

Annual Report 2016



Photography by Maxime Bhm

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Annex 1: Audited and Financial Statements

Who We Are?

“Hope For Children” CRC Policy Center (HFC) is a Humanitarian, International and Independent Institution based in Nicosia, Cyprus. The vision of HFC is to contribute to the protection and promotion of children’s rights and to support the active participation of children in society. 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 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.

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.
- Collaborate 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

Ms. Aliki Varella
Programmes Development Officer

Mr. Andreas Achilleos
Social Counsellor

Ms. Andria Angastiniotou
Deputy Director of Children's shelters

Ms. Fotini Toushi
Social Worker

Ms. Julia Andreou
Programme Assistance Officer

Ms. Marianna Savva
Social Worker

Ms. Ramona Sousanidou
Educational Development Officer

Mr. Vassilis Pavli
Child Support Officer

Mr. Michalis Michaelides
Social Worker

Ms. Christalleni Ioannidou
Child Development Officer

Ms. Evi Neocleous
Child Development Coordinator

Mr. Joseph Varughese
Director-General

Dr. Maria Koushiou
Clinical Psychologist

Dr. Sofia Leitão (PhD)
Director of Research and Development

Ms. Vasiliki Kourri
Clinical Psychologist

Ms. Anca Clivet Chatzimilioudis
EU Project Officer

Mr. Andreas Mazeris
Case Officer for Children

Ms. Andria Neocleous
Director of Humanitarian Division

Mr. Evangelos Gettos
Policy and Advocacy Officer

Ms. Vanessa Oliveira
Administrative Assistant

Mr. Stavros Trakoshis
Child Counselor

Mr. Nelson Uche
Maintenance Officer

Mr. George Anastasiou
Social Work Department Coordinator

Ms. Marine Messina
Project Officer

Ms. Despina Louvia
Social Worker

Ms. Eleni Kadda
Communications and Fundraising Officer

Ms. Kristina Marku
Child Protection Coordinator

Mr. Stefano Rusmigo
IT Analyst

Mr Marios Georgiou
IT Associate

Ms. Elpida Demetriou
Financial Controller

Ms. Tania Masia
Psychology Department Coordinator

Ms. Clara Montalbano
European Voluntary Service

Mr. Richard Schneider
European Voluntary Service

Ms. Anna Wojciechowska
European Voluntary Service

Mr. Antonis Stylianou
Senior Advisory Board member

Ms. Laura Sirabella
European Voluntary Service

Ms. Daniella Barka
European Voluntary Service

Mr. Kevin Kiraga
European Voluntary Service

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 (pillars)

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 Division

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

Consultancy and Project Management

The Organization 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 it diversifies activities, HFC fosters a mix of people, whatever their origin.

Programs and Projects

The “Beat Bullying” Program

The Programme aims to raise public awareness in the educational community through the development of methods of identification, prevention and handling of bullying incidents. “Hope For Children” CRC Policy Center delivers seminars and trainings in schools with the cooperation of the Ministry of Education and Culture and the Observatory for School Violence.

The goals of the program are to conduct high-level research on the leading causes of the manifestation of bullying and set-up student teams for educating their peers (peer-to-peer education) to serve as role models against bullying.

Through this program, “Hope For Children” CRC Policy Center maintains two key objectives: the sensitization of the educational community and society and the development of detection, prevention, and handling mechanisms of the bullying phenomenon (including ‘cyber bullying’).



The Goodwill Ambassador of “Hope For Children” CRC Policy Center, Gustavo Maduka, spoke to students about the phenomenon of bullying.

Participation, Experiences and Empowerment for Roma youth (PEER)

www.peeryouth.eu/country/cy

From January 2015 to December 2016, partners from 9 EU countries (7 universities, 2 research institutes, 2 NGOs, and 8 associated partners), implemented this project which enabled Roma young people to actively engage in a research process focused on exploring and developing how they might become more empowered to participate in decisions and actions that shape their lives and bring about positive change at local, regional, or national levels.

This was achieved by:

- 1) Supporting Roma young people to develop and deliver training to build capacity;
- 2) Engaging Roma young people as co-inquirers, sharing and critically reflecting on learning from existing practices in schools and Institutions that work with Roma; and
- 3) Developing action research initiatives.

“Hope For Children” CRC Policy Center implemented numerous workshops and developed and translated the final training manual, *“Participation and Empowerment Experiences of Roma Youth”*, into Greek. We had three groups of children - two of which were in a school context and the third was community-based. We organized workshops and selected two of the most assiduous participants to travel to Dublin for the final meeting. A part of our activities was the national conference organized under the general theme *“Giving all Children a voice”*. The PEER national conference disseminated the work done by “Hope For Children” CRC Policy Center with Roma children in Cyprus. A panel for Roma children was also included at the conference in order for them to talk about their experiences, needs and aspirations. The project ended on the 31st of December 2016.



“Improving Juvenile Justice Systems in Europe: Training for Professionals” (IJJS)

The project aimed to raise awareness on the rights and needs of children in conflict with the law through the exchange of good practices, and provision of training for practitioners/professionals dealing with children in residential care or detention on the rights of the child and on how to communicate with children in an age- and context-appropriate manner, thus promoting the implementation of Article 12 of the UN Convention on the rights of the child (UNCRC – The Right to be heard). The project focuses on improving juvenile justice national systems and exchanging promising practices concerning juvenile offenders subject to sanctions or measures. It consists of training modules on the creation on child-friendly justice and follows a two part approach:

- Training of trainers (national Juvenile Justice stakeholders) and,
- National interdisciplinary workshops on child-friendly justice (for defender, social, healthcare professionals, penitentiary staff, etc.).

During the IJJS project, our staff members implemented a series of workshops about juvenile justice in a pan-European environment. “Hope For Children” CRC Policy Center published a detailed and very innovative training manual for professionals, focused on making the juvenile justice system a Pan-European project.

Also, the implementation of the project was employed as a dialogue with which to communicate to relevant stakeholders; the objective of the first workshop was to familiarize the stakeholders with the project itself and the upcoming actions in order to have a common understanding between the stakeholders and create a climate of mutual agreement and understanding; the objective of the second workshop was to train the local scientific and professional communities in dealing with children in conflict with the law, introduce best practices used around the world, and spark their interest in bringing about change in the existing structures.



JudEx +: Towards a Child-Friendly Justice in Cases of Sexual Violence Against Children

“Hope For Children” CRC Policy Center is the lead partner of this project that is funded by EC Action grants, which supports transnational projects intended to build capacity for legal professionals in child protection systems and legal professionals representing children in legal proceedings (JUST/2014/RCHI/AG/PROF/7036, *JudEx+ ; Towards a child-friendly justice in cases of sexual violence against children*, a project focused on supporting a positive judicial experience for children victims of sexual violence.

The project aims to improve the child’s experience when entering the judicial system in cases of sexual violence by improving the skills of professionals involved in representing children in judicial proceedings. This is accomplished through trainings, which take into consideration the child’s rights, their developmental needs, and their social background, in countries where the Lanzarote Convention has recently been ratified. The project is implemented in collaboration with partners from six EU

countries (Frederick University, CY ; CESIE, IT ; Rinova, UK; Know & Can, BG ; Folkuniversitetet, SE ; University of Primorska, SI).

In the context of JudEx+, 2016 was a highly productive year. The partnership developed and implemented the following activities:

- the project website <http://judex.uncrcpc.org/>
- Focus groups, with stakeholders, on country-specific procedures in cases of sexual violence against children.
- Country Reports on judicial proceedings in cases of sexual violence against children.
- Draft of Multidisciplinary Curriculum & Methodology to train professionals on child-friendly communication in judicial procedures in cases of sexual violence against children.
- the development of "Kiki and the Children's House" - a Windows, mobile/desktop application developed to support professionals working with young children in judicial procedures in cases of sexual violence. The application was sponsored by Microsoft Cyprus and developed in collaboration with the Mobile Devices Lab at Frederick University.



TdH - Support by Terres des Hommes Netherlands, to the EuroMed refugee crisis specifically in relation to UMs

This project is twofold. Firstly, it aims at providing immediate assistance at the UMs and children (both accompanied and unaccompanied) at a local level (Cyprus). Secondly, it aims at collecting information to assist children (both accompanied and unaccompanied), which can also be used by Institutions and other actors in the field, to aid advocacy work and research. While the first objective has a local focus, the second one has a regional focus (EU countries). The project duration was 1 year (November 2015-November 2016).

The original objectives and results of the project are the following:

- Perform an initial assessment and follow up on actions taken.
- Provide psychological support and counselling wherever needed.
- Provide legal guidance and advice to unaccompanied minors, children, and their families.

- Establish a network of professionals and Institutions' working in the field of unaccompanied minors.
- Create a database with information that can be used for a number of purposes.
- Create a child-friendly publication that can assist children and Institutions.

CONVEY (Counteracting sexual violence and harassment: Engaging youth in schools in digital education on gender stereotyping)

This is a project to address sexual violence against women and promote behavioural change using web-based tools, including an educational simulation game and a social media campaign. The project activities:

- Involvement of youngsters (i.e. school students) as peer consultants to provide inputs and feedback to the development of project's main output – online simulation game;
- Establishment of an adult expert consulting group integrating professional external knowledge and experiences in the delivering of project's activities;
- Creation of an online simulation game (and linked training materials) as educational tool to awareness raising and prevention against sexual violence and harassment;
- Workshops for teachers and educators by empowering with knowledge and tools to become trainers with innovative approaches on project's sensitive issues;
- Development of a social media campaign against sexual violence and sexual harassment to raise awareness on the issue and to publicize the project throughout its lifecycle;
- Dissemination and mainstreaming activities at local and transnational level.

"Hope For Children" CRC Policy Center will be responsible for several tasks, such as the development of the Dissemination strategy, the corporate identity and the elaboration of the Dissemination materials of the project (brochures, posters, banners, etc.). Furthermore, "Hope For Children" CRC Policy Center is also in charge of creating a project website and the newsletter, building the Social Awareness campaign, and developing the concept and implementation with other partners.



116000 Cyprus Mediation Service

"Hope For Children" CRC Policy Center is jointly operating the 116000 European hotline 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 (JUST/2015/RDAP/AG/0116/8841).

Overall, families in conflict in Cyprus, will be provided with a more amicable manner of resolving 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, the children's rights will be safeguarded as well as their psychological well-being.

The type and number of persons benefiting from the project: at least 6 hotline operators 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).

CHAPTER - Children Help movement Against Physical Threatening and Emotional Repression

The project's duration is 2 years (December 2016 – November 2018) and is implemented by Pulse Foundation in Bulgaria in collaboration with partners from 4 countries (*Iceland* – Evis Foundation, *Portugal* – Foundation ADFP-Assistance, Development and Professional Training, *Bulgaria* – National Network for Children and *Cyprus* – “Hope For Children” CRC Policy Center).

The objectives of this project are: to increase knowledge and skills in authority in the field of effectively and positive parenting and upbringing in accepting, constructive and fulfilling way; to build unified methodology for presenting the problem and rethinking of corporal punishment; to raise the society general awareness to difficult experiences and consequences that corporal punishment has on the children and adolescents; to explore and bring “best practice” at international level in 3 European Union member states (Bulgaria, Cyprus and Portugal), with a strong upbringing patriarchal conception; and to coordinate the efforts of various social structures and communities to work in direction of legislative changes and virtually eliminate the issue.

The project activities include: transferring and piloting of Icelandic experience, creating program for training of trainers, delivering a 4 day training of trainers, developing methodology and training curriculum for working with children, parents and professionals for protection against corporal punishment of children; screening among major groups of children and young people (pre and post) using focus groups and interviews; conducting training seminars with children, parents and professionals; networking, support in implementation of a multidisciplinary approach to support children affected by corporal punishment; presenting a national representative study of the situation in Bulgaria and Portugal; having national information campaigns in Bulgaria, Cyprus and Portugal.

The type and number of persons benefiting from the project are not only professionals but also children and young people: 90 representatives from specialist support services in Bulgaria, Cyprus and Portugal; 90 representatives of teachers in Bulgaria, Cyprus and Portugal; 20 specialist support services NGO, trained trainers; more than 400 professionals (through dissemination); 300 children trained (ages 4-6); 300 young people trained (ages 8-12); 300 young people (future parents) trained (ages 18+); 300 parents trained; more than 200 children affected by corporal punishment; more than 2000 children, young people, future parents and etc. (through dissemination).



Workshops for the Development of Social Skills

"Hope For Children" CRC Policy Center is the Final Beneficiary of the project, with the partner being the Nicosia Municipality Multifunctional Foundation. The project "Social Skills Development Training" is co-funded by the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund of the European Funds Unit, of the Ministry of Interior.

The project aims to inform participants about the local culture and the national legislation, whilst developing social skills which will enhance their prospects of enhanced social integration in the host country and the European Union, aiming to prevent delinquency and radicalization. The training addresses groups of third-country nationals, both adults and minors, and the thematic will involve issues such as racism and acceptance of diversity, the status of women in European societies and gender equality, adaptiveness and the possibility of change through loss, ways of communication in a social environment, whilst aiming to inform and raise awareness in participants on the aspects of social life in Cyprus and the European Union. The training sessions include presentations and experiential workshops and will be implemented by specially trained facilitators of "Hope For Children" CRC Policy Center and of the Nicosia Municipality Multifunctional Foundation with the assistance of interpreters. The project's duration is 1 year (December 2016 – December 2017) with the possibility for renewal

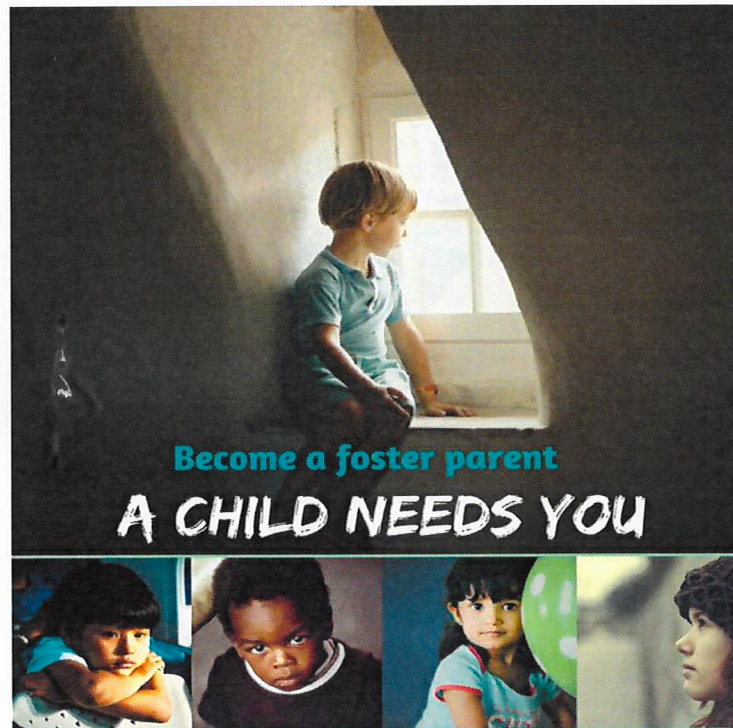


Foster Care Programme

Foster Care Programme is a pilot program for fostering unaccompanied minors in Cyprus and the goal is to recruit, train, and assess potential foster parents to undertake the care of unaccompanied minors that are either applicants or beneficiaries of international protection. The project is co-funded by the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund of the European Funds Unit, of the Ministry of Interior. Its duration is 1 year (December 2016 – December 2017) with the possibility for renewal.

The aim of the Programme 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 foster parents deemed suitable in the parameters of the Programme will be registered in the approved foster family records of the Social Welfare Services. The Programme is implemented in cooperation with the Social Welfare Services which is the legal guardian of the unaccompanied minors in Cyprus, and as such are in charge of placing the unaccompanied minors 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 minors 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

"Hope For Children" CRC Policy Center



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

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Establishment of the Chair of the CRC Policy Center

Within the framework of research and policy making, a new and exciting initiative has been established by the Organization the Chair of CRC Policy Center. "Hope For Children" CRC Policy Center's work is guided by a strong will to achieve universal respect for the rights of the child. Among the organisation's diverse axis of action, HFC implements research projects and advises policy-making to help shaping a better world for children and young people.

The Chair will act as an agent of knowledge on children's rights within the academic community through policy and practice, by teaching, conducting research and providing services to the community. This is an approach that will help protect and strengthen the environment around children and in their community.

The Chair promotes cooperation and collaborative action between Institutions all around the world in the hopes that working together will help us to uphold the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) more effectively. With joined voices, we can have a larger influence on official international policy and, with collective action from different corners of the globe, we can positively and practically impact children's lives. Currently, "Hope For Children" CRC Policy Center established collaborations with 9 other countries such as Denmark, India, Italy (2 chairs), Portugal (2 chairs), Hungary, Romania, USA, United Kingdom and Nigeria.



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 shelter “Home For Hope”, the first private children’s shelter in Cyprus for unaccompanied children.

Given the need for accommodation and supporting a greater number of unaccompanied minors’ third country nationals in Cyprus, the European Funds of the Ministry of Interior published a new call for submission of proposals regarding the extension of the accommodation infrastructures. HFC, 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 minors, 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, and was set up with the intention to provide unaccompanied children with more than just accommodation. It was rather set up to provide multi-disciplinary and holistic services to the children, which could cover all 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 practice in other EU member states and are adjusted to Cyprus standards. The referral of the minors 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 minors 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.

HOME FOR HOPE



Meeting with the Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid & Crisis Management Christos Stylianides

Within the framework of the Commissioner's for Humanitarian Aid & Crisis Management official visit to Cyprus, Mr. Christos Stylianides met with the Director-General of "Hope For Children" CRC Policy Center, Mr. Joseph Varughese and with Mrs. Andria Neocleous, Director of the Humanitarian Division of the Organization, in the European Union House in Nicosia. At the meeting was present also the Head of the Cabinet, Ms. Themis Christophidou. During the meeting an emphasis was given on the International presence of the Organisation not only through its Chairs but also through international campaigns such as "Children on the Move", as well as to the technical support that was requested from the Organisation by other International Institutions, due to the experience gained, working on the Children's rights. Mr. Stylianides emphasized that no matter how important and essential the humanitarian aid is, cannot be considered as a solution itself and political action and effective solutions are needed.



UNHCR Regional Representative for Southern Europe to “Homes For Hope”

Mr. Stephane Jaquemet, Regional Representative for Southern Europe of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Mr. Roland Schilling, UNHCR Deputy Regional Representative for Southern Europe and the UNHCR representative in Cyprus Damtew Dessalegne visited the children’s shelters "Homes For Hope". They were introduced to the premises and the facilities of the shelter and they were informed about the full range of the Organisation's activities.



The Chief of Cyprus Police to “Homes For Hope”

The Chief of Police, Mr. Zacharias Chrysostomou visited “Homes For Hope”. During the visit, the Chief of Police gave presents to the children hosted at the “Homes For Hope” and spoke with them, stressing the unfailing support of Cyprus Police to their needs. Mr. Chrysostomou underlined that he and his colleagues understand the difficulties these minors have been through, and they will stand up next to them. He also wished them to take advantage of their past experiences, in order to become good

citizens of tomorrow. Mr. Chrysostomou was accompanied by the Police's Philharmonic orchestra, which played Christmas carols and other traditional songs. According to the Director-General of "Hope For Children" CRC Policy Center, the excellent collaboration between the Police and the Organization reassures the quality of services provided to any child in need.



The visit of Mr. Andros Kyprianou to "Homes For Hope"

The Secretary General of AKEL visited "Homes For Hope", "Hope For Children" CRC Policy Center's private children's shelters. Mr. Kyprianou was accompanied by AKEL's MP Ms Skevi Koukouma. During the visit, Mr. Kyprianou and Ms. Koukouma were given a tour of the premises of the shelters for unaccompanied minors, and were informed of the humanitarian programs that "Hope For Children" CRC Policy Center is implementing. The Directors of the shelters explained that the "Homes For Hope" were established in order to provide a holistic and not a unilateral coverage of the needs of children hosted there. In the meantime, the Secretary General and Mrs. Koukouma were informed about the services provided to the minors including social, psychological and legal support, and the family reunification efforts by the specialized professionals working in the shelters.



Capacity Building and Technical Support to shelters in Lesbos

Lesvos has welcomed more than half a million refugees in one year, since January 2015. Non-profit organizations and volunteers from all over the world are offering their help. Journalists, documentarians and photographers cover the day to day action and the

stories. "Hope For Children" CRC Policy Center presented a four-day training in Lesvos as part of a technical support initiative aimed at hospitality and rehabilitation structures providing services for unaccompanied children. At this training, professionals from Iliaktida, the UNHCR, the UNICEF, Médecins du Monde and the Municipality of Lesvos were involved. The training was performed by the staff of "Hope For Children" CRC Policy Center, in particular Ms Andria Neocleous, Director of the Humanitarian Division, Kristina Marku, Child Protection Coordinator and Tania Masia, Coordinator of Psychological Department.



European Voluntary Service – HFC coordinator and partner

The European Voluntary Service (EVS) is part of the Erasmus+ Programme which aims to enhance the skills, competencies, and active participation of young people. So far, "Hope For Children" CRC Policy Center has had three EVS generations. We had a total of eight EVS until now and six new EVS will start in 2017. Two EVS projects have been accepted for 2016 - HFC is the coordinator of one of them and the partner of the other.

Through the daily interaction with young people and children from different backgrounds, the EVS project develops mutual understanding and solidarity and promotes acceptance among young people. The volunteers gained experience in providing multi-disciplinary support to individuals belonging to vulnerable groups, such as the unaccompanied minors and they acquired knowledge in relation to trafficking of human beings, immigration, international protection/asylum, European refugee's legal framework and other fields pertaining to this population.

Through the research and creative activities the volunteers were encouraged to initiate projects and activities they are passionate about. This will have potential positive impact on the development of the volunteers and the organisation. Specifically, the development of transferable skills (social competencies, sense of initiative, language and communication skills) were encouraged throughout all the program. They enriched their understanding of values of cultural diversity and social acceptance. Some EVS volunteers were involved in non-formal training of individuals who are interested to work with vulnerable groups of children and youth, including unaccompanied minors,

to achieve a multiplying effect based on their developed skills and drawing from their experience. In particular, some of their activities included but are not limited to: participation in drama lessons; creation of different games with the residents of the shelter based on trust; creation of workshops using non-formal education tools (music, role-games, strategic games, movies); organization of cooking classes and gardening activities; promotion of activities that encourage multicultural dialogue and etc.



Our EVS Daniella Barka, Laura Sirabella, and Clara Montalbano after receiving an award in Paris for their movie "Together above the boarder"

“Hope For Children” CRC Policy Center was granted with the Observer Status from the Lanzarote Committee of the Council of Europe

Lanzarote Committee was established in the framework of the Lanzarote Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and its primary aim is to monitor the Convention’s implementation in all member states.

Recognizing the efforts and the initiatives of “Hope For Children” CRC Policy Center in the implementation and observation of Lanzarote Convention in Cyprus, the Committee honored the Organisation by granting it the Observer Status. The international presence of the Organization in this field and the fact that was the official partner of Council of Europe for the implementation of the campaign "One in Five" in Cyprus, was crucial to this decision. Members of the Committee are the Councils of Europe member states which are being represented by the relevant ministries.

“Hope For Children” CRC Policy Center was granted the Observer Status, after a voting process of the members. Only 4 other Organisations from all over Europe were also granted this status: ECPAT, the non-governmental organization; eNACSO, a European NGO Alliance for Child Safety Online; INHOPE Foundation, The International Association of Internet Hotlines; and the European Federation Missing Children Europe.



Conferences We Attended

26th meeting of the PACE Network of Contact Parliamentarians to stop sexual violence against children

The 26th meeting of the PACE Network of Contact Parliamentarians to stop sexual violence against children held in Strasbourg on Thursday, 21 April 2016. The Director-General of “Hope For Children” CRC Policy Center participated at the meeting.

The meeting was opened by Ms Stella Kyriakides, Chairperson of the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development. The focus of the meeting was the Cyprus pilot project (May 2013 – April 2016) that had been co-funded by the A.G Leventis Foundation and coordinated by PACE. The project led to many great achievements in Cyprus, inter alia: the ratification of the Council of Europe’s Lanzarote Convention by the Parliament of the Republic of Cyprus and the adoption of a law to fight sexual violence against children in Cyprus, the establishment of an Ad Hoc Ministerial Committee to draft a National Policy against sexual exploitation, sexual abuse of children and child pornography, the formation of a Children’s House modelled on the Icelandic Barnahus.

The speakers of the meeting were: Mr Anastasios Paul Leventis, Chairman of the Board of the A.G Leventis Foundation, Ms Anastasia Papadopoulou, expert appointed by the Council of Ministers to compile a National Strategy and member of the project Steering Group, Ms Leda Koursoumba, Cyprus Commissioner for Children’s Rights and member of the project steering group and the two partners of the pilot project: Ms Eleni Karayianni, psychologist at the University of Cyprus and Mr Joseph Varughese, the Director-General of “Hope For Children” CRC Policy Center who was an active partner in the pilot project.



Destination Unknown Campaign Assembly 2016

Created in 2010, Destination Unknown is a global Campaign created by TDHIF. The Destination Unknown Campaign comprehends 160 projects in 65 countries in 10

regions of the world: Central America and Caribbean ; East Africa ; Europe ; Middle East ; North Africa ; South America ; South Asia ; South-East Asia ; Southern Africa ; and West Africa. It gathers more than hundred members in 65 countries. The DU Campaign protects children on the move in places of transit by identifying migration routes, analysing risks, and providing direct protection services to them and their families (such as temporary shelter, food and non-food items, psychosocial care in child friendly spaces, and telecommunication means to remain in contact with family members).

Since 2012, the DU Campaign held three campaign assemblies; the first campaign assembly, held in Geneva; the second campaign assembly was held in Marrakesh, Morocco and the third campaign assembly was held in Nicosia, Cyprus, in September 2016. During the meeting, the participants set the building blocks for the next phase of the DU Campaign (July 2017 to 2020). In addition, mandated by the Civil Society International Steering Committee of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), immediately following the campaign assembly, TdH and the DU Campaign hosted the “Satellite meeting ahead of GFMD 2016”.



GFMD Civil Society Days 2016

The Global Forum on Migration Development 2016, entitled “*Time for Action; Doing rights-based governance of migration and development in our communities and across borders*”, took place in Dhaka, Bangladesh. On 10 December, participants - leaders of civil society, migrant and diaspora groups, trade unions, and academia - joined ministers and senior government officials, with representatives of international Institutions and the private sector, for a day of “Common Space”, followed by two days of government deliberations on 11-12 December. More than 200 representatives of civil society from over 50 countries, as well as representatives from governments and international Institutions, gathered in Bangladesh to deliberate on action needed for the inclusion, protection, and empowerment of migrants, and the governance of migration. “Hope For Children” CRC Policy Center attended the Conference, as Observer, at the

Civil Society Days. Aliko Varela, a Programmes Development Officer of the Organization was representing “Hope For Children” CRC Policy Center.

It is important to highlight that on Friday 9th of December, there were 2 thematic rapporteurs; one on women and one on children. The Children Rapporteur draw special attention to the discussions on children and ensured that a child perspective was reflected in all the discussions on migration and development. At the conclusion of the Civil Society Days, the Children Rapporteur presented the main discussions from the different sessions and this input was taken forward to the Governments by the Civil Society Representative at the Common Space.



High – Level Conference in Sofia, Bulgaria: Launching the new children's rights strategy 2016

A new Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child was adopted by the Committee of Ministers in early 2016. The Strategy, which was drafted over the past year by Council of Europe member States in co-operation with civil society and other stakeholders, was launched in April 2016 at a high-level conference in Sofia, Bulgaria and it will guide the 47 member states over the next six years in addressing the five priority objectives on the rights of the child: equal opportunities for all children; participation of all children; a life free from violence for all children; child-friendly justice for all children; the rights of the child in the digital environment.

The Conference was organised in the framework of the Bulgarian Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe and was hosted by the Bulgarian State Agency for Child Protection and Ministry of Labour and Social Policy. The Conference provided an opportunity for high-level representatives of member States and other international organisation to express their commitments to the Strategy and present their vision on its implementation.

The Conference gathered around 180 participants, including Ministers from Council of Europe member States and other high level guests, representatives from national and local governments, parliaments and civil society, the Council of Europe and other international organisations, professional and academic networks, ombudspersons for children, as well as children themselves. “Hope For Children” CRC Policy Center was represented by Joseph Varughese, Director General of the Organization.

The European Asylum Support Office's Consultative Forum-Plenary Meeting

The meeting took place in Athens, Greece, on the 28-29 November 2016. The Forum's object was to strengthen the dialogue and pooling expertise between institutional and non-institutional actors involved in different roles in the field of asylum and reception. (This included 200 participants from all around the EU and the Mediterranean, such as Morocco and Israel). The main parameter of the event was the on-going refugee crisis in the Mediterranean countries, specifically the Greek islands.

The Forum was organized in a particularly retrospective, interactive, and participatory format. A high level panel helped set the scene and outlined changes in the European asylum framework under different perspectives and storytelling and other participatory workshops helped the participants meet each other. The UNHCR representative complimented the work of the focus group HFC coordinated and agreed with our outcomes. “Hope For Children” CRC Policy Center was represented by Vangelis Gettos, Policy and Advocacy Officer.



Meeting on Unaccompanied and Separated Children in Europe

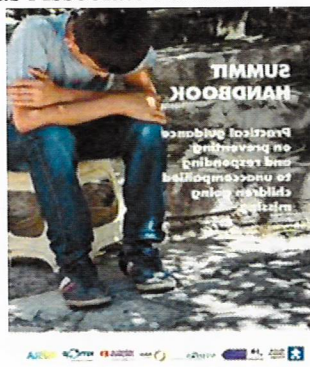
“Hope For Children” CRC Policy Center participated in a workshop on Unaccompanied and Separated Children in Europe, co-organised by UNHCR, UNICEF, and IRC, which took place on 2-3 November in Rome. The conference brought together practitioners who work on a day to day basis with UASC in Europe, including: psychologists, teachers, lawyers, guardians, municipality staff, and civil society Institutions. One workshop was for professionals that work in reception countries (Cyprus, Greece, Italy, Malta, Portugal, and Spain) and two other similar workshops were for professionals in northern Europe and the transit countries. The aim

was to identify the main problems that countries are facing and suggest solutions through interactive exercises among the participants. The results (suggestions - mainly on common European policies) were presented at a roundtable with Ministries from different countries on the 17th of November 2016. “Hope For Children” CRC Policy Center was represented by Andria Angastiniotou, Deputy Director of Children's Shelter.



SUMMIT Project - Training Seminar on good practices to prevent & respond to the disappearance of Unaccompanied Children

The training seminar on good practices to prevent & respond to the disappearance of unaccompanied children that took place in Brussels, on 14-15 April 2016. The Summit Project, launched in October 2014, specifically looked to combine the experience of both the actors which primarily deal with the care of unaccompanied children and those which focus on disappearance of children, including law enforcement and hotlines for missing children, and from that combination examine how to cooperate better and on what issues in particular. The training was open to 62 grassroots professionals including law enforcement, guardians, reception centre operators/social services and hotline operators for missing children. During the seminar "The Handbook on Good Practices for professionals working on the protection of unaccompanied children" and the "Report on best practices and key challenges on interagency cooperation to safeguard unaccompanied children from going missing" were presented, and participants had access to 3 practical workshops presenting selected examples. Part of the event was dedicated to examining current challenges in the protection of unaccompanied children in Europe, with key note speakers from EU institutions and civil society. “Hope For Children” CRC Policy Center was participating in the above project as Associate Partner.



Fundamental Rights Forum

The Fundamental Rights Forum was organized by the European Union Agency For Fundamental Rights on 20 – 23 June, in Vienna, Austria. The aim of the event was to connect practitioners, grassroots workers, thinkers and high-level decision makers in an inclusive and open platform and to address the EU's pressing fundamental rights concerns. The topics presented and discussed during the Forum fall under the following themes: Inclusion, Refugee protection and Digital Age. Special emphasis was given to the protection of unaccompanied minors and the problem of missing unaccompanied minors. "Hope For Children" CRC Policy Center was represented by Andria Neocleous, Director of Humanitarian Division.

PROMISE PROJECT: Regional Conference and Study Visit held in Linköping, Sweden

On 28-29 November 2016, professionals from around Europe came in Linköping to gather inspiration to launch an innovative way to support child victims of violence in their own countries. The conference and study visit took place over one and a half days, gathering practitioners, national authorities, NGOs and regional bodies from across Europe. The objectives of the conference included to facilitate regional exchange of good practice and to build a strong European movement for multi-disciplinary and inter-agency services, which embody international and regional legal obligations.

Andria Neocleous, Director of Humanitarian Division and Vasiliki Kourri, Clinical Psychologist attended the Regional Conference and Study Visit on 28-29 November 2016, in Linköping, Sweden under the EU project *Promise: The Barnahus model supporting children's right to justice and care in Europe*. Her Majesty, Queen Silvia returned to Linköping, 11 years after inaugurating the first Barnahus (children's house) in Sweden, to give her support to the European Barnahus movement!



Final Words



2016 was a landmark 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 in an optimal way.

First of all, we opened a second shelter for unaccompanied minors in Cyprus, which doubled the hosting capacity of the children’s shelter “Home For Hope” residence in Nicosia, under the care of “Hope For Children” CRC Policy Center.

Moreover, it was also a productive year in terms of actions abroad; “Hope For Children” CRC Policy Center now shows a pertinent presence in several high-level meetings with partners from all over the world, sharing our vision regarding the stakes of children on the move and global care about vulnerable youth.

2016 was a significant year for the newly launched programs and the strengthening of our international network through the establishment of the Chairs of the CRC Policy Center in more countries. Furthermore, the Lanzarote Committee, recognizing the efforts and initiatives of “Hope For Children” CRC Policy Center to combat sexual abuse and sexual exploitation, after a voting process from the members, honoured the Organization by granting the Observer Status. The significant role of observer is not only a privilege but also an obligation to continue ensuring that the rights of the children are protected.

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 2017 and achieve the best for all children in the world and build a better and a brighter future.

Nicosia, February 2017
Joseph Varughese
Director-General



Independent Auditor's Report

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

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of HFC 'Hope for Children' CRC Policy Center (the "Company"), which are presented in pages 6 to 16 and comprise the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2016, and the statements of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, changes in equity and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Company as at 31 December 2016, and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs) as adopted by the European Union and the requirements of the Cyprus Companies Law, Cap. 113.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the Company in accordance with the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants' Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (IESBA Code) together with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Cyprus, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements and the IESBA Code. We believe that the evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Other information

The Board of Directors is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the management report, but does not include the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Responsibilities of the Board of Directors for the Financial Statements

The Board of Directors is responsible for the preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards as adopted by the European Union and the requirements of the Cyprus Companies Law, Cap. 113, and for such internal control as the Board of Directors determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Board of Directors is responsible for assessing the Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Board of Directors either intends to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

The Board of Directors is responsible for overseeing the Company's financial reporting process.

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 and Statutory Audits of Annual and Consolidated Accounts Laws of 2009 to 2016, we report the following:

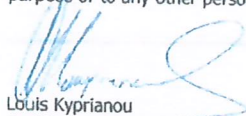
- We have obtained all the information and explanations we considered necessary for the purposes of our audit.
- In our opinion, proper books of account have been kept by the Company, so far as appears from our examination of these books.
- The Company's financial statements are in agreement with the books of account.
- In our opinion and to the best of our information and according to the explanations given to us, the financial statements give the information required by the Cyprus Companies Law, Cap. 113, in the manner so required.
- 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 34 of the Auditors and Statutory Audits of Annual and Consolidated Accounts Laws of 2009 to 2016 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, 8 May 2017

HFC 'HOPE FOR CHILDREN' CRC POLICY CENTER

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME 31 December 2016

	Note	2016 €	2015 €
Grants and Donations Received			
Expenses of foundation	4	737.689	1.173.906
		(862.908)	(649.894)
		(125.219)	524.012
Administration expenses		(35.078)	(36.606)
Operating (loss)/profit		(160.297)	487.406
Finance income	6	464	155
Finance costs	6	(1.146)	(3.063)
(Loss)/profit before tax		(160.979)	484.498
Tax	7	(130)	(582)
Net (loss)/profit for the year		(161.109)	483.916
Other comprehensive income		-	-
Total comprehensive (loss) / income for the year		(161.109)	483.916

The notes on pages 10 to 16 form an integral part of these financial statements.

HFC 'HOPE FOR CHILDREN' CRC POLICY CENTER

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION 31 December 2016

ASSETS	Note	2016 €	2015 €
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	8	<u>83.555</u>	10.445
		<u>83.555</u>	<u>10.445</u>
Current assets			
Receivables	9	3.955	-
Cash at bank and in hand	10	<u>201.463</u>	411.685
		<u>205.418</u>	411.685
Total assets		<u>288.973</u>	<u>422.130</u>
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES			
Equity			
Retained earnings		<u>230.084</u>	391.193
Total equity		<u>230.084</u>	<u>391.193</u>
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	12	47.394	26.361
Borrowings	11	11.284	4.576
Current tax liabilities	13	<u>211</u>	-
		<u>58.889</u>	30.937
Total equity and liabilities		<u>288.973</u>	<u>422.130</u>

On 8 May 2017 the Board of Directors of HFC 'Hope for Children' CRC Policy Center authorised these financial statements for issue.


.....
Joseph Varughese
Director


.....
Christos Piki
Director

The notes on pages 10 to 16 form an integral part of these financial statements.

