

Current problems of directors on child protection in the european system

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Abstract

In summary the issues raised in the study, in the following we will consider a brief overview of the most important concepts that characterize the current problems of directors on child protection within the European Union. Despite a comprehensive framework of tools, standards and commitments on the rights of the child and the first progress in achieving agreed objectives, current reality for millions of children worldwide it is still very contrasting in relation to these commitments and objectives.

Keywords: "directors", "child protection", "commitments", "standards", "rights".

I. INTRODUCTION ON CHILD RIGHTS

Interest in children's rights occurred in the second half of the nineteenth century, when the first movement arose concerned with issues related to child development, thus pleading for protecting children against neglect, exploitation and violence.

After WWI, the idea of child rights for the first time captured the world's attention. In 1924, the League of Nations adopted the Geneva Declaration. In 1959, the United Nations adopted the Declaration of the Rights of the Child.

In the late 1960s, the focus was on the idea of child participation rights, more and more leaders arguing that children have the necessary powers to take decisions on important issues in their lives and should be allowed to participate in making these decision.

On 20 November 1989, it has adopted the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. It entered into force in September 1991 and has been ratified by most countries of the world except the USA and Somalia.

According to it,

- The child has the right to establish and preserve its identity.
- The child has the right to maintain personal relations and direct contact with parents, relatives, and other persons to whom the child has become attached.

- The child has been separated from both parents or one of them, by a measure ordered by law has the right to maintain personal relations and direct contact with both parents, unless this is contrary to the best interests of the child.
- A child whose parents reside in different States shall have the right to maintain personal relations and direct contact with them, unless it is contrary to the best interests of the child.
- The child has the right to receive an education enabling the development discriminatory conditions, skills and personality.
- The child has the right to enjoy the highest attainable standard of health attainable and to benefit from medical and rehabilitation services necessary to ensure the effective realization of this right.
- The child has the right to be protected against exploitation and can not be compelled to work that carry a potential risk or is likely to compromise his education or harm his health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social.
- The child has the right to enjoy a living standard enabling the development of physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development.
- The child has the right to benefit from social assistance and social insurance, depending on resources and the situation in which it is located and which is dependent individuals.
- The child has the right to be protected against illicit use of narcotics and psychotropic substances as defined by international treaties.
- The child has the right to protection from all forms of exploitation.
- The disabled child is entitled to special care tailored to their needs.
- The child has the right to protect his public image, his intimate life, private and family. It prohibited any action affecting the public image of the child's right to private life and family.
- The child has the right to freedom of expression.

Parents or, as appropriate, other legal representatives of the child, people who foster children and persons who by reason of function promotes and ensures the rights of children are obliged to provide information, explanations and advice according to the

age and understanding of them and allow them to express their views, ideas and opinions.

- The child capable of discernment has the right to freely express his opinion on any issue that concerns them;

In any judicial and administrative proceedings affecting the child, the child is entitled to be heard. It is mandatory hearing a child reaches age 10. However, it can be heard and the child has not reached the age of 10 if the competent authority considers that the hearing is necessary for solving the case.

- The child has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion.

Religion child 14 years old can not be changed without its consent; the child who has reached the age of 16 have the right to choose their own religion.

- The child has the right to freedom of association, formal and informal structures, and the right to freedom of peaceful assembly within the limits set by law.

- The child belonging to ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities have the right to enjoy their culture, to declare his religious affiliation, to practice his or her religion, and the right to use their language in community with other members of the community to which it belongs.

- The child is entitled to the personality and individuality and may not be subjected to corporal punishment or other humiliating or degrading treatments.

- The child has the right to rest and leisure.

- The child has the right to be protected against any form of violence, neglect, abuse or ill-treatment.

- The child has the right to grow up with his parents.

- The child has the right to be brought up in an atmosphere of affection and moral and material security.

- Any child who is temporarily or permanently deprived of parental protection or to protect its interests can not be left in their care, he is entitled to protection alternative.

- The child has the right to submit complaints regarding the violation one of their fundamental rights; the child is informed of his rights and of how to exercise them.

Children's rights enshrined in the Convention relating to our attention that there are three broad categories of rights:

- protection rights - refers to protection from all forms of physical or emotional abuse, and against all forms of exploitation;
- development rights - refers to the availability and access to all basic services such as education and health care services;
- participation rights - refers to the child's right to be involved in decisions affecting him.

II. RIGHTS PROTECTION

Children have the right to be protected against:

- all forms of violence, abuse, mistreatment or neglect;
- illegal transfer abroad of non-refoulement and economic exploitation, sexual exploitation and sexual violence;
- illicit use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, kidnapping and trafficking for any purpose or in any form;
- corporal punishment or other humiliating or degrading treatment;
- deprived illegally, the elements of his identity, or some of them.

Immediately after birth, the child is registered at this time has the right to a name, the right to acquire a nationality and, if possible, to know their parents and be cared for, raised and educated by them.

It granted special protection:

- refugee children;
- disabled children;
- Children belonging to national minorities, ethnic, religious or linguistic;
- children unaccompanied by parents or a legal guardian, or which are not under the legal supervision of persons, children in areas of armed conflict;
- Children who have committed criminal offenses and are not criminally liable.

The relationship with parents, children have the right:

- to know their parents and be cared for and educated by them;
- not to be separated from their parents against their will, except as expressly and exhaustively provided by alternative protection law;
- to maintain personal relations and direct contact with parents, relatives, and other persons to whom the child has become attached.

Although the main responsibility of raising a child rests primarily its natural parents, the law obliges the local community to support children and families.

Even if the state can supply the subsistence conditions by respecting its role as guarantor of the rights mentioned above, it can not replace parents, which is why services were promoted family alternative, which is a real help to prevent separation of children from parents its swing in contrast to the old children.

Law on Child Rights has as a basic principle the idea that all children have the same rights as parents, local authorities and the state in general have a duty to assist and protect children so that they can realize their rights in their fullness.

It should be stressed that in any case, children are not mini people with mini rights but are citizens like everyone else, with full rights.

Infringement of a child exposes it great risk and abnormal physical and mental development, poor health, non-inclusion in education, dropout or homelessness.

Right to life

According to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, every child has the right to life; so, with the birth of this law enters into force.

In article 20 of the same Convention it is stipulated that any child who is deprived, either temporarily or permanently from his family environment is entitled to social protection and state aid. Therefore, the state is obliged to provide social protection of abandoned children and provide appropriate care possibility from another family or in a special institution.

The right to be protected against violence

Most are of child rights protection. Children must be protected against risk, such as the illegal transfer abroad, violence, abuse or neglect by parents or care-tors his sexual abuse or other involvement in the trafficking of illicit drugs and trafficking in children.

An abused child is a minor injury, which the physical and emotional injuries:

- vulgar language and behavior in his presence;
- negligence;
- abandonment;
- corrections management body;

- deliberate isolation;
- starvation;
- allowing illegally and committing any sexual act involving a minor, including incest, rape, indecent exposure, prostitution, etc.

Those who abuse children may be parents, knowledge, teachers and strangers, even other children because abuse can happen in any social environment.

The right to live in peace

In time of war, children have the right to be protected and the former can not become soldiers.

The war in Afghanistan was used for the first time in history Special me anti-child.

These "toy mines" exploded in the hands of curious children.

Child exploitation

Child labor is a form of harmful and hazardous work for children and a violation of international law and national legislation.

It's work and activities that are dangerous and harmful for children mentally, physically, socially or morally. Because of this, children are deprived of education or are forced to lead double burden of walking to school and work.

It can also be a work in which children are brought into a state of slavery and are separated from their families, condemning children and their families to get into a downward spiral of poverty and deprivation. Being fragile and sensitive physically and mentally, invites children are exposed to greater risk in the workplace than adults.

National surveys have shown that a very high percentage of children are physically injured or fall ill while working. Might some of these children will not be able to work again. The different sectors that use machinery, such as agriculture, the risk of accidents is much higher.

Agriculture, mining and construction are sectors with a high risk for working children.

III. Child Protection on EUROPEAN LEVEL

Convention on the Rights of the Child is the treaty on human rights with the widest ratification of history. It contains, in conjunction with its two Optional Protocols, a comprehensive set of binding international legal standards in the promotion and protection of children's rights. Together with other international and regional standards

on children's rights, including those adopted by the Council of Europe, these instruments provide a solid basis enjoyment of human rights by all children without discrimination of any kind, while constituting a reference for promoting and monitoring progress realization of child rights.

Other international commitments to promote and protect children's rights have been adopted at the UN Special Session devoted to children (UNGASS) in May 2002, providing an strategy based on binding deadlines for implementing and monitoring progress.

By adopting the Declaration and Plan of Action UNNGASS "A World Fit for Children" in 2002, Heads of State and Government pledged to promote children's rights globally and to implement the goals, strategies and actions agreed.

In addition, the Millennium Declaration and Millennium Development Goals with direct relevance on children's rights have been accepted in full. Concluding Document of the 2005 World Summit reaffirmed the importance of achieving their goals and targets.

1. EU Guidelines for the promotion and protection of child rights.

In the European Union human rights guidelines plays solid regional framework for the EU's work in promoting and protecting human rights in the EU's overall foreign policy on human rights and on the rights of children. To strengthen children's rights, the European Union has committed many years, multidimensional actions which include, in particular, the following:

- implementation of the 2003 EU Council Guidelines on Children and Armed Conflict;
- discussing children's rights in relation to third countries, particularly in the political dialogue;
- financing, in particular through the European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR), of projects to promote and protect children's rights;
- during the enlargement process, monitoring progress in terms of promoting child rights and supporting the reform of child protection in the candidate and potential candidate countries;
- Within the United Nations, the European Union, together with Latin American states, annually propose and support a resolution on the "Rights of the Child" and regularly

calls on states to sign, ratify and implement the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Protocols its Optional;

- support for the work of relevant international and regional actors in the field of child rights, in particular the UN Secretary General, United Nations Security Council, UN treaty bodies, particularly the Committee for the Rights of the Child, the UN special procedures and mechanisms, and support for appropriate organizations the UN, especially UNICEF, OHCHR, ILO, WHO and UNFPA and regional mechanisms, in particular the Council of Europe, OSCE, the European Network of Ombudsman for Children and civil society organizations;

The development policy of the European Union, "European Consensus on Development" includes respect for children's rights in EU Member States through reference to main international frameworks on human rights and the Millennium Development Goals.

For EC, there is a three way approach toward children, specific issues such as violence against children, children affected by armed conflicts, child trafficking, children's rights and needs through specific themes like education and health, and better integration of children's rights as one of the cross-cutting issues to consider in all programs and projects funded by the EC.

Guidance Notes implementing these policies and EC guidelines on mainstreaming children's rights at the country level require that children's rights are protected in a rights-based approach and seen as a cross-cutting issue. Sectorial policy documents are further tools for action.

The monitoring process following the special session dedicated to the children of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGASS) and control activity of the Committee for the Rights of the Child show that the Convention on the Rights of the Child is still insufficiently implemented and that mandatory deadlines UNGASS goals and reference elements on the Millennium Development Goals are far from being achieved.

To address this situation and allow more sustained and systematic action in order to promote children's rights in its foreign policy on human rights, the European Union decided to base, from now on worldwide promotion and protection of children's rights The following guidelines.

The guidelines.

With these "EU Guidelines for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of the Child" (the "Guidelines"), the European Union underlines the importance of the main legal instruments and international norms and standards on human rights and political commitments relevant to the promotion and protection children's rights, in particular the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Declaration of the Rights of the Child, the International Covenants on Human Rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its two Optional Protocols, the European Convention on Human Rights and Freedoms Fundamental Statute of the International Criminal Court and the Millennium Development Declaration and Millennium Development Goals, the Declaration and Plan of Action "A World Fit for Children" adopted by UNGASS in 2002 and other instruments and relevant standards on children's rights.

The European Union reiterates its determination to pursue a priority in its foreign policy on human rights promotion and protection of all rights of children, namely those under the age of 18, taking into account the interests of the child and his right to protection against discrimination and to participate in decision-making processes based on the principles of democracy, equality, non-discrimination, peace and social justice and the universality, indivisibility, interdependence and correlation of all human rights, including the right to development.

To achieve these objectives, the EU will promote general measures as contained in the guidelines and specific actions in priority areas based on implementing strategies that will be determined separately. By adopting an integrated approach to the promotion and protection of child rights, the EU will complement with these Guidelines its own guidelines on children and armed conflict in 2003, which will continue to guide EU actions in this specific area.

The guidelines will contribute in particular to:

- increasing the share of children's rights in its international agenda in order to give concrete and prevent violations of children's rights everywhere, especially at national level;

- Underlining the EU's commitment towards full recognition of children's rights, as guaranteed by relevant international instruments, most notably the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols;
- Underlining the inalienable character of children's rights in their completeness and indivisibility of the universal human rights, and that all rights recognized by the Convention on the Rights of the Child have equal importance, although actions to ensure their implementation should be based on the priorities in the light of specific national contexts;
- advancing the process of implementing the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols and other international and regional instruments and standards on children's rights;
- raising awareness of EU action on children's rights in the EU and third countries;
- supporting the integration of children's rights in EU policies and activities and strengthening the capacity of all relevant actors within the EU on children's rights;
- promote synergies, strengthen inter-institutional cooperation and supplementing the EU institutions, including the initiatives promoted by the European Commission on children's rights;
- providing additional operational tool for the EU to be used in political contacts with third countries and in international fora in any field relevant to the promotion and protection of children's rights.

Operational guidelines.

In its relations with third countries and in international fora, the EU will act, particularly in the sense:

- active promotion of its objectives the promotion and protection of child rights as part of the European Union's foreign policy on human rights, including in contexts related to development, peace and security, and to further promote the integration of these objectives in other policies External, including through political dialogue, development cooperation, humanitarian assistance and the accession process;
- prosecution of a human rights-based approach in the implementation of these objectives in the general principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, namely

non-discrimination, the interests of the child, child participation and child survival and development;

- promote a holistic approach, thus reaffirming the indivisibility, interdependence and interaction of children's rights while giving specific attention to priority areas concerned;
- prosecution of child rights promotion and protection in full compliance with the relevant international instruments and standards, in particular the Convention on the Rights of the Child, by adopting all necessary legislative, administrative or other measures, in particular the cross measures identified as "general measures implementation" by the Committee for Children's Rights.
- targeting a capacity enhancement "holders of obligations" (states and governments, to meet their obligations) as well as of "rights holders" (children, to enjoy and claim the rights).

2. EU objectives are:

- to remind third countries to encourage them and support them in their efforts to honor and fulfill their legal obligations and specific commitments to promote and protect children's rights under international law and political commitments, with particular reference those obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols, the declaration and action plan "A World Fit for Children" of UNGASS, the Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals and the relevant provisions of the World Summit outcome document and to support them in meeting these obligations and commitments;
- to promote and raise awareness towards a better understanding of the principles and provisions on children's rights as guaranteed in the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols and other international and regional instruments and standards relevant to children's rights;
- to complement and strengthen the European Union's ongoing efforts in multilateral fora and in EU relations with third countries to promote and protect children's rights through specific actions in priority areas;
- improve coherence between activities undertaken by Member States and the European Union's overall external action on children's rights.

3. Operational tools for EU action in relation to third countries.

To achieve these objectives the EU will use, in particular, the following tools for action:

Political dialogue (namely the introduction of children's rights in meetings and discussions in international and regional organizations and third countries at all levels, including the ministerial talks, joint committee meetings, formal dialogues led by the Presidency of the Council, the Troika, Heads of Mission or the Commission), in particular in order to:

- awareness on children's rights and international norms and standards on the promotion and protection;
- promote the ratification and effective implementation of relevant international instruments in the field of children's rights;
- promoting legislative reform to ensure conformity of national laws with international norms and standards on children's rights;
- promote the development of independent national institutions on children's rights in accordance with the Paris Principles;
- promote the effective coordination of interdepartmental activities and of actions between national and sub-national authorities as well as an allocation of adequate resources to ensure the promotion and protection of child rights;
- develop indicators for children and child impact assessments for the promotion and protection of child rights;
- commitment to support civil society in promoting and protecting children's rights;
- promoting children's participation in decision-making for the promotion and protection of their rights.

Steps (in connection with public statements, where applicable) - to respond to developments impacting the immediate importance of promoting and protecting children's rights, in particular to remind third countries to take effective measures to promote and protect children's rights, including consideration of the concluding observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child and other treaty bodies, using information from UN agencies, regional organizations, national institutions independent civil society organizations.

Bilateral and multilateral, including the following measures:

- expanding development programs and humanitarian assistance focusing on children's rights;
- discussing child rights in trade negotiations, programming discussions, country strategy papers, dialogues on development goals and National Action Plans for children as foreseen under UNGASS;
- use of Community funding and bilateral and development cooperation programs when funding projects to promote children's rights;
- Follow improve coherence between activities committed by Member States and the European Union's overall external action on children's rights, particularly in priority areas;
- Strengthening national structures and institutions, promoting legislative reform in conformity with relevant international standards, developing independent child rights institutions in accordance with the Paris Principles;
- Developing indicators for children and child impact assessments;
 - Promoting the involvement of civil society and child participation.
 - Developing partnerships and intensifying coordination with international stakeholders, such as:
- UN, in particular UN human rights mechanisms, special procedures and treaty bodies, in particular the Committee for Children's Rights;
- UN organizations, especially UNICEF, OHCHR, ILO, WHO and UNFPA;
- regional organizations, particularly the Council of Europe and OSCE;
- European Forum for Children;
- Partnerships between public and private research institutions;
- Civil society and international financial institutions.

4. Implementation.

4.1. General Action to strengthen children's rights.

In principle, the EU remains committed to promote and protect all the rights of children without distinction. The European Union will continue and expand current efforts in its external human rights policy, in multilateral fora and in its relations with third countries, encouraging states:

a) adhere to and implement international norms and standards and cooperate with international mechanisms and procedures in the field of human rights, in particular by:

- joining and subscription to international instruments and standards appropriate promotion and protection of children's rights and promote their effective implementation, in particular the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols, Conventions 138 and 182 ILO Convention on Refugees and its Protocol, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court;
- compliance with requests for protective measures, decisions, resolutions and recommendations of international human rights bodies, including the Committee on the Rights of the Child;
- cooperation with relevant UN mechanisms and procedures of human rights and national thematic mechanisms, particularly relevant in promoting and protecting children's rights;
- cooperation with relevant Council of Europe mechanisms, and promoting compliance with the European Court of Human Rights;
- cooperation with regional mechanisms for promoting and protecting children's rights, including monitoring progress.

b) to strengthen capacities for promotion and protection of children's rights at national level, in particular by:

- supporting the development of comprehensive national plans or strategies for the promotion and protection of child rights;
- Supporting the development and strengthening of governmental mechanisms for coordinating action to promote and protect children's rights at national and subnational levels.

c) Improve monitoring processes and structures, in particular by:

- Improving data bases and surveillance systems and development of indicators to gather, analyze and disseminate information broken promote child rights;
- promoting research in the field of child and including children in research and monitoring;

- observation capacity building, including the establishment of independent national institutions on children's rights, such as ombudsmen;
 - encouraging civil society participation.
- d) encourage the allocation of resources for the promotion and protection of children, in particular by:
- supporting the development and use of tools to provide visibility of children in budgetary processes at national and subnational levels, including in the context of international cooperation;
 - Encourage economic and social impact assessment policy on children.
- e) encourage legislative reform to promote and protect children's rights, in particular by:
- encouraging and supporting the enactment and changes in national legislation to ensure its compatibility with relevant international norms and standards in the field of child rights, in particular the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols;
 - encourage and support increasing the capacity of law enforcement agencies to investigate violations of children's rights and development processes tailored to the needs of the child for investigating and prosecuting violations of children's rights.
- f) Combat and discourage violations of children's rights, in particular by:
- legal prohibition of child rights violations and ill-treatment of children, including criminal law, and ending impunity for violations of children's rights;
 - condemnation at the highest level all forms of violations of children's rights, including through their inclusion among crimes of genocide;
 - take effective measures legislative, administrative, judicial or other measures to prevent violations of children's rights under the jurisdiction of the State and combat impunity for such violations;
 - Creation of national legal guarantees to promote and protect children's rights;
 - providing effective training to law enforcement officials and other staff working with and for children to promote children's rights protection and enforce international rules and instruments;
 - ensuring the recovery, rehabilitation and social reintegration of victims of violations of children's rights.

- g) offer children the opportunity to participate more effectively in decision-making and implementation of policies that affect them and to facilitate their participation;
- h) increase the capacities of families and other people who are under their care to perform their roles all the way in the protection of children's rights;
- i) support the development of awareness programs on child rights, in particular by:
 - Promoting public awareness campaigns on the rights of children and ensuring the promotion and protection of children's rights;
 - Encourage the inclusion of children's rights in school curricula and the development of training programs in all relevant areas.

4.2. Specific actions to strengthen children's rights in priority areas.

In the background to these guidelines, specific action will take place in priority areas on the basis of separate Implementation Strategies which will complement these Guidelines. To enable the EU to better address different categories of rights of the child over time, COHOM will select a priority area for a period of two years and an Implementation Strategy developed accordingly. Priority Area is subject to regular assessment and possible changes. The first such Priority Area will be "All violence against children".

4.3. The role of the Council working groups.

In accordance with its mandate COHOM will oversee the implementation and follow guidelines regarding the promotion and protection of child rights in close coordination and cooperation with other Council working groups. This will include:

- to promote inclusion, within European Union policies and activities appropriate to the appearance of promoting and protecting children's rights;
- evaluating the implementation of the Guidelines at appropriate intervals and form of ad hoc meetings;
- annual transmission via PSC and COREPER, as appropriate, reports to the Council on progress made towards the implementation of these instructions.

4.4. Informal platform for exchange of views with external third parties.

In the implementation of these guidelines, COHOM members can exchange views, if appropriate, with external third parties, in particular NGOs and international

organizations. The Commission is fully associated. No decision is respected. 2001/264 / EC of 19 March 2001 adopting the Council's security regulations.

5. Monitoring and reporting.

Given the vast scope of these guidelines, the European Union will follow by monitoring progress in the implementation of these guidelines to use the extensive experience relevant actors outside the EU and to work closely with them, in particular with bodies and mechanisms UN Special Procedures, treaty bodies, in particular the Committee on the Rights of the Child, UN organizations, particularly OHCHR, UNICEF, WHO, UNDP, ILO, UNFPA and civil society.

Human Rights Working Group of the Council, COHOM:

- will assess these guidelines and implementation strategy every two years of their adoption;
- Particular importance will be given to the first review of the guidelines progress in their implementation and on suggestions for further improvement, and determining whether the priority will be retained until the next review or changed, and submit these reviews to the Council;
- Particular importance will be given to the first assessment of the strategy for implementing the pilot program and progress in developing national strategies;
- seek to identify further means of cooperation with the UN and regional intergovernmental organizations, NGOs and other relevant actors in implementing and monitoring these Guidelines and will submit, if necessary, proposals to this effect by COREPER or the Council;
- promote and oversee further integration aspect of promoting and protecting children's rights in the relevant EU policies, regional and multilateral fora, these guidelines will spread and promote their implementation in the Member States, the EU Commission and the Parliament European.

IV. STRATEGY of IMPLEMENTATION FOR PRIORITY AREA "ALL FORMS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN"

To carry out specific action in the implementation of the "EU Guidelines for the promotion and protection of children's rights", the "All violence against children" was chosen as the first priority area of these guidelines.

The cultural elements, social status, education, income and ethnic origin, violence against children represents a particularly widespread violation of children's rights, also compromising children's developmental needs.

Different forms of violence continue to affect the lives of children of all ages from all over the world, including physical violence, mental, psychological and sexual violence, torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, child abuse and exploitation, hostage-taking, domestic violence, trafficking or sale of children and their organs, pedophilia, child prostitution, child pornography, child sex tourism, group violence, harmful traditional practices in all settings and corporal punishment in schools. For example, according to official estimates, in 2002 approximately 150 million girls and 73 million boys under 18 experienced forced sexual relations or were subjected to other forms of sexual violence. It is believed that worldwide, between 100 and 140 million girls and women have undergone some form of mutilation / female genital injury. In 2004, 126 million children were subjected to hazardous work.

Although the consequences of violence on children can vary depending on the nature and severity, the short- and long-term consequences are often grave and damaging. Children's vulnerability and their dependence on adults requiring special attention and determined international action to protect them from all forms of violence.

Preventing and combating all forms of violence against children

To complement its global action to combat all forms of violence against children with country-specific measures, the European Union, taking into account the predominant forms of violence in various countries and regions and addressing, while sex issues violence against children, develop national strategies for targeted actions in third countries:

- a. To develop strategies and as a basis for this, the EU will pay a first step, a comprehensive assessment of the situation in different countries regarding violence against children. Such assessment should be based, as far as possible on existing materials, in particular those from UNICEF, the UN Special Mechanisms, government sources and from the relevant actors in civil society.
- b. On the basis of such comprehensive assessments, and taking into account the recommendations of the UN Secretary General's Study on Violence against Children,

where appropriate, the concluding observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child and other treaty bodies in human rights recommendations human rights mechanisms and relevant information provided by stakeholders, particularly UN organizations, such as OHCHR, UNICEF, WHO, ILO and UNFPA, and regional organizations and civil society, national strategies may consist of the following items:

- encourage rapid ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, its Optional Protocols and other international and regional instruments and standards in human rights to prevent and address all forms of violence against children;
- encourage the withdrawal of reservations to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols which are incompatible with the objectives and purposes of the Convention and its Optional Protocols or even contrary to international law;
- encourage effective implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols, and - if necessary - of other international and regional instruments and standards in human rights monitoring and implementation of political commitments with particular relevance for combating violence against children;
- encouraging and supporting legislative reform to include national legislation banning all forms of violence against children, and under impunity;
- encourage and support the creation of independent national mechanisms and procedures for monitoring, reporting and complaint tailored to the needs of the child, on the cases of violence, with the development of procedures and relevant support services tailored to the needs of the child;
- encourage and support their active involvement in the development and implementation of systems and mechanisms for implementation;
- encouraging and supporting the creation of independent national institutions to promote the prevention and combating all forms of violence against children;
- encourage and support the development of strategies, action plans and national policies on violence against children that promote, inter alia, non-violent values and awareness raising and that prioritize prevention, taking into account issues of gender violence, duly supported by the allocation of necessary resources;

- encouraging and supporting the development and implementation of efforts to collect, analyze and disseminate data at national level, and to promote relevant research initiatives;
- encourage and support capacity-building measures those working with or for children to enhance the protection of children from violence and prevent, detect and respond to all forms of violence against children;
- encourage and support the provisions on services for victims, tailored to the child recovery and social reintegration for development of mechanisms for prevention and juvenile justice systems tailored to the needs of the child;
- encouraging and supporting the creation of mechanisms for establishing responsibility for ending impunity and to bring to justice all perpetrators of violence against children.

c. Once you have taken a decision on the list of countries that carry out specific actions, COHOM will take the necessary steps to develop assessments of these countries and draw up draft national strategy, emphasizing particularly relevant forms of violence against children and making concrete proposals to address them.

The draft national strategy will be submitted by COHOM European Union Heads of Mission in the respective countries for additions, additional assessments and approvals at the local level. After receiving these additions, COHOM will adopt national strategies and will start implementing them.

d. To speed up concrete EU action on violence against children in different parts of the world, a pilot program will be developed in the initial phase of the implementation of the guidelines, guiding EU action to a maximum of ten countries from different regions and in light of different contexts identified by the UN Study on Violence against Children. The selection of countries to be included in the pilot program, the EU could give special consideration to countries with which it already dialogues or consultations on human rights, thus enabling the EU to include rapidly and systematically addressing violence against children human rights dialogues and consultations on human rights.

V. FINAL THOUGHTS

In summary the issues raised in the study, in the following we will consider a brief overview of the most important concepts that characterize child protection within the European Union.

Human rights are the main conditions that enable people to develop and use their skills as effectively as physical, intellectual, moral, socio-affective and spiritual. They inspiration arising from the growing of mankind to a life of dignity and value of each is respected and protected.

Despite a comprehensive framework of tools, standards and commitments on the rights of the child and the first progress in achieving agreed objectives, current reality for millions of children worldwide it is still very contrasting in relation to these commitments and objectives.

Children still face major threats to survival, lack opportunities in terms of education quality and appropriate health and social services; they are victims of worst forms of child labor, sexual exploitation and abuse, diseases, armed conflict and various forms of violence; they are forced to marry at an early age and endure harmful traditional practices.

Children belonging to vulnerable groups or children in particularly difficult situations face particular risks and are exposed to discrimination, marginalization and exclusion. Girls young age face specific risks and require special attention.

References and Webography:

- Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union;
- The Treaty on European Union;
- UN Convention on the Rights of the Child ratified by Romania in 1990;
- 2006 European Commission document - "Towards an EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child";
- <http://www.consilium.europa.eu>.