3. INTERNATIONAL MAYORS’ CONFERENCE NOW

‘Children under the Radar’
30-31 January 2017, Vienna, Austria

At the upcoming NOW Conference experts, MEPs, Mayors, civil servants, NGOs, refugees, immigrants and local residents will exchange their knowledge, experience, ideas and approaches. On the one hand, the aim is to learn about the realities of refugee children in their home countries, on their way to Europe and in their countries of refuge as well as about the dangers they are exposed to and the trauma they carry within them. On the other hand, the aim is to examine the realities and challenges local children and youth face in the receiving countries, and based on this, develop a holistic approach to address the needs, identify areas of interventions and share good practice solutions for a better future of all children.

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Location: ÖBB-Werkstättenhalle, Spittelauer Lände 33, 1090 Vienna

Monday, 30 January 2017

08.30 h  Registration
09.00 h  Opening
Muna Duzdar, State Secretary, Austrian Federal Chancellery
Patricia Kahane and André Heller, Act.Now

09.30 h  Voices of Mayors
Host: Hannes Swoboda, MEP (ret.), President of The Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies – wiiw, Board Member, Bruno Kreisky Forum for International Dialogue

Hassan Alrhaibeh Mayor, Um Al Jimal, Jordan
Luigi Ammatuna Mayor, Pozzallo, Italy
Andreas Babler Mayor, Traiskirchen, Austria
Ali Mattar Mayor, Sahel El Zahrani, Lebanon
Lefteris Papagiannakis Vice Mayor, Migrant and Refugee Affairs, Athens, Greece
Mustafa Tosun Mayor, Dikili, Turkey

10.30 h  Panel 1 - Educational realities of refugees in the MENAT Region
This panel is dedicated to educational realities of refugees in the MENAT Region – Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey and Syria. It aims at exploring the realities, challenges and future perspective regarding a better access to education. Offering good quality education to Syrian refugees in the MENAT region is one of the most challenging aspects for international and national stakeholders.
Host: Viola Raheb, University of Vienna, Senior Fellow, Bruno Kreisky Forum for International Dialogue

Thaera Badran Project Coordinator, Centre for Lebanese Studies, Lebanon
Catherine Barnett Coordinator of the “No Lost Generation” Initiative, UNICEF, Jordan
Lina Farouqi Regional Director, Middle East Children’s Institute, Jordan
Lale Hazer Founder and Project Director, ODGEDER, Turkey
Camilla Lodì Education Specialist, Norwegian Refugee Council, Palestine
11.30 h Coffee break and interactive discussion

12.00 h Panel 2 – Diversity and social cohesion in European classrooms

European societies are challenged to integrate refugee children in their school systems. Yet, this challenge reaches beyond refugees. It concerns other groups within the host societies themselves, e.g. children with migration background, socially deprived children local children and other groups. This panel will focus on opportunities for addressing diversity and social inclusion in the educational sector.

Host: Viola Raheb, University of Vienna, Senior Fellow, Bruno Kreisky Forum for International Dialogue

Nihad Bunar Professor, Child and Youth Studies, Stockholm University, Sweden
Barbara Herzog-Punzenberger Director, Education & Migration, Linz University, Austria
Annette Korntheuer Researcher, Netzwerk Flüchtlingsforschung, Germany
Lutine de Wal Pastoor Researcher, Norwegian Centre for Violence and Traumatic Stress Studies, Norway
Josef Zollneritsch Head of department for school psychology and advising, Styrian School Board, Austria

13.00 h Interactive discussion

13.20 h Lunch

14.15 h Building of Reflecting Groups

14.45 h Workshops (incl. Coffee break)

16:15 h Summaries and Feedback

17:00 h Voices of Europe

Host: Hannes Swoboda, MEP (ret.), President of The Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies – wiiw, Board Member, Bruno Kreisky Forum for International Dialogue

Gerald Knaus Chairman, ESI - European Stability Initiative
Ulrike Lunacek Vice President of the European Parliament
Rainer Münz Adviser on Migration & Demography to the EPSC, European Commission
Michael O’Flaherty Director, EU Agency for Fundamental Rights
Kati Piri Member and Rapporteur for Turkey, European Parliament
Josef Weidenholzer Member and Vice-President of the S&D, European Parliament

18.00 h Concert - Sounds of Hope and Connecting

The initiative of the Mobile Music School developed last year as a cooperation between Marwan Abado and NOW and has been conducting several music workshops since. This year, children and youth of diverse - local, migration and refugee – backgrounds, will perform together and present songs from various traditions, instrumental music and Hip Hop dance. The sound of their music connects them and brings hope.

Initiator and Director: Marwan Abado
Partner institutions: Music School Vienna, Kulturkontakt Austria, UMF Haus Liebhartstal – Housev for unaccompanied minor refugees, NMS School Koppsstrasse 110 Ottakring
Partner Artists: Gudrun Eber, Amirkasra Zandian, Elisabeth Bertel, Mirjam Klebel

19:30 h Dinner
Tuesday, 31 January 2017

09.00 h  **Voices of Refugees**
**Hosts:** Robert Misik, Journalist, Author, Curator, Bruno Kreisky Forum for International Dialogue
Viola Raheb, University of Vienna, Senior Fellow, Bruno Kreisky Forum for International Dialogue

- Farah Abdulahi  Blogger, Writer and Human Rights activist – Refugee from Somalia based in Germany
- Meera Jamal  Journalist – Refugee from Pakistan based in Germany
- Yamen Hussein  Poet & Journalist – Refugee from Syria based in Germany

10.00 h  **Panel 3 - Human trafficking and exploitation - daily realities of refugees on the move**
Hundreds of thousands of refugees are victims of human trafficking and exploitation. Abuse, sexual violence, human trafficking and exploitation are but some of the dangers refugees are experiencing both on the journey and during their stay in the countries of refuge. This panel will shed light on major aspects of human trafficking and exploitation and ways to counter them.

**Host:** Helga Konrad, Former Austrian Federal Minister for Women, Regional Implementation Initiative on Preventing & Combating Human Trafficking, Austria

- Claire Healy  Researcher, International Centre for Migration Policy Development, Austria
- Olivier Peyroux  Sociologist, Migration and Human Trafficking, France
- Barbara Preitler  Psychotherapist, Hemayat, Austria
- Bakhtyar Hadi Hassan  Trauma Educationalist, Jiyan Foundation for Human Rights, Iraq
- Jihane Essaid  Mid-way Houses Program Manager, Gender Equality Programme, ABAAD, Lebanon

11.00 h  **Coffee break and interactive discussion**

11.30 h  **Panel 4 – Children’s rights: Conflict between universality and cultural particularity?**
One of the major challenges in dealing with old and new societal requirements involves addressing social and legal realm that would insure a real integration and avoids new divisions in society. This panel will address the phenomena of child marriage and the way European countries are dealing with it, as an example for “parallel structures”.

**Host:** Anna Sporrer, Vice President of Higher Administrative Court, Vienna

- Shams Asadi  Human Rights Commissioner & Head, Human Rights Office of the City of Vienna, Austria
- Marjo Buitelaar  Professor of Contemporary Islam, University Groningen, Netherlands
- Majdooleen Hassan  Lawyer and Human rights activist, Syria/Austria
- Barbara Preitler  Psychotherapist, Hemayat, Austria
- Helmut Sax  Key Researcher, Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights, Austria

12.30 h  **Interactive discussion**

13.00 h  **Lunch**

14.00 h  **Reflecting Groups**

14.30 h  **Workshops (incl. Coffee break)**

16.30 h  **Summaries and Feedback**

17.15 h  **Closing event**
WORKSHOPS

Monday, 30 January 2017

Six parallel Workshops from 14.45 till 16.15 h

Education
Offering equal educational opportunities to all children is one of the major challenges our societies are facing. Whether working with refugee, migrant, and or socially deprived children, positive models of quality intercultural education is needed.

**Workshop 1: Good practice models on integrating refugee and socially deprived children in the MENAT region.**
Host: Rima Doany Executive Director, Ana Aqra Association, Libanon
Sabine Larribeau Director of Psychosocial Services at St. Andrew's Refugee Services (StARS), Egypt

**Workshop 2: Good practice models on social-cohesion and pluralism in European classrooms.**
Host: Daniel Landau Education Expert and Teacher, Austria

Children facing Violence and Trauma
Experiences of violence, abandonment, broken families, war, refuge, migration which lead to trauma have devastating impact on the life of children and young people. This workshop is dedicated to explore helpful support structures and interventions, that would help children in school environment reduce the risk of their vulnerability strengthen their self-confidence, and unfold their potentials and abilities to learn and develop.

**Workshop 1: Support in school environment for traumatized refugee children**
Host: Gabriele Siebert Trauma Educationalist, Interface, Austria

**Workshop 2: Support in school environment for local children with violence, neglect and deprivation experiences in the receiving countries.**
Host: Ulrike Madzar Psychotherapist, Director, Oskar Spiel School, Austria

Intercultural
Classrooms in Europe are very diverse. Different languages, cultures, ethnic and religious groups learn together every day. Which intercultural competences are needed for unfolding the rich and added value of an inter-cultural oriented education that fosters understanding, acceptance, and diversity?

Host: Doris Englisch-Stölner Centre for Language Development, Vienna School Board, Austria

Mayors
Local municipalities and their role in addressing and supporting quality education, for refugee children and socially deprived children in their constituencies.

Host: George Antoun Country Director and Regional Program Advisor, Mercy Corps, Lebanon
Tuesday, 31 January 2017

Six parallel Workshops from 14.30 - 16.30 h

Exploitation

Workshop 1: How to better help and support refugee Children and children on the move facing exploitation and violence.


Workshop 2: How to better help and support girls and young women facing violence specifically gender-based violence.

Host: Brigitte Holzner Gender Expert and Chair, TAMAR - Counseling Centre for (sexually) abused women, girls and children, Vienna, Austria

Trauma

Workshop 1: Accompanying and supporting children and young people with violence trauma.

Host: Ulrike Schneck Psychological Director, Regional office Tübingen of Refugio Stuttgart, Germany

Workshop 2: Accompanying and supporting families of children and young people with violence trauma.

Hosts: Susanne Stein Consultant and Author, Germany
Marianne Alkhelewi-Brainin Psychotherapist, Hemayat, Center for Torture and War Survivors, Austria

Masculinity

This workshop will focus on Gender roles and gender justice with special focus on masculinity.

Host: Philipp Leeb Chairman, POIKA - NGO for Gendersensitive Boys' Work in School and Education, Austria

Mayors

Local municipalities and their role in addressing and supporting children experiencing different kinds of exploitation in their constituencies.

Host: George Antoun Country Director and Regional Program Advisor, Mercy Corps, Lebanon

Please bring a valid identity card or passport with you to the conference location for security checks. The conference will be held in ENGLISH, translations from and to Arabic, German, Turkish and Italian will be provided.
CONTRIBUTORS - TEAM - ORGANISATION

International Mayors Conference NOW Vienna 2017

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