



The Integration of Children and Families with a Migration Background

An overview of projects among Eurodiaconia members

DECEMBER 2014

Eurodiaconia is a **dynamic**, Europe wide **community** of organisations founded in the **Christian faith** and working in the tradition of Diaconia, who are committed to a Europe of **solidarity, equality** and **justice**. As the **leading network of Diaconia in Europe**, we connect organisations, institutions and churches providing **social and health services and education** on a Christian value base in over 30 European countries.

We bring members together to **share practices, impact social policy** and **reflect on Diaconia in Europe today**.

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<http://ec.europa.eu/social/easi>. Eurodiaconia is a network of social and health care organisations founded in the Christian faith and promoting social justice.

CONTENTS

| | |
|---------------------|----------|
| Introduction | 5 |
|---------------------|----------|

| | |
|---------------------------|----------|
| I. Project Summary | 6 |
|---------------------------|----------|

| | |
|--|----|
| Target Beneficiaries | 6 |
| Scope | 6 |
| Funding | 6 |
| Co-Ownership | 6 |
| Lobbying and Awareness-raising | 7 |
| Partnerships | 7 |
| Main challenges | 8 |
| Language barriers | 8 |
| Psychological barriers | 8 |
| Material deprivation | 8 |
| Funding sustainability | 9 |
| Changing regulations and state passivity | 9 |
| Project-based recommendations | 10 |
| Translating Diaconia into practice | 11 |
| How Eurodiaconia can support members' work | 12 |

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| II Project Overview | 13 |
|----------------------------|-----------|

| | |
|----------------|----|
| AUSTRIA | 14 |
| CZECH REPUBLIC | 15 |
| FINLAND | 17 |
| FRANCE | 18 |
| GERMANY | 19 |
| HUNGARY | 20 |
| KOSOVO | 21 |
| NORWAY | 22 |
| POLAND | 23 |
| SERBIA | 24 |
| SWEDEN | 26 |

INTRODUCTION

Eurodiaconia is a dynamic, Europe-wide community of organisations founded in the Christian faith and working in the tradition of diaconal service, who are committed to a Europe of solidarity, equality and justice. It represents more than 40 members working in over 30 European countries, including churches, not-for-profit welfare organisations and NGOs. Eurodiaconia links its members to examine social needs, develop ideas, influence policies and promote a social Europe. Together, they work to enable inclusion, care and empowerment of the most vulnerable and to ensure dignity for all.

In the last quarter of 2014, Eurodiaconia carried out a mapping exercise among its members concerning integration services for migrant children and families. The goal was to get an overview of diaconal projects aimed at integrating children and families who are at risk of social exclusion. The particular emphasis was on vulnerable migrant groups facing prejudice, poverty and restricted access to basic services such as housing, education and healthcare.

The main findings of the mapping exercise are presented in this report. The featured projects are meant to complement the best practice examples showcased in the context of the 2013 Eurodiaconia Award¹, which focused on the integration of migrants more generally, and aims to link together three of Eurodiaconia's key thematic areas: child poverty, social exclusion and migration.

Within the broad spectrum of persons affected by poverty and social exclusion, children and families with a migration background constitute particularly vulnerable groups. This report

illustrates the specific challenges these groups face, the ways in which Eurodiaconia members are engaging with these groups, and which factors need to be taken into consideration to ensure effective action in the future. Concretely, the aim of this report is threefold:

- » To collect good practice examples and to contribute to the European Commission's database of evidence-based practices².
- » To get an overview of main challenges faced by our members and to formulate recommendations on running integration services or projects.
- » To identify ways in which Eurodiaconia can support its members in the specific thematic areas.

The report is divided into two sections. The first section synthesises key findings from the various services and projects, outlining areas of focus, sources of funding, and ways of involving service users actively in decision-making processes. Furthermore, it explores main challenges, the connection between integration projects and diaconal values, recommendations made by members, and ways in which Eurodiaconia can support its members' work. The second section contains a collection of projects run by members who participated in the mapping exercise. This is by no means an exhaustive list of our members' projects in this area, but we hope that it can illustrate the main aim and the range of activities being undertaken, and serve as a fruitful starting point for further diaconal action at national and at EU level.

1. For more information on the 2013 award and its recipients, [please click here](#).

2. Including the [EPIC website \(the European Platform for Investing in Children\)](#).

I. PROJECT SUMMARY

This report draws on key findings of 19 projects, run by 14 members in 11 countries. Despite their common overarching objective, they vary widely in terms of target audience, scope and funding source.

Target Beneficiaries

Many of the examined projects focus particularly on migrants, whereas a smaller percentage is more generally intended to integrate vulnerable youth groups (amongst which migrants are an important category). The projects target young children, adolescents and young parents, or sometimes a combination of these groups. Whilst the majority of the discussed projects are focused on providing support at the individual level (children or, in some cases, parents), some explicitly aim to engage with family units in their entirety.

Scope

Educational support is a key aim of many of the projects examined here. Since migrant families often face language barriers and cultural knowledge gaps, children with a migration background can experience significant difficulties in accessing mainstream education. Other focal areas are: providing assistance with the search for employment (for young migrant adults and parents), counselling services (to help individuals cope with psychological stress, traumas and feelings of worthlessness), financial advice (particularly debt assistance), basic healthcare services and/or advice, housing support, and organising leisurely activities to stimulate social interaction and community integration. Some members adopt a broadly framed, integrated approach, attempting to tackle social exclusion from various angles (for example, through both vocational skills training and psychological empowerment), whereas others focus their expertise on particular issues.

Funding

It is interesting to note that the majority of projects run by Eurodiaconia members are not financed from EU sources such as the European Refugee Fund or the European Social Fund. In some cases, international organisations provide funding for national partners (for example, the work of the Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation in Serbia is co-financed by the OSCE and the UNHCR). In the majority of cases, however, funding comes from the national or the local level: federal governments, states and municipalities currently constitute key sources of funding.

Co-Ownership

Several projects and services actively involve their target groups in project planning and implementation phases. This sense of co-ownership can not only increase their motivation to participate, but also empower vulnerable individuals – by becoming actors rather than passive receivers of services, children and unemployed parents can develop a new sense of responsibility, self-worth, and control over the future. Tackling feelings of apathy and resignation can mark an important step in overcoming social exclusion. Methods of involvement range from asking children what kinds of services they need and how these services could be improved, to making migrant youth integral parts of the implementation process as volunteers or paid staff. Starting from the observation that the target groups themselves know best which concrete needs should be addressed, active involvement can be an important foundation for effective action. Furthermore, volunteers and staff can be important bridge-builders across cultural and linguistic gaps.

Lobbying and Awareness-raising

Some members combine project work with policy work by raising public awareness about their activities (through conferences, press releases and reports) and by lobbying local and national authorities – either on specific cases, or on general legislative gaps. This dimension is time-consuming and may exceed the capacities of smaller organisations. However, it can be an important way to not only address the symptoms of child and family poverty and social exclusion, but also the root causes from which these problems arise. Raising public awareness may also yield benefits in terms of funding – making sure that policy makers are aware of certain problems is an important step towards securing financial support.

Partnerships

Several projects are being conducted in partnership with other organisations and local municipal actors. For our members, partnerships are an important way to add political weight to lobbying activities, to enhance organisational capacity, to enable exchange of information, and to ensure a more comprehensive approach to integration. For example, by cooperating with social workers from the municipality, or by cooperating with other NGOs with a different expertise (such as legal expertise or psychological support), negative developments can potentially be recognised at an earlier stage, and support can be offered on various levels.



MAIN CHALLENGES

Despite working in very different cultural and political environments, Eurodiaconia's members often seem to face comparable challenges. On the one hand, main challenges regarding the integration of migrant children and families are connected to the target group itself - language barriers (hampering access to education and employment as well as the communication with service providers), psychological barriers and material deprivation (clothing, food, school equipment). On the other hand, they relate to the framework in which support takes place – namely, limited funding possibilities and state passivity.

Language barriers

Migrants are a particularly vulnerable group since they tend to have a limited command of the national language. In many cases, the education system is not well-accommodated to overcome this language barrier. Against this background, engagement with schools is important. Another potentially fruitful approach used by some of our members is to draw on the language skills of volunteers and staff members who themselves have a migrant background and can act as 'bridge builders'. In Germany, for example, the project 'Stadtteilmütter' successfully involves unemployed mothers who share the same linguistic and cultural background as the families which require support.

Psychological barriers

As noted by representatives from the Finland-based Vamos Youth Services, many children growing up in disadvantaged conditions grapple with feelings of worthlessness and pessimism towards their own future. Having faced exclusion, prejudices or bullying at school, they have limited trust towards other people. Furthermore,

as Diakonia Kościoła and Slezská Diakonie note, hopelessness can induce passivity, and families may feel little incentive to change their lives. Against this background, the approach of Vamos, aimed at decreasing professional distance and at investing in more personal relationships between social workers and service users, is proving promising. Furthermore, various projects or services of our members are geared at providing a safe space for interaction in an atmosphere of tolerance and openness, and at stimulating core social skills. Finally, counseling and assistance with the search for employment can be an important means of psychological empowerment for migrant youth and parents.

Material deprivation

Many migrant children and families our members work with live in impoverished conditions. They sometimes live in poor quality housing unsuitable for the raising of children, have unhealthy diets, face financial debts and/or suffer from addictions. As such, they may depend strongly on certain services (for example those related to healthcare) whilst not having the financial basis to fully access them. At the same time, our members note that material deprivation can be an obstacle to participation in diaconal projects. For example, they may lack funds to travel to the services, or parents might need to focus on securing food instead of attending support groups (a challenge mentioned by Church City Mission Stockholm). Organisations might therefore need to offer additional support (by providing clothing, food or transport) to enable these groups to participate; Slezská Diakonie, for example, entered into partnership with a food bank in order to respond directly to the basic needs of specific migrant families.

Funding sustainability

The financial capacity of our members is often limited, which restricts the scope of services and the maximum size of the target audience. At the same time, as Church City Mission Oslo has noted, funding is often short-term; securing funding for continued implementation is therefore a constant challenge, and a lot of different sources need to be taken into consideration. Diakonie Kosova, for instance, has been funded by four different sources between 2007 and 2014 (the European Refugee fund, the German federal government, a German state government and the protestant church of Düsseldorf).

Changing regulations and state passivity

As representatives from the Hungarian Reformed Church note, ensuring sustainable development is difficult in an ever-changing legal, institutional and financial environment.

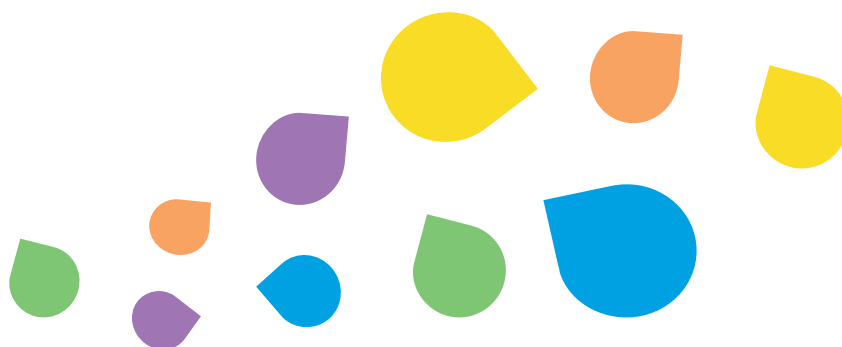
This is enhanced by the fact that authorities sometimes demonstrate insufficient awareness of key problems. For example, the Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation in Serbia has noted that the state system does not fully recognize the group of children who live and/or work on the streets and there are no social services made for their needs. The services organised by the state are often inaccessible to them because they do not have parents to accompany them, because they do not have personal documentation, or because they are not enrolled in a school. Frequently, the state sees them only as a disturbance to public peace and order. For this reason, public awareness-raising, lobbying and partnerships can be very important tools for advancing the integration of vulnerable groups.



PROJECT-BASED RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the recommendations made by Euro-diaconia's members, there seem to be four guiding principles which are integral to the success of their respective projects:

- » **Dignity:** Members' projects are based on seeing individuals as more than socio-economic labour units and listening to their real needs – not only in terms of material, but also psychological and spiritual needs. Diakonia Kościoła emphasises that children and youth are being taken seriously as persons with fundamental rights. It's not economic or political considerations which constitute the primary foundation for action, but an awareness of the importance to support and empower vulnerable individuals.
- » **Partnerships:** Church City Mission Gothenburg stresses that developing and maintaining regular contact and good relationships with other professionals working on similar issues is very important. Similarly, representatives from Slezská Diakonie stress that cooperation with municipal social workers is very important to their project work, enabling information exchange and the early recognition of factors which might impede child development.
- » **Involvement:** Church City Mission Oslo stresses that the active involvement of persons with a migrant background, who have shown an interest and talent for cooperating with professionals, significantly boosts the integration process. Diakonie Kosova maintains that respect for vulnerable ethnic groups should also manifest itself in allowing them space for meaningful participation. Additionally, the Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation emphasises the principle of voluntary consent, meaning that most interventions cannot be carried out without a child's explicit permission.
- » **Flexibility:** The Reformed Church of Hungary highlights the need to monitor the ever-changing political landscape, which can have a major impact on the nature and scope of its services. New legislative gaps have to be recognised and responded to on a regular basis – projects and services need to be adaptable to changing circumstances. On a similar note, the Church City Mission Stockholm emphasises the need for flexibility of the professional staff. For example, in order to allow vulnerable migrant families to participate in 'narrative health groups', they sometimes need to be provided with transportation or food on short notice.



TRANSLATING DIACONIA INTO PRACTICE

Our members feel that their services and projects reflect diaconal values by emphasizing the **equality** and **dignity** of all people as creations in God's image, regardless of ethnicity, gender, age or religious beliefs. Diakonie Deutschland links Christian social practice to the promotion of an **inclusive society**, wherein equal chances and participation should be provided for all. Against this background, working with people who are at risk of social exclusion and not able to seek assistance elsewhere is of central importance.

Other core principles mentioned are **justice**, **community** and **fellowship**, highlighting the connectedness of individuals and the need to

promote mutual respect, tolerance and openness. Children and families with a migration background constitute a particularly vulnerable group; as holders of unalienable rights which are too often infringed upon, they deserve our special attention. Diakonie Kościoła, Eurodiaconia's member in Poland, stresses the importance of defending children's rights and allowing them access to a brighter future. The Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation in Serbia states that its services are aimed at 'expressing God's love' by serving others: *„The best way to show and bear witness to this love is to translate it into concrete help towards marginalised individuals within the society.“*



HOW EURODIACONIA CAN SUPPORT MEMBERS' WORK

Members have mentioned three main ways in which Eurodiaconia can support their work: a) by raising awareness about specific topics at the EU level, b) by assisting members in monitoring the implementation of relevant policies at a national level, and c) by providing more information about EU funding.

Mentioned topics which might warrant closer consideration at EU level are:

- » Children with disabilities and the disadvantages they and their families are facing (DECCB)
- » Youth unemployment/inclusive labour market, particularly in relation to early school leaving (Diaconia Kościoła)
- » Parental support and empowerment (Fédération d'Entraide Protestante, Salvation Army Norway)
- » Child labour and school attendance (Diakonie Kosova)
- » Support for preschool education opportunities for children (Slezská Diakonie)

Eurodiaconia will propose meetings on these topics to enable an exchange of expertise amongst its members and to identify key messages to policy makers.

Diakonie Kosova suggests that Eurodiaconia and national members could work closer together on **monitoring the implementation of existing policies** regarding child poverty by national governments, such as the EU Recommendation on 'Investing in Children - Breaking the cycle of disadvantage'³.

Finally, the fact that, so far, relatively few projects seem to have benefited from EU funding, despite the fact that the European Social Fund is explicitly aimed at supporting projects which promote social inclusion (amongst others), suggests that more work could be done in this area through trainings and briefings.

3. In 2013, the EU's 28 member states adopted a Recommendation called 'Investing in Children: breaking the cycle of disadvantage'. Implementation is still in its initial stage; the majority of Eurodiaconia's members has not yet observed concrete changes on the ground. However, two members have responded that the Recommendation may already have shown first results. DECCB in the Czech Republic mentions that new programmes for poor children have been created, enabling them to receive free lunch in schools. Diakonia Kosciola in Poland mentions that the Recommendation has increased political awareness of child poverty and the need to address it on a national government level.



II. PROJECT OVERVIEW

AUSTRIA

Diakonie Österreich 13

CZECH REPUBLIC

Diaconia of the Evangelical Church of the Czech Brethren (DECCB) 14

Slezská Diakonie 15

FINLAND

Oulu Deaconess Institute 16

Helsinki Deaconess Institute 17

FRANCE

Fédération d'Entraide Protestante 17

GERMANY

Diakonie Deutschland 18

HUNGARY

Reformed Church of Hungary 19

KOSOVO

Diakonie Kosova 20

NORWAY

Church City Mission Oslo 21

Salvation Army Norway 22

POLAND

Diakonia Kościoła Ewangelicko-Augsburskiego 22

SERBIA

Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation (EHO) 23

SWEDEN

Organisation: Church City Mission Gothenburg 25

Organisation: Church City Mission Stockholm 25

THEMATIC INDICATORS

Education



Social activities



Counselling



Healthcare



Employment



Housing



Financial Advice



AUSTRIA

Organisation: Diakonie Österreich

1. Project Name: BACH Bildungszentrum

Project Aim: The BACH Bildungszentrum is an educational centre for youth and young adults with a migration background, located in Lower Austria. It concentrates its activities around three main pillars: basic education, a nine-month course facilitating (compulsory) school graduation, and advice on further educational and vocational training. BACH is intended to stimulate the integration of young migrants into the Austrian educational system and to improve their chances on the labour market.

Project Description: In terms of basic education, the BACH centre offers reading and writing courses as well as general knowledge courses. To enable youth with a migrant background to graduate, it has set up a nine-month programme (Schulpflichtabschlusskurs), during which the individual school subjects are being explained and then formally examined. Following

this programme, a tenth month can be used to discuss next steps in terms of pursuing higher education. Furthermore, BACH offers social-pedagogical support, basic IT training, application training, workshops and excursions. Finally, the BACH centre offers general educational and vocational advice; to overcome potential language barriers, training can also be offered in foreign languages such as Russian or Dari.

Funding: The three main pillars of BACH's activities are all funded by the State of Lower Austria, the Federal Ministry for Education and Women and the 'Initiative Erwachsenenbildung' (adult education initiative). The school graduation course is additionally funded by the Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs, whilst the educational advice programme is co-financed by the European Social Fund.

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Organisation: Diakonie Österreich

2. Project Name: Betreuungsstelle für unbegleitete minderjährige Flüchtlinge

Project Aim: In 2002, Diakonie Austria launched a childcare facility for unaccompanied, underage refugees in Mödling. Started as pilot project, the facility has now become an established basis for supporting young migrants up until the age of 18.

Project Description: The childcare facility can offer accommodation to up to 38 children and youth aged 13-18. Additionally, these children receive clothing and hygiene articles, basic health care, and basic educational training. For example, after a short time, most of them attend

German language courses as well as reading and writing courses. Once they have a sufficient command of the German language, they can pursue further educational options, such as school graduation courses or higher education. A lawyer supports the youth with their asylum procedure; there are regular exchanges between representatives of the facility, the youth office (Jugendamt) and the State Government. A small multidisciplinary team offers professional psychological counselling to the youth, who have sometimes gone through traumatising experiences, and organises leisurely activities.

Funding: The project is funded by the Federal Ministry for Internal Affairs and the State of Lower Austria.

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CZECH REPUBLIC

Organisation: Diaconia of the Evangelical Church of the Czech Brethren (DECCB)

3. Project Name: Rubikon

Project Aim: In 2004, the DECCB established a low threshold centre for children and youth (6-26 years old) from disadvantaged backgrounds, including those with a migration background. Rubikon is intended to provide a 'safe space' where children and youth people can come for free, spend their free time and experience an atmosphere of respect, understanding and trust.

Project Description: Social workers provide special counselling, emotional support and guidance in order to empower children and young persons and prepare them for a brighter future. Main topics of engagement are social relationships (with partners or friends and within the family), education, addiction problems, discrimination, employment and poverty issues. Additionally, the project focuses on the transmission of soft skills such as consensus-finding,

voicing personal opinions, mutual understanding and avoiding aggression. More than 100 young persons participate in the project on a yearly basis; the staff consists of 3 social workers and a lector coordinating a musical workshop. The project has enabled many children to make the transition from special to regular primary education.

Funding: The project is funded through the municipality, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Social Affairs, funds from regional authorities, the ESF, the Council of the Government for Roma issues and through a Czech-Swiss partnership. The funding available varies every year, which is why the services are not equally available every year. In 2012 the organisation had to reduce the number of workers and services rapidly.

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Organisation: Diaconia of the Evangelical Church of the Czech Brethren (DECCB)

4. Project Name: Mozaika

Project Aim: Mozaika is a project encompassing social activation services, which are directed at families in their entirety. Social workers aim to support the parents in solving their household problems and ensuring qualitative care, training and education for their children. Families receive help, for example, with debt problems, educational challenges (including limited access to necessary school supplies), communication with healthcare bodies and governmental institutions, and the search for employment.

Project Description: Every year, the project supports roughly 50—60 families, which are often Roma families facing social exclusion.

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Since Romany is the predominant language at home, their children have a limited grasp of the Czech language and face significant barriers in accessing mainstream education (such as regular primary schools). Against this background, the project „Školička“ was created, which helps children prepare for their enrolment into primary school through Czech language classes and social skills development. Around 10-15 children (aged 3-5) are participating in the project.

Funding: Mozaika receives financial support from the ESF, the Ministry of Regional Development, the Ministry of Labour and Social affairs and various foundations.



Organisation: Slezská Diakonie

5. Project Name: Social Activation focused on families with children

Project Aim: Slezská Diakonie is running a social activation project focused on families with children, which started in 2004 in Ostrava and gradually expanded across the broader region. Although there were already services for adults and children in place, this project was the first one to target families in their entirety. The main aim was to help the parents in such way that their children could stay in the family, instead of being taken into institutions or foster care. The target families, some of which have a migration background, are facing lots of problems: they have poor living conditions, parents are mostly unemployed, and the household has lots of debts and is dependent on social benefits. The project tries to help these families find a better place to live and solve their difficult financial situation (by providing debt advice), assists in the search for employment, gives emotional

support and trains parental skills.

Project Description: The project comprises 10 social activation services, which Slezská Diakonie is running across the region. The service is provided in the home environment of the families, which also enables social workers to monitor conditions which could be causing difficulties regarding child development. Volunteers support the children with their learning at school. Since some families don't have enough (nutritious) food at home, the project cooperates with the food bank. Additionally, there is a close cooperation with municipal social workers of the Ostrava town districts. Slezská Diakonie advocates for the families on a local level (with municipalities and regional authorities) and is a part of the Platform for Social Housing, which was established in 2014.

Funding: The project is funded by the state and by the municipality. In its initial stage, the project also benefited from ESF funding

(belonging to the category of projects aimed at social integration).

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FINLAND

Organisation: Oulu Deaconess Institute

6. Project Name: PAKU-project

Project Aim: The PAKU-project is intended for children and young persons aged 8-16 from Oulu, who have limited opportunities to enjoy sport or culture with other young people, because their lives are constrained by (at least) one of the following factors: migrant background, obesity, low self-esteem, physical disability, lack of parental support and/or peer support, or poverty. The PAKU-project aims to provide these vulnerable youth with positive experiences through team sports and musical activities, in order to foster confidence and a sense of control over the future whilst reducing the risk of social exclusion.

Project Description: The PAKU-project organizes team sports such as basketball, ice hockey and soccer. It also coordinates a visual arts group. About 100 children and young persons attend project activities every week. The PAKU-project recruits, trains and supports volunteers to support children and young people. About 15 volunteers are currently involved. Volunteers come to the project through ODL's voluntary activities, as well as through sport clubs and cultural organizations operating in the broader Oulu region. The project works in such a way that the confidentiality of the participating children and young people is ensured.

Funding: Not specified

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Organisation: Helsinki Deaconess Institute

7. Project Name: Vamos Youth Services

Project Aim: Vamos provides support to 16-29 year old youngsters, helping them to find their way into education or working life. Most of them are feeling lonely and worthless, have been bullied in school and lacking trust in other people. Vamos is intended to be a holistic, low-threshold service for youth who are at risk of social exclusion. It represents a hybrid model for activation and rehabilitation, which includes both outreach-based individual support and rehabilitative groups. All services are based on the needs of the youth and are meant to complement the gaps in public services.

Project Description: The threshold to Vamos' services is low. Youths don't need any diagnoses or official statements. Many of them find their way to Vamos themselves; others are guided by families, relatives and friends, or by public services from the social, health and education sectors. Participation is always on a voluntary basis and doesn't require any finan-

cial contributions. The first mission of Vamos is always to build trust; in order to do so, the professional distance which characterizes most traditional services needs to be replaced by more personal relationships. Additionally, Vamos involves the youth in planning and decision-making – clients are asked what kind of support they need, and practical next steps are then worked out together. Vamos tries to offer support from an integrated and holistic perspective; psychiatric nurses, a doctor, social workers, employment officials and other municipal authorities are all working under the same roof. Furthermore, Vamos cooperates with local NGOs which provide various peer support groups and hobbies for the youth of Vamos. In this way, Vamos can be seen as a local platform for youth services.

Funding: Vamos is financed by the municipalities of Helsinki and Espoo, but also by private donors and enterprises.

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FRANCE

Organisation: Fédération d'Entraide Protestante

8. Project Name: Nursery «Chaudoudoux de Lyon»

Project Aim: Many unemployed parents struggle during their job search because of the absence of affordable childcare solutions. Therefore, the FEP has created a small-sized and free nursery to allow parents experiencing poverty, including those with a migration background, to search for jobs while their children are being looked after.

Project Description: Apart from looking after the children of parents experiencing poverty,

the nursery also acts as a counselling service, supporting vulnerable parents in the process of coping with difficult circumstances (bereavement, unemployment), and tries to contribute to their social and professional reintegration. It tries to ease potential feelings of guilt on part of the parents and organises meetings to discuss ways in which they can work towards their professional reintegration and fulfil their parental responsibilities.

Funding: The nursery is funded by private donors as well as by grants from the municipality and the district.

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GERMANY

Organisation: Diakonie Deutschland

9. Project Name: Stadtteilmütter

Project Aim: The Neukölln-area in Berlin is characterised by high unemployment, low education levels, multi-ethnicity and poverty. Migrant children who grow up in the area often have trouble to keep up with other pupils in school and have a limited command of the German language. Their parents feel isolated and helpless in their communication with daycare centres, schools and local authorities – they are unable to fully benefit from extracurricular educational and language programmes. The project ‚Stadtteilmütter‘ actively involves disadvantaged families in the process of overcoming these barriers. Previously unemployed mothers (called ‚Stadtteilmütter‘), who themselves have a migration background and are at risk of social exclusion, receive training to empower other families, and specifically their children, within their neighbourhood. In the process, they themselves develop more self-confidence, become bridge-builders within the local community and gain valuable professional skills, which constitute a foundation for future employment. As such, the project is meant to

benefit both the Stadtteilmütter themselves and the families they’re supporting.

Project Description: An important advantage of the project is that it overcomes potential language barriers by linking Stadtteilmütter to other families who speak the same mother tongue. Mothers pay regular visits to the families at their home to discuss topics ranging from language development and the German school system to domestic violence, children’s rights, healthy nutrition, sexual education and engaging with media. The women often know the many challenges a migrant family might face from their own experience – on this basis, and because of the fact that they share a common language, they are often better able to build up trust than traditional social workers. The Stadtteilmütter themselves receive professional support from project staff during weekly team meetings, as well as job application training and personal coaching.

Funding: Not specified

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Organisation: Diakonie Deutschland

10. Project Name: Jugendmigrationsdienst Bitterfeld-Wolfen

Project Aim: In Bitterfeld-Wolfen, located in the former DDR, the population size is gradually dwindling. Many young persons with a migration background are facing social exclusion and limited chances of employment. The local youth migration service advises children and young persons with a migration background on various issues and supports them regarding challenges they might be facing at school, access to social services, and with health issues. Additionally, the service supports young persons in their search for vocational training opportunities and living space.

Project Description: A distinguishing feature of the youth migration service in Bitterfeld-Wolfen is that it not only serves as an advice centre, but also as an informal meet-up point („Jugendtreff“) for the local youth. It is open during the week, and often in the weekend as well, giving young people access to computers and sports equipment they might not have at home. Additionally, the centre organises group

activities such as soccer training, dancing events and educational trips. The participants play an active role in shaping the centre's activities: older children offer homework support to the younger ones, attend team meetings with the staff, and have in the past even coordinated fundraising activities. As such, the centre fosters participation and responsibility amongst the youth. An important added value of the „Jugendtreff“ consists in the fact that it enables the staff to connect with the youth more easily, and to lower the threshold for seeking counsel. Similarly, children and youth who turn to the centre for advice are automatically provided with many new opportunities to spend their free time and meet others. Since the centre is not only frequented by children and youth with a migrant background, but also by those who don't have a migrant background, the project has proven quite effective in terms of youth integration.

Funding: Not specified

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HUNGARY

Organisation: Reformed Church of Hungary

11. Project Name: Refugee Mission

Project Aim: The Refugee Mission is currently running three long-term projects focused on integrating migrant children and families: a housing programme for refugees, a schooling programme for refugees and an after-school teaching programme for migrant students. The projects have gradually grown in size and scope since 2006 – they are adjusted to legal and social gaps and the needs of their target

groups on a yearly basis. The basic aim remains the same: to support the sustainable development and integration of refugees and migrants in Hungary within an ever-changing legal, institutional and financial environment. To this end, the Refugee Mission also engages in political advocacy, addressing legislative gaps in the education system and the child protection system.

Project Description: The Refugee Mission not only supports migrant families by providing free housing solutions, but also by assisting parents through language education, by providing re-assessments of their professional skills and offering employment orientation, and by supporting them in the development of parental skills. Since the Hungarian education system is not well-accommodated to non-native speakers,

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the Refugee Mission mediates between schools and parents and coordinates individual tutoring sessions to enable refugee children to become active participants within the Hungarian school system. Two staff members have a refugee background themselves.

Funding: European Refugee Fund, European Social Fund.



KOSOVO

Organisation: Diakonie Kosova

12. Project Name: See below

Project Aim: Diakonie Kosova is currently running three interlinked projects aimed at child and family integration:

- » Return and Integration Project, aimed at supporting the return and integration process that has taken place in Kosovo since 2007. In several cases, children who have returned to Kosovo and who have been enrolled in local schools are experiencing language difficulties. Diakonie Kosova has set up language courses for these children to ease their access to the school system.
- » Psycho-Social Counselling Service, available for children and families.
- » Youth Centre (for children and youth aged 14-21), which organises leisurely activities to stimulate the integration of children into broader society.

The projects have a multi-ethnic focus, aiming at equal participation regardless of ethnicity.

Project Description: More than 185 children have been helped by the Return and Integration Project so far – most of them have a Roma, Ashkali or Egyptian background. In cooperation with the Psycho-Social Centre, many children have been successfully integrated into the school system. The projects are linked together closely, enabling a more integrated approach: the 2 staff members working for the Return and Integration Project are supported by 5 members from the Psycho-Social Centre and 4 Youth Centre staff. Project participants are involved in the exchange of best practices and have the opportunity to contribute ideas on project implementation.

Funding: The projects run by the Diakonie Kosova were funded by the German federal government and the European Refugee Fund from 2007 until 2011. Funding was consequently funded by the Rhineland-Palatinate and by the German Protestant Church of Düsseldorf.

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NORWAY

Organisation: Church City Mission Oslo

13. Project Name: PMV – Multicultural centre for health, dialogue and development

Project Aim: The focus for most of City Mission Oslo's work on children and family integration is located at PMV – multicultural center for health, dialogue and development. PMV was first established in 1994 with the purpose of developing methods and strategies for health promotion which would be experienced as meaningful in a multicultural context. Through its many projects, the center works towards:

- » Uncovering challenges experienced by marginalised families
- » Influencing awareness of minority concerns in fields of research and specialist networks
- » Countering isolation and marginalisation, and contributing to health promoting activities
- » Building inclusive communities and promoting rights (through ongoing group facilitation and individual bridge-building)

Project Description: PMV is a center for health, dialogue and development, facilitating social and intercultural bridge-building. It focuses on family-related concerns, often linked to the prevention/solving of conflicts between parents and their children in a migration context. The center seeks to fight child poverty and social exclusion through activating parents on issues concerning Norwegian society, motivating them to become more active in their children's daily life and offering them an opportunity to discuss ways in which to manage child-

raising in a different cultural context. The center offers:

- » Parenting courses (ICDP – International Children Development Program)
- » Courses that offer information about The Norwegian Child Care service
- » Meetings on topics concerning social control, in association with both forced marriage and female genital mutilation.

The center employs 8 regular staff, 4 of which have a migration background. Additionally, the center relies on cooperation between professional staff and 'natural helpers'. These are persons with an immigrant background who have shown an interest in, and talent for, collaborating with professionals in order to improve migrants' health and living conditions and to support their integration process. They are voluntary bridge-builders who contribute to family counseling and conflict resolution. The center is in regular contact with professionals/specialists interested in its methods and takes part in conferences, debates and interviews.

Funding: Core funding comes from the Norwegian Directorate of Integration and Diversity (IMDI), the Municipal agency for health and welfare and the Church City Mission Oslo. Additional project funding is received as result of applications submitted to various public and private institutions.

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Organisation: Salvation Army Norway

14. Project Name: Family Workshop Programme

Project Aim: Due to an increase in child poverty in recent years, the Salvation Army is trying to empower vulnerable families through its 'family workshop programme', focusing particularly on poor families and families with a migrant background.

Project Description: Amongst the Salvation Army's main ways of supporting migrant families are its hand-out centers, where people can come for food and clothes. The Army also hosts café meetings for women, where they can experience fellowship and learn about their rights. The «Family workshop» is a project that is aimed

at helping poor families to build a network and to give them an opportunity to talk about their everyday problems. This project is not directly targeting immigrant families but most families who are coming to this project have immigrant background. The program includes a meal for the whole family, activities for the children and a discussion group for the parents. The Salvation Army cooperates with the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and maintains contact with other organisations who can provide legal help.

Funding: The programme is funded internally by the Salvation Army and by the Norwegian government.

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POLAND

Organisation: Diakonia Kościoła Ewangelicko-Augsburskiego

15. Project Name: Meeting Centre Szansa

Project Aim: In Zabrze, rising unemployment has led to an increasing number of families living in social isolation and facing stigmatisation, resulting in inter-family tensions, addictions, domestic violence and health problems. The children of the affected families often have a low education level and have little perspective and hope with regards to their future. The main aim of the meeting centre Szansa is to offer these vulnerable children leisurely activities, to support them in discovering their own interests and potential, and to foster a new sense of self-awareness and hopefulness regarding the future. The meeting centre Szansa is also specifically aimed at so-called euro orphans - children from families wherein one or both parents are absent for large parts of the year due to labour migration. These children constitute a very vulnerable group, often struggling

with social isolation and at risk of drug addiction and suicide.

Project Description: The meeting centre Szansa is specifically focused on children and young persons aged 7-15 from dysfunctional families, who experience poverty, addiction and neglect. In 2013/14, the project offered support to seven children from disadvantaged families, and to three further participants suffering from Foetal Alcohol Syndrome. The project has a capacity to support 20 participants at any time in total. The project is carried out in partnership with the local protestant congregation, the department for health protection and social care of the municipality of Zabrze and various schools. Szansa offers an atmosphere of security and acceptance, in which children can experience tolerance, friendship and open-

ness towards others, and increase their feelings of self-worth and personal responsibility. The centre also organises cultural activities such as theatre/cinema visits and workshops, and other educational and leisurely initiatives. Due to the centre's many partnerships and the broader regional renown of the project, public awareness of the topic of youth inclusion and

its importance has increased significantly in Zabrze.

Funding: The project is financed by the Protestant-Augsburgian church congregation in Zabrze, in cooperation with the municipality and multiple schools, and by the Diakonia Kościoła Ewangelicko-Augsburskiego.

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SERBIA

Organisation: Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation (EHO)

16. Project Name: Shelter for street children

Project Aim: EHO started to work with street children, many of whom have a Roma background, to improve their quality of life. Children who work and/or live on the streets are from dysfunctional families, they are excluded from the education system, they frequently don't have personal documents or health insurance, and they can more easily become victims of violence. Due to their work on the streets, they are exposed to many risks. Their primary sources of information are adults who make them work and other children in street situation. As a result of not having regular contact with other sources of information (a functional family, school etc.), these children are often not familiar with basic information about the world around them, reproductive health, personal hygiene, etc. Even if they are victims of violence, they often do not report violence incidents because they do not have enough information and trust in institutions. The purpose of the shelter for children who work or/and live on the street is to prevent and reduce the damage on children physical and mental health, as well as to connect them with state institutions, to let them enjoy their basic human rights and to integrate them into society.

Project Description: The Shelter is the only place in Novi Sad where children in street situation can access services regardless of whether they possess personal documentation, whether they are accompanied by their parents, whether they attend school, etc. Since participation constitutes one of the basic principles in the Shelter, the participation of children is ensured in all phases of the project. In the development of monthly plans, children are always consulted about what activities they are interested in. At the level of everyday activities, all rules about behaviour in the Shelter (stealing and violence are forbidden, fixed times are set for breakfast and lunch, etc.) are developed and adopted in the workshops with children. Furthermore, interventions can generally be conducted only with the voluntarily consent of the child. The only exemptions are when the child is sexually exploited or when the child's life is endangered: in those two situations, personnel will always conduct an intervention. Furthermore, children can choose at what times they want to enter and leave the Shelter, which type of service they want to use, and whether or not they will participate in a workshop.

Funding: The street children programme is funded by foreign charities and the local government. Within this programme, one 12

month-long project was funded by the Delegation of the European Union in Serbia (Support to Civil Society Programme).

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Organisation: Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation (EHO)

17. Project Name: Roma Resource Centre

Project Aim: EHO started its Roma Resource Centre in 2001. The main aim of its various projects and activities is capacity-building of Roma people by improving access to education, employment and housing. In the projects “Assistance for forcibly displaced Roma people” and “Social inclusion and upgrading living conditions of Roma people in Serbia”, the target groups are Roma people returned to Serbia under the Readmission Agreement. The aim is to provide legal, economic and educational assistance, and to improve living conditions of Roma who have lost their residence permits in other EU countries and been forcibly returned to Serbia. Additionally, assistance is provided to Internally Displaced Persons from Kosovo, who live in the Vojvodina municipalities.

Project Description: EHO RRC has 10 full-time employees, divided into small team across the different municipalities. In its work with Roma, the RRC has developed a dweller-driven approach, which is promoting participation of Roma at all stages. It also promotes partnerships with all relevant stakeholders (including NGOs, municipalities and other state institutions) and actively encourages local authorities to develop strategies and plans towards better inclusion of Roma in the society. Main types of support are related to:

- » Education (individual mentorship support, school stationary, footwear, parent counseling, etc.). More than 190 Roma children have been supported through different services.
- » Legal issues (issuance of personal documentation both from Serbia and EU countries, advocacy, counseling and information sharing). More than 900 Roma returnees were provided with legal counselling and legal documents.
- » Employment (start-up grants for small and medium-sized enterprises run by Roma, training on job-seeking and writing business plans, networking with state institutions). So far, 19 Roma have completed crafts skills courses and 21 Roma has been given start-up grants. More than 100 Roma have received information and personal advice.
- » Upgrading living conditions (construction material and repairing housing units). In total, more than 100 Roma have requested this support. In 2014, the RRC provided the construction material for more than 160 house units in 5 municipalities.

Funding: The work with Roma is mainly funded by Swiss and German partners (church-based organisations, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland, and other state agencies), local municipalities, the OSCE and UNHCR.

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SWEDEN

Organisation: Church City Mission Gothenburg

18. Project Name: Meeting Centre for young parents

Project Aim: The Church City Mission has established a meeting centre for young parents (aged 23 or less) and their children in the suburb of Gothenburg (Biskopsgården). The aim of the project is to provide support to vulnerable individuals, some of which have a migrant background, since no comparable support platforms are currently existing.

Project Description: The numbers of staff and volunteers are approximately ten, all part-time (5-50%). The project engages with whole families by organising leisurely activities, by providing a safe space for family interaction, and by providing pre-schooling opportunities in the city centre.

Funding: The meeting-place is currently being financed by the City Mission itself, but the organisation is planning to apply for external funding.

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Organisation: Church City Mission Stockholm

19. Project Name: Unga Station

Project Aim: Church City Mission Stockholm is currently running a project called Unga Station, developed in response to the overwhelming number of children of irregular migrants who are not eligible for other mainstream support initiatives (e.g. within the publically funded health services). The project is still in its initial phase; the extent to which it could benefit children of irregular migrants is being evaluated.

organising free holiday respite camps.

The City Mission is also establishing a service based on interfaith partnership between local faith communities / representatives (including Muslim, Catholic, Syrian-Orthodox and Lutheran representatives), to ensure children and their families are both supported in terms of accessing their rights and in building sustainable networks in their local communities. Additionally, the City Mission coordinates narrative health groups, ensures that families can participate by providing transportation, and providing families with clothing.

Project Description: Unga Station provides holistic services to children/young persons and their families, including providing advocacy services (helping children/young persons and their families to access their rights in terms of housing, education, social services, etc.), providing access to therapeutic groups/structured support groups, providing assisting with cash allowances and debt advice, as well as providing food tokens and

Funding: The project is funded by contributions from members of the public and charitable foundations – there are no separate fundraising initiatives for the Unga Station project, but it benefits from the organisation's general fundraising for children services.

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