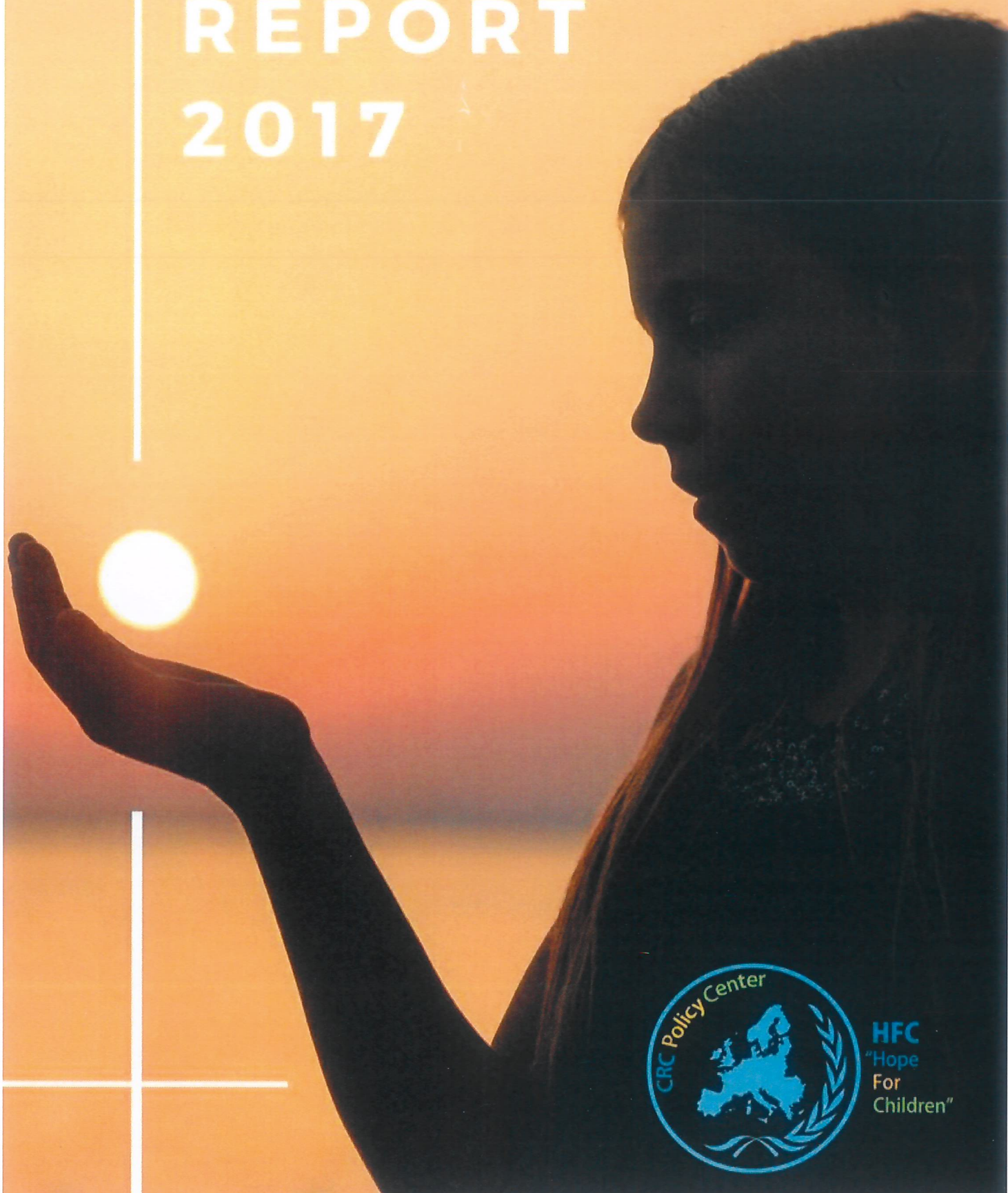


# ANNUAL REPORT 2017



**HFC**  
"Hope  
For  
Children"

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## Who We Are?

“Hope For Children” CRC Policy Center (HFC) is a Humanitarian, International and Independent Institution based in Nicosia, Cyprus. HFC was founded according to the standards and principles of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the European Union Law. “Hope For Children” CRC Policy Center works together with national, regional, and international advocacy institutions, working to reform child welfare systems on behalf of children dependent upon them for protection and care. The Organization aims to bring together judges, lawyers, psychologists, medical practitioners, mediators, counsellors, mental health workers, media representatives, child carers, teachers and allied professionals to contribute their expertise in a practical manner through education, legal advice, and other advocacy actions to promote and protect the interests of the most vulnerable amongst us - our children and youth.

## Vision and Mission

The vision of “Hope For Children” CRC Policy Center is to contribute to the protection and promotion of the rights of the child and to support the active participation of youth in society.

HFC’s doors are open to all children, regardless of religious, cultural, and other background. HFC also aims to improve the quality of life of socially disadvantaged children, such as asylum seekers, refugees, and children in war-torn areas. Through education and social mobilization, HFC works to raise awareness and promote respect towards all cultures, religions, and diversities within society. The Organization aims to achieve this purpose through the implementation of a variety of projects at a national, European, and global level. It does so through research, grassroots program design, and implementation and advisory services offered to governments and international institutions.

## Our Objectives

- **Empower** children and young people in Cyprus to make their views heard and to actively engage in promoting their rights.
- **Educate and raise awareness** regarding the suffering of disadvantaged children in Cyprus, especially of those coming from conflict-torn areas.
- **Sensitize** the public and enhance social responsibility in the Cypriot society through information dissemination and social activities.
- **Improve** the quality of life of disadvantaged children in Cyprus.
- **Conduct research** concerning children’s rights in Cyprus and conflict areas across the globe.
- **Provide** policy advice and recommendations at the local, regional, and international level.
- **Cooperate and establish** networks with other humanitarian institutions and agencies throughout the world to defend and promote children’s rights globally.

- **Improve** the reception of children from conflict areas in Cyprus.
- **Promote** volunteerism within the Cypriot community, particularly among youth, on issues concerning traumatized children.
- **Support** the development of new initiatives and institutions that seek to protect and promote the rights of disadvantaged children.
- **Provide** reports to relevant government departments to assist in policy development.
- **Organize** fundraising events.

## Staff Members

### **Mr Joseph Varughese**

Director-General

### **Humanitarian Division**

#### **Ms Andria Neocleous**

Director of the Humanitarian Division

#### **Ms Andria Angastiniotou**

Deputy Director of the Humanitarian Division

### **Department of Child Development**

#### **Ms Evi Neocleous**

Child Development Coordinator

#### **Ms Vasiliki Plainou**

Child Development officer

#### **Ms Anna Charalambous**

Educational Counselor

#### **Mr Michalis Kalakoutis**

Liaison Office

#### **Ms Ramona Sousanidou**

Educational Development Officer

#### **Ms Chrystalleni Ioannidou**

Child Development officer

#### **Ms Marine Messina**

Project Officer

### **Department of Social Work**

#### **Mr Giorgos Anastasiou**

Social Work Department Coordinator

#### **Ms Despina Louvia**

Youth Social Worker

#### **Ms Marianna Savva**

Social Worker

#### **Ms Sotiroula Panteli**

Social Worker

#### **Mr Michalis Michaelides**

Social Worker and Policy Officer

#### **Ms Maria Apostolidou**

Social Worker

#### **Ms. Fotini Toushi**

Social Worker

### **Department of Psychology**

#### **Ms Dialehti Chatzoudi**

Coordinator of the Psychology Department

### **Department of Child Protection**

#### **Ms Kristina Marku**

Coordinator of the Child Protection Department

**Mr Andreas Achilleos**

Social Counselor

**Ms Andromachi Pavlidou**

Clinical Psychologist

**Ms Constantina Gregoriou**

Psychologist

**Ms Catherine De Geynst**

Clinical Psychologist

**Ms Maria Koushiou**

School Psychologist

**Ms. Katerina Konikkou**

Clinical Psychologist

**Ms Vasiliki Kourri**

Clinical Psychologist

**Mr Vasilis Pavli**

School Psychologist

**Mr Stavros Trakoshis**

Child Counselor

**Children's House**

**Ms. Tania Masia**

Children's House Coordinator

**Ms. Mikaella Kokkinou**

Clinical Psychologist

**Ms. Zoi Kinikli**

Clinical Psychologist

**Mr. Marios Nicolaou**

Senior Social Worker

**Mr Andreas Mazeris**

Case Officer for Children

**Ms Katerina Melissari**

Child Protection Officer

**Mr Vaggelis Gettos**

Policy and Advocacy Officer

**Ms Clara Montalbano**

Child Protection Officer

**Ms. Alexandra Iacovidou Kameri**  
Social Worker

**Ms. Melina Dragoumi**  
Administrator

### **European Voluntary Service**

**Ms Mira Difallah**

**Ms Federica Olimpieri**

**Ms Eugenia Garcia Martinez**

**Ms Melinda Radai**

**Ms Deina Fortes Gomes**

**Ms Alexandra Zamfir**

**Ms Marie-Anne Mauvieux**

**Mr Malcolm Bisio**

**Ms Manuela Borni**

**Mr Vincent Dubois**

**Ms Vera Gomes**

**Ms Elisa Pedrini**

### **Department of Research & Development**

**Dr Sofia Leitao**  
Director of Research & Development

**Ms. Aliko Varella**  
Programmes Development Officer

**Ms. Anca Clivet Chatzimilioudis**  
EU Project Officer

**Ms Christine Mavrou**  
Project Officer

**Ms Christine Shahbenderian**  
Project Officer

**Ms. Rochelle Givens**  
Intern

**Ms Krisztina Cseke**  
Intern

**Ms Fanni Matyok**  
Intern

**Ms Katie Nicholas**  
Volunteer

**Ms Reka Balint**  
Intern

**Ms Veronica Juzgado**  
Trainee Eurodyssey

**European Voluntary Service**

**Ms. Elisabetta Mirone**

**Ms. Caterina Dazzo**

**Ms. Martina Cicaloni**

**Ms. Julia Andreou**  
Programme Assistance Officer

**Mr. Nelson Uche**  
Maintenance Officer

**Ms. Eleni Kadda**  
Communications and Fundraising

**Ms. Elpida Demetriou**  
Financial Controller

**Ms. Vanessa Oliveira**  
Administrative Assistant

**Mr. Marios Iosifides**  
IT Analyst

**Ms. Katerina Phedonos**  
Operational Department  
Coordinator



## Chairs of the CRC Policy Center / Representatives

**Amb. Prince Francis Origa**

Institute for Humanitarian Studies and  
Social Development (IHSD), Nigeria

**Maria Teresa Pizarro Beleza, PhD**

New University of Lisbon, Portugal

**Joëlle Long, PhD**

Assistant Professor at University of  
Torino, Italy

**Donata Gottardi, PhD**

University of Verona, Italy

**José Noronha Rodrigues, PhD**

University of the Azores, Portugal

**Brian K. Gran**

Case Western Reserve University,  
Ohio, USA

**Yvonne Vissing, PhD**

Salem State University,  
Massachusetts, USA

**Caroline Adolphsen, PhD**

Aarhus University, Denmark

**Maria Roth, PhD**

Babes-Bolyai University, Romania

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## Partnerships in International Networks

The Organization has initiated and established close cooperation with institutions and actors on an international and European level, including legislative, executive, and judicial instruments, and it is a member of significant networks to further promote the rights of the child on a global scale.

### **Our Organization is a member of the following:**

- Cooperating partner of the Council of Europe for the ONE in FIVE Campaign
- Coordinator for the Observatory for the Return of Unaccompanied Children
- National focal point for the Separated Children in Europe Programme
- Focal point for the European Network of Guardian Institutions
- National Focal Point for the European Juvenile Justice Observatory
- Member of the European Federation for Missing Children Europe
- Member of the European Network of Child Friendly Cities
- Member of the Destination Unknown Campaign
- Participant in the Fundamental Rights Platform of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)
- Official observer in the Lanzarote Committee of the Council of Europe

## How We Work

### **Advocacy and Policy**

HFC advises on lobbying strategies and tactics, and carries out advocacy efforts in collaboration with governments, NGOs, international and intergovernmental institutions, and private sectors to ensure that the rights of the child have a prominent position in their policy agendas.

### **Humanitarian Affairs**

HFC deals extensively with humanitarian affairs in the form of psychosocial and legal support to children in need, such as victims of abuse, unaccompanied and separated children.

### **Consultancy and Project Management**

The Institution offers expert advice on project writing/applications, implementation, and evaluation. HFC has a wide range of partner Institutions and networks, through which it seeks to increase funding options and deliver sustainable projects to the community.

### **Research and Publications**

HFC conducts a broad range of research of national and international interest, which is often related to its implemented projects and campaigns. Additionally, HFC compiles recommendations and commentaries for governmental and intergovernmental bodies.

### **Corporate Partners**

HFC works closely with corporations to strengthen the capacity of the corporate sector in responding to children's rights issues and improve corporations' practices for promoting the welfare of children around the world.

### **Chair Establishment**

The Chairs of CRC Policy Center nurture cooperation and collaborative action between Institutions around the world. In all of its activities, the Chairs act as an agent of knowledge on children's rights in policy and practice within the academic community by teaching, conducting research, and providing services to the community.

### **Programmes and Services**

The Institution implements a multitude of programmes and campaigns, covering a wide range of topics relating to children's rights, including: child sexual abuse, bullying, child poverty, missing children, and non-formal human rights education. HFC provides social, legal, and psychological support to children and their families on such matters.

### **Mainstreaming**

In all its work, HFC operates under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), signed in 1992. Consequently, our policy is to promote the rights of the children. According to our child protection policy, the child relation issue is one of our priorities and we pay strict attention to the situation and particular needs of each child.

HFC does not discriminate on any basis, be it gender, nationality, religion or sexual orientation. In harmony with this principle, we attach great importance to a multicultural staff environment. Several employees are from different European countries and HFC is also pleased to work with volunteers from all over the world. Similarly, in the implementation of its diverse activities, HFC fosters a mix of people, whatever their origin.

## Programmes, Projects and Campaigns

### Programmes

#### *Beat Bullying Programme*

The Beat Bullying Programme aims to raise public awareness in the educational community through the development of methods of identification, prevention and handling of bullying incidents, including 'cyber bullying'.

"Hope For Children" CRC Policy Center delivers seminars and trainings in schools for the establishment of peer-to-peer support and education groups with the cooperation of the Ministry of Education and Culture and the Observatory for School Violence. Moreover, the organization has developed the mobile application "HFCBeatBullying" as a tool to prevent and tackle bullying which can be used in 23 EU countries. It contains practical advice but also direct access to the European Helpline for Children and Adolescents 116111.

Specifically, the goals of the Beat Bullying Campaign are to conduct high-level research on the leading causes of the manifestation of bullying and set-up student teams for educating/training their peers to serve as role models against bullying. It involves students, parents, teachers, administration and key social organizations within the community. Teacher trainings and parent workshops are an integral part of the holistic campaign.

A relevant event regarding the Campaign was the Anti-Bullying Week which took place at the Grammar Junior School in Larnaca between 30th October and 3rd November.



*An interactive workshop delivered by professionals, interns and students from "Hope For Children" CRC Policy Center and the European University Cyprus in the occasion of the Anti-Bullying Week at the Grammar Junior School in Larnaca.*

### *CRC Campus Club*

From September 2017, "Hope For Children" CRC Policy Center has implemented the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) Campus Club at the English School and the American International School in Cyprus. The purpose of this programme is to educate children on their rights established in the Convention on the Rights of the Child and highlight the current issues that young people face in the event that their rights are violated. Under the supervision of a facilitator from "Hope For Children" CRC Policy Center, the students will explore various topics, such as 'cyber bullying', human rights violations, and gender-based violence and discrimination.

The participants commit to attending the Club meetings after classes once a week throughout the academic year. In particular, from September to December the students understand how children can exercise their rights and respond effectively to violations through experiential workshops, games, role playing and other activities, learning about the resources available with regard to the issues covered. In December, after the completion of the non-formal education training, a formal ceremony is held in which students receive certificates, establishing them as Student Ambassadors of "Hope For Children" CRC Policy Center. During the second half of the school year, January through June, the students can exercise their ambassadorial skills. With the assistance of the Club supervisors, students are encouraged to create, organize, and host various events - such as workshops and awareness-raising campaigns - to educate their peers regarding what they have learned in the first part of the CRC Campus Club, as well as reaching their communities beyond the school environment. The Student Ambassadors of "Hope For Children" CRC Policy Center have also the opportunity of assisting the Institution at its various events in an official capacity. Through participation in the CRC Campus Clubs, students strengthen their leadership, communication, organization, critical thinking, and observation skills, as well as professionalism.



*Students from the American International School during a CRC Campus Club activity.*

## Foster Care Programme

Foster Care Programme is a "Pilot Programme regarding Foster Care for Unaccompanied Minors, Asylum seekers/beneficiaries of international protection". The Programme, started in December 2016 and co-funded by the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund of the European Funds Unit (90%) and the Republic of Cyprus (10%), has the aim to recruit, train, and assess potential foster parents to undertake the care of unaccompanied children in need of international protection.

Specifically, the objective is to promote the institution of foster care through the identification, evaluation, training and long term observation/monitoring and support of candidate foster parents. The Programme is implemented in cooperation with the Social Welfare Services which are the legal guardians of the unaccompanied children in Cyprus, and as such are in charge of placing the unaccompanied children in approved foster families. It is worth noting that the staff of the Programme is comprised of specialized professionals, registered psychologists, and social workers.

This Programme is a ground-breaking and innovative step taken by Cyprus towards the effective protection, care and reinstatement of unaccompanied children that are either asylum seekers or international protection beneficiaries in the framework of the foster family institution.



### Pilot Programme regarding Foster Care for Unaccompanied Minors Asylum Seekers/Beneficiaries of International Protection

Solidarity, Progress, Prosperity



The programme is co-funded by the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (90%) and by the Republic of Cyprus (10%)

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Flyer of the Foster Care Programme.

## 116000 European Missing Children Hotline and Cyprus Mediation Service

"Hope For Children" CRC Policy Center is jointly operating the 116000 European hotline for Missing Children together with the Association for the Prevention and Handling of Violence in the Family (SPAVO). Since September 2016, the 116000 hotline is expanded, both in the population reach and the services provided. Now, couples in conflict will be able to use the **cross border family mediation service** as a preventive or an intervention tool, whether their residence is in Cyprus or in

any other European country. The establishment of the mediation service and the training of the staff is funded by the European Commission.



116000 Hotline logo.

Overall, families in conflict in Cyprus, will be provided with a more amicable manner of solving their differences, eliminating in this way possible harmful consequences such as an increase in parental abduction rates. Through the provision of the cross border family mediation it is aimed to improve the procedures in which parents settle their in-between conflicts and to decrease the psychological harm that can be caused to the child/children

through the separation time of the family. The mediation can provide a more respectful, sensitive and impartial approach on behalf of the couples in conflict and their children, the feeling of trust; thus support and protection will be nurtured. Through acquiring mediation, children's rights will be safeguarded as well as their psychological well-being.

The type and number of persons benefiting from the project are the following: at least 6 hotline operators from HFC and SPAVO are trained and certified and also the staff of the 116000 service; a number of relevant governmental and non-governmental organizations; more than 6000 stakeholders (general public, families in conflict and representatives from relevant organizations).



## Projects

### *CHAPTER. "Children Help Movement Against Physical Threatening and Emotional Repression"*

To take the necessary steps to ensure the defence of children's rights against physical violence, "Hope For Children" CRC Policy Center, in partnership with PULSE Foundation (Bulgaria), EVRIS Foundation (Iceland), National Network for Children (Bulgaria) and ADFP Foundation (Portugal), has implemented the CHAPTER Project in order to create a comprehensive program of care for the empowerment of children and their parents, as well as a closed cycle of prevention, detection, guidance, rehabilitation and integration of children and young people suffering from corporal punishment (CP). Co-funded by the European Commission, the Project started on 1st December 2016 with the following specific objectives:

- To develop a methodological approach for presenting the problem and rethinking CP;
- To raise awareness on the consequences of CP has on children and youth;
- To explore and disseminate "best practices" at international level;
- To coordinate the efforts of various social structures and communities to work in direction of legislative changes and virtually eliminate the issue.

The Chapter Kick-off Meeting took place on 27th and 28th February in Reykjavik. It was organized by Pulse Foundation and it was the occasion for the partners to meet for the first time face-to-face.

The project is co-funded by the European Commission (Ref. JUST/2015/RDAP/AG/CORP/9176).



*"Hope For Children" CRC Policy Center working on stopping corporal punishment against children during a CHAPTER Project meeting with partners from Iceland and Bulgaria.*

## *Child Friendly JT. "The Right of Minors to Information, Translation and Interpretation in Criminal Proceedings: Development of Child-friendly Justice Tools"*

Within the Child Friendly JT Project, "Hope For Children" CRC Policy Center and other partners, co-ordinated by Fundación Diagrama Intervención Psicosocial



*Vaggelis Gettos, Policy and Advocacy Officer in "Hope For Children" CRC Policy Center, attending the first meeting of the Child Friendly JT Project in Belgium.*

(Spain), aims to contribute to the correct implementation of Directives 2012/13/EU on the right of information in criminal proceedings, 2010/64/EU on the right to interpretation and translation in criminal proceedings and (EU) 2016/800 on procedural safeguards for children suspected or accused in criminal proceedings.

The main objective of the Project, co-funded by the

DG Justice and Consumers of the European Commission, is related to the promotion of child friendly justice by facilitating the comprehension of the information provided to the minors in conflict with the law, as well as their parents/holders of parental responsibility, through the use of a language adapted to their stage of development.

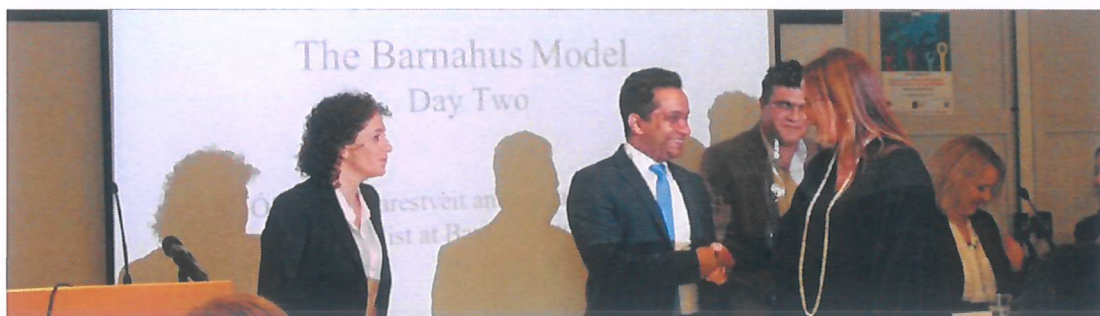
The project is co-funded by the DG Justice and Consumers, European Commission (Ref. JUST-AG-2016/JUST-AG-2016-06).

### *Children's House*

Children's House is named after Barnahus (Icelandic for "a house for children") which is recognised as a leading child-friendly, multidisciplinary and interagency model first started in Iceland in 1998 in order to respond to child victims and witnesses of sexual violence. The purpose of Children's House is to provide each child with a coordinated and effective response through a child-friendly supporting framework, as well as preventing re-traumatisation during investigation and court proceedings. More specifically, Children's House offers a child-friendly, safe environment for children, bringing together all relevant services under one roof.

In carrying out this role, the Children's House offers a one-stop-shop approach, embracing cooperation and coordination between relevant authorities and agencies such as Cyprus Police, Social Welfare Services, Mental Health Services and Medical Services, in one child-friendly premise operated and staffed by HFC.

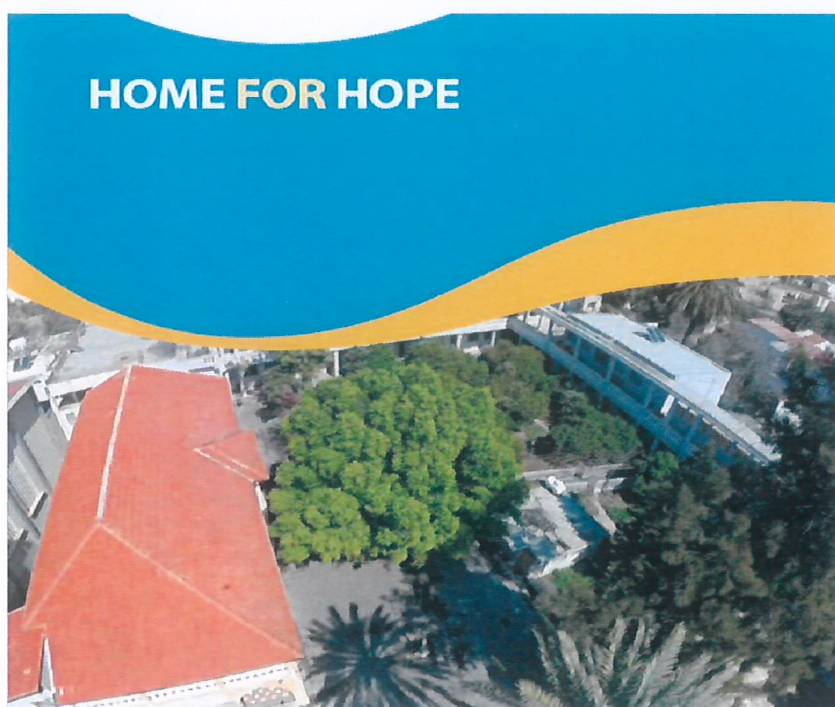
The Children's House also plays an important role in enhancing awareness and knowledge of sexual abuse against children with key stakeholders.



*Interdisciplinary training for professionals about the Children's House in Cyprus.*

The project is funded by the Ministry of Labour, Welfare and Social Insurance with the supervision and monitoring by the Social Welfare Services.

#### *Children's Shelters "Homes For Hope"*



*Top view of the Children's Shelters "Homes for Hope".*

Since July 2014 "Hope For Children" CRC Policy Center has been running, with the cooperation of the Social Welfare Services, the Children's Shelters "Homes for Hope" (Ref. CY/2015/AMIF/SO1.NO1.1.1), the first private children's shelters in Cyprus for unaccompanied children.

Given the need for accommodation and supporting a greater number of unaccompanied children, third-country nationals in Cyprus, the European Funds Unit of the Ministry of Interior published a new call for submission of proposals regarding the extension of the accommodation infrastructures. "Hope For Children" CRC Policy Center, along with the Nicosia Municipality Multifunctional Foundation and Action Global Communications as partners, began the implementation of the project regarding the operation of two shelters with maximum accommodation capacity of 42 children, from November 2015 until November 2017, with the possibility of renewal for another two years. The building renovation that has taken place for this purpose, is funded by the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (90%) and the Republic of Cyprus (10%). Also the operation expenses for both shelters are covered by the aforementioned Fund and the Republic of Cyprus.

The shelters aim to provide unaccompanied children with more than just an accommodation, which means guaranteeing multi-disciplinary and holistic services to the children that cover all the aspects of their daily lives and attend to their needs in the fullest extent possible.

The two children's shelters provide their services based on models that are considered of good practices in other EU member states and are adjusted to Cyprus standards. The referral of the children to the shelters is always made by the Director of the Social Welfare Services, who according to the National Law is the legal guardian of unaccompanied children in Cyprus. Thus, the services to the minors are provided through the close cooperation and monitoring of the Social Welfare Services. The services offered are divided and grouped under three main pillars that form the operating mechanism of the shelters: a) Rehabilitation services, b) Integration services, c) Durable solution services

*CREUS. "Developing and nurturing the vocational transversal skills of disadvantaged young people through creative, non-formal learning in unconventional spaces"*

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 maximise their potential in terms of fostering social, cultural and economic inclusion through access to initial VET and labour markets. Its specific objectives are the followings:

- 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.

The CREUS Project, started in October 2017, is funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union, which aims at promoting the social inclusion of vulnerable young (Ref. 2017-1-UK01-KA202-036681).



*Working with CREUS project partners on the social inclusion of vulnerable young people through creative, non-formal learning.*

### *CONVEY. "Counteracting Sexual Violence and Harassment: Engaging Youth in Schools in Digital Education on Gender Stereotyping"*

Violence against women is a brutal manifestation of gender inequality and, above all, a violation of human rights. To address this issue, from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2016 until February 2019, "Hope For Children" CRC Policy Center, together with other partners from different EU countries, is committed to implementing the CONVEY Project, co-funded by the Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme of the DG Justice and Consumers of the European Commission. Its main objective is to prevent sexual violence and harassment, and to modify violent behaviours against women in an innovative way. Indeed, the Project adopts a participatory approach which aims to empower young people between 14 and 18 years-old from grassroots through the use of new technologies as means to promote gender equality and mutual respect.

Particularly in 2017, the activities included:

- Video with testimonials on the consequences of sexual harassment and sexual violence as experienced by women and girls developed by each partner. The videos are available at the following link: <http://conveyproject.eu/videos-by-survivors/>;
- Peer consultation workshops held by young people to contribute, with their perspective on gender stereotypes, sexual violence and harassment, to the development of the online simulation game;

- Expert groups to contribute to the development of the game, to learn from the experts and survivors' knowledge and experiences, to unveil the factors linked to gender stereotypes and gender roles contributing to sexual violence and sexual harassment;



*Image portrayed the participants of the Convey Expert Group Meeting in Cyprus from the official Facebook page of the organization.*

- Social media campaign against sexual violence and sexual harassment on the Project's Facebook, Twitter and Instagram pages.

On 18<sup>th</sup> July "Hope For Children" CRC Policy Center hosted the Second Expert Group Meeting in Cyprus to discuss the contents of CONVEY project and prepare the storyline of the survivors' testimonial videos. The meeting was attended by Sanna Korpela, psychologist, Marios Nicolaou, senior social worker, Anca Clivet, researcher on gender

issues, Katerina Constantinou Lluo, videographer, and two survivors of sexual violence. On the occasion of 25<sup>th</sup> November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, "Hope For Children" CRC Policy Center and each partner have developed the videos about the testimonies provided by the survivors of sexual abuse in order to support the victims of gender-based violence and encouraged them to "speak up" and "say NO to sexual violence".



*Kick-off meeting of the CONVEY Project in Palermo.*

The project is funded by the Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme of the DG Justice and Consumers, European Commission (Ref. EC JUST/2015/action grants/SEXV).

### *European Voluntary Service*

The European Voluntary Service (EVS) is part of the Erasmus+, the EU Programme to support education, training, youth and sport in Europe. EVS encourages young

people to participate in volunteering projects with the aim of actively contributing to achieving the goals of an organization abroad.

In 2017, "Hope For Children" CRC Policy Center hosted two generations of EVS for the "Home for Hope" Project at Children's Shelters and the first generation for the "Stand Up for Children's Rights, Initiative and Research" Project at the Headquarters.

### EVS for "Home for Hope" Project

The EVS project (Ref. 2017-2-CY02-KA105-001082), based at the Shelters, has developed a fertile ground for EVS activities. In particular, it aims to:



*EVS and staff at the training "Unaccompanied Children (UAC): Skills, Difficulties and Approach" delivered by Tania Masia, Children's House Coordinator.*

- contribute to the rehabilitation and integration of the unaccompanied minors hosted by the Institution;
- assist with psychosocial support and counselling;
- establish mechanisms of durable solution for family tracing, assessment and reunification;
- provide non-formal education seminars and other youth initiatives in order to tackle social exclusion and discrimination, and guarantee protection and safety to the unaccompanied minors.

### EVS for "Stand Up for Children's Rights, Initiative and Research" Project

In 2017, the EVS Project also started at the "Hope For Children" CRC Policy Center's Headquarters (Ref. 2017-2-CY02-KA105-001081) with the main objective of fostering mutual understanding amongst diverse young people, promote tolerance and acceptance, and develop transferable skills in the field of children's rights at the level of research and designing concrete initiatives.

In particular, the Headquarters' EVS have been involved in the following specific activities:

- support and administrative activities, where the volunteers have assisted in the progress of the regular schedule and activities of the department;
- research (primary and secondary), surveys tasks, country reports about the themes and topics connected with the promotion and the protection of children's rights, gender equality and gender-based violence, bullying, child-friendly justice systems, and so on;
- development of a creative personal project related to the themes of the organization.

*JudEx+. "Towards a Child-friendly Justice in cases of Sexual Violence against Children"*

All children, adolescents and youth around the world, especially those who have been victims of sexual violence and abuse, should enjoy the rights conferred by the United Nation Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). "Hope For Children" CRC Policy Center in partnership with other partners coordinates the JudEx+ Project which aims at creating a plan of action to support a positive judicial experience for children victims of sexual violence.

The 24-months Project, co-funded by the Rights, Equality & Citizenship Programme of the European Commission, has the following specific objectives:

- To promote Article 12 of the UNCRC and the Council of Europe "Convention on the Protection of Children Against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse";
- To improve the skills of professionals involved in representing children in judicial proceedings.

The Partnership meeting took place on 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> March in Linköping, Sweden.

Among the activities delivered in 2017, the followings:



**JudEx+**  
Towards a child-friendly justice in cases of sexual violence against children.



Co-funded by the  
Rights, Equality &  
Citizenship Programme  
of the European Union

*Flyer of the JudEx+ Project, extracted by the 1st National Forum on the Rights of the Child's website (<http://forum.uncrcpc.org/>).*

- Development of a transnational and multidisciplinary training programme on child-friendly justice in cases of sexual violence against children for legal practitioners, police officers, welfare services' staff;
- Redaction of the Justice & Rights for Children (JRC) manual contemplating, in a child-friendly manner, information on judicial procedures and children's rights adapted to local contexts;



- Development of a Windows mobile/desktop application, "Kiki and the Children's House", to support professionals working with young children in judicial procedures in cases of sexual violence;
- Final national conferences.

The project is funded by the Rights, Equality & Citizenship Programme of the European Commission (Ref. JUST/2014/RCHI/AG/PROF/7036).

### *PROMISE II. "Commitment and Capacity Building for the European Barnahus Movement"*

With the implementation of the PROMISE II project, "Hope For Children" CRC Policy Center and partners aim at promoting the Barnahus (Children's House) model, which has been recognised by governments, practitioners, children and care-givers as a good practice in protecting child victims. The model embraces multi-disciplinary and interagency cooperation between social services, police, prosecutors, judges, paediatrics and child/adolescent psychiatry. The project, co-funded by the European Commission, has the following specific objectives:

- Engaging key authorities, agencies and professionals through the development of strategic national exchange, roadmap and framework;
- Improving the staff competences through tailored training to Barnahus staff;
- Raising national and European awareness on the topic.

The project, started in December 2017, is co-funded by the European Commission (Ref. REC-CHILD-AG-2016/REC-CHILD-AG-2016-01764236).

### *"Social Skills Development Training"*

"Hope For Children" CRC Policy Center has been completed successfully, together with the partner Nicosia Municipality Multifunctional Foundation, the project titled "Social Skills Development Training" (Ref. YE/YA/TAME/01.2016) which has been co-funded by the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (90%) of the European Funds Unit and the Republic of Cyprus (10%). The project aimed to socially integrate third-country nationals residing in Cyprus whilst developing social skills in order to enhance their prospects of social integration in the host country and the European Union, aiming to prevent delinquency and radicalization.



More than 160 people attended the trainings, both adults and minors, and the thematic involved issues such as racism and acceptance of diversity, the role of women in European societies and gender equality, adjustment and the possibility of change through loss, the ways of communication in a social environment, whilst aiming to inform and raise awareness in participants on the

*Participants at a session of "Social Skills Development Training" coordinated by Clara Montalbano, Child Protection Officer at "Hope For Children" CRC Policy Center until November 2017.*

aspects of social life and culture in Cyprus and the European Union. The training sessions included presentations and experiential workshops instructed by specially trained facilitators of "Hope For Children" CRC Policy Center and the Nicosia Multipurpose Municipal Centre with the assistance of interpreters. In the sessions, non-formal learning methods were adopted, so the participants had the opportunity to more easily digest the information provided by each thematic session. With the use of experiential workshops combined with presentations, participants managed to link their own personal experiences to the subject of each training session.

### *SupportVoC. "Development of a Generic Support Services Model to enhance the Rights of Victims of Crime"*

In order to contribute to the effective and coherent application of EU criminal law in the area of the rights of victims of crime and, in particular, to the implementation and practical application of the Directive 2012/29/EU, "Hope For Children" CRC Policy Center and other partners, coordinated by Universitat de Barcelona, will implement the SupportVoC Project in Cyprus, Greece, Bulgaria and Italy with the following objectives:



*Kristina Marku and Christine Mavrou, respectively "Hope For Children" CRC Policy Center's Child Protection Coordinator and Project Officer, at the SupportVoc's kick-off meeting in Barcelona.*

- Developing a model and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for generic victim support services that will be flexible and adaptable to different national or regional contexts;
- Promoting the cooperation between competent authorities and other agencies or organizations coming into contact with victims.

The project, funded by the DG Justice and Consumers of the European Commission (Ref. JUST-AG-2016-760641), had its kick-off meeting in Barcelona in November, attending by Kristina Marku, Child Protection Coordinator, Christine Mavrou, Project Officer, and the representatives of the partners.

## Forthcoming Projects

### ❖ *ALFACA II. "Alternative Family Care"*

Through the implementation of ALFACA II project, "Hope For Children" CRC Policy Center and other partners aim to support capacity building on rights of the child and child protection for practitioners and professionals working for and with migrant children in EU territory. Specifically, the project, co-funded by the European Commission, has the objectives of:

- Increasing awareness and spreading practical knowledge on the importance of providing FBC to vulnerable groups of children in the participating countries (Italy, Greece, Belgium, Croatia, Cyprus);
- Providing the possibility to set up FBC as a reasonable alternative to institutional care where it hardly exists;
- Providing ALFACA-trainings directly to professionals in several EU Member States and in the countries of partners.

The ALFACA II project is co-financed by the European Commission (Ref. JUST/2014/RCHI/AG/PROF).

### ❖ *INTEGRA. "Multidisciplinary Mentorship program to support the entrepreneurship of children in care and young care-leavers"*

The latest approved INTEGRA Project (Ref. REC-AG-2017/REC-RCHI-PROF-AG-2017-785703) aims at raising awareness and building capacity of professionals through a holistic combination of high quality professional practices, innovative framework of working, as well as empowering vulnerable young people who are at varying stages in their process of leaving care. Specifically, the project will address capacity building of professionals working for and with children in protecting their rights through a long-term Multidisciplinary Mentorship program in order to:

- Understand children's entrepreneurship skills and effectively provide social and entrepreneurial support to children in care and young care-leavers;
- Empowering children in care and care-leavers in the context of their transition to independence through the creation of "Children in Care Consultancy Groups";
- Establishing internship protocols in collaboration with job management centers and educators to allow the minors to learn through experience (Vocational Educational and Training - VET system) before leaving the care system.

In particular, the mentorship process is rooted in the participatory approach within the "one-stop-shop" dynamic practice where the main care givers will be equipped as Leaving Care Mentor (LCM) profile.

❖ *MEDIS. "Mediterranean Inclusive Schools"*

"Hope For Children" CRC Policy Center and partners, coordinated by World University Service of the Mediterranean (WUSMED) will implement the MEDIS Project (Ref. 592206-EPP-1-2017-1-ES-EPPKA3-IPI-SOC-IN) consists of different phases carrying out to prepare the professionals from the educational settings through a structured online courses and face-to-face local workshops with experts. During these courses the school educators will acquire the required knowledge for the next phase consisting of the practical implementation of the Programme at their schools.

The following phase will be dedicated to the first round of the pilot actions aimed at validating the MEDIS Programme at several primary and secondary schools at the Mediterranean region to assess its effectiveness in these countries. It will serve as a basis for improvement in the adaptation of the Programme to the particular needs of these countries/region/localities.

Finally, final steps will be oriented at upscaling the Programme and rising awareness of the public authorities and the society in order to guarantee the sustainability of the Programme itself.

## Campaigns

### *Choose Hope Campaign 2017*

On the occasion of the 28th United Nations "Universal Children's Day" celebrated on 20th of November 2017, "Hope For Children" CRC Policy Center with the support of Action Global Communications organised, from 20<sup>th</sup> November to 14<sup>th</sup> December, the "Choose Hope" Campaign with the aim to highlight its engagement in the protection of children's rights by promoting feelings of joy and happiness. The fundamental element of the campaign is the "blue nose" which symbolises hope and sensitivity towards children. By wearing a "blue nose" as a simple gesture of love, the Organization was committed to spreading the message of "Choose Hope" and raising awareness in the community.



*One of the advertisement supporting the "Choose Hope" Campaign.*



The initiative was promoted through the Organisation's social media platforms and the participation of the Organisation in dedicated events which also involved schools, such as the English School of Nicosia. These include, in particular, the launch of the Campaign in the Larnaka Marathon on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> of November, and other events which took place at the Mall of Cyprus on 26<sup>th</sup> of

November and at the Goethe Christmas Fair on 3<sup>rd</sup> of December.

*One of the events of the Campaign organised at the English School of Nicosia.*

## Meetings, Workshops and Trainings

### Meetings/Conferences

#### 17th Meeting of the Lanzarote Committee

The meeting took place in Strasbourg from 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2017. It brought together representatives of the 42 states that have ratified the Lanzarote Convention of the Council of Europe, as well as representatives of other states, international institutions and organisations. "Hope For Children" CRC Policy Center, which has observer Status at the Lanzarote Committee, participated in the event being represented by Kristina Marku, Child Protection Coordinator.



*The participants of the meeting in Strasbourg.*

#### 18th Meeting of the Lanzarote Committee

The meeting took place from 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> May 2017 in Strasbourg. In addition to the monitoring of the implementation of the Lanzarote Convention by States Parties, items on the agenda also covered in particular:

- the draft Interpretative Opinion on the "Applicability of the Lanzarote Convention to sexual offences against children facilitated through the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs)";
- the draft Thematic Questionnaire to launch the monitoring round on "Criminal use of child self-generated sexual images and videos facilitated by Information and Communication Technologies";
- the situation in Hungary: analysis of the additional information requested to Hungary by the Lanzarote Committee Chairperson in a letter addressed to the Hungarian Prime Minister on 22 March 2017;

- the urgent monitoring round: exchange of views and decision on the follow-up of the recommendations of the special report on "Protecting children affected by the refugee crisis from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse".

The Child Protection Coordinator, Kristina Marku, attended the meeting on behalf of "Hope For Children" CRC Policy Center.



*18<sup>th</sup> Meeting on the Lanzarote Committee participants in Strasbourg.*

### **Conference for the celebration of the 10 years of the Lanzarote Convention**

In occasion of the celebration of 10 years of the Lanzarote Convention, a conference on "Ending sexual exploitation and abuse of children: towards a world of trust" was organised gathering representatives from all the States Parties to the Convention, relevant NGOs and other key players. The conference took place on 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> October 2017 in Strasbourg. In this occasion the Child Protection Coordinator of "Hope For Children" CRC Policy Center, Kristina Markou presented key challenges and first hand experiences on the prevention and protection of the children affected by the refugee crisis.



*Conference for the celebration of the 10 years of the Lanzarote Convention.*



## European Youth Week

The European Youth Week took place in Brussels with the intent to gather the youth stakeholders for exchanging and debating on what could be the future European Youth Strategy from 2019 onward. Clara Montalbano, Child Protection Officer of "Hope For Children" CRC Policy Center until November 2017, participated to the event from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> May 2017.



*Participants of the European Youth Week in Brussels.*

## European Solidarity Corps Stakeholders Forum

The Forum took place on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2017 in Brussels. The European Commission organized this consultation with the stakeholders to gather views and suggestions on the features of the upcoming legislative proposal which will regulate the European Solidarity Corps. Relevant European personalities such as the President of the EU Parliament, Antonio Tajani, and the President of the EU Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker, participated to the event. Clara Montalbano, Child Protection Officer, gave a speech presenting her experience as a former European Voluntary Service participant at "Hope For Children" CRC Policy Center and the Institution's work in the field of youth.



*Participants at the European Solidarity Corps Stakeholders Forum.*

## 30 Years of Erasmus+ Celebration Anniversary

The former EVS, Clara Montalbano, Laura Sirabella and Daniella Barka participated in the ceremony for the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Erasmus (2014-2020 Erasmus+) in Paris, which was celebrated on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2017. The event was organised under the residency of the French Republic, the European Parliament and the European Commission.

The main purpose of the event was to give to all the participants to the programme in those 30 years, the opportunity to share their experiences and to celebrate this European success in the field of education, sport and professional training.

Within the event, Clara, Laura and Daniella were awarded for their participation, and for the victory of the 1<sup>st</sup> prize of the EVS Film Festival 2016 for the video "Together above the borders" realized thanks to the collaboration of young Greek and Turkish Cypriots. The award was delivered by the French Minister of Education, Najat Vallaud-Belkacem, the European Commissioner of Economic



*30 years of Erasmus Plus celebration in Paris.*

Affairs, Pierre Moscovici, the Vice-President of European Parliament, Sylvie Guillaume, the Italian Secretary of State and European affairs, Sandro Gozi, and the French Secretary of State and European affairs, Harlem Désir.

### **1st National Forum on the Rights of the Child**

In the framework of the EU project JudEx+ "Towards a child-friendly justice in cases of sexual violence against children", "Hope For Children" CRC Policy Center organised the 1st National Forum on the Rights of the Child to disseminate the outcomes of the project and to promote the sustainability of child-friendly practices in judicial proceedings in cases of sexual violence against children. The Forum took place on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2017 in Nicosia.

The event followed the successful collaboration between "Hope For Children" CRC Policy Center and the national stakeholders throughout the 2 years of project implementation, with the purpose of strengthening and sustaining multiservice collaboration on child-friendly practices and children's rights.

The Forum has seen the participation of national stakeholders in order to establish a coordinated multiservice approach to judicial proceedings respectful and inclusive of children's rights. Thanks to the participation of partner organisations coming from Italy, Sweden, Slovenia, Bulgaria and the United Kingdom, the event allowed the exchange of good-practices at the European level.



*1st National Forum on the Rights of the Child in Nicosia.*

### **7<sup>th</sup> Regional Consultation and 3<sup>rd</sup> Policy Dialogue of Child Helplines in Europe**

The 7<sup>th</sup> Regional Consultation and 3<sup>rd</sup> Policy Dialogue of Child Helplines in Europe was held from 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> October 2017 in Brussels. Child helplines, youth representatives and key stakeholders from the Region exchanged meaningful experiences around quality of data collection and building of new partnerships.



*Participants at the 7th Regional Consultation and 3rd Policy Dialogue of Child Helplines in Europe.*

The overarching focus was on violence against children on the basis of gender identity and sexual orientation, child online protection, and children on the move. "Hope For Children" CRC Policy Center, represented by the current Coordinator of Psychology Department, Dialehti Chatzoudi, and the Association for the Prevention and Handling of the Violence in the Family (SPAVO) attended as a Consortium.

### **General Assembly Meeting of Missing Children Europe**

The General Assembly Meeting of Missing Children Europe took place on 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> October 2017 in Brussels. The event started with a meeting of the Board of Directors, while at the same time the members had the opportunity to join Missing Children Europe's workshops regarding its strategic plan, runaway studies and children missing in migration. After that, the



*Participants at the General Assembly Meeting of Missing Children Europe.*

General Assembly focused on formal decisions, such as the adoption of the strategy 2018 – 2022, the approval of the work programme and the budget 2018, together with some recommendations for full membership. Dialehti Chatzoudi, Coordinator of Psychology Department, attended the Assembly on behalf of "Hope For Children" CRC Policy Center.

### **"Improving child participation in justice and beyond"**

The conference took place on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2017 in the premises of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) in Vienna. The participants were representatives of NGOs, European governments, judges and children who participated in the judicial system as witnesses and shared their experiences in the conference. Participants from various European countries reported the practices followed in their respective countries. Andrea Mazeris, Case Officer for Children, represented "Hope For Children" CRC Policy Center and talked about JudEx+ project "Towards a child-friendly justice in cases of sexual violence against children" with the purpose of informing about the practices currently followed in Cyprus.



*Participants of the conference "Improving child participation in justice and beyond" in Vienna.*

### **Civil society Consultation on the Global Compact on Immigration**

The Cross-Regional Center for Refugees and Migrants organized two meetings in Beirut, Lebanon, in order to discuss about the Global Compact on Immigration.

The first meeting took place on 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> of July 2017 and focused on the following themes:

- the best interest of the child;
- child protection, child labour and other risks faced by migrant children;
- the right to family life, non-separation and family reunification;
- social integration and access to social rights;
- international cooperation for protecting children's rights in the context of migration.

The second meeting took place on 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> August 2017 and revolved around:

- the labour and the human rights of migrants;
- detention practices across the area;
- how crisis affect refugees and migrants both in their home country and in host countries;
- the different state policies related to immigration;
- children on the move: educational issues, gender discrimination and integration of minors;
- reintegration in terms of voluntary return of refugees and its challenges.

The meetings were a chance to discuss about how humanitarian organisations can influence the law makers of their respective countries, so that the Global Compact

could take in consideration the specific issues regarding migration and refugees in the different areas. Andreas Mazeris, Case Officer for Children, attended on behalf of "Hope For Children" CRC Policy Center.



*Participants of the Global Contact consultation in Lebanon.*

## **Workshops**

### **Strategic planning workshop on the next phase of the "Destination Unknown Campaign"**

The strategic planning workshop took place in Malta on 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> January 2017. The main organisations met up to decide the following steps about the "Destination Unknown Campaign". The "Destination Unknown Campaign" is an international campaign for the protection of children, war victims or forced refugees. The event was organised by Terres des Hommes and focused on the objective of protecting children on the move. "Hope For Children" CRC Policy Center was represented by the Child Protection Coordinator, Kristina Marku.



*Representatives of the organizations meeting up in Malta.*

## **Workshop on the role of youth work for the inclusion and participation of young refugees**

Marianna Savva, Social Worker, participated in the "Workshop on the role of youth work for the inclusion and participation of young refugees" in Thessaloniki from 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> December 2017.



*Participants of the Workshop in Thessaloniki.*

The main aim of the workshop was to create a space for learning about approaches, normally used in youth work and policy for supporting the inclusion and participation of young refugees.

During the workshop, the participants had the opportunity to analyse thematic aspects which represent challenges for the lives of young refugees, as well as visiting local organizations working on inclusion and participation, and sharing good practices.

## **Alternatives to Detention Workshop**

The workshop took place on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2017 at the Cyprus Refugees Council offices.

The main topic was about how to reduce immigration detention while exploring alternative ways to it. In order to support a system which does not rely on immigration detention, researches and case studies of successful alternatives were showed. The current situation in Cyprus was also taken into account together with a focus on challenges and opportunities.

Kristina Marku, Child Protection Coordinator, and Katerina Melissari, the current Child Protection Officer, attended on behalf of "Hope For Children" CRC Policy Center.

## **Non-formal education in schools**

In 2017, experiential workshops on relevant topics/issues such as bullying, sexual abuse, human rights, children's rights, diversity, racism, volunteerism, inclusion, has been delivered in nursery, primary and secondary schools in Cyprus in order to raise awareness.

The workshops have provided for the compilation of a manual to be submitted to the Ministry of Education of Cyprus.



*Children participating at a workshop held at the Little Stars Montessori nursery school delivered by clinical psychologists and aimed at preventing child abuse.*



## Trainings

### Training for mediators in cases of Cross-Border Family Mediation in parental abductions

The training took place in Berlin from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> September 2017 and was delivered by MiKK e.V. International Mediation Centre for Family Conflict and Child Abduction. The coordinator of the Child Protection Department, Kristina Markou, and the former Policy and Advocacy Officer, Vaggelis Gettos, participated on behalf of "Hope For Children" CRC Policy Center.



*Participants of the training in Berlin.*

### Training of Prospective Foster Parents

Within the framework of the "Pilot Programme regarding Foster Care for Unaccompanied Minors, Asylum seekers/beneficiaries of international protection", a training of the prospective foster parents was organised in Cyprus from May to November, through a series of experiential workshops. The content of the training has been created based on the needs of the prospective foster parents, who have been separated into two groups, the Arab-speakers and the Greek-speakers.

In relation to the first group, it was composed by persons coming from the same country of origin and the majority were relatives of the unaccompanied children (members of the nuclear or extended paternal or maternal family of the minors), who had already been assessed and had undertaken the foster care for the children. In relation to the Greek-speakers, the group was composed by people who were not related with the children and who were assessed under the framework of the Programme. The content of the training was adjusted based on the needs and characteristics of each group. Each experiential workshop composes of psychoeducation as well as experiential exercises, including discussions within the group, case studies, role plays, etc.

## **Transnational Training about effective implementation of the Directive 2012/29/EU for standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime**

The Transnational Training took place on 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> October 2017 in Athens, Greece. It revolved around the importance of victim identification and needs assessment-standards and model practice, and the referral procedures. The topics were deepened with two group works concerning the institutional and multi-agency approach.



*Transnational training participants in Athens.*

The aims of the meeting were:

- to promote and disseminate the results of the projects;
- to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and experience among professionals in counterpart institutions in the partner countries;
- to facilitate the creation of Communities of Practice.

Vaggelis Gettos, the former Policy and Advocacy Officer, participated on behalf of "Hope For Children" CRC Policy Center.

## **CHAPTER, Training of Trainers, Bulgaria**

The Training of Trainers took place from 9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> May 2017 in Bulgaria and it was organised by Pulse Foundation.

All the partners from CHAPTER project were present allowing the exchange of good practices and examples from each one of their countries regarding corporal punishment.

In particular, positive parenting and positive teaching trainings were given in order to promote positive behaviour systems.



*Training participants in Bulgaria.*

## Final Words

2017 was a thriving year for the humanitarian, independent and international Institution "Hope For Children" CRC Policy Center, as we increased our action on the ground to support every child in need of protection in an optimal way.

This year was a remarkable one, especially in relation to the engagement of the institution in the child protection from sexual exploitation and abuse. A particular emphasis on the phenomenon has been given by the variety of actions carried out by the recently opened Children's House that was developed within the framework of the National Strategy and the Action Plan to Combat Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children and Child Pornography, 2016-2019, in line with the Icelandic Barnahus model and based on European good practices.

In this regard, it is important to highlight that, on the occasion 18th November, the European Day for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, "Hope For Children" CRC Policy Center launched a campaign to raise awareness and sensitization of citizens on the phenomena of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse against children, through the "19 Days of Activism for Prevention of Abuse and Violence against Children".

2017 was a crucial year for the closure of the EU project "JudEx+: Towards a child-friendly justice in cases of sexual violence against children" with the organisation of the 1<sup>st</sup> National Forum on the Rights of the Child to disseminate the outcomes of the project and to promote the sustainability of child-friendly practices in judicial proceedings in cases of sexual violence against children, as well as, for the devoted engagement in the development of the Foster Care Programme, "Pilot Programme regarding Foster Care for Unaccompanied Minors, Asylum seekers/beneficiaries of international protection".

2017 was also a significant year for the newly launched programs and projects, the lately approved ones, as well as the strengthening of our international network.

Moreover, it was a productive year in terms of actions abroad, since "Hope For Children" CRC Policy Center have been an active presence in several high-level meetings with partners from all over the world, sharing our vision regarding the challenges of children on the move and global care about vulnerable youth.

On the local stage, our Organization has made the choice to develop on multiple fronts and expand its services in order to reach and assist even more children and families in Cyprus. More educators, teachers, parents, guardians, volunteers, police officers, social workers, youth, and children have been trained by our Organization and increased their capacity and knowledge.

We hope and believe that these trainings and workshops will show results and bear fruit for that will benefit all youth in Cyprus, Europe, and beyond the borders.

We want to extend a sincere and deep thank you for all actors who have played a part in this year's successes. We are lucky to be supported by the help and assistance of the government, local and international institutions, and also the individuals who contributed towards this success. Let's continue the journey together for 2018 and achieve the best for all children in the world and build a better and a brighter future.

Nicosia, February 2018  
Joseph Varughese  
Director-General





**HFC**  
"Hope  
For  
Children"

## ANNEX 1

## **Independent Auditor's Report (continued)**

### **To the Members of HFC 'Hope for Children' CRC Policy Center**

#### **Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Board of Directors.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Board of Directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves a true and fair view.

We communicate with the Board of Directors regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

#### **Report on Other Legal Requirements**

Pursuant to the additional requirements of the Auditors Law of 2017, we report the following:

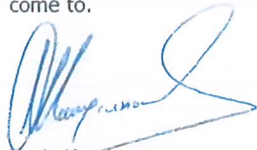
- In our opinion, the management report, has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Cyprus Companies Law, Cap 113, and the information given is consistent with the financial statements.
- In our opinion, and in the light of the knowledge and understanding of the Company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the management report.

## Independent Auditor's Report (continued)

### To the Members of HFC 'Hope for Children' CRC Policy Center

#### Other Matter

This report, including the opinion, has been prepared for and only for the Company's members as a body in accordance with Section 69 of the Auditors Law of 2017 and for no other purpose. We do not, in giving this opinion, accept or assume responsibility for any other purpose or to any other person to whose knowledge this report may come to.



Louis Kyprianou

Certified Public Accountant and Registered Auditor  
for and on behalf of

**Qualityserve Professional Services (QSPS) Ltd**  
**Certified Public Accountants and Registered Auditors**

Nicosia, 11 June 2018



## HFC 'HOPE FOR CHILDREN' CRC POLICY CENTER

### STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME 31 December 2017

	Note	2017 €	2016 €
Revenue	5	1,119,980	737,689
Cost of sales	6	<u>(1,092,933)</u>	<u>(876,823)</u>
<b>Gross profit/(loss)</b>		<b>27,047</b>	<b>(139,134)</b>
Administration expenses	7	<u>(26,940)</u>	<u>(21,163)</u>
<b>Operating profit/(loss)</b>		<b>107</b>	<b>(160,297)</b>
Finance income	9	280	464
Finance costs	9	<u>(1,199)</u>	<u>(1,146)</u>
<b>(Loss) before tax</b>		<b>(812)</b>	<b>(160,979)</b>
Tax	10	<u>(84)</u>	<u>(130)</u>
<b>Net loss for the year</b>		<b>(896)</b>	<b>(161,109)</b>
<b>Other comprehensive income</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year</b>		<b><u>(896)</u></b>	<b><u>(161,109)</u></b>

The notes on pages 10 to 19 form an integral part of these financial statements.

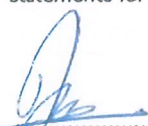
## HFC 'HOPE FOR CHILDREN' CRC POLICY CENTER

### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

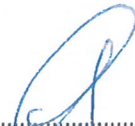
31 December 2017

	Note	2017 €	2016 €
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>Non-current assets</b>			
Property, plant and equipment	11	<u>117,531</u>	83,555
		<u>117,531</u>	83,555
<b>Current assets</b>			
Receivables	12	1,950	3,955
Cash at bank and in hand	13	<u>169,620</u>	190,181
		<u>171,570</u>	194,136
<b>Total assets</b>		<u>289,101</u>	<u>277,691</u>
<b>EQUITY AND LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>Equity</b>			
Retained earnings		<u>229,188</u>	230,084
<b>Total equity</b>		<u>229,188</u>	230,084
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Trade and other payables	14	59,702	47,396
Current tax liabilities	15	<u>211</u>	211
		<u>59,913</u>	47,607
<b>Total equity and liabilities</b>		<u>289,101</u>	<u>277,691</u>

On 11 June 2018 the Board of Directors of HFC 'Hope for Children' CRC Policy Center authorised these financial statements for issue.



.....  
Joseph Varughese  
Director



.....  
Christos Pieri  
Director

The notes on pages 10 to 19 form an integral part of these financial statements.