

Second transnational workshop
CADRE project

**Exchange of experiences and good practices on human rights
compliant alternatives to detention**

21 - 22 October 2021

Brussels

(with a possibility to participate on-line for those who cannot travel)

This workshop aims at the promotion of alternatives to detention with the aim of elimination of the detention of migrant children. This includes the identification of alternative forms of detention as opposed to alternatives to detention that in practice amount to deprivation of liberty.

This workshop will focus on exchange of experiences and good practices on alternatives to detention and their compliance with human rights (family unity, right to education, health, play, prevention of abuses). It will specifically focus on case management and placement of migrant children in mainstream child protection systems.

Participants: national and international experts and practitioners linked to alternatives to immigration detention for children, including lawyers, judges, academics, social workers, guardians, child-care services and policy makers.



DAY 1
15:00-18:30
Case management

15:00-15:15 Welcome and tour de table

15:15-16:30 **Case management, Community assessment and placement model**
Moderated by: Karolína Babická, ICJ

Case management, Community assessment and placement model is one of the most human rights compliant “alternative to detention,” a structured social work approach to migration management centred on individuals’ engagement with migration procedures. In this session discussion among experts will address the following issues and questions:

Practical challenges and obstacles in implementing case management

Screening

- A screening should be carried out in the first hours of contact with the authorities and should include a multi-disciplinary and non-invasive age assessment. What are the main challenges to this in national contexts, and how can these be overcome?
- How to identify children in insecure living conditions? Can/should a network for such identification and mapping be established? What are the tools that can be used for this purpose?
- How to ensure access to case management at the earliest stage possible?

Compliance and necessary support

- How to ensure and monitor compliance with immigration/asylum obligations e.g. avoid absconding, turning up at interviews, etc. (which would be one of the main intentions behind detaining the person)?
- How to ensure access to accommodation for children even after a short absence? (Examples of accommodation facilities cancelling a place for a child after having been absent for a day, and then not allowing the child to come back, thus pushing them to live in the street)

Case management

- What can be the obstacles in finding, training, involving case managers in your country?
- How to ensure children’s right to participation during case management?
- How to manage difficult family relations within the family under counselling?
- What is the best way/time to speak about return as one of the options in case management?
- What are the challenges in adapting case management to vulnerable individuals in the family concerned?
- What are the specifics and challenges in case management of unaccompanied children

Case management with additional restrictions imposed

- Where is the line between alternatives to detention and alternative forms of detention?
- Is there any added value of imposing such restrictions in cases when case management would otherwise not be possible?

16:30-17:00 *Break*

17:00-18:30 **Case management** *continued*



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Moderated by Eleonora Celoria, ASGI

Encouraging the use of case management

Strategies to implement case management

- What are the main arguments that can be used in encouraging the use of case management by the national authorities?
- How can existing evidence be used in practical and to the point discussions with the authorities?
- How to establish trust and good information flow between the authorities and the actors implementing the case management?
- How to best communicate on the fear of abusive asylum claims, and in case of such situations emerging?

Effective coalition building

- What were the best strategies to build coalitions with the key experts and services (e.g. housing facilities or health care providers) that are needed for building an effective case management programme?
- What are the best strategies in case of lack of relevant services and professionals needed in case management, for instance a lack of guardians.

At the border

- What is the best practice in implementation of this A2D or elements of it in other than return / irregular stay context – for instance at the border?

18:30 Wrap-up

19:00 Dinner



DAY 2

9:30-12:30

Placement of migrant children in mainstream child protection**9:30-10:30 Placement of migrant children in mainstream child protection***Moderated by: Kristina Gologanova, Reachout Foundation*

Brief introduction

Placing the child in the mainstream child protection system of the country would most often result in high level of compliance with the human rights of the children (family unity, right to education, health, play, prevention of abuses, etc.). As migrant children are first and foremost children, the special care available to national children should be immediately available to asylum seeking and other children in the migration context. There are currently many practical and legal challenges and obstacles to such placements, which will be discussed during this day:

Screening

- A screening should be carried out in the first hours of contact with the authorities and should include a multi-disciplinary and non-invasive age assessment. What are the obstacles to this and how can these be overcome?

Guardianship

- What if there are not enough guardians available in your country? What are the viable options and scenarios?

Age assessment

- What are the concrete solutions for age assessment in this context?
- Can age assessment be conducted within 24 hours?
- What approach to take in cases when the age assessment is very lengthy?
- What are the risks of keeping potential adults in accommodation for children, while age assessment is pending?

10:30-11:00 *Break***11:00-12:30 Placement of migrant children in mainstream child protection***continued**Moderated by: Neil Falzon, Aditus Foundation***Practical challenges** and obstacles when implementing this A2D

- How to best involve of child protection authorities? How to tackle obstacles related to their capacity, or lack of relevant training?
- Need for specific support: how to ensure there is interpretation, legal aid or inter-cultural training available to child protection authorities and for foster families.
- How to deal with a potential reluctance of immigration authorities to refer children to the child protection system?

12:30 *Wrap-up*12:30 *Lunch*