

REPORT
YOUTH CARE PLATFORM
27TH JUNE 2016 IN ROTTERDAM (NL)

VENUE

Erasmus MC
Wytemaweg 80
3015 CN Rotterdam
Netherlands

<http://www.innovation-in-care.eu/rotterdam/route>

AGENDA EN DOCUMENTS

*All documents and presentations are available at
<http://www.youthcare.eu/> (document section)*

1 WELCOME

Welcome by Mr Naresh Sewnarain on behalf of our host *City of Rotterdam*

Welcome and introduction by Stefaan Van Mulders, chair

2 UNACCOMPANIED MINORS AND YOUTH CARE: STATE OF PLY AND FOLLOW UP

Context note (extract agenda)

In summer and fall of 2015 continental Europe was confronted with a sharp increase in the number of Asylum seekers. Mainly families and adults, but unaccompanied minors (UAM) as well.

the Federal government is responsible for the reception of asylum seekers. The French and Flemish community governments are responsible for the organization of youth care in their respective region. Unaccompanied minors are at the intersection of both competences. Therefor the Flemish community reserves a part of its youth care capacity for the most vulnerable UAMs (victims of THB, youngest, special needs, ...)

Within the group of UAM who arrived in Belgium in the last months of 2015 the number of younger children was strongly increased. Before 12-14yo UAM

Contact:



ception system for children, as this seems the best way to prevent trafficking. The Commission is also bringing the main actors together (among others the UN) to examine the best Child Protection System for UAM.

LOCAL PERSPECTIVES, INSPIRING CASES

Regional and local representatives presented the vision, policy and practices applied in their region on UAMs and their local approach and practices.

- City of Vienne (Erwin Rössler)
<https://docs.google.com/viewer?a=v&pid=sites&srcid=ZGVmYXVsdGRvbWFpbnx5b3V0aGNhcmVwbGF0Zm9ybXxneDo0NTU3MTg5N2ZhZDg5YWwNm>
See also https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCf4ArRYBA2eclVrOo8Z6_Ug
See also leaflets on <https://sites.google.com/site/youthcareplatform/documents> (meeting 27/06/2016)
- City of Rotterdam (Kelly Nagel):
<https://docs.google.com/viewer?a=v&pid=sites&srcid=ZGVmYXVsdGRvbWFpbnx5b3V0aGNhcmVwbGF0Zm9ybXxneDoyYmU4MDc2MzdlMmFIOTBI>
- Public Social Welfare Center Antwerp (Jolien De Crom):
<https://docs.google.com/viewer?a=v&pid=sites&srcid=ZGVmYXVsdGRvbWFpbnx5b3V0aGNhcmVwbGF0Zm9ybXxneDoyNjQwODc0YzljZWVlN2Fm>
- Double Helix Resources, London (Brian Delord):
<https://docs.google.com/viewer?a=v&pid=sites&srcid=ZGVmYXVsdGRvbWFpbnx5b3V0aGNhcmVwbGF0Zm9ybXxneDo0M2VjNGMwM2Q5MzI4ZjI2>
- Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport, The Netherlands (Felix Kievit)

Some important issues that were mentioned during the different presentations and in the discussions afterwards:

- Reception in foster families or in reception centers?: The main opinion of today is that foster families have better results for the young people.
Foster care can be cheaper than residential care, but this may not be the main argument to promote this care type. Essential is that foster families and the young person must intensively be guided and trained and the support and guidance for the young person may not stop once he is turning 18.
The option to recruit foster families in the own ethnic community seems advantageous for the young person, on condition that the family is also sufficiently integrated in the receiving society. However, maybe the young people themselves should be asked what kind of reception they prefer. The care system should think about other innovative measurements as supporting the young persons in self organization of their life.
More and independent research on the effects on longer term of reception in foster families and in reception centers are needed.
- The City of Vienna proposed a one sheet manual for young asylum seekers how to manage panic attacks. You can find it here.
- The issue of disappeared minors is a huge problem in all countries and no fulfilling actions are taken already to face this problem.
- The care for UAM is delivered in most EU countries till they turn 18. However this care should be extended till an older age. There is a huge need for after care.
- Care for (young) asylum seekers needs a totally different context and know how then common. There is a high need to collect more knowhow and experiment with new practices. Knowledge, expertise and training should be transferred to the local/operational level but also between countries and regions.
- Love, nurture and compassion should be the base of all (our) actions. We should dare to be vulnerable and interdepend.

Resolution of the Youth Care Platform

<https://docs.google.com/viewer?a=v&pid=sites&srcid=ZGVmYXVsdGRvbWFpbnx5b3V0aGNhcmVwbGF0Zm9ybXxneDo0Njk4ODQzZjk4OGMxODg5>

The intense discussion of today shows the engagement of all represented bodies in the problematics of the UAMs and young asylum seekers! They implemented all possible actions (given their own fields of competences). Nevertheless the Youth Care Platform con-

cludes that also other bodies and policy levels have a bigger and more profiled role to play. The Platform realizes that this is not easy, given limited resources and given the undeniable pressure of the public opinion (often inspired by a negative nationalism). Therefore the Youth Care Platform wants to make a positive statement, by approving the resolution “*Asylum seeking minors are children and youngsters! Resolution to the European institutions*”.

The Youth Care Platform concludes:

- The text of the resolution “*Asylum seeking minors are children and youngsters! Resolution to the European institutions*” (see annex) is approved in principle (approved by consensus)
- The text will be distributed amongst the members of the Platform as part of the minutes of the meeting
- All members can still send their comments until one week after sending the minutes
- Comments who are in line with the actual positions will be included.
If even one party still wants to reject the resolution, or if there would be opposite unbridgeable comments the resolution will be considered as rejected. It will then not be published or sent out to any officials.
(All comments to Jos Sterckx - jos.sterckx@kcse.eu)
- If the text is fully approved, it will be published and send out to officials and bodies at EU-level and to the Platform-members. They will be invited to spread the resolution in their own (EU-, national region and local) networks and policy levels.
- Stefaan Van Mulders, chair of the platform gets the mandate to lead the decided procedure and all next steps.

3 FOLLOW UP ON EUROPE’S SOCIAL POLICIES

There was no time left for the overview of actual policy topics at EU-level that impact the youth care. For whom is interested, the presentation that was prepared by Jos Sterckx (Knowledge Center Social Europe) is available at <https://docs.google.com/viewer?a=v&pid=sites&srcid=ZGVmYXVsdGRvbWFpbnx5b3V0aGNhcmVwbGF0Zm9ybXxneDo3NWRiNWQ3NDNhNmI3NTNj>

4 MANAGEMENT ISSUES

How to go on with the Youth Care Platform after 2016?

In 2014 the Flemish Agency for Youth Welfare initiated the Youth Care Platform (first meeting at the occasion of the ENSA general assembly in Garda, IT). Stefaan Van Mulders, CEO of the Agency, chaired the Platform for a first period of 3 years. A first work plan was developed and approved

<https://docs.google.com/viewer?a=v&pid=sites&srcid=ZGVmYXVsdGRvbWFpbnx5b3V0aGNhcmVwbGF0Zm9ybXxneDo3MzU5YTlzMWY0NmM2YTQx>. Now Stefaan Van Mulders wants to step back as chair of the Platform. ***What’s the near future for the Youth Care Platform?***

The Platform takes note of the position of Stefaan van Mulders ***and is grateful for all his efforts and actions to establish the platform.*** The work done must be continued! The debate on the near future of the platform will be put on the agenda of the next meeting in March or April 2017, Brussels. Stefaan invites all members to think about their own position and engagements in the Platform! Informal contacts can be useful.

5 NEXT MEETING

To be planned in in March or April 2017 in Brussels. It will be again a full day meeting. The main theme of the day will be ‘*management of services*’ (which was originally planned for today).

We will try to have meetings of ENSA working groups and projects as well (day before or after). A ‘save the date’ will follow soon.

6 FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Relevant call on asylum and migration: <http://www.kcse.eu/call/support-capacity-building-rights-child-and-child-protection-professionals-asylum-and-migration>

END OF THE YOUTH CARE PLATFORM MEETING

All participants are invited in the ENSA-meetings (27 & 28 June)

COMMENTS

*Please send all comments to
Jos Sterckx, Knowledge Center Social Europe
jos.sterckx@kcse.eu*



jongerenwelzijn

