Child Protection Sub-Working Group

24.07.2019 Minutes of Meeting

Date:	Wednesday, 24th July 2019 at 09.30 a.m., Conference Room 2	
Participants:	National Technical Univerisity of Athens (NTUA), Arsis, Tripartite Agreement UNHCR/EKKA/Metadrasi, The Smile of the Child, UNHCR CO, UNHCR FUA, UNICEF, Hellenic Red Cross, NCR, The Home Project, Humanity Crew, MSF, Faros, Zeuxis, Praksis, European Expression, GCR, ICSD	
Chair:	**UNHCR: Theodora D. Tsovili (tsovili@unhcr.org)**	
Agenda	**Children Going Missing (Part 2)** • Existing Mechanism for tracing missing children – The Smile of the Child's actions and Services for unaccompanied children going missing (Ms. Sia Kakarouba, Social Worker, Coordinator of the Child Hot/Helplines of The Smile of the Child) • "ChildRescue" project – an innovative application as a complementary tool to the efforts of the child protection actors including the state to trace children going missing (Mr Christos Danos, PhD, manager of the Child Rescue project, from the Decision Support Laboratory of the National Technical University of Athens to further elaborate on the development so far of the tool and its pilot phase)	
▪ **The Smile of the Child (Procedures on tracing missing children)**	The Smile of the child (TSoC) on the role of the National Corrdinator operates the three Hot/helplines for children at risk including unaccompanied refugee and asylum seekers children. In particular TSoC operates the: 1) National Helpline for Children SOS 1056 2) European Hotline for Missing Children Children 116000 3) European Hotline for Children and Adolescents The goal is to provide assistance to children in need or at risk nationwide and the hot/helplines operate 365 days/year, 24/7. During 2018, the Smile of the Child received 191 requests for support to searches for missing children among which 60 cases of migrant and refugee children reported via the 116000 European Hotline. In 2019, until the 1st September 2019, TSoC received 59 requests to support the official searches for missing children and among those 12 cases of migrant and refugee missing children were reported. The TSoC once is informed refers to the police – without the permission or	**Action Points** • **Compilation of a Guidance note on the National Mechanisms for missing children especially for the refugee children including UASC. The Guidance note will be drafted by UNHCR in collaboration with the Smile of the Child and the Police and it will be based on the feedback received by the CPsWG members in a focus group discussion. (CPsWG members, UNHCR/Smilie of the Child)**

	authorization/order by the Police TSOC cannot proceed with further actions on children reported missing. In brief, the challenges faced are the following: delays in reporting of the disappearance, lack of clarity in the responsibility and action from the stakeholders, lack of immediate mibilisation, no full utilization of expertise and human resources, limited trained staff in the police authorities in order to handle such cases, low and almost inexistent reporting on the cases of missing refugee children due to lack of awareness. It is important to note that according to the official existing mechanism for missing children there is not a 24 hours' waiting precondition in order to file a report for a child going missing to the Police Authorities. The Smile informed the participants of the CPsWG that the CP actors should call and inform TSoC as complementary support to liaise in cases when the Police Officer on Duty refuses to immediately file a report of a missing child with the excuse of waiting for 24 hours. The first hours of the disappearance are crucial for the relevant research. Please see the detailed activities and interventions of the Smile of the Child in cases of children going missing in the attached presentation slides.	
▪ **National Technical University of Athens (NTUA) presenting the "Child Rescue" Project**	Mr. Christos Danos (PhD) , manager of the Child Rescue project at NTUA – Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, joined the CPsWG in order to inform the working group on the current on going project of the university named *"ChildRescue – Collective awareness platform for Missing Children Investigation and Rescue"* and the current challenges faced. ChildRescue Project is a research project co-funded from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme. The goal of the project is to create a platform with the use of an app to further assist and complement the process of tracing missing children nationwide. In the 2nd phase of the project there will be interviews for inputs, clarifications and provision of information by the stakeholders.	**Action Points** • **Mr. Danos will revert late September - early October 2019 to the CPsWG to receive feedback on the express of interest and the availability of the CP actors during the 2nd phase of the project (Mr. Danos/UNHCR)**

	All information, actions taken and actions that should be taken are provided in details in the presentation of Mr. John Psarras, Professor of NTUA – Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the CPsWG which was held on 11 June 2019 by	
AOB	Next meeting will take place on 12/9/2019 – the WG will not take place during the month of August.	**Action points:** **N/A**