



‘Lost in Migration’ Conference Series

Alessandro Giuliano, International Office
Coordinator, The Malta Foundation for the
Wellbeing of Society

A growing number of children have arrived in Europe since 2015 – often unaccompanied. The strain on protection systems and the limited use of solidarity mechanisms from EU member states have increasingly exposed children to violence, exploitation and abuse.

According to Europol, at least 10,000 unaccompanied children went missing in 2015, and national reports prove that children have continued to go missing. Human traffickers have increasingly targeted children in migration, particularly when unaccompanied.

In January 2017, on the margins of the European Justice and Home Affairs Council during the Maltese Presidency of the Council of the European Union, the Malta Foundation for the Well-being of Society and Missing Children Europe brought together 160 professionals and experts from across Europe to discuss the child protection challenges that lead to disappearances of these children. The emanating recommendations were presented to the European Commissioner on Migration Dimitris Avramopoulos, and were subsequently used as one of the sources for the European Commission’s Communication on Protection of Children in Migration adopted in April 2017.

In April 2018, the second edition of the Lost in Migration conference was held in Brussels to take



stock of the progress achieved since the adoption of the EC Communication on the protection of children in migration.

The third edition of Lost in Migration took place in Malta in February 2019. The recommendations from that conference focused on general measures to implement a comprehensive approach to children in migration; procedural safeguards; right to appropriate care and services; durable solutions; solidarity and cooperation between EU Member States and fulfilling migrant children’s rights in EU external policy.

The Malta Foundation for the Well-being of Society, founded and chaired by H.E. Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca, Former President of Malta, remains committed to highlighting the difficult realities children in migration face. It will continue working to protect children in migration also in partnership with other organisations that share its same ethos namely to identify, nurture and promote the well-being for all.



Migrant Learners' Unit (MLU) – Making Friends Bringing Friends Club

Robert Cilia, Assistant Head, Migrant Learners Unit (MLU), Ministry for Education and Employment (MEDE).



The Migrant Learners' Unit (MLU) within the Ministry for Education and Employment (MEDE) organised two Making Friends Bringing Friends Clubs between April and June 2019.

The Club targets young migrant learners attending both mainstream classes as well as Induction Classes and Maltese students. The objective of the Club is to encourage a process of inclusion between Maltese and newcomer learners. This is achieved through a process of socialisation outside school hours. Those applying for the Clubs are provided with the opportunity to attend a total of ten sessions. Each session is of two-and-a-half hours. During the first

hour, the participants are provided with an environmentally friendly multi-ethnic meal. Through this activity, awareness is raised about diversity in relation to different cooking styles. While the participants are enjoying this meal the participants are supervised by staff from the Foundation of Educational Services (FES). During the second part of each session, the applicants are provided with various learning experiences through a variety of fun-activities. The activities focus on encouraging those taking part to form friendships through active collaboration.

The advantage that the Clubs have embedded in their approach is that they are not subject to the pressures that a school environment is usually exposed to, such as achieving pass marks in relation to the curricular subjects. The focus of the Club is exclusively on friendship and the benefits that friendships generate through a collaborative approach. An added advantage of the Club is that

it helps to create multiplier effects in the sense that friendships/inclusion synergies between children also help adults to be more understanding towards each other. It will also help to widen the circle of friends that participants in the Club have since the Club could serve as an introduction to 'friends-of-friends'. This philosophy is reflected in the title of the Club itself – Making Friends Bringing Friends.

These Clubs are offered in various parts of Malta although the MLU tends to organise such Clubs primarily where there is a higher concentration of third-country national (TCN) learners. At the end of each session, participants are also provided with door-to-door transport facilities.

These Clubs are part of the LLAPSI+ (Language Learning and Parental Support for Integration) Project. LLAPSI+ is financed through the Asylum, Migration and Integration EU Fund (75%) and MEDE (25%).

The Regulation and Procedures relating to Forced Return Monitoring in Malta

The Monitoring Board for Detained Persons is an independent Board established to monitor proceedings relating to the forced return of illegally staying third country nationals. This is in accordance with Subsidiary Legislation 217.08. Such legislation provides for the monitoring of the proceedings relating to the involuntary return of illegally staying third country nationals in accordance with the provisions of the Immigration Act.

Members of the Board, have received training by relevant international organisations and EU agencies. The focus of these training initiatives was specifically the monitoring of return operations, with one of the modules being designed as a train-the-trainer course.

Return monitoring is carried out at all phases of a Forced Return Operation, namely pre-return, pre-departure, in-flight and arrival. The task of the monitoring is to exercise and report on the return operation. The operation is led by the Escort Leader, who would be an official of the relevant law enforcement authority.

Each monitor is required to abide by these principles whilst monitoring an operation:

- **Accuracy** - To report factual details;
- **Confidentiality** – Submission of reports to authorised officials only;
- **Impartiality** – Reporting objectively on the operation and relevant events;
- **Non-Discrimination** - Ensuring that all data is documented in an objective and impartial manner that does not discriminate against the parties concerned on grounds of sex, nationality and/or religion.
- *The monitor is required to prepare a report at the end of each operation, which report may include recommendations to the Police Assistant Commissioner responsible for Immigration. The report is also copied to the Permanent Secretary, Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security, and other relevant entities and officials.*

Migration and the NCPE

Renee Laiviera NCPE's commissioner for the National Commission for the Promotion of Equality.

A migrant status is not a ground of discrimination within the remit of the National Commission for the Promotion of Equality's (NCPE) remit. However, the Commission's work is still closely connected to the presence of migrants in Malta.

Migrants are the group who most likely experiences discrimination on the ground of race/ethnic origin and religion/belief. Although people coming from ethnic and religious minorities are not necessarily migrants, most are.

It is also important to note that migrants can potentially experience discrimination on all other grounds within the NCPE's remit, such as unfair treatment on the basis of sex, age or sexual orientation.

The NCPE is Malta's national equality body established by Chapter 456 of the Laws of Malta. On its inception in 2004, the NCPE was only responsible for discrimination on the basis of gender in the sphere of

employment. Along the years, this remit was extended to cover other grounds of discrimination and spheres of life. It now incorporates:

- i) *sex and family responsibilities, sexual orientation, age, religion or belief, racial or ethnic origin, and gender identity, gender expression or sex characteristics, in employment; banks and financial institutions, and education*
- ii) *racial/ethnic origin and sex in the provision of goods and services and their supply; and*
- iii) *freedom of movement for workers in the EU.*

It is important that migrants are aware of the work of the NCPE and of their rights and obligations emanating from the Maltese equality framework. It is equally important that the NCPE is aware of the needs and concerns related to this group in its promotional work and in its handling of complaints.

Aware of its responsibilities in this regard, the NCPE has been providing regular training sessions to migrants and asylum-seekers on Maltese equality legislation, highlighting examples of discrimination at the workplace and in the provision of goods and services. During these sessions, participants have the opportunity to share and discuss their personal experiences, and information is given on how to lodge a complaint with the NCPE.

Moreover, the NCPE provides regular equality training to the public and private sectors as a means to prevent discrimination and promote equal treatment through awareness-raising and capacity-building. As part of its policy work, the NCPE reviews proposed policies and legislation and, where necessary, suggests additions and amendments aimed at integrating the issues and concerns of different groups of persons from different ethnic and religious backgrounds.





European Values of social Life and Vocational Integration

LAURA TREVISAN, Project Officer, Paragon Europe

LJILJANA CUMURA, Community-based researcher

The project “EVOLVE - European Values of social Life and Vocational Integration” emphasizes the need for promoting European values to enhance social inclusion and economic integration. The partnership consortium includes the project coordinator Le Monde des Possibles Belgium and four partners: Paragon Europe (Malta), KIST Consult (Austria), Instituto para el fomento del desarrollo y la formación S.L. (Spain) and Stiftelsen Mangfold i arbeidslivet (Norway). The main beneficiaries are migrants of all cultures, interested in social inclusion and workplace integration as per European values and having a certain level of EQF level A2 proficiency in the host language.

Europe is facing difficulties in integrating the refugees and providing them with employability skills and jobs. Migrants face daily problems of social integration, differences of values and culture, difficulty in financing their lives, and as a result at risk of marginalization. A priority for Vocational education and training

is to innovate and develop a suitable educational plan for migrants to adapt to EU values and to ensure that they improve their language skills, enhance their employability skills and in consequence, find better jobs.

The project will use electronic applications featuring an innovative and blended learning approach and including training guides about professions in general, skills and competences of professions, job shadowing, knowledge about the socio-economic environment and organizational structure of professions in the host country.

During 2019, the project team will create a tailor-made career and educational plan which include

specific training modules for personal and professional competences and a mentoring program amongst others. Furthermore, the team will develop a career guidance plan in each participating country (Belgium, Malta, Austria, Spain and Norway).

All these activities will ensure that migrants continue to develop their language skills, intercultural skills, vocational and business skills, followed by certification as per The European Credit System for Vocational Education and Training recognition.

More info on:

<http://www.evolve-project.eu/>



This publication has been funded with the support from the European Commission. It reflects the views only of the author, and the European Commission cannot be held responsible for any use that may be made of the information contained therein.

EMN National Contact Point (NCP) Malta
Third Country National Unit
T: +356 2291 8205 | E: emn.ncp@gov.mt
www.homeaffairs.gov.mt