

ANNUAL REPORT 2020



HFC
"Hope
For
Children"



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Message from the Director-General

“Hope For Children” CRC Policy Center has been standing up for the Rights of the Child since 2008. The journey of our team is one of commitment to protect, support, promote children’s rights, walking hand in hand with children so that they too become ambassadors for their rights. It is our dream. It is our responsibility. It is our firm belief that every child has the right to happiness, the right to grow in a safe, caring, nourishing environment; the right to realise the full potential of childhood. Our journey is often one of struggles and we are grateful to every single person that has held hands and walked together with us. We thank everyone who shares our passion, and believes in the significance of our work – individuals, governments, private companies, national and international institutions.

The COVID-19 pandemic made 2020 an exceptionally challenging year for the organization both in terms of fundraising and provision of direct support and educational services to children and families. However, the organization rapidly responded to the existing conditions utilizing all the means available to continue delivering services to the beneficiaries, especially with the use of technology.

As a result of the restrictions on international travel in place, travel and meetings in the context of the implementation of EU funded projects were postponed, having an impact on the timeframe of the implementation of activities.

In order to respond to the increasing needs of children and families during the pandemic and lockdowns, among other important actions, we have launched the Hope For Children Helpline 1466 which is operating 24/7 free of charge providing social, psychological and legal support on issues related to child protection.

We are grateful for your support and we are confident that we will continue our journey together, with greater achievements and successes.



Joseph Borghese
Director-General,
Nicosia

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Our Team

“Hope For Children” CRC Policy Center employees in Cyprus 100 professionals who come from various educational backgrounds including psychology, social work, education, law, international relations and policy and sociology.

Through the various backgrounds and specializations, we ensure a multi-disciplinary approach in the implementation of our programs.

Director - General

Mr. Joseph Borghese

Research & Development Division

Dr. Sofia Leitao – *Director of R&D*

Ms. Sarah Hagos – *Financial Officer*

Justice & Rights Unit

Ms. Christine Mavrou – *Unit Coordinator*

Ms. Rafaela Georgiou – *Project Officer*

Ms. Debora Zito – *European Solidarity Corps Volunteer*

Education, Awareness & Capacity Building Unit

Ms. Anca Clivet – *Unit Coordinator*

Ms. Theophano Pampaka – *Project Officer*

Ms. Andrea-Fotini Hadjiconstantinou – *Project Officer*

Ms. Luisa Vanetti – *European Solidarity Corps Volunteer*

Ms. Giulia Scuz – *European Solidarity Corps Volunteer*

Ms. Arianna Tortelli – *European Solidarity Corps Volunteer*

Ms. Martina Novello – *European Solidarity Corps Volunteer*

Humanitarian Division

Ms. Andria Neocleous – *Director of the Humanitarian Division*

Ms. Andria Angastiniotou – *Deputy Director of the Humanitarian Division*

Ms. Georgia Kyriacou – *Financial Officer*

Quality & Control

Ms. Natasa Savva – *Communication Officer*

Ms. Vanessa Oliveira – *Administrative Assistant*

Ms. Xenia Nicolaou – *Administrative Assistant*

Ms. Mirka Papadopoulou – *Senior Liaison Officer*

Foster Care Department

Ms. Efi Vasilaki – *Coordinator of Foster Care Department*

Ms. Irini Georgiou – *Social Worker*

Ms. Rafaella Foti – *Social Worker*

Ms. Nicoletta Orphanou – *Social Worker*

Ms. Elena Demetriou – *Social Worker*

Ms. Maria Lempseoglou – *Social Worker*

Ms. Constantina Georgiou – *Clinical Psychologist*

Mr. Tsampikos Sam Georgallis – *Clinical Psychologist*

Ms. Elpida Loizou – *Clinical Psychologist*

Ms. Georgia Theodorou – *Clinical Psychologist*

Ms. Elisavet Demetriadou – *Bachelor Student in Social Work*

Children's House

Ms. Tania Masia – *Coordinator of Children's House*

Mr. Marios Nicolaou – *Senior Social Worker*

Ms. Alexandra Iacovidou Kameri – *Social Worker*

Ms. Rodoula Papalabrianou – *Social Worker*

Mr. Stelios Papachristoforou – *Social Worker*

Ms. Despina Louvia – *Social Worker*

Ms. Eliana Nicolaou – *Social Worker*

Ms. Sophia Rossou – *Social Worker*

Mr. Costas Demetriou – *Clinical Psychologist*

Ms. Zena Andronikou – *Clinical Psychologist*

Ms. Polina Georgiou – *Clinical Psychologist*

Ms. Elena Hadjithoma – *Clinical Psychologist*

Ms. Ioanna Drousiotou – *Clinical Psychologist*

Ms. Natasa Papamarkou – *Clinical Psychologist*

Ms. Petroula Hadjiphoti – *Clinical Psychologist*

Ms. Melina Dragoumi – *Secretary*

Ms. Andromachi Pavlidou – *Clinical Psychologist*

Ms. Zoe Kinikli – *Clinical Psychologist*

Ms. Victoria Zachariou – *Social Worker*

Home For Hope Nicosia

Ms. Evi Neocleous – *Coordinator of Children's Shelter*

Mr. Giorgos Argyrou – *Youth Carer*

Ms. Eleana Makridou – *Support Officer*

Ms. Fedra Boraie – *Support Officer*

Ms. Souzana Charalambous – *Support Officer*

Ms. Katerina Stafily – *Support Officer*

Ms. Shahd Alqarout – *Support Officer & Cultural Mediator*

Ms. Lucia Testa – *Support Officer*

Ms. Maria Constantinou – *Support Officer*

Ms. Niovi Kaspari – *Support Officer*

Mr. Fabrizio Legato – *Support Officer*

Ms. Luisa Vanetti – *Support Officer*

Ms. Debora Zito – *Support Officer*

Ms. Maria-Luisa – *European Solidarity Corps Volunteer*

Ms. Marika Scandola – *European Solidarity Corps Volunteer*

Ms. Maria Kyprianou – *Psychologist*
Mr. Michalis Kalakoutis – *Liaison Officer*
Mr. Stelios Christou – *Support Officer*
Ms. Vera Gomes – *Care Support Officer*
Mr. Michalis Georgiou – *Support Officer*
Mr. Antonis Georgiadis – *Support Officer*
Ms. Alice Gandossi – *European Solidarity Corps Volunteer*
Ms. Diala Refai – *European Solidarity Corps Volunteer*
Ms. Katerina Phaidonos – *Operations Supervisor*
Ms. Sonia Demoursteva – *Shef*

Home For Hope Larnaca

Ms. Anna Charalambous – *Coordinator of Children’s Shelter*
Ms. Marianna Savva – *Coordinator of Children’s Shelter*
Ms. Maria Tereza Lysiotou – *Coordinator of Children’s Shelter*
Ms. Michaella Vasileiou – *Support Officer*
Ms. Athanasia Panayi – *Support Officer*
Ms. Stavroula Andreou – *Support Officer*
Ms. Alexia Evgeniou – *Support Officer*
Ms. Aimilia Georgiadou – *Support Officer*
Ms. Charalambia Christou – *Support Officer*
Ms. Aggeliki Theofilou – *Support Officer*
Mr. Theodoros Constantinou – *Support Officer*
Mr. Philippos Poyiatzis – *Support Officer*
Ms. Aliko Zeniou – *Support Officer*
Ms. Athina Hadjiantoni – *Support Officer*
Ms. Aliko Alexandrou – *Support Officer*
Ms. Elena Markou – *Support Officer*
Ms. Eleni Papastavrou – *Support Officer*
Ms. Natasa Aniftou – *Support Officer*
Ms. Rafaella Aristidou – *Support Officer*
Ms. Marianna Papakyriakou – *Support Officer*
Ms. Sara Petridou – *Support Officer*
Ms. Chrystalla Andreou – *Support Officer*
Ms. Neofita Christou – *Support Officer*
Ms. Athina Emanouilidou – *Support Officer*
Ms. Panayiota Karayianni – *Support Officer*

Child Protection Department

Ms. Katerina Melissari – *Coordinator of Child Protection Department*
Ms. Elli Monti – *Child Protection Officer*
Ms. Emanuela Celebre – *Child Protection Officer*

Psychology Department

Ms. Dialehti Chatzoudi – *Coordinator of Psychology Department*
Ms. Georgia Theodorou – *Clinical Psychologist*
Ms. Marian Angelidou – *School Psychologist*

Ms. Maria Iacovou – *Counselling Psychologist*
Mr. Andreas Damianou – *Counsellor*
Ms. Carlotta Mariani – *European Solidarity Corps Volunteer*
Ms. Elena Polini – *European Solidarity Corps Volunteer*
Ms. Katerina Giorgalla, *Trainee in Clinical Psychology*
Ms. Dafne Morroni, *Trainee in Clinical Psychology*
Ms. Thekla Constantinou, *Trainee in Clinical Psychology*
Ms. Christina Tsounta, *Trainee in Forensic Psychology*
Ms. Antrea Kriton, *Trainee in Forensic Psychology*
Ms. Anna Manentzou, *Trainee in Forensic Psychology*
Ms. Zeta Zacharaki, *Trainee in Forensic Psychology*
Ms. Maria Klimi, *Bachelor Student in Psychology*
Mr. Aren Bakalbashian, *Bachelor Student in Psychology*
Ms. Elina Giatra, *Bachelor Student in Psychology*
Mr. Rafaellos Antoniou, *Bachelor Student in Psychology*
Ms. Anna Fragkiskou, *Bachelor Student in Psychology*
Ms. Eleni Sophocleous, *Bachelor Student in Psychology*
Mr. Theodoros Kalogerakis, *Bachelor Student in Psychology*

Social Work Department

Ms. Sotiroula Panteli – *Coordinator of Social Work Department*
Ms. Evi Stavrou – *Social Worker*
Ms. Fytoula Panayiotou – *Social Worker*
Ms. Maria Luisa Colli – *European Solidarity Corps Volunteer*
Ms. Alice Gandossi – *European Solidarity Corps Volunteer*
Ms. Antonia Diikiti – *Social Worker*

Programmes under R&D

The work of the Research & Development Division is guided by HFC's vision of a world where all children's wellbeing is guaranteed through the protection and promotion of the rights of the child; through awareness raising within the community on the challenges and problems faced by children, with particular focus on those from disadvantaged social contexts; and through the support of children's active participation in society.

**Our work is underpinned by the pillars of children's rights –
Provision, Protection, Participation –
regardless of the nature of the work and the target group(s).**

To that end, we work with children, youth, professionals whose work relates to children, various stakeholders in a position to raise awareness, lobbying, support, draft policies and recommendations; provide expert advice and consultancy related to children's rights:

- a. Direct contact with our target group and general public through capacity-building activities (training, seminars, workshops, internships and volunteering programmes); awareness raising and dissemination activities (conferences and other public events);
- b. Development of capacity-building and educational contents;
- c. Fundraising (through actively pursuing sponsorship to implement programmes and projects that contribute to upholding children's rights in Cyprus and abroad through proposal writing and networking);
- d. Policy recommendations and lobbying on the rights of the child;
- e. Support to the work developed and implemented by colleagues in the various departments of the HFC's Humanitarian Division.

R&D is divided in two units according to the theme and nature of work.

The *Justice & Rights unit* prioritises advocacy, policy and legislative aspects to ensure that the Rights of the Child are upheld in accordance to national and international legal instruments. The projects allocated J&R place a particular focus on areas where the Rights of the Child are not observed or are limited.

The *Education, Awareness, and Capacity Building unit* prioritises educational aspects to ensure that the Rights of the Child are widely disseminated particularly ensuring that children and professionals working with children are competent advocates. The projects allocated to EACB place a particular focus on non-formal and informal education, and lifelong learning related to the Rights of the Child.

Chairs of the CRC Policy Center

Summary

The programme, established by "Hope For Children" CRC Policy Center in 2014, aims to engage academics and researchers in collaborative work to protect and promote the Rights of the Child through research, knowledge exchange and networking, professional development of a new generation of individuals informed, aware, and motivated to uplift the standards of the United Nation Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Currently, our network has 12 active members from countries in Europe, USA and Africa. After 2019 marking the first formal, face-to-face meeting of our members, 2020 marks the first joint publication, a book dedicated to the rights of unaccompanied migrant children.

Activities

Activity	Description	Impact
Submission of the book <i>The Rights of Unaccompanied Minors: Perspectives and Case Studies on Migrant Children</i>	Edited by Dr Sofia Leitão (HFC) and Prof Yvonne Vissing (Salem University, USA), the book includes short statements by unaccompanied children, and 12 chapters on the context of migrant children on the move in Europe, Asia, North and South America written by HFC staff and Chairs from eight countries.	To be published in English and distributed internationally by Springer Nature in 2021. Springer Nature, a Germany based publishing company, featured in the worldwide ranking for top 50 publishers for 2019.
Appointment of New Chair, Dr Graça Santos	The new Chair at Escola Superior de Educação, Polytechnic Institute of Bragança, Portugal, is represented by Dr Graça Santos, PhD in Educational Sciences, was appointed in December, 2020.	The Polytechnic Institute of Bragança, Portugal has over 9000 students, a third of which from Portuguese speaking countries like Angola and Brazil.
Commissioning of the book <i>Community Structures and Processes on Lives of Refugee Children</i>	Edited by Dr Sofia Leitão (HFC) and Prof Yvonne Vissing (Salem University, USA), the book will be developed and submitted to the publisher in 2021.	To be published in English by Vernon Press, which is included <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • on the Finnish Publication Forum's list of scholarly book publishers with a classification 1; • on the Nordic List (Norwegian Register for Scientific Publishers) as a Level 1 scientific book publisher as determined by the Norwegian Centre for Research Data (NSD); • on the list of scholarly publishers maintained by The Spanish National Research Council (CSIC in Spanish) for manuscript selection and peer review;

- on the Polish list of scholarly publishers recognised by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education and the Science Evaluation Commission (KEN) as a Level 1 scientific book publisher.

R&D Projects

Projects

(non-exhaustive list)

Title/Reference	HIT (ref. 807861-REC-AG-2017/REC-RRAC-RACI-AG-2017)	
Description	Impact & Outcomes	
Objectives:	Partners:	
<p>Hate Interrupter Teams: Youth counteracting hate speech towards migrants and minorities through participatory and creative campaign (HIT), is a 24-month project co-funded by the Rights, Equality and Citizenship programme of the European Commission, completed in 2020. The main aim of the HIT project is to develop a new European model to tackle hate speech, xenophobia, online misinformation, and racism.</p> <p><u>The three layers of intervention are:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create and empower HIT teams (14-19) through creative and positive campaigns; • Connect youth with stakeholders (agencies, NGOs and authorities who have an interest in the area of education); • Involve opinion formers and disseminate HIT message to reach a wider public. 	<p>Rinova (United Kingdom); Frederick University (Cyprus); The Smile of the Child (Greece); CEPS (Spain); Gender Alternatives Foundation (Bulgaria); Mulab (Italy); Collage Arts (United Kingdom); MetropolisNet (Germany).</p> <p>The HIT campaign celebrated the diversity and called for action against hate speech and behaviour.</p> <p>During the raising awareness week 19-25 October, Hope For Children posted on its social media accounts the activities that took place and the products that have been created during the HIT journey from the young participants.</p> <p>In addition, celebrity figures from Cyprus have expressed their support towards the HIT project by creating short videos posted on social media.</p> <p>The campaign targeted not only individuals directly involved in the project, but also a wider public of young individuals, youth workers and stakeholders.</p>	
Activities:	<p>Online partnership meeting 25.09.2020</p> <p>Due to the implementation of new governmental measures against covid-19 across Europe, the partners met online to discuss the results of</p>	

the activities implemented as well as the next steps which includes the Intercultural Dialogue meeting and the Final conference.

Raising Awareness Week 19.10 - 25.10.2020

During this week, HFC posted on all social media, the activities that had taken place throughout the implementation of the project, in an endeavour to raise awareness amongst individuals regarding hate speech, racism and xenophobia against minorities.

The project officers of HFC also prepared a Tik-Tok video that posted mid-week by challenging other people all over social media to participate.

Online meeting young HITs 1 13.11.2020

8 young HITs participants attended.

Online meeting young HITs 2 16.11.2020

5 young HITs participants attended.

Online HIT meeting stakeholders 18.12.2020

11 stakeholders attended.

In the framework of the preparation of the Intercultural Dialogue meeting, HFC organised in total 3 online meetings gathering young HITs and the stakeholders to discuss their HIT journey, to be informed about the next activities as well as to provide ideas for the sustainability of the project.

Title/Reference	KMS (2018-3-UK01-KA205-060055)	
Description	Impact & Outcomes	
Activities:	<p>Pilot Training 04.11.2020</p> <p>8 participants from the Nicosia and Larnaca Shelters attended the training.</p>	
<p>Online Intercultural Dialogue Meeting 02.12.2020</p>	<p>Nine partners as well as stakeholders and young HITs attended the online meeting. The aim of the Intercultural Dialogue Meeting is to develop an online presence and collect new ideas to further the project and share best practices among partners.</p> <p>During the meeting the participants discussed</p>	

how to contribute and further HIT efforts to create a common youth strategy towards eradicating HSBM (Hate Speech and Behaviour Management) across Europe.

Online Final European Conference
10.12.2020

During the HIT Final Conference, the nine partners shared their results, best practices and recommendations for future steps. HFC presented the audiovisual storytelling and the activities implemented during the HIT journey.

HIT Best Practices Manual
11.12.2020

In the HIT best practices manual, every country has described the activities implemented with the young participants as well as the tools they used. In addition, some recommendations have been added in regards of policies that can and should be adopted in order to eliminate the matter of hate speech, racism and xenophobia opposite migrants and minorities.

Final Partnership meeting
17.12.2020

During the meeting, all partners provided their feedback regarding the Final Conference as well as the Intercultural Dialogue Meeting that took place a few weeks before. They shared their experience, highlighted the success of the project and discussed for the submission of the final documents to the European Commission.

Objectives:

Keep me safe is a transnational project bringing together experts from organisations across 6 EU countries (Bulgaria, Cyprus, Denmark, France, Slovenia, United Kingdom) to counteract sexual violence by:

- Fostering youth agency;
- Promoting youth worker's capacity to identify risks & counteract them through youth work;
- Producing a Competence Framework for European youth workers in the field of prevention and an awareness raising of sexual abuse.

Title/Reference	KMS (2018-3-UK01-KA205-060055)
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Description	Impact & Outcomes
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Pilot Training
04.11.2020
8 participants from the Nicosia and Larnaca Shelters attended the training.

The main objective of the training was to train youth workers and the Social Welfare Services on how to support young people on matters of understanding and tackling sexual abuse and it focused on interactive activities that gave the opportunity to the participants to engage with real-life scenarios and express their thoughts and ideas.

Third Partnership meeting
09.09.2020

The partners met again to see where they stand with the pilot trainings since the covid-19 situation got worse across Europe with the countries being forced to go into new lockdowns.

They discussed about implementing the training online or wait and re-examine the situation with the new year. The KMS app was also in the centre of discussions since it had been developed and partners were requested to provide their feedback.

Partnership (not planned) meeting
08.12.2020

Title/Reference	INTEGRA (ref. REC-AG-2017/REC-RCHI-PROF AG-2017 785703)
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Description	Impact & Outcomes
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Objectives:

INTEGRA aims to address the need to equip residential care professionals to successfully support the social and professional integration of minors leaving care-systems. This is achieved by developing tools that act in two strategies: to build the capacity of such professionals as Leaving Care Mentors and to support sustainable multi-agent collaboration.

The main products of INTEGRA project are:

1. *The Mentoring Integration Programme (MIP)* useful to train and enhance the capacity of residential care professionals as Leaving Care Mentors (LCM) to support the resilience, entrepreneurial drive and forward goal projection skills of children in care;
2. *The Platform for Cooperation (P4C)* offers training, apprenticeships and job opportunities as well as other services. This platform responds to the need of the care professionals and mentors to guide and connect children in care with post-care stakeholders (employers, trainers, educators, legal counsellors, advisors etc) on their path to self-determination and community participation.

Activities:

Workshop with stakeholders
21.02.2020

At the workshop there were 17 participants that came from NGOs, Social Welfare Services (SWS) and Municipalities. The workshop focused on the

presentation of the Platform for Cooperation (P4C) and explaining what is expected from the stakeholders.

Final Conference
08.05.2020
During the Final Conference, the partner countries (Mediterranean Management Center, CESIE, The Smile of the Child, CEPS Projectes Socials and APCdP) presented their completed work on the INTEGRA platform, the final results and mentoring experiences.

5th Partnership Meeting Online
16.06.2020
The meeting was held online with the participation of all partners and it was focused on the results of the project, the evaluation and discussion on the sustainability.

Title/Reference

MEDIS (Ref. 592206-EPP-1-2017-1-ES-EPPKA3-IPI-SOC-IN)

Description

Objectives:

The MEDIS project's main aim is to strengthen and consolidate social cohesion, intercultural education and local language in a multilingual framework of newly arrived migrants at primary and secondary schools through the Mediterranean Inclusive Schools Programme. The programme adapts teaching skills and inclusive methodologies needed by teachers and pupils.

The main goals of MEDIS are:

- To increase the professional skills of school educators (teachers, psychologists, counsellors, etc.) through capacity building trainings on inclusive methodologies and pedagogical approaches.
- To enhance the social inclusion in, at least, 90 primary and secondary schools in Spain, Greece, Italy, Cyprus, Bulgaria and Portugal by implementing and validating the Mediterranean Inclusive Schools Programme.
- To establish contacts, signing agreements and elaborating policy recommendations for the decision makers at all levels (local, regional, national and European level).
- To raise awareness on the problem of social

Impact & Outcomes

Partners:

- "Hope for Children" CRC Policy Center and CARDET from Cyprus,
- SPEL from Portugal,
- Know and Can Association and the Regional Department of Education of Sofia, from Bulgaria, Institute de Macanet de la Selva and Ajuntament de Macanet de la Selva from Catalonia,
- KMOP from Greece and CESIE from Italy under the coordination of World University Service of the Mediterranean (WUSMED) from Spain.

inclusion of migrant children at schools and to promote cultural diversity and tolerance at school environments.

Activities:
Piloting with schools
In the framework of the piloting of MEDIS project, HFC and CARDET have been invited in February 2020 by the Elementary school of Agios Ioannis of Malounta to participate at the activities organised by the school in the framework of the MEDIS Programme. The students participated at the interactive activities that included games, food and dialogue among students. Also, they exchange cultural information with other schools through online discussions.

Policy recommendations for the Cases of Cyprus
28.05.2020
CARDET and HFC interviewed during the covid pandemic 14 stakeholders coming from professional backgrounds related to education and with experience in working with migrant children in order to propose a list of policy recommendations on the educational and social inclusion of children with migrant background. The policy recommendations are available at HFC website.

HFC has prepared the MEDIS newsletter which includes major activities of the programme that have been taken place during the last year.

Title/Reference

MiCREATE (ref. H2020-SC6-MIGRATION-2018-822664)

Description

Objectives:

The overall objective of MiCREATE (Migrant Children and Communities in a Transforming Europe) is to stimulate the inclusion of diverse groups of migrant children by adopting a child-centred approach to their integration at the educational and policy level.

This research project aims at comprehensive examination of contemporary integration processes of migrant children in order to empower them.

The project starts from the fact that European

Impact & Outcomes

Coordinator:

ZRS Koper Partners: The Manchester Metropolitan University, Haskoli Islands, Universitat de Barcelona, Hellenic Open University, Stparzyszenie Interkulturalni PL, "Hope for Children" CRC Policy Center, European Centre of Studies and Initiatives, Udruge Centar Za Mirovne Studije, Dypall Network: Associacao Para o Desenvolvimento da Participacao Cidada.

HFC has prepared the MEDIS newsletter which

countries and their education systems encounter manifold challenges due to growing ethnic, cultural, linguistic diversity and thereby it aims at:

1. Identifying existing measures for the integration of migrant children at the regional and local level through secondary data analysis;
2. Analysis of the social impacts of these integration programmes through case studies in ten countries applying qualitative and quantitative child-centred research;
3. Development of integration measures and identification of social investment particularly in educational policies and school systems that aim to empower children.

includes major activities of the programme that have been taken place during the last year.

Activities: **Executive Board meeting 20th & 21st October 2020**

HFC participated at the Executive Board meeting of Micreate on following up the activities implemented, the dissemination and future steps.

International Online Conference 4.12 - 5.12.2020

All the partners attended the online conference presenting their research projects focused on local dimension of children's migrations and its impact on EU integration policy.

Title/Reference	CREUS (ref. 2017-1-UK01-KA202-036681)
Description	Impact & Outcomes

Objectives:

The overall aim of CREUS Project is to provide a new approach focusing on 'unconventional spaces' to support the transversal skills of disadvantaged and unemployed young people (16-24 years-old) to maximize their potential in terms of fostering social, cultural and economic inclusion through access to initial VET and labour markets.

Partners:

- Collage Arts (UK)
- Dimitra (Greece)
- ERIFO (Italy)
- HFC (Cyprus)
- Kunstbedrift Arnhem (Netherlands)
- Mulab (Italy)
- Rinova (UK)

Its specific objectives are:

- To design and test new structured non-formal learning activities for disadvantaged young people delivered via tutor and peer support in 'unconventional spaces', as opposed to the classroom;
- To create an innovative series of intellectual outputs that will support tutors, trainers and peer mentors who use cultural learning in non-

formal contexts and 'unconventional spaces' to engage disadvantaged young people;

- To develop transversal and transferable skills for disadvantaged young people in order to get access to Vocational Educational and Training (VET) system and employment.

Activities:

Results of Assessment and CoE Good Practice Award

The CREUS project ended in February 2020 and has been high evaluated from the UK Erasmus+ National Agency.

On the Final Report Outcome, it is reported:

"The website provides a repository of information about the project including a range of tools and resources developed as part of the IOs also sharing the approach and model of peer mentoring in unconventional spaces. Overall, 25 peer mentors and 138 young people were involved as mentees during the testing period. Feedback suggests that the experience has been positive and it is encouraging that some challenges have also been acknowledged".

Additionally, CREUS received the Good Practice Award by the European Commission due to its creative, non-formal learning in unconventional spaces, that helped in developing and nurturing the vocational transversal skills of disadvantaged young people.

Title/Reference	PROMISE II
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Description	Impact & Outcomes
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The main aim and activities of the project deal with training of stakeholders in order to provide holistic child-centered approach services to children who have been victims of sexual abuse and/or exploitation.

Through the communication channels of PROMISE, we are able to exchange ideas and good practices among EU MSs and adapt to fulfil any identified gaps (such as, training).

Title/Reference	ESC Programme
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Description	Impact & Outcomes
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The European Solidarity Corps (ESC) is a European Union initiative that gives young people the opportunity to acquire valuable experiences, to build their skills and to contribute to the society

During the year 2020, HFC, through the ESC Programme, welcomed 7 young volunteers who worked and got involved at the activities of the Humanitarian and of the Research and

they live in. It's based on volunteering and aims to promote solidarity as a value, to contribute to strengthening cohesion, solidarity, democracy and citizenship in Europe, while also responding to societal challenges and strengthening communities, with particular effort to promote social inclusion.

Development Divisions. During their journey, they worked in the field of their interest while at the same time, they gained professional and cultural experience. The volunteers through their educational and professional background provide valuable support to the team and innovative ideas for the daily work and implementation of the projects.

Programmes under HUMANITARIAN DIVISION

Homes For Hope

“Hope For Children” CRC Policy Center is responsible for the operation of 3 private shelters for the purpose of accommodating and supporting unaccompanied children under the guardianship of the Director of Social Welfare Services (SWS) in Nicosia and Larnaca.

Summary

The aim of the shelters is to provide unaccompanied children with interdisciplinary and holistic services that respond to all aspects of their daily lives, with particular emphasis on providing psycho-social and legal support. The mechanism of operation of the shelters is based mainly on the services of rehabilitation, integration and finding durable solutions.

In order to ensure that each minor receives the necessary support and services needed, a personal staff member is assigned to each minor, who is responsible for meeting the short-term and long-term goals set for the child's well-being and development. The guardians of the children from the SWS are in close collaboration with the staff of the shelters. The private shelters are staffed with specialized professionals who work 24 hours a day for the best interest of the children.

The shelters are supervised and co-funded by the Social Welfare Services. Home for Hope Nicosia is co-Funded by the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (90%) of the European Funds Unit of the Ministry of Interior, and the Republic of Cyprus (10%).

Activities

During 2020, Homes for Hope have accommodated and provided multi-disciplinary services to 231 children (111 in Nicosia and 120 in Larnaca) following the referral from the Social Welfare Services.

As a part of the educational support services, in the shelters various afternoon classes were provided such as Greek and English lessons, music, gymnastics, and occupational therapy. In addition to the psycho-social and legal support services and psychoeducational workshops provided to the children on a regular basis, several other educational and fun activities took place at the shelters including the below:

Title	Date & Location
Human Rights Day	10.01.2020 Shelter
Workshop against racism	January 2020 Shelter
Social Skills Workshop	January 2020 Shelter
International Women's day	08.03.2020 Shelter
Mother's Day	10.05.2020 Shelter
Anti-Smoking Workshop	September 2020 Shelter
World Hunger Day	16.10.2020 Visits at Community Centers (Nicosia and Larnaca)
Bullying Workshop	October 2020 Shelter
World Children's Day	20.11.2020 Shelter
Cyber Security Workshop	November 2020 Shelter
International Migrants Day	18.12.2020 Shelter
Voluntary Service	December 2020 Visits at Community Elder Center



Foster Care Department

The Foster Care Department of “Hope For Children” CRC Policy Centre implements the program addressed to Foster Families and is responsible for promoting and supporting the institution of foster care while its services are multi-faceted and cover all the districts of the Republic of Cyprus.

The program is implemented in collaboration with the Social Welfare Services upon signing a Protocol of Cooperation and with funding provided by the Social Welfare Services. Therefore, even though the role of each party involved is different there is always a collaboration and a multidisciplinary approach to every stage of the whole fostering procedure.

Summary

The program aims to ensure the protection, the care and the best interest of the child who is deprived of a family environment. More specifically, under the principles of the International Convention on the Rights of the Child (OHE, 1989), every child which is deprived of its family environment has the right of protection and assistance from the state, which in turn foresees for alternative custody, placing the child in another family.

The institution of foster care concerns children who are under the legal guardianship of the Social Welfare Services’ Director and is an alternative family care which ensures the prosperity of children and respects their needs, at the same time guarantees a healthy, steady and safe everyday life for the children. Furthermore, the role of a foster parent is to provide a safe and steady family environment with care and love to the foster child and opportunities to develop to the maximum of their potential.

Activities

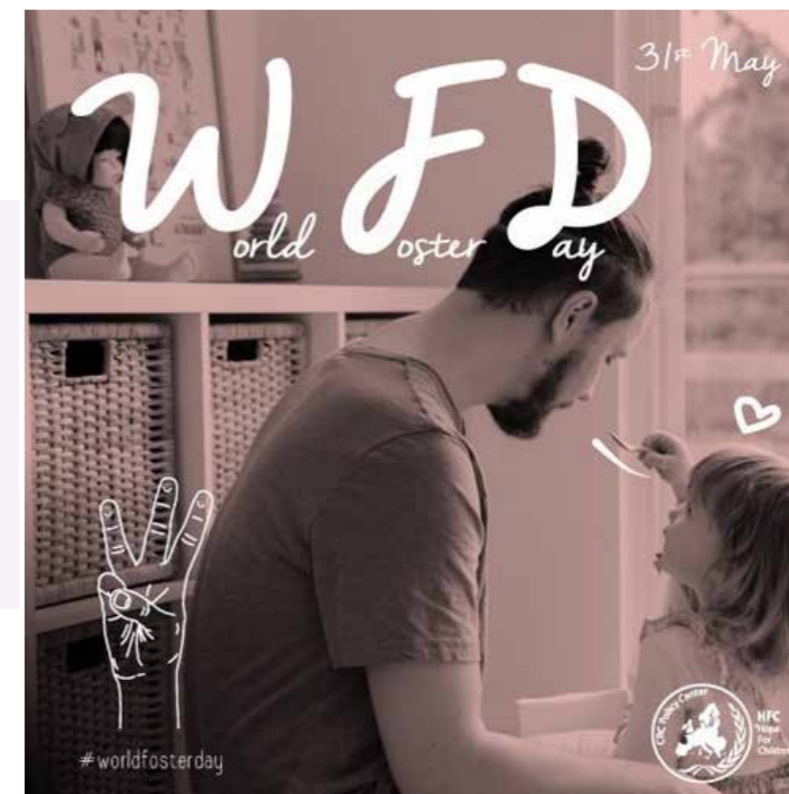
The services provided by the program include the following:

- Assessing the suitability of the people applying to become foster parent in collaboration with the responsible social welfare officer. This process includes a series of training sessions on a range of important issues which aim to strengthen their role.
- Providing psychological, psycho-emotional and psycho-social support to foster parents. These services are available 24 hours a day.
- Conducting regular monitoring and re-evaluation to foster parents with children placed in their home.
- Promoting the foster care institution through awareness campaigns and informational activities on a national basis.

During 2020, the Foster Care Department conducted 148 assessments for potential foster parents. The department also provided psycho-social and legal support services to other 148 foster families, including the 24hour response.

Additionally, 24 training sessions were provided to potential foster parents in order to inform them about the Foster Care institution, their rights and responsibilities, as well as the evaluation procedures. Furthermore, 44 workshops were offered to approved foster families, aiming at their empowerment and transferring of knowledge on issues related to their role as foster parents.

In the context of the awareness raising actions, the professionals of HFC presented the foster families program to national TV shows, and published information in several printed and electronic media. Lastly, a national online conference was organized titled “Foster Care: One Family for Every Child”.



Children's House

Summary

Since its establishment in 2017, the Children's House (CH), in line with the Icelandic Barnahus and on the basis of European guidelines and good practices, is providing a full range of services under one roof, while ensuring the best interest, safety, and protection of the child.

Children's House is a child-friendly, multidisciplinary and interagency model responding to child victims and witnesses of sexual violence. The purpose of Children's House is to offer a coordinated and effective response and to prevent retraumatization during investigation and court proceedings. The Children's House offers a one-stop-shop approach, embracing cooperation between all competent authorities and agencies, specifically the Cyprus Police, Social Welfare Services, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education. Hope For Children was appointed by the Ministry of Labour to undertake the operation of the Children's House in close collaboration with the above mentioned authorities. The Children's House also plays an important role in enhancing awareness and knowledge of violence against children with key stakeholders.

Social Welfare Services are responsible for subsidizing and supervising the operation of the Children's House.

Activities

In Cyprus, the Children's House is providing the following services to sexually abused children and their families:

- Multidisciplinary/Interagency management
- Forensic Interviewing
- Medical examination
- Psychological evaluation

- Psychological support and therapy
- Family therapy and parental counselling
- Social support and rehabilitation

During 2020, Children’s House provided services to 324 children referred by the Cyprus Police and the Social Welfare Services.

Per district, 127 children were referred in Nicosia, 98 children in Limassol, 49 children in Larnaca, 35 children in Paphos and 15 children in Famagusta.

Among the activities of 2020, a great emphasis was given to the continuous training of the staff and associates of the Children’s House. Due to the pandemic, the trainings were mainly conducted online and involved the subjects of forensic interviewing, trauma focused CBT, psychometric tools, and psychological approaches.



Summary

The Child Protection Department (CPD) of HFC is working towards the defence and promotion of children rights’ regardless of a child’s community background, religion, age, gender, racial group, sexual orientation or political belief. The CPD’s work is based on the standards and principles of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and EU Law and includes:

- Legal support and guidance to the residents of “Homes For Hope” throughout the submission of their international protection/family reunification/family tracing claim, the age assessment procedure or any need related to legal issues
- Advocacy to promote child-friendly policies and amendments of current legislation throughout our presence to and/or collaboration with national, european and international institutions.
- Legal counselling in individual cases of child abuse or any other violation of children’s rights.

Activities

In particular, in 2020, the CPD has offered its services to 94 residents of Nicosia’s Shelter. All of them have submitted a claim for international protection. Among them, 8 minors have been relocated to Finland. Moreover, 33 Dublin claims for family reunification have been supported throughout the year, 15 of which have been launched in 2020. In addition, 13 transfers of minors to EU third countries have been occurred based on accepted Take Charge Requests.

The CPD has offered its services to 69 residents of Larnaca’s shelter. All of them have submitted a claim for international protection and 23 Dublin claims for family reunification have been supported. Among them 8 minors have been transferred to EU third countries based on accepted Take Charge Requests and 1 more minor has been relocated to Finland.

Moreover, legal guidance has been provided to parents who were seeking information on cases related to child abduction, parental alienation and parental consent for psychological therapy to children.

Additional activities include:

Title	Data & Location	Description
Attending meeting of Parliamentary Committee on Human Rights and on Equal Opportunities for Men and Women	27 January 2020	The right of child for parental presence during a medical act
EC Roadmap _ Strategy on Victims’ Rights (2020-2024)	March 2020	Comments submitted to the EC
Committee for the Rights of the Child alternative report for Cyprus	April 2020	Report submitted for the 85th session of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child

Feedback to EU Strategy to fight child sexual abuse	July 2020	
Child Protection Policy for Municipality of Strovolos	August 2020	Supporting the Municipality of Strovolos to establish a Policy for promoting and safeguarding children's rights
Meeting of Parliamentary Committee on Human Rights and on Equal Opportunities for Men and Women	30 November 2020	Discussion on memorandum regarding family violence
Lanzarote Committee Council of Europe sessions in 2020	27th - 30th sessions	HFC attended as an Observer Member
Responses to the COVID-19 pandemic to step up the protection of children against sexual exploitation and abuse	May 2020	Sharing HFC's initiatives with the Lanzarote Committee

Additional activities include:

Title	Data & Location	Description
Feedback to National Strategic Plan for children's cyber safety (in collaboration with R&D division)	January 2020	Participated to the Consultation Committee coordinated by the Pedagogical Institute
Educators' Day: 1. Crisis Interventions at Schools 2. Dealing with School Bullying	13/02/2020 Akropoleos Gymnasium	45 secondary education teachers
Educators' Day: Creating a positive school environment and Dealing with Challenging Behaviours	13/02/2020 Linopetras Gymnasium	2 groups of 30 secondary education teachers (total 60)

Psychology Department

Summary

The main aim of the Psychology Department is to offer child-centered psychological services to all children in Cyprus that address the organization for support and to implement awareness raising and educational activities. The services provided include psychological assessment and support, behaviour modification, crisis management, prevention and awareness, input and support in the implementation of European projects, as well as phone and online counselling. The department is also responsible for the operation of the National Helpline 1466 and the European Helpline for Children and Adolescents 116111, and the coordination of non-formal education activities in private and public schools.

Activities

The Psychology Department provided psychological services to 103 children that addressed the organization for the first time in 2020, while continuing the provision of services to the children addressed the organization the previous years.

Under the operation of shelters for unaccompanied children and the semi-independent living program, the Department conducted psychological assessments to 107 children and provided individual psychological support to 39 children.

During the period that schools were operating normally, experiential workshops were offered at 10 schools, upon request.



Summary

The social work department is responsible for the provision of social support and counselling services to children and families. The professionals of the department implement non formal education activities in schools and respond to the National Helpline 1466. The department is also coordinating the semi-independent living program for unaccompanied children and provides social support services to the unaccompanied children accommodated at Homes for Hope.

Activities

During 2020, the department:

- provided social support services to 107 children, including compiling individual care plans for unaccompanied children
- realized rehabilitation workshops and development of social skills for 48 children supporting them during the transition to adulthood and independent living
- supported 114 children throughout the process of the transition out of care (i.e. applying for benefits, access to labor market, finding accommodation etc.)
- monitored and supported 26 teenagers placed in houses in the community under the semi-independent living program.

Moreover, the professionals of the department were responding on a regular basis to requests of families for the provision of basic needs items, clothing, toys and school items.

Global Presence

USA Branch

HFC launched the process for the establishment of the organization in USA with the financial support of Patti and Everett B. Birch Foundation. The mission of HFC USA is to empower the presence of Hope For Children in the field of the protection and promotion of the rights of the child through the expansion of research and fundraising initiatives beyond Europe.

Its goals are:

- to serve as a hub to coordinate promotional and fundraising activities targeting private donors in the United States
- to participate in research and development projects aiming to exchange and identify best practices in the field of child protection between the EU and US.

Campaigns

Summary

At HFC all professionals work tirelessly to raise awareness and funds, and inform the public opinion on the protection of the rights of the child on a national, European and when applicable, in an international level. Despite the restrictions due to the pandemic, the organization managed to implement several campaigns and established collaboration with companies, professionals coming from a variety of fields and local entities and authorities aiming to raise awareness and empower the services provided to children. A special focus of the awareness raising initiatives during 2020, was to encourage children and adults to speak up and report children's rights violations.

Launch of National Helpline 1466

As a response to the first lockdown applied in Cyprus starting in March 2020, HFC launched the National Helpline 1466 to reach children and families in need. The helpline operates 24/7 and is primarily addressed to children and families, providing free psychological, social and legal support, counselling and guidance on child protection issues.

The Helpline is supported by CYTA.



Promoting foster care

In the framework of the promotion of the foster care program, during 2020 HFC established cooperation with the Cypriot music composer and signer Hovig, who has dedicated his newly released song for the promotion of the HFC's foster families program. A relevant TV spot was created by HFC in cooperation with Hovig and with the involvement of children.

TV spot: https://youtu.be/Ht_LecJvCik

Hope For Children Young Ambassadors empowering other children

The Children Ambassadors of HFC took the initiative of creating a visual message related to the pandemic addressed to all children which was disseminated through social media:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ckH3af2zOUQ>

Short film titled "Watch Over Me" on the issue of sexual abuse against children

This short film was directed by Leah Kayaleh, written and financed by Leah Kayaleh and Rani Kayaleh, for awareness raising purposes on the above issue. HFC partnered with the creators for the dissemination of the film in the media and social media. With the opportunity of the presentation of the film, staff members of HFC were hosted in several TV shows speaking about the work of HFC related to the support of children victims of sexual abuse.

Short film:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C5XnV8FhJ1M>

Hope For Children partnered with Zorbas Bakeries aiming to fundraise for the support of HFC and to promote the rights of all children.

Specifically, through the sale of specific products "cake pops", children's rights messages and the helpline of HFC were promoted and part of the proceeds were going for the financial support of HFC. The digital means of the company such as the screens in all the shops were also utilized to promote the campaign and the National Helpline 1466.

The partnership with Zorbas Bakeries was launched on 20th of November, the Universal Children's Day.

This initiative was embraced by the public and received a lot of publicity through the media and social media.



Invitation to all Political parties for the collective effort to ensure the well-being of children from the impact of the pandemic.

Hope For Children realized meetings with political leaders in order to transfer recommendations based on the experience of the organization in the field, in order to be taken into consideration during the compilation of the Recovery and Resilience plan for dealing with the impact of the pandemic which the EU calls the Republic of Cyprus to create.

For the same purpose, the organization conducted meetings with executives from institutions of the European Union, the United Nations and the Council of Europe which are involved in the protection of children's rights.



Events

Summary

During the critical year 2020 HFC was fully aware of the impact of the pandemic on the rights of the child. Therefore, the events taking place were focusing on the ways to support all children in need in Cyprus and directly inform the local community how it can support the Organization and consequently the children and families supported by HFC.

The events scheduled were aligned with the protocol realised by the Republic of Cyprus to contain the spread of Covid-19.

Press conference exclusively for Children and Youth about coronavirus

What children need to know about the pandemic, what are their rights and how they can protect themselves. This was the first time in Cyprus that a press conference was exclusively addressed to children and youth.

Video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e_Zc_HDRtQA

Supporting the access of children to e-learning

As a response to the existing needs and to facilitate the e-learning for the children in Cyprus during the lockdowns, HFC decided to allocate € 300,000 for the purchase of electronic devices which were donated to more than 2000 students of public secondary education who were in need.

The distribution to the children in need was undertaken by the Ministry of Education.



Foster care online conference – One Family for Every Child

The conference was organized by HFC in cooperation with the Social Welfare Services and the Pancyprian Confederation of Elementary Schools organized an online conference dedicated to foster care. The aim of the conference was to raise awareness about the institution of foster care in Cyprus, as well as to inform the public about the role and the work of the organization on this issue.

The conference was very successful and managed to engage many people and media. During the conference, a message was broadcasted by the new Goodwill Ambassador for the Foster Care program of HFC, Panayiotis Mpougiouris, who is a very well-known actor in Greece and Cyprus.



Message by the Goodwill Ambassador:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_GUxk1YdE0w

The conference was broadcasted live through Facebook and it is now available on You tube:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q5Y6eNSFEb0>

Celebration of 12 years Hope For Children in Cyprus

HFC celebrated its 12th anniversary digitally! The achievements of the organization during these years, its new goals and wishes were communicated to the public through digital material, and video with statements from staff members.

Video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PBnOLs0bGBs&t=186s>

E-book:

https://issuu.com/hopeforchildrenrc/docs/hfc_timeline_final?fbclid=IwAR3Y5BHc1tUNlofBWTzIhltHxcmCehVL9VviN-pZ2I7iSiSn1k6ztmXzDU