

**9TH EUROPEAN FORUM ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD
(BRUSSELS, 3-4 JUNE 2015)**

**COORDINATION AND COOPERATION IN INTEGRATED CHILD PROTECTION SYSTEMS
– BACKGROUND PAPER FOR SESSION IV EFFECTIVE PROCEDURES –**

1. INTRODUCTION

The Commission Communication "[An EU Agenda for the rights of the child](#)¹" was adopted in 2011 to ensure the effectiveness of children's rights and to step up efforts in protecting and promoting the rights of the child. It contains actions to make the justice system more child-friendly and to protect children when they are vulnerable and are subject to or at risk of violations of their rights. The 2012 and 2013 Fora also addressed child protection systems.

For the 2015 Forum, **it is expected that all participants will have read the 19-page Forum reflection paper² on integrated child protection systems**, which is designed to inform and guide discussions – a copy is in your file.

The reflection paper proposes 10 principles for integrated child protection systems. These are firmly grounded in/on **General Comment No. 13 (2011) of the UN Committee on the rights of the child** on the right of the child to freedom from all forms of violence. A copy is also in your file³.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE SESSION(S)

There are four parallel sessions, addressing the various stages on the continuum of a child's interactions with child protection systems. All four themes are drawn from paragraphs 46-57 of General Comment No 13, as mentioned above. The Session themes are meant to be broad, encompassing different aspects, challenges, strengths, and actors, covering children in need of protection in all situations, and demonstrating how the EU contributes.

The four parallel sessions aim to bring together stakeholders that are part of these different parts of the chain in child protection, to usefully learn from each other, to network, to share good practice, and to ultimately stimulate cooperation and coordination and contribute to better outcomes for children.

This session focuses on:

- **Session 4: Effective procedures (including inter-sectoral cooperation, data collection, research, indicators etc.):** *This covers inter-sectoral coordination, mandated by protocols and memoranda of understanding, development and*

¹ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2011:0060:FIN:EN:PDF>

² http://ec.europa.eu/justice/fundamental-rights/files/2015_forum_roc_background_en.pdf

³ https://srsg.violenceagainstchildren.org/sites/default/files/documents/docs/crc-c-gc-13_EN.pdf

implementation of systematic and ongoing data collection and analysis, the development and implementation of a research agenda, and the development of measurable objectives and indicators in relation to policies, processes and outcomes for children and families.

3. QUESTIONS FOR SESSION PARTICIPANTS

1. How do you engage with other professionals/actors/sectors/agencies/bodies, both at national and cross-border level, to ensure good outcomes?
2. You may have identified some obstacles to successful coordination and cooperation. If so, what have you done, or what can be done by you to overcome these?
3. Can you give a concrete example of something you have done, or that someone else has done, to make a difference in how the different actors engage?
4. Are roles and responsibilities clear enough to allow for smooth coordination?
5. How would the principles set out in the Forum reflection paper serve to improve coordination and cooperation?
6. Are there children who fall through the gaps of existing coordination and cooperation mechanisms because there are groups of children or child protection situations that are not addressed by you or others?
7. How is the child's right to be heard in all matters that concern them integrated in coordination and cooperation mechanisms?

All panellists and all those who take the floor are invited to take account of the principles set out in the Forum reflection paper and to integrate them in their interventions.

While all panellists and participants will want to and indeed should make the necessary cross-references to other sessions, they should focus on the topics set out for their Session and avoid encroaching on the content of other sessions.

4. BACKGROUND READING

- [EU Strategy towards the eradication of trafficking of human beings 2012-2016 \(COM\(2012\)286 final\)](#)
- [Communication on the elimination of Female Genital Mutilation \(COM\(2013\)833 final\)](#)
- [EU Guidelines for the promotion and the protection of the rights of the child](#)
- [EU Action plan on unaccompanied minors \(COM\(2010\)213 final\)](#)
- [European disability strategy 2010-2020 \(COM\(2010\)636 final\)](#)

- [Guidance document related to the transposition and implementation of the Victims' Directive](#)
- [Mapping child protection systems in the EU \(2015\)](#)
- [EU Summary of contextual overviews on children's involvement in criminal judicial proceedings in the 28 Member States of the European Union, June 2014 – safeguards for child victims](#)
- EU Summary children in civil and administrative judicial proceedings (to be published week of 1 June 2015) probably here: <http://bookshop.europa.eu/children-in-civil-judicial-proceedings;http://bookshop.europa.eu/children-in-administrative-judicial-proceedings>
- [Child-friendly justice – Perspectives and experiences of professionals on children's participation in civil and criminal judicial proceedings in 10 EU Member States FRA, May 2015 FRA's fieldwork findings](#)
- [Looking at how EU Member States involve children in research \(2014\)](#)
- [Violence against women: an EU-wide survey \(2014\)](#)
- [EU LGBTI survey – European Union lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender survey \(2014\)](#)
- [The situation of Roma in 11 EU Member States \(2012\)](#)
- [Being Trans in the EU – Comparative analysis of the EU LGBT survey data \(2014\)](#)
- [Study to collect data on missing children in EU27 \(2013\)](#)
- [Separated, Asylum Seeking Children in the European Union Member States \(2010\)](#)
- [Detention of Third-Country Nationals in Return Procedures \(2010\)](#)
- [Fundamental Rights of Migrants in an Irregular Situation in the European Union \(2011\)](#)
- [European Migration Network, EU Synthesis report on the use of detention and alternatives to detention in the context of immigration policies \(2014\)](#)
- [The Connect Project, Reference Document Providing a Compilation of Relevant EU laws and policies on Unaccompanied Children](#)
- [Ravi Kohli, Protecting Asylum Seeking Children on the Move](#)