Monitoring of Returned Children

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HIT - Innovation in Migration
I am convinced that...

Independent, systematic, methodology based monitoring of returned children enables better decision making and assistance for individual children.

But first and foremost it leads to asylum and return policies that are better tuned toward the needs of returning minors.
Topics Today

- The Need for Monitoring
- Child’s Right Convention and it’s impact on decision making?
- Monitor Returned Minors
  - The Kosovo Results
  - How can you use the Monitor?
  - Designing a Monitoring Mechanism
- Dialogue: How do we get independent M&E on the agenda?
Need for Monitoring

- From an EU perspective
  - Obligations to international treaties
  - Information needed for better return policies

- From a COO perspective
  - Enabling tailor-made interventions (no lost generation)
  - Enabling to demand the EU for improved return policies
“In all actions concerning children, whether undertaken by public or private social welfare institutions, courts of law, administrative authorities or legislative bodies, the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration.”

“The Committee emphasizes that the scope of decisions made by administrative authorities at all levels is very broad, covering decisions concerning education, care, health, the environment, living conditions, protection, asylum, immigration, access to nationality, among others. Individual decisions taken by administrative authorities in these areas must be assessed and guided by the best interests of the child, as for all implementation measures.”
What is - or should be - the impact of article 3 and comment 14 on the decision making process regarding asylum and return within EU Member states?

Discuss in small groups for 5 minutes.
Write your answer in 1 sentence.
Cornerstones of a Model

- Future perspective of the child
- International obligations
  - CRC, European Directives
- Local standards and practice
Towards Practice

What should be measured?

- Long-term effects over short-term return process
- Well-being of the child over (economic) situation of the parents
- Conditions for development over comparing before and after
- Taking the local situation into account
Monitoring Learning Loop
To improve the future perspective of returned minors

14 development conditions
Based on the UN Child Rights Convention
- 7 family & 7 societal

Baseline
Explanation of the local standards for all 14 conditions

4 questionnaires
To assess the status of the development conditions
BIC-Q, BIC-S, SDQ, CFS

Results of interviews with returned minors
Provide insight into the development perspective of the child

Policy & practice improvements
In home & host countries

Improved future perspective for minors
In line with the Child Rights Convention
Monitor Returned Minors

Methodology

- **Research group**
  - Kosovo: N=120 (81 Albanian, 39 Roma adolescents)
  - Albania: N=30 (Albanian adolescents)
  - 12-18 years old
  - Resided in EU host country, returned between 2009 and 2012
  - All children in families
  - Forced and voluntary return

- **Procedure**
  - Kosovar professionals and local perspective
  - Semi-structured interviews parents and child
Goal: Predict Future Perspective

3 questionnaires + case fact sheet

**BIC-Q**
family

**BIC-S**
self assessment

**SDQ**
social-emotional
# The Best Interest of the Child (BIC) - model

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Family: current situation</th>
<th>Society: current situation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Adequate physical care</td>
<td>8. Safe wider physical environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Safe direct physical environment</td>
<td>9. Respect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Affective atmosphere</td>
<td>10. Social network</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Supporting, flexible childrearing structure</td>
<td>11. Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Adequate examples by parents</td>
<td>12. Contact with peers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Interest</td>
<td>13. Adequate examples in society</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<th>Family: future and past</th>
<th>Society: future and past</th>
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Quality of the 14 rearing conditions

According to the professionals (BIC-Q) for children who returned to Kosovo

1. Adequate physical care
2. Safe direct physical environment
3. Affective atmosphere
4. Supportive, flexible childrearing structure
5. Adequate examples by parents
6. Interest
7. Continuity in upbringing conditions
8. Safe physical wider environment
9. Respect
10. Social network
11. Education
12. Contact with peers
13. Adequate examples in society
14. Stability in life circumstances
Analysis Results

SDQ & BIC-Q

- SDQ: 37% of the returned children suffer from social & emotional problems, according to our definition they are in need of (psychological) treatment.

- SDQ related with conditions (BIC-Q): Children with the most severe social emotional problems grow up in poverty, they lack an affective climate of good quality, they do not go to school and have no friends, there is no social network available.

- Children of families who received help face more problems than children of families who did not receive any help.
How can you use the Monitor?

February 2014

- To assess returnees from your country to Kosovo & Albania
- To improve policy & practice

Package:
- Methodology description
- Questionnaires
- Baseline for Kosovo & Albania based on 150 cases
- Analysis support by University of Groningen
Conclusion

Independent, systematic, methodology based monitoring of returned children enables better decision making and assistance for individual children.

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Group Dialogue

How do we move on from here?

- Do you agree that independent M&E is an obligation under the CRC that is currently insufficiently put into practice?
- What do you think can be done to improve this?

Task:

- Divide into groups: academics, policymakers practitioners, others
- Discuss possible actions (20 minutes)
- Appoint a facilitator, a reporter, a timekeeper and a spokesperson
- Report your action Top-3 to the whole group

How do we move on from here?
Final report including model & toolkit
The Migrant newspaper