

Draft agenda

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

"CHILDREN LEFT BEHIND: BETWEEN LABOR MIGRATION, INSTITUTIONAL STANDARDS AND EXTENDED FAMILY"

December 12, 2022 – 9am-1.30pm (EEST)

Sofia, Sofia Hotel Balkan (Sheraton) www.sofiabalkan.com/en/

Online broadcast <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89872705768>

Simultaneous interpretation Bulgarian-English

AGENDA

9:00 – 9:15 Registration and welcome coffee

9:15 - 9:30 Presentation of the exhibition "Children left behind"

Ms. Ana Oprisan, Council of Europe, ROMACT Program Manager

9:30 - 10:25 Opening remarks and introduction to the public discussion

Moderator: Prof. Dr. Diana Kovacheva, the Ombudsperson of Republic of Bulgaria

- **Ms. Eleni Tsetsekou**, Council of Europe, Head of the Roma and Travellers Team Division (video message)
- **Ms. Denitsa Sacheva**, MP, Deputy Chair of the Committee on Labour, Social and Demographic Policy in the National Assembly
- **Ms. Elisaveta Belobradova**, MP, Member of the Committee for Education and Science in the National Assembly
- **Mr. Iskren Arabadzhiev**, MP, Deputy Chairman of the Committee on Labour, Social and Demographic Policy in the National Assembly
- **Mr. Viorel Badea**, MP, PACE rapporteur on the impact of labour migration on children
- **Ms. Nadia Klisurska**, Deputy Minister of Ministry of labour and social policy
- **Ms. Maria Gaidarova PhD**, Deputy Minister of Education and Science
- **Ms. Teodora Ivanova PhD**, Chairperson of the State Agency for Child Protection
- **Ms. Christina de Bruin**, UNICEF Representative in Bulgaria

10:25 – 11:05 The situation of children left behind in Bulgaria

Moderator: Mr. Dimitar Dimitrov, ROMACT expert/ Bulgaria Country Executive Director, Reach for Change

- **Ms. Liliya Makaveeva**, ROMACT National Project Officer: "Children left behind: between the labour migration, institutional norms and the extended family"

- **Ms. Eva Zhecheva PhD**, Director of the Children's Rights Directorate, Office of the Ombudsman of Bulgaria: "The institution of the Ombudsman in defence of the rights and interests of children whose parents are migrant workers. Specific complaints, practices and recommendations"
- **Ms. Ana Popova PhD**, Institute of Philosophy and Sociology of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences: "Risks for children of labour migrants caused by deficits in their socialization"

11:05 – 11:15 Short break

11:15 – 11:55 What can and needs to be done

Moderator: Ms. Ana Oprisan, Council of Europe, ROMACT Programme Manager

Point of view of the UN

- **Associate Professor Velina Todorova PhD**, Vice-chair of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, United Nations: "The Committee on the Rights of the Child about the Rights of Children in Situation of Migration of their Parents"

The experience of Romania

- **Ms. Anca Stamin**, Save the Children, Romania

Recommendations of the CSOs' and International Organisations' experts

- **Ms. Elena Atanasova**, UNICEF
- **Ms. Plamena Nikolova**, Director of "Policies for Children", National Network for Children
- **Mr. Ognyan Isaev**, ROMACT expert / Program Director of the Trust for Social Achievement

11:55-12:25 Actions to be taken by child protection authorities

Moderator: Ms. Liliya Makaveeva, National Project Officer of ROMACT for Bulgaria

- **Ms. Tatiana Predova** and **Ms. Anelia Yotova**, state experts, Directorate "Inclusive Education", Ministry of Education
- **Mr. Emil Todorov**, Director of the "Child Protection" Directorate at the Agency for Social Assistance and **Ms. Tsvetanka Bahchevandzhieva**, acting head of department in the "Child Protection" Directorate, Agency for Social Assistance: "Measures and activities for the protection of children at risk"
- **Ms. Desislava Markovska**, Deputy Mayor of Borovan Municipality

12:25 – 13.15 Discussion

Facilitator: **Ms. Eva Zhecheva PhD**, Ombudsman office

13:15 – 13:30 Summarizing the recommendations and conclusions of the discussion

Rapporteurs : Mr. Anton Valkov & Ms. Anna Dimitrova, IFLIRI

13:30 Lunch buffet and photo exhibition