

TERMS OF REFERENCE

THE NETWORK

ChildrenLeftBehind.eu is a European network of nongovernmental organizations, centres for social studies, universities and individuals who co-operate at national, regional and European level for the protection of the rights of **children involved in migratory events** and the support of **transnational and migrant families**.

THE PHENOMENON

"The free movement of persons is a fundamental right guaranteed to European Union (EU) citizens by the Treaties. It is realised through the area of freedom, security and justice without internal borders"

In recent years, a large number of the EU Member States has been affected by numerous economic and social changes due to political factors, first of all the enlargement of the European Union.

Despite recording sustained growth involving most of the Eastern European countries, the **still low convergence in per capita income is triggering migration flows**. As a consequence, an ever increasing number of people from the modest to poor segments of the population choose to emigrate abroad in an attempt to ensure a better life for their families, and in particular for their children.

However, lacking policy recommendations and inadequate management of migration flows have severe consequences on the development of the society, especially as regarding family ties and minors involved at different levels in the migratory event.

Both in the case of migration involving all the members of the family unit or in the case of parents moving abroad, **children are the ones who pay the highest price**. In the first case, they leave their home country, facing unknown realities abroad, or if they are **left behind** by the departing parents they face the **trauma of the separation**.

OUR COMMITMENT

ChildrenLeftBehind.eu has been created with the aim **to protect and promote the rights of children involved in the migratory events and reduce the negative effect of migration on children.**

Particularly, we commit ourselves:

- to **create and enforce a network** of stakeholders engaged in the protection of children involved in migratory event and in supporting transnational and migrant families;
- to **promote the knowledge** of the phenomenon, facilitating data collection at local, national and regional level and the elaboration of good practice;
- to **facilitate collaboration** between all actors involved – EU Member States, Neighbouring and third countries - with the aim of gather together and jointly elaborate actions for the protection of minors involved in migratory events and the development of local support networks for transnational and migrant families;
- to **influence policy at European level**, pointing out the European dimension of the phenomenon, with advocacy action;
- to **raise awareness** on the phenomenon through European civil society;
- to strengthen the capacity of our member organizations to **promote advocacy actions at National level.**

COORDINATION

L'Albero della Vita Foundation coordinates the network for 2011.

www.childrenleftbehind.eu

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