of these about 60% are Dutch nationals. The rest comes mostly from countries in Africa and Eastern Europe. Of the victims of exploitation in other sectors only 5% have the Dutch nationality.

Unaccompanied asylum seeking minors are often mentioned as being extra vulnerable for exploitation and represent almost 6% of the victims of exploitation in prostitution. They have however not been reported as victims of exploitation elsewhere. Quite a number of victims are illegally in The Netherlands: 13% of the victims are in prostitution and 37.5% are victims in other sectors.

Victims of exploitation in prostitution as well as victims from exploitation in other sectors seem to have the same vulnerabilities, such as psychological and emotional problems, low self esteem, a history of (sexual) abuse and neglect, and problems at home.

Norway: There are no official statistics on this issue in Norway. We are aware of the fact that many independent actors, social workers, outreach workers and staff at reception centres report their worries about children where we have solid reasons to suspect trafficking.

Poland: Nobody's Children Foundation intervened in a case of seven minor citizens of Ukraine, transported illegally from their home country. During interviews conducted by psychologist important facts were disclosed and Nobody's Children Foundation submitted a formal notification of the suspected commission of the offence of physical and emotional abuse of all seven children and sexual abuse of the three girls and child trafficking. The case was reported to the Prosecutor's office and is still pending.

Polish Eastern border is also the eastern border of the European Union - often the last point of detailed control of third country nationals. During last years there is seen an increase of minors crossing the border that implicates the suspicion that among them there could be some victims of trafficking. According to the estimates of the Main Headquarter of Boarder Guards during 12 days (5-16 May) 1.817 minors of the third countries crossed the Polish-Ukrainian border (including children crossing the border in the airport Warsaw-Okęcie). The number is significant, during one year it may be about 45.000.

Slovakia: According to Slovak Humanitarian Council only 1 case involving a Vietnamese girl between 15-17 years of age.

Slovenia: According to Slovene Philanthropy 2 cases are known in 2004 and 1 in 2005, all 3 females in the age group 15-18 years. Countries of origin: Serbia & Montenegro and Macedonia.

Serious suspicion of victimisation by human traffickers occurred in twelve cases of minors, 3 female from Albania, age of 17, and 9 males from India, age 15-18.

UK: No UK statistics available. To their knowledge Refugee Council Children's Panel, RCCP, have worked with 1 trafficked girl from Eritrea and 1 trafficked girl from Vietnam, a handful of others are suspected to have been trafficked.