Romania - Child Protection Sub-Working Group Minutes

Date: September 24, 2025
Location: Online

Attendees

- Anca Costei – UNHCR,
- Pedro Munoz Alonso – UNHCR
- Yuliya Feshchenko – UNHCR
- Gheorghe Trofin – UNICEF
- Ioana Florea – UNICEF
- Liviu Constantin Vacareanu – World Vision
- Mihaela Vintila – World Vision
- Ina Sirghi – World Vision
- Izabella Popa – ANPDCA
- Laurentia Mereuta – World Vision

Agenda

- Welcome and introduction
- Cyberbullying Prevention and Digital Safety, WV Presentation
- Findings of the Participatory Assessment 2025: "Voices of children and youth", UNHCR Presentation"
- EU PACT on Asylum and Migration, UNHCR Presentation
- Ministerial Order No. 1271/29.05.2025, ANPDCA update
- Progress on the BIP Guide Development, UNICEF update
- AOB

Key Discussion Points

1. Cyberbullying Prevention and Digital Safety

Presented by: Liviu Vacareanu, World Vision

- Overview of World Vision's multi-layered approach to cyberbullying prevention.
- Presentation of guides for teachers, parents, and children on digital safety.
- Legislative and gap analysis of Romanian and EU frameworks.

- Recommendations for improving school protocols, training, and inter-agency coordination.
- Emphasis on vulnerable groups (LGBTQ+, rural children, refugee children).
- Discussion on anonymous reporting tools (e.g., Red Button, 119 helpline).
- Proposal to include AI-related cyberbullying risks in future strategies.

2. Participatory Assessment Findings

Presented by: Yuliya Feshchenko, UNHCR

- Summary of focus group discussions with 61 children and 52 youth across multiple counties.
- Key concerns: language barriers, bullying, exclusion, lack of integration.
- Children expressed desire for more Romanian language support and inclusive activities.
- Youth highlighted challenges in education access, employment, and mental health.
- Parents voiced concerns about cyberbullying, isolation, and lack of support for children with disabilities.

3. Ministerial Order No. 1271 – Child Consultation

Update by: Izabella Popa, ANPDCA

- Current phase: designation of responsible persons in institutions for child consultation.
- Implementation procedures are under development.
- Clarification needed on legislative overlaps and definitions of cyberbullying.

4. EU Pact on Asylum and Migration – Child Protection Considerations

Presented by: Pedro Munoz Alonso, UNHCR

- Overview of child-related provisions in the Pact.
- Emphasis on best interest principle, age assessment, legal representation, and detention safeguards.
- Discussion on Romania's implementation status and coordination with ICMPD.
- Proposal to present updates in the upcoming Protection Working Group meeting.

5. Best Interest Procedure Guide Development

Presented by: Ioana Florea & Gheorghe Trofin, UNICEF

- Guide expanded to include all unaccompanied and separated children, not only Ukrainian.

- Integration with existing case management procedures to avoid administrative burden.
- Plan to finalize guide by October and align upcoming training sessions.
- Aim for institutional ownership and potential normative adoption.

Follow-up

- Cyberbullying resources (guides and videos) will be shared with national and local authorities.
- UNICEF will finalize and disseminate the Best Interest Procedure Guide by October, and jointly with UNHCR plan the trainings for November.
- UNHCR will share updates on the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum in the next Protection Working Group, including on results and plans of ICMPD.