

They are just children! Not slaves! *Voices of women on Trafficking of children and adolescents*

Irina Todorova

Regional Specialist Assistance to Vulnerable migrants



ACTIONS

- Recruitment
- Transportation
- Transfer
- Harboring/Receipt

MEANS/

METHODS

- Threat/use of force
- Forms of coercion Abduction
- Fraud
- Deception
- Abuse of power
- Situation of vulnerability
- Receiving of payments/benefits

PURPOSES

- Sexual exploitation
- Forced labor or services
- Slavery/practices similar to slavery
- Domestic servitude
- Begging
- Organ/tissue removal
- Armed conflicts
- Organized crime
- Surrogate mother
- Combined

Trafficking and Smuggling: Similarities and Differences

Legal, illegal or no border crossing

Legal or illegal documents

Documents taken

Coercion and repeated exploitation

Restricted movement, control

Commodity: an Individual

Crime against an Individual

Trafficking

Profitable Business Involving human beings

> Criminal Networks

Illegal border crossing

Illegal (false or stolen) documents

Voluntary

Commodity: a service, movement

Crime against the State

Smuggling



- 168 million children in child labour (100 million boys and 68 million girls)
- 50 million children on the move 1 in 8 migrants is a child and 1 in 2 refugees is a child (UNICEF)
- 5,5 million children in forced labour worldwide (26% of total forced labour ILO 2012)
- UNODC Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2016: While most victims are still women, children and men now make up a larger share of the total, compared with ten years ago. Children alone made up 28% of the total number of detected victims in 2014.



INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION Children in IOM global VoT assistance



The average age of a child entering the trafficking process was 11 years old







32. We will protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all refugee and migrant children, regardless of their status, and giving primary consideration at all times to the best interests of the child. This will apply particularly to unaccompanied children and those separated from their families; we will refer their care to the relevant national child protection authorities and other relevant authorities. We will comply with our obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child. We will work to provide for basic health, education and psychosocial development and for the registration of all births on our territories. We are determined to ensure that all children are receiving education within a few months of arrival, and we will prioritize budgetary provision to facilitate this, including support for host countries as required. We will strive to provide refugee and migrant children with a nurturing environment for the full realization of their rights and capabilities.



- 52. Non-binding guiding principles and voluntary guidelines, consistent with international law, on the treatment of migrants in vulnerable situations, especially UASCs who do not qualify for international protection as refugees and who may need assistance.
- 56. Children should not be criminalized or subject to punitive measures because of their migration status or that of their parents.
- 59. Commitment to protect the human rights of migrant children, (...) particularly UMCs, and to provide access to basic health, education and psychosocial services, ensuring that the best interests of the child is a primary consideration in all relevant policies.
- **70, 81, 82 : Children Refugees** (promote access for children to childappropriate procedures access to education,
- **33 Detention: ".**... recognizing that detention for the purposes of determining migration status is seldom, if ever, in the best interest of the child, we will use it only as a measure of last resort (...).





- Children with a history of family violence, abuse and neglect (including sexual abuses).
 - ightarrow a stronger risk factor than poverty
- Children subject to a migration project by their family
 - → « family investment » often including expectations of future financial support
- Children left alone / « left behind »
 - Children in post-humanitarian disaster areas → UMCs in current migration to Europe
- Children (particularly female) engaging in risky behaviors
- Children with physical, learning and development disabilities
 - ightarrow Sexual exploitation, Child Begging
- Children from marginalized communities or neighborhoods



#GHANACHILDKESCUE A PLAN TO RESCUE, REHABILITATE AND REINTEGRATE TRAFFICKED CHILDREN IN GHANA

PROBLEM:

Lake Volta is an enormous man-made lake in Ghana which sustains a large fishing industry. Due to extreme poverty and lack of information, some parents/caretakers give their children out to fishermen, unaware of the harsh living and working conditions awaiting them.

Trafficked children, some as young as 4 years old, are forced to work under very hazardous conditions – paddling boats, scooping water out of canoes, disentangling nets or working as domestic helpers. They are mostly deprived of education and are often malnourished.

A WAY FORWARD:

IOM has been working extensively in Ghana to rescue, rehabilitate and reintegrate children trafficked to the fishing industry since 2002. So far, 732 children have been rescued rehabilitated and reintegrated. Now, with the help of funding from individuals and the private sector, we are planning to rescue 20 more in early 2015!

HERE'S HOW WE CREATE A PATH TO FREEDOM:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rhkG9ySuKyE&feature=youtu.be



Combatting Child Trafficking in Ghana : Community Child Rights Education project





Protecting children victims of trafficking and forced labour (joint with INTERPOL)

- Joint project with Interpol to support children in exploitation in the cocoa plantations in Ghana and Ivory Coast.
 - Rescue
 - Assistance & Rehabilitation
 - Arrests and prosecution
 - Capacity building and engagement of governments and local child protection systems to ensure sustainability





Prevention of Trafficking in natural or manmade disaster (Ecuador)





INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION

Children victims of Trafficking in Europe

TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS IN THE EU

European Commission

WORKING TOGETHER TO ERADICATE TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

Figures are based on Eurostat's data collection on trafficking in human beings and cover the totals for 2010-12

REGISTERED VICTIMS

Victims registered by EU States' authorities

30 146

- 5.4 million child migrants in Europe = 7% of region's migrants (UNICEF)
- 30 146 Victims registered by EU-MS authorities (2014 -Eurostat)
 - 80 % female
 - 19% children
 - 69 % trafficked for sexual exploitation
 - 19% for labour exploitation
 - 65% EU 30% Non EU



FOR MIGRA

- Child trafficking is reported by EU MS as one of the trends that is increasing the most sharply in the EU.
- Out of 15 846 registered VoTs in the EU (2013-2014 data) at least 2 375 were children.
- Identification remains a challenge. Organized crime groups target children as they are easy to recruit, quick to replace, easy to keep under control and generally less visible.



INTERNATIONA

FOR MIGRATIO

- Traffickers target socially and economically disadvantaged families and push families into debt.
- Families may play active role
- Increased reports of children trafficked for forced criminality (DK, LT,SE,SK)
- Links between trafficking and institutionalization of children (recruitment and retraffikcing)
- Children from Roma communities are particularly vulnerable. Destination countries are mainly UK and FR, for sexual exploitation, labour exploitation, forced begging, petty crimes, and to a lesser extent social security /welfare systems fraud (EUROPOL)



flows.

Trafficking and exploitation

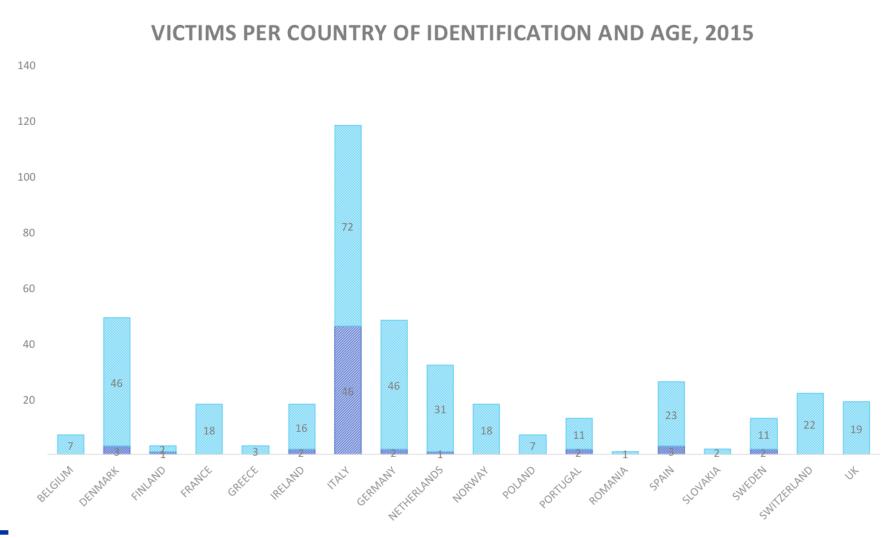
- 6.5% out of 4500+ respond.
 indicated yes to at least one
 indicator of trafficking and
 exploitation
- 0.5% knew of offer of cash in exchange for organs, blood or body parts

Adolescents

- Sample of 605 respond. between 15 and 18 years old
- Mostly travelling in groups
- Paying on average between 1000 and 5000 USD for travel (more than adults)
- No relatives in countries of destination
- Germany as the top destination

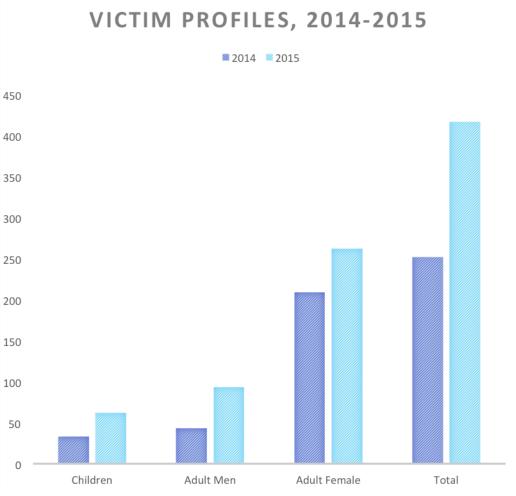


Children in IOM Regional VoT Assistance 2015





Children in IOM Regional VoT Assistance 2015



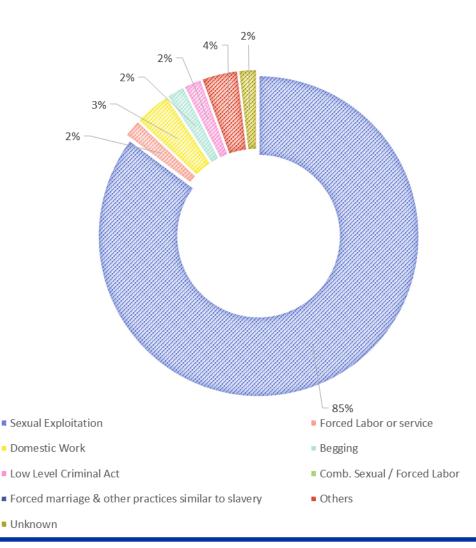
- 15 % of IOM's assistance caseload are children.
- 62 children assisted (of which at least 8 as dependents of a VoT).
- Significant increase from 2014 (33 children).



Children in IOM Regional VoT Assistance 2015

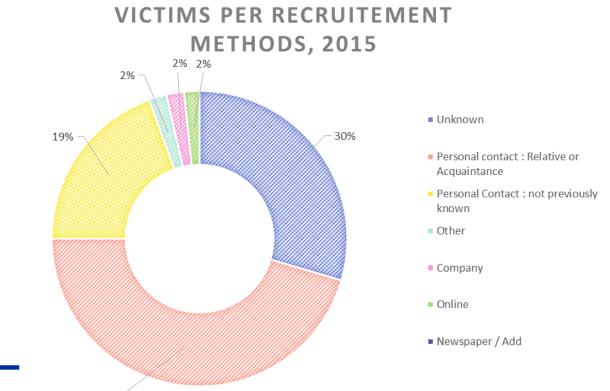
CHILDREN VICTIMS, PER TYPES OF EXPLOITATION, 2015

- Sexual exploitation main type of exploitation for children in Europe (85%) even higher than for adult females (82%)
- Vast majority of cases assisted were <u>Nigerian girls</u> identified in Italy





 Females and children are highly likely to have been trafficked through the intermediary of acquaintances, including relatives or friends.



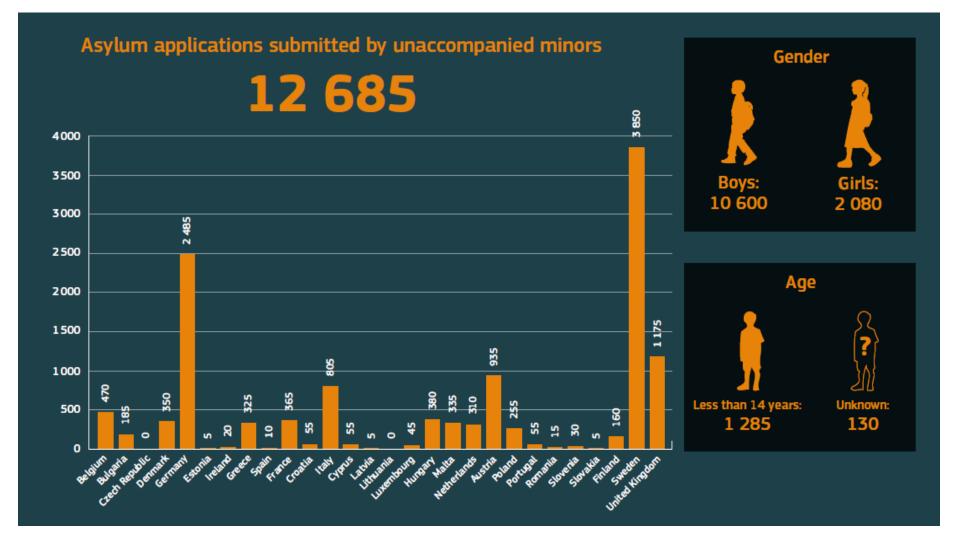
45%



UNACCOMPANIED AND SEPARATED MIGRANT CHILDREN : A GROUP PARTICULARLY AT RISK



UMCs in Europe prior to the crisis









- Europe has received an unprecedented number of UMSC in the last year.
- Number of UMC in Central Mediterranean route have more than doubled in first months of 2016 (13 700 UMCs)
- 90 000 UMCs lodged asylum in an EU MS in 2015 (40% in Sweden, 16% Germany, 10% Hungary, 9% Austria).
- 51% Afghans, 16% Syrians, 6% Eritreans, 5 % Iraqis.
- 91% are male
- Asylum claim numbers are only a proxi indicator:
 - Secondary mouvements
 - Not all UMCs lodge asylum claim
 - Important backlog in EU asylum systems



Reasons and circumstances for entering the EU:

- Fleeing persecution and seeking international protection
- Family Reunification
- Economic, Aspirational reasons
- Joining Migrant / Diaspora Community
- Transit to another Member State
- Victims of Trafficking
- Smuggled
- Medical Reasons
- Abandonment
- Runaways and drifters



Legal framework :

•International Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

- art. 2 : non-discrimination,
- art. 3 : best interests of the Child a primary consideration in all actions concerning Children
- art. 8: right to identity and family relations,
- art. 12 : views of the Child

•International refugee law & International humanitarian law

•Regional human rights instruments & National standards

Within this framework, IOM's constituent documents have, since the Organization's inception, referred to the need for **promoting the human rights of migrants**. IOM's de facto protection mandate was more explicitly recognized by Member States in 2007 in the context of the adoption of the IOM Strategy. Renewed commitment in SDGs and 19 September 2016 **UN-Summit on Migrants & Refugees**.

The principle of "**best interests of the child**" as laid down in the CRC, is central to IOM's work.



- EU Anti-trafficking Directive (2011/36/EU)
 - requires MS to take into account special needs of children VoTs including through comprehensive chold sensitive protection systems & BIC
- EU Agenda for the Rights of the Child (2011)
- EU Action Plan on Unaccompanied Minors (2011-2014)
- 10 Principles for integrated child protection system
- Communication COM(2016) 85 on the State of Play of Implementation of the Priority Actions under the European Agenda on Migration
 - Annex 6 "Ongoing actions contributing to the protection of children in migration"
- EC & FRA Handbook "Guardianship for children deprived of parental care"

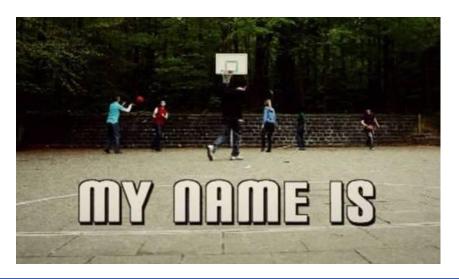


IOM response in Europe

- ✓ Information and Assistance (including in hotspots)
- ✓ Family-tracing / assessment
- ✓ Family reunification
- ✓ Relocation, including BIA
- ✓ Integration
- Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration
- Capacity-building: studies, information dissemination, training
- ✓ Policy dialogue
- Monitoring of reception









- Children represent 43% of persons relocated from Greece and 8% of persons relocated from Italy.
- As of 31/12/2016, 165 UMC were relocated from Greece to Belgium (6), Finland (78), Germany (4), Ireland (13), Luxembourg (14), the Netherlands (18), Norway (4) Portugal (2), Spain (24) and Switzerland (2).
- IOM ensures child friendly procedure carried out by specialized staff.
- IOM calls to enhance relocation particularly UMCs
 as a child protection mean.



project funded by the European Commission (DG Justice).

Scope: Italy, Greece, Hungary, Austria, Bulgaria, Slovenia and Croatia Cooperation also with Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) and Serbia.

Prevention of violence against children, including trafficking as a worst form of violence, and respect for their rights along the migration route: from point of entry, in hotspots, while in transit and in reception centres.

1. Support and strengthening of integrated national child protection systems.

- 2. Capacity building of targeted frontline responders for child protection including national asylum/migration professionals/practitioners, national and local NGOs, and all other groups working for and directly with children, including volunteers.
- 3. Accurate and **up-to-date** *information collection on and monitoring* of the situation of refugee and migrant children in the context of a common information network shared among all parties involved.



- Defining legal guardian role in EU-MS
- Identifying legal guardians in countries of origin with weak child protection systems
- Determining the **age** of an individual
- Reconciling **international child protection obligations** with state responsibilities to address irregular migration.
- **Best Interest determination**: lack of information in countries of origin or unssucssful family tracing.
- Transition to adulthood: decisions are taken close to adulthood, many leave care and prefer situation of irregularity.



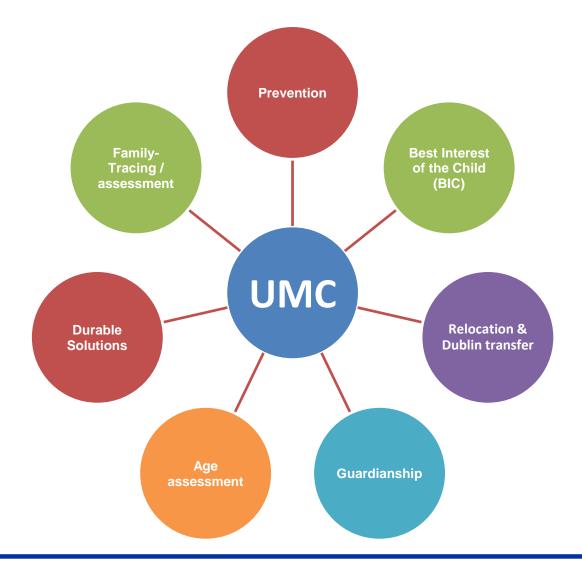


- **Retain** their youth
- Ensure **protection** of their nationals abroad and, for those migrant children that do return,
- The **absence of local care facilities** with the capacity to meet the basic needs of children who return.
- How best to **facilitate age-appropriate reintegration** that is sustainable.





Assistance of UMCs: issues at stake





- A child-rights based approach to trafficking
- DO NO HARM policy
- Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse policy (PSEA <u>http://www.pseataskforce.org/</u>)
- Child friendly procedures conducted by trained professionals
- Right to receive age appropriate information
- Right and access to legal counselling
- Child's view is taken in to consideration in accordance with age and maturity
- Priority in access to assistance (avoid unecessary delays)





- 1. Every child is recognised, respected and protected as a rights holder, with non-negotiable rights to protection.
- 2. No child is discriminated against
- 3. Child protection systems include prevention measures.
- 4. Families are supported in their role as primary caregiver
- 5. Societies are aware and supportive of the child's right to freedom from all forms of violence.
- 6. Child protection systems ensure adequate care
- 7. Child protection systems have transnational and cross-border mechanisms in place
- 8. The child has support and protection
- 9. Training on identification of risks
- 10. There are safe, well-publicised, confidential and accessible reporting mechanisms in place



CASE STUDIES

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZlsPeHwwVg8



- Total of Nigerian migrants arriving in the country 19.576 Nigerians as of 31 October 2015, of which 4.937 are women and 901 are unaccompanied minors. 2778 of Nigerian victims of human trafficking were identified by IOM (Data from April 2014-Oct.2015).
- There is a substantial increase in the number of under-age victims. Due to young
 age and inexperience, the girls are more easily manipulated and less likely to search
 for help.
- Most are trafficked for sexual exploitation.
- Recent arrivals were in increasingly **numerous groups** confirms the suspicion that the irregular routes across the Mediterranean (migrant smuggling) are increasingly intertwined with trafficking in human beings.
- The instability of the origin countries, high "demand" for sexual services in Europe and the links of foreign criminal organizations (including Nigerian like Eye, Aye secessionists, or Black Axe) to the local realities in many European countries significantly favor the HT and smuggling.



Recruitment and the journey:

- Girls originate from the poorest areas of Nigeria (villages neighboring Benin City), and disadvantaged families.
- Before leaving, most Nigerian women undergo a voodoo ritual: contributes to symbolic and moral burden. The ritual aims to scare them into silence and to make sure that they will repay the debt contracted. The amount typically owed is between EUR 20,000 and EUR 50,000.
- Many were promised legal jobs as domestic workers, hairdressers, or waitresses.
- Some may be aware of sexual exploitation they would be subject to, but none imagined the level of brutal exploitation and abuses.
- Crossing Libya women are subjected to sexual violence, torture, kidnappings and arrests.
- There is a registered **number of pregnant women arriving in Italy,** often a consequence of sexual abuse and rape. It is quite common that upon arrival women declare being married to one of the traffickers.

Arrival:

- Usually bring Italian or European telephone number which they call or know they have to call a Libyan or Nigerian contact who will provide them with the Italian or European contact.
- Once in Italy, migrant women are forced into prostitution or begging.

=> There is a substantial expansion of the trafficking of Nigerian women in Europe, not only in Italy.



In mid-August 2015, a group of migrants and refugees departed by boat from Balteem, Kafr el-Sheikh governorate, in Egypt with the intention to arrive in Italy. Out of the 240 migrants on board, **183 were Egyptian, out of which 132 (73%) were UMCs**. All UMCs were registered and identified by Greek law enforcement. IOM Egypt assessed and interviewed children. The findings:

- In rural Egypt- a broker (*semsar*) facilitates irregular migration.
- The parents or relatives make arrangements to pay for smuggling services upon the safe arrival of the child. Average price of irregular entry to EU is **approximately USD 3,500**.
- Strong prevalence of the age group of from **14 to 17 years**.
- Among the factors to migrate are: wish to financially support their family in Egypt by sending remittances, weak Egyptian education system, support the marriage of a family member or sibling(s), other socio-cultural variables in the decision to migrate.
- The journey represents a traumatized experience for children, causing psychological and physical consequences
- 36 % of the UMCs articulated the desire to return home.
- **45 out of 132 children left protective shelters** already during the first week of their stay to migrate onward through Macedonia and Serbia towards Italy and Germany.



Results from UNHCR Study on UASCs in Sweden:

•Most UASC lived in **nuclear family** prior to departure. Half reported that their **father is deceased** or missing.

•¾ identify themselves as Shia Muslims of Hazara origin.

•Majority only completed primary school. **2/3 reported they had worked** more than 6 month in the past year.

•Primary motives for departure: **protection reasons** (irrespective of stay in Afghanistan, Iran or Pakistan). UASC leaving from Afghanistan stated security related reasons. UASC leaving from Iran referred mostly to discrimination and lack of documentation. Economic reasons are only mentionned by a minority.

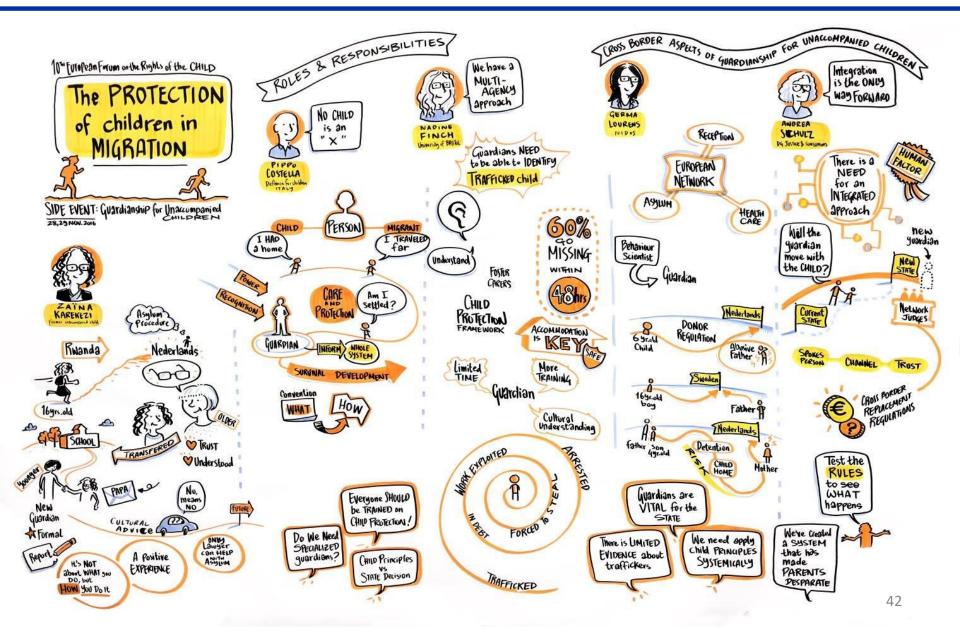
•Journeys are financed through **borrowed money**.

•Strong prevalence of **acute distress** and **severe protection incidents** in Iran, Turkey and throughout Balkan route. Long and hazardous journeys facilitated mainly by smugglers.

•Perceive Sweden as offering good education opportunities, respect for HR, fair and efficient asylum procedure and opportunities for economic development



Conclusion





Thank you!

Irina Todorova E-mail: <u>itodorova@iom.int</u> <u>www.iom.int</u>



Push and Pull Factors

