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Children Hybrid Integration: Learning Dialogue as a way of Upgrading Policies of Participation

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Presentation of the CHILD-UP project

CHILD-UP is a European research project that addresses the issue of migrant children in Europe through an innovative perspective, based on the concepts of children agency and hybrid cultural integration.

This project puts children self-determination at the centre: children selecting cultural elements of originating country and hosting country, of generational discourse, of local and global perspectives to combine them in original and unique personal synthesis.

Against the opposed logics of assimilation and preservation, it is proposing a view of cultural “combination” - the hybrid cultural integration-acted by the child (supported in this exercise by “competent” and “willing” school staff, families and community facilitators) who shapes her/his authentic inclusion strategy at school and in the local and virtual community of reference.

CHILD-UP studies what are the current practices at school and in the local contexts of seven EU countries with different migrant communities presence and profiles, it aims at identifying, analysing and disseminating evidence of good practices.

It is largely based on a broad and intense involvement of stakeholders at the local and international level to discuss the analytical and operational approach, to support the multiplication of good practice elements across countries and to influence public policies.

It will first offer the school community the opportunity to be actively involved in the research, and then a battery of tools to reflect and act for a successful inclusion of children with migrant background; this should result in a feeling of security and well-being in a supportive environment. This would improve not only the migrant children condition, but that of all children, families and local communities.

It will offer new evidence to the research community through substantial field research and impact evidence analysis of current policies, thus supporting both policy makers and civil society in establishing more integrated and effective inclusion policies, benefitting not only migrant children but the whole local contexts.





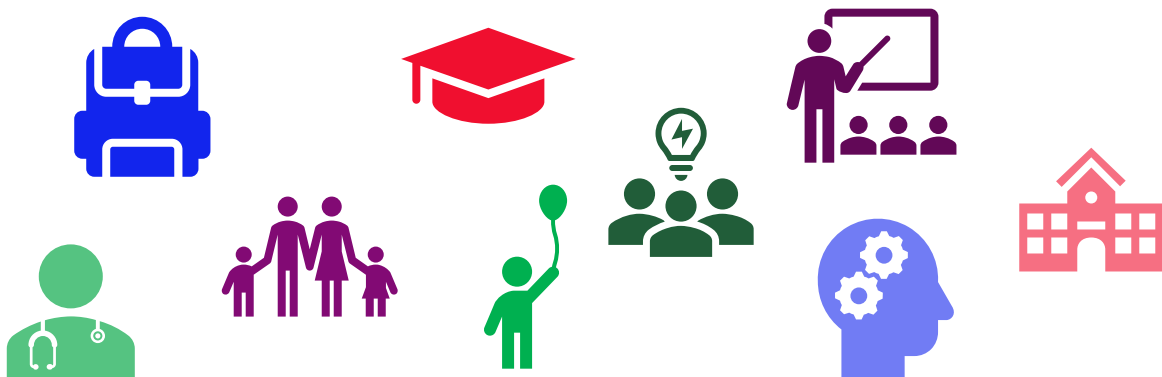
Frequently asked questions about CHILD-UP

What is the CHILD-UP project about?

CHILD-UP is a Horizon 2020 funded European project and it aims to propose an innovative approach to better understand and improve the integrating, life and social conditions of migrant children. This project analyses and supports the children's active participation in choosing the ways through which they can better integrate. The CHILD-UP project investigates the social conditions of migrant children's integration through social participation with taking in primary account the gender differences, legal status and age groups.

The CHILD-UP project offers:

- A research overview with both quantitative and qualitative data on the children integration process in the education environment, collected all over Europe through the project's main research partners.
- Tools for self-assessment of interventions supported by educational institutions.
- Recommendations for good practices at the micro-level (specific interactional activities) and meso-level (schools and other local organisations).
- Policy briefs, after research reports, in the form of recommendations, for the benefit of decision-makers, with the objective to enter the policy debate.
- A list of already existing and effective training instruments to be implemented locally by teachers and educators.
- Guidelines and training plans to enhance dialogue, agency and hybrid integration in multilingual and multicultural contexts.
- A final report which will include all results, tools and recommendations developed through the project, suggestions on social implications to ensure that the benefits of the project will endure beyond its lifetime and evidence-based policy and educational recommendations for public authorities and institutions dealing with the issues related to children cultural integration.



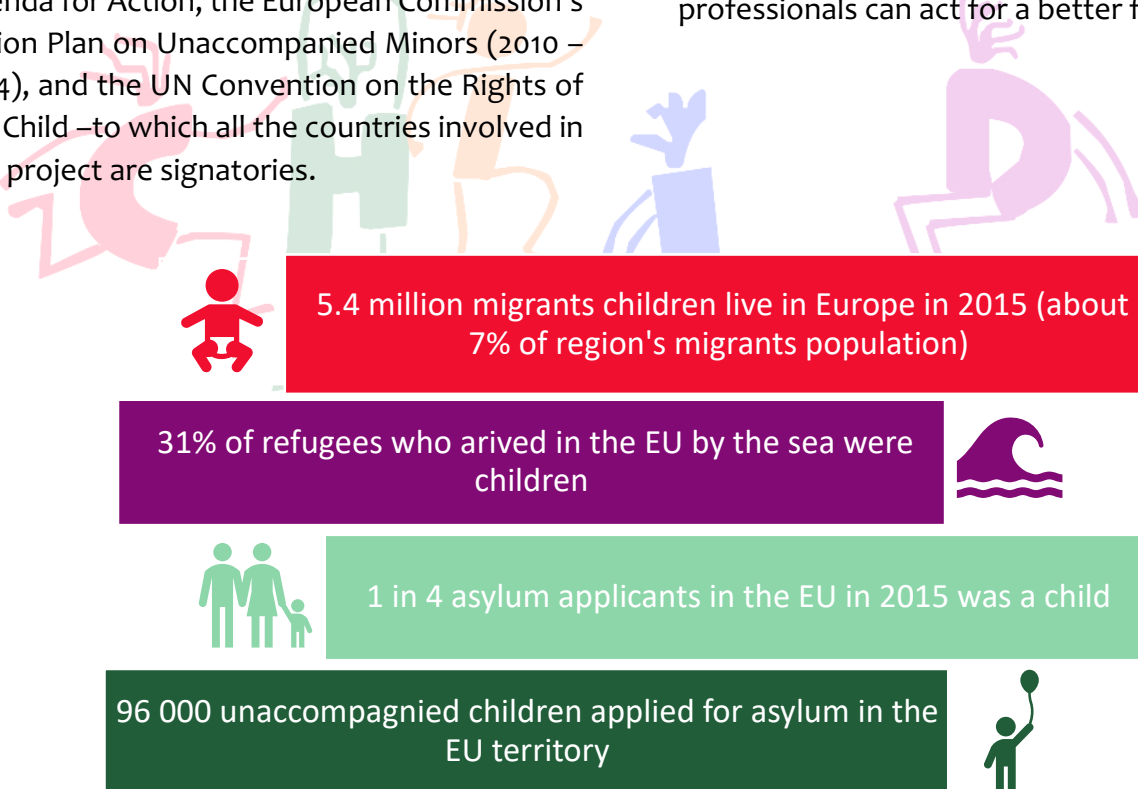


What is the value created by CHILD-UP?

Not all children are feeling included or feel they have agency at this moment and we want every child to feel agency to become participative in their lives and surroundings. It is clear that the CHILD-UP project comes at a critical moment for migrant children in Europe. Across the world, “there are 50 million children in migration, 28 million have fled violence and insecurity and children constitute half the refugee population.” There has been a Pan-European rise in the number of migrant children and according to UNICEF¹ (2016).

Several international bodies and agreements seek to protect the rights of children, and most notable for this report are the UNICEF’S Agenda for Action, the European Commission’s Action Plan on Unaccompanied Minors (2010 – 2014), and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child –to which all the countries involved in this project are signatories.

According to the European Commission, “it is fundamental to ensure that any child needing protection receives it and that, regardless of their immigration status, citizenship or background, all children are treated as children first and foremost”². A stable institutional setting (such as school and community) can contribute to the refugee student well-being, especially towards the integration and inclusion, as well as mental health. “While teachers have an important role to assist students overcome these problems, they have not received any adequate training”³. With the CHILD-UP project we want to make a research overview, investigate the field at the moment and contribute to know how the children, teachers, schools, parents, researchers, policy makers and all other professionals can act for a better future.



¹ UNICEF. (2016). Uprooted: The Growing Crisis for Refugee and Migrant Children. doi: 10.18356/6ce019a6-en

² European Commission. (2010). Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council. Action Plan on Unaccompanied Minors (2010 -2014). Brussels: European Commission.:

<https://eurlex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2010:0213:FIN:en:PDF>

³ Refugee Class Assistance 4 Teachers. (n.d.). Aims and Objectives. Retrieved October 11, 2019, from <http://www.teachers4refugees.eu/aims-and-objectives.html>



When does the CHILD-UP project take place?

The whole project runs from 2019 until 2021, the research will contain three different parts of research starting at different times (about: May to December 2019, December to end of schoolyear 2020 and February to end of school-year 2020) and the final results and all deliverables will be there in 2021.

Where does the CHILD UP research take place?

The research will take place in schools, reception centres, social services and communities in seven European countries (Belgium, Finland, Italy, Poland, Sweden, Germany and the United Kingdom). You can contact the research project partner from your country if you want to know more about the research or if you want to join the project. We can really use your help!

How much time does it cost to join the research? Can I also join parts of the research?

You could divide the project into three research parts which are connected to each other. For example, the results from the first research will be used for the second and third part. It would be great if you could join all three parts, but it isn't necessary to join all if it is not possible. You could just join the first part (a questionnaire survey taking place from May until December 2019) without being forced to join the second (the individual and group interviews and observing interactions with video registrations in the group or class from February 2019 to the end of schoolyear 2019-2020) or third (Testing and evaluation of measures and methods in

groups (planned in the course of room from February to the end of schoolyear 2019-2020). Also, you can just participate in the second or last part, no problem! The months indicated are not the months you are really doing you are part of the research, it's also the research processing time itself. Please contact a local partner to learn more about the period and duration for you.

How about the privacy/ethics in this project?

The implementation of the CHILD-UP project follows common routines and ethical guidelines for scientific research. This means that all data is collected, stored and used in accordance with current data protection legislation (GDPR 2106/679) and research ethics. The research meets European and country specific requirements and procedures for research ethics and data management. This is particularly important because there are children included in the study. All participation is voluntary and no-one will be included in the study without having given his/her consent after having received accurate and adapted information about the CHILD-UP study. This applies to students, parents and employees. We will collect permission in connection with each research part.



Who works on the CHILD-UP project?

Ten universities and organisations from nine different European countries are working on this project.

The research partners are: EHS Zentrum from Germany, Jagiellonian University from Poland, Malmö University from Sweden, SeAMK from Finland, Université de Liège from Belgium, University of Northampton from the United Kingdom, UniMore from Italy.

The partners responsible for communication, dissemination and impact are: ESHA (European School Heads Association) from the Netherlands, FREREF (Forum of European Regions for Research Education and Training) from France and the International Institute of Humanitarian Law (IIHL) from Italy.





How can I join the CHILD-UP project?

There are multiple options to join this project:

- ✓ You can join in the research: contact the project member in your country if you are able to have research in your school or classroom, reception centre, social service or community.
- ✓ You can have some sort of influence in the project as a stakeholder in a Local Stakeholders Committee. Contact the project member in your country for more information about this.
- ✓ If you want to tell everyone about this project or want to keep up-to-date to possibly join when the results are there take a look at <http://www.child-up.eu/> and subscribe to the newsletter and follow us on social media. Feel free to share what you find with referrals!
- ✓ If you organise an event that would benefit from a presentation about this project, please let us know.
- ✓ If you would like an event to be organised by us, let us know too.

How about getting the results and other deliverables (training, guidelines, policies)?

Because this project is funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 the results and deliverables will be available for free.

delivered. The research results will also be published. The deliverables include a self-evaluation of measures and activities package, guidelines for dialogic activities in your school, both written and online (MOOC) training packages for teachers and other professionals.

These tools will support co-action and coordinated planning of schools and other professionals like policy makers, researchers and security/safe houses.

Who and where to contact if I want to know more?

Good to hear you want to know more about this project! There are multiple ways to do this:

- Visit our website and subscribe to our newsletter to get the latest updates on this project:
<http://www.child-up.eu/>
- Contact the project coordinator:
claudio.baraldi@unimore.it
Or contact the project manager:
piersola@unimore.it
- You can also follow us on social media
Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/child-up-project>
LinkedIn:
<https://www.linkedin.com/company/child-up>
Twitter:
https://twitter.com/childup_eu

Do you want to know more about the project in your territory and about local stakeholder committees? Find your nearest partner on:
<http://www.child-up.eu/about-child-up/partners/>

Want to publish something in the media?
Contact the CDI-Workgroup:
communications@child-up.eu



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