

Child Protection Working Group Meeting Minutes

16 March, 2023

[Recording of the meeting](#)

[Presentation](#)

Agenda

- 1.) Presentation by OGYSZ
- 2.) Referral pathways
- 3.) Update on Unaccompanied children / Sport teams
- 4.) Analysis of the Child Protection Act
- 5.) AOB

Participants

Dr. Eva Both (OGYSZ), Viktoria Sebhelyi (TDH), Zsuzsanna Ullei (SOS Children`s Villages), Katalin Bognar (Menedek), Zsiga Petofi (Menedek), Borbala Benedek (Menedek), Zsolt Szekeres (HHC), Blanka Csonka (HHC), Julia Andrasi (Mandak House-Devai Fogado), Gabor Daroczi (FGHD), Eszter Harsanyi (NestingPlay), Orsolya Jeney (Traumacenter), Lilla Eredics (Romaversitas), Oksana Matviishyna (Ukrainian School on the premises of AISB), Mariana Alcoforado (ICRC), Alisar Elias (UNHCR), Alexandra Takacs (UNHCR), Nina Hager (UNHCR), Krisztina Kovacs (UNHCR), Jozsef Unszorg (Unicef)

Topics discussed

1) Presentation by Dr. Eva Both on OGYSZ`s roles, functions, services

Please see the [presentation](#) (from slide 4 to slide 29) for more information.

- There are 21.000 children in alternative care, 4.000 new cases yearly, the most affected regions are Budapest and the north-east of Hungary.
- OGYSZ was established in 2021 July with the aim of standardizing the alternative care services and ensuring that the best interest of the children are considered at every stage of their placement regardless of the type and location of their placement

- Children who are separated from their families require special attention from specialized child care services, including a complex assessment system, placement based on the best interest of the child, guardianship, adoption, crisis management.
- The Child Hearing Centers are also important part of the system. They were established starting from 2021 (except the one in Szombathely) and last year they handled 350 cases.
- 5 locations: Budapest 2 locations, Szombathely, Gyula, Debrecen
- It is based on the Barnahus model – complex service provision
- Legal background: (Act. XXXI. / 1997.), Criminal Code – XC. / 2017.
- The National Police is the most important partner

Questions :

- Is there any experience working with refugee children? Is there a possibility for direct referral or all cases should go through the Police? Can NDGAP refer cases? – There were no cases referred yet regarding refugee children, but OGYSZ is open to cooperation in such cases to find modalities that serves the best interest of the children.
- What is the opinion of OGYSZ on the scope of the CP Act? Children need to have access to the necessary services.
- Menedek offered additional cooperation with OGYSZ .

2) Referral pathways – Terre des Hommes

- There is a document created by HHC and TDH on the signalling system and referrals, this will be updated and modified a bit to reflect the needs of refugee children. It will be presented on the next CPWG.

3) Analysis of the Child Protection Act

- Specialized services ('gyermekvédelmi szakellátás') are available to all children, including TP status holders – e.g. unaccompanied children are taken care of, child victims of serious abuse within the family are taken to alternative care
- But basic child welfare services ('gyermekjóléti alapellátás') as well as other specific services specified under the CP Act are not available to beneficiaries of TP based on the scope of the CP Act, however, it varies in practice whether Child Welfare Services and Centers support the families
- This means that preventive services are not necessarily available to families
- Recommendation: considering that TP has been renewed until March 2024, it would be necessary re-evaluate the access to certain services

4) Update on unaccompanied and separated children – sport teams

- Number of sport teams present in Hungary – in total 175
- There is a fluctuation, children are moving forward to other countries, or returned back to Ukraine, but many children are here for almost a year now
- General findings: general living conditions are adequate, they also have access to good quality sport facilities, but the guardianship authorities were mostly not informed about the stay of the refugee children
- UNHCR and Menedek informed the Mol Guardianship Department about the situation – they informed the local guardianship departments of the government offices and requested them to assess the situation of all children individually

5) AOB

- a. [Workplan](#) and [Terms of Reference](#) for the Working Group and **co-chair**
 - 18 May – Children with special needs
 - June – Professional Day on Best Interest of the Child
 - 15 September / 16 November – TBC
 - MHPSS / EDU / CP SWG – training on trauma sensitive approaches (Traumaközpont – Trauma Center)
- b. **UNHCR children shoes distribution – please contact Nina (hagern@unhcr.org) and Kriszti (kovacskr@unhcr.org) if you are aware of organizations who are working with groups of children in need of shoes**
- c. Next Step – Robotic classes
- d. Service Mapping update – e-mail has been sent out before about the details