

Left Behind

The impact of economic migration on
Children Left Behind and their families

Hotel Leopold - European Parliament

2 March 2011



Adriana Opromolla
Caritas Europa

*"Orphans" of Migrants:
Poverty of Future*

CONFERENCE

LEFT BEHIND

Education Partner



FONDAZIONE
PATRIZIO PAOLETTI
PER LO SVILUPPO E LA COMUNICAZIONE



PROGETTI D'ANORE PER I BAMBINI

in Collaboration with

eurochild

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"Orphans" of migrants: new problem. Caritas has so far responded especially through local projects, not yet through wider, national programs.

- **Ukraine:** most migrants are women who left their children in the care of their families or other people, with mixed figures in recent migration waves in Spain, Italy and Greece.

- Results: children grow up without a mother, families break down, children increasingly live in the street, abuse drugs. Irregular migration is cause to long-term separation.
- Education does not help prevent the problem, as many teachers migrate abroad.

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- **Moldova:** more poor children (**34,5%**) than adults. Widespread migration affects the whole social, demographic and economic situation.
- 35,000 children live with both parents abroad and around **75,000** with one parent abroad.
- "Hidden poverty", also aggravated by the Communist legacy.
- Increased criminality among the youngsters, worrisome perspectives for children themselves and for the whole society.

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Caritas Response

Workshop of Applied Creative work in Bender, Transnistria

- Vocational training in small agricultural, crafting and sewing activities
- Theatre programs, changing children's attitude and empowering them
- Peer-to-peer interaction, socialisation and mutual help
- Positive value of volunteering
- Building confidence of youngsters in fashioning their future

