

SUMMIT

Safeguarding Unaccompanied Migrant Minors from going Missing by Identifying Best Practices and Training Actors on Interagency Cooperation

Background

Research reveals that up to 50% of the unaccompanied children accommodated go missing from certain reception facilities in the European Union, and in many cases, information about the child's whereabouts remain unknown. Data collected from hotlines for missing children¹ which operate in 29 countries through the 116 000 telephone number, reveals that unaccompanied migrant children go missing from the age of 8 up to 17.

The project Safeguarding Unaccompanied Migrant Minors from going Missing by Identifying Best Practices and Training Actors on Interagency Cooperation (SUMMIT), addresses how the issue of the disappearance of an unaccompanied child is tackled in different Member States and promotes successful strategies and behaviours related to the prevention and response to these disappearances.

The SUMMIT report [“Best practices and key challenges on interagency cooperation to safeguard unaccompanied children from going missing”](#) (March 2016) highlights that only few professionals in charge of the protection of unaccompanied children are trained on the matter of disappearance. In addition, the report shows lack of consistency in the practices and procedures for interservice cooperation, even within the same country.

The SUMMIT training seminar of 14 & 15 April therefore hopes to share the results of the project as a source of inspiration for building or improving processes to protect unaccompanied children at national and local level. The SUMMIT partnership will present the two tools developed to support professionals in the protection of unaccompanied children: the **Report on best practices and key challenges on interagency cooperation to safeguard unaccompanied children from going missing** and the **Handbook of good practices for professionals working on the protection of unaccompanied children**.

The event will be attended by frontline professionals such as law enforcement officers, reception centre operators, guardians, social services and hotlines for missing children, from 15 EU countries.

All materials presented on the occasion of the training as well as training videos and multilingual versions of the practical tools will be made available online at www.missingchildreneurope.eu

We thank you for attending and wish you an inspiring and fruitful event.

¹ For more information see [Missing Children Europe's website](#).

SUMMIT Training Seminar 14 & 15 April 2016 @Softel Brussels Le Louise

Day 1: Thursday 14 April 2016

08:45 – 09:00 **Registration**

09:00 – 10:30 **Opening** [Panel discussion, Plenary room]

- › Delphine Moralis, Secretary General, Missing Children Europe
 “Missing unaccompanied children are missing children too: The SUMMIT project and the need to step up in ensuring adequate protection to unaccompanied children”
- › Dr. Karen Shalev Greene, Senior Lecturer, Director of the Centre for the Study of Missing Persons, University of Portsmouth & Federica Toscano, Project Officer, Missing Children Europe
 “The findings of the SUMMIT study: good practices and key challenges in preventing and responding to disappearances”
- › Rebecca O’Donnell, Director, Child Circle
 “Existing legal obligations and tools concerning the protection of unaccompanied children”

10:30 – 11:00 **Coffee break**

11:00 – 13:00 **Workshops** [Three breakout rooms]

Workshop #1: Unaccompanied children as a specific target group	Workshop #2: Working together within and across borders to prevent and respond to child trafficking	Workshop #3: Interservice protocols of cooperation: what, why, how
Marjan Schippers, ead of Department of behavioural scientists, NIDOS (NL)	Mandy John-Baptiste, Manager, NSPCC Child Trafficking Advice Centre (CTAC) (UK) Kip Gibbens, CTAC seconded from National Crime Agency (UK)	Adinda Van Poucke, Coordinator Operation, Child Focus (BE) Sofia Mahjoub, Policy Officer, Child Focus (BE)

13:00 – 15:30 **Lunch**

15:30 – 18:00 **Expert Panels: The protection of unaccompanied children in Europe**
 [open to additional 50 policy and decision makers]

First Panel: A European challenge: Working with European Institutions and Agencies

Chair: Delphine Moralis, Missing Children Europe

- › Angelika Molnar, Focal Point Manager, Europol
- › Margaret Tuite, the European Commission Coordinator for Rights of the Child
- › Zoi Sakelliadou, the Office of the EU Anti-Trafficking Coordinator

Second Panel: The perspective from frontline professionals

Chair: Federica Toscano, Missing Children Europe

- > Piji Protopsaltis, Coordinator of the National Centre for Missing and Exploited Children, The Smile of the Child (EL)
- > Jan Murk, Head of Reception Bureau, Projects and International Affairs, Nidos (NL)
- > Miguel Torres Garcia, Chief Operation Officer, Child Focus (BE)

18.00 – 19.00 Networking Cocktail

Day 2: Friday 15 April 2016

09:00 – 09:30 Highlights from the first day

- > Federica Toscano, Missing Children Europe: Welcome and logistics
- > Contributions from the rapporteurs of the workshops, with highlights from the first day

09:30 – 12:00 Workshops [This session includes a coffee break between 10.30 – 11.00]

Workshop #1: Strategies for preventing disappearances of unaccompanied children living in reception centres	Workshop #2: Working together within and across borders to prevent and respond to child trafficking	Workshop #3: Interservice protocols of cooperation: what, why, how
Semma Groenendijk, Administrative Assistant, Minor Ndako (BE)	Mandy John-Baptiste Manager NSPCC Child Trafficking Advice Centre (CTAC) (UK) Kip Gibbens CTAC seconded from National Crime Agency (UK)	Adinda Van Poucke, Coordinator Operation, Child Focus (BE) Sofia Mahjoub, Policy Officer, Child Focus (BE)

12:00 – 13:30 Conclusions [Panel discussion, Plenary room]

Chair: Thomas Dunning, Principal Social Worker, TUSLA (IE)

- > Contribution from workshop rapporteurs, with highlights from the morning

13:30 – 14:30 Lunch