



Research project founded  
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International Conference

## Children and Young People on the Move: Towards a More Precise Definition of Their Best Interests



*Children and Young People on the Move*

*Portorož, 19-20 November*

Grand Hotel Bernardin, Obala 2, Portorož  
Congress Centre, Congress Hall Aurora

### Programme

#### Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> November

9.00–9.30

**Registration of participants**

9.30–9.45

**Welcome Addresses**

9.45–10.45

**Opening Plenary Session**

Chair: Mateja Sedmak

**Ravi K. S. Kohli** (University of Bedfordshire, UK): *Liquid children: reflections on the movements forced migrant children make towards their 'best interests'*

10.45–11.15

*Coffee Break*

11.15–13.00

**Session I:**

**Project “In whose best interest? Exploring unaccompanied minors’ rights through the lens of migration and asylum processes”, part 1**

Chair: Birgit Sauer

**Mateja Sedmak** (University of Primorska, Science and Research Centre, Slovenia): *Presentation of the project ‘In whose best interests? Exploring unaccompanied minors’ rights through the lens of migration and asylum processes’ and comparative results*

**Corentin Bailleul & Daniel Senovilla Hernández** (MIGRINTER, CNRS- University of Poitiers, France): *‘All this is politics’: Institutional practices hindering unaccompanied children’s effective access to their fundamental rights in France*

**Joanna Wilding & Marie-Bénédicte Dembour** (University of Brighton, UK): *‘The person who has been there for me’: lack of guardianship and the fragmentation of formal support for unaccompanied children in the UK*

13.00–14.30

*Lunch (individual arrangements)*

14.30–15.15

**Plenary session**

Chair: Tjaša Žakelj

**Marina Uzelac** (Slovene Philanthropy, Slovenia): *Being a separated child in Slovenia*

15.15–17.15

**Session II:**

Chair: Blaž Lenarčič

**Richard Warren & Sheona York** (Kent Law Clinic, UK): *‘Best interests’ considerations for young asylum seekers following the Immigration Act 2014 and other recent legal developments*

**Georgiana Ursprung** (Swiss National Youth Council, Switzerland): *Participation of children on the move in Switzerland*

**Deepika Harjani Samtani** (Brunel University, UK): *Unaccompanied minors and their transition to adulthood in the UK, London and in Spain, Canary Islands*

**Uršula Lipovec Čebren & Ela Meh** (Department of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia): *‘Best interest’ of the child - some reflections on the fieldwork experience with unaccompanied minors in Serbia*

19.00

*Social dinner*

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November**

9.00–9.45

**Plenary Session:**

Chair: Marie-Bénédicte Dembour

**Jyothi Kanics** (University of Lucerne, Switzerland, previously UNICEF): *Ensuring respect for the best interests of children on the move in Europe*

9.45–10.15

*Coffee Break*

10.15–11.45

**Session III:**

**Project “In whose best interest? Exploring unaccompanied minors’ rights through the lens of migration and asylum processes”, part 2**

Chair: Daniel Senovilla Hernández

**Blaž Lenarčič, Zorana Medarić, Mateja Sedmak & Tjaša Žakelj** (University of Primorska, Science and Research Centre, Slovenia): *Unaccompanied minors in Slovenia: Principle of the best interest of the child between theory and practice*

**Ayse Dursun & Birgit Sauer** (University of Vienna, Austria): *Determining the best interests of the unaccompanied minors in Austria: Legal framework, practices, and discourses. A case study of Austria*

12.00–13.30

**Session IV**

Chair: Joanna Wilding

**Margrite Kalverboer & Carla van Os** (University of Groningen, Department of Special Needs Education and Youth Care, Faculty of Behavioural and Social Sciences, Netherlands): *The Best Interests of the Child-model: facilitating decisions on housing and the asylum procedure of unaccompanied minor asylum seekers*

**Jeannette Wollenstein** (International Social Service – General Secretariat, Switzerland): *Promising practices to promote best interests of children in international migration*

**Eyup Artvinli** (Eskisehir Osmangazi University, Turkey), **Perihan Sara** (Usak University, Turkey) & **Melis Demir** (Eskisehir Osmangazi University, Turkey): *Perception of reception, protection and asylum process of Syrian children: Lessons from painful experience in Turkey*

13.30–15.00

*Lunch (individual arrangements)*

15.00–15.45

**Closing Plenary Session**

Chair: Zorana Medarić

**Katharina Glawischnig** (Asylkoordination Österreich, Austria): *The right to information and participation of unaccompanied minor asylum seekers on their way to the right to asylum in Austria*

16.00–17.30

**Closing Plenary Session**

Chair: Ayse Dursun

**Noemie Pate** (Université Paris Ouest Nanterre, Institut des Sciences sociales du Politique, France): *Identity pluralism and social evaluation: The unaccompanied migrant children's biographical narratives put on trial*

**Mirko Prosen** (University of Primorska, Faculty of Health Sciences, Slovenia): *Preventing health disparities among migrant children and youth: Delivering culturally competent health care*

**Roberta Bosisio** (Department of Culture, Politics and Society, University of Turin, Italy): *Unaccompanied migrant children in Italy: Rights and needs in the legislation and in children's representations*

17.30

**Closing speech**