



# Children in Migration: Perspectives from South East Europe

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17 April 2021  
10:00 CEST

Zoom link:  
<https://bit.ly/2OpMtoN>



## Children in Migration: Perspectives from South East Europe

Thousands of migrant and refugee children cross South East Europe each year, facing increased risks connected with, among others, tighter border controls and insufficient protection systems in the countries of the region. Increased reports of violence pushbacks, trafficking and exploitation of children, especially those traveling alone, are a tragic reminder of how much more there is still to be done to protect children on the move in South East Europe.

The conference will focus on presenting and discussing the preliminary findings of research done by 16 researchers from five countries of South East Europe. Research encompasses different issues around children in migration through the region, from identification and arbitrariness of age assessment to guardianship and access to education and integration. The objectives of the conference are to contribute to a mutual understanding of the highest child rights standards enshrined in international and regional mechanisms, as well as to create a space for knowledge exchange between relevant stakeholders, experts and practitioners working directly with children in migration in different countries of South East Europe.

A keynote speech shall be given by Prof. Nevena Vučković Šahović, the expert in children's rights, member of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (2003-2009). The conference shall also see the participation of several other national and regional experts on children, migration and human rights.

The conference is organised by the [Global Campus South East Europe / European Regional Master Programme in Democracy and Human Rights in South East Europe](#), the University of Sarajevo and the University of Bologna, as part of the two-year-long project 'Children in migration in South East Europe' currently implemented with the support of the Global Campus of Human Rights and the Right Livelihood Foundation. The project aims to strengthen education, research, training, network-building, and advocacy for the rights of migrant and refugee children in South East Europe by producing high-quality research on the topic and disseminating knowledge among students, academia, relevant stakeholders, and the wider public.

Saturday, 17 April 2021 from 10:00 (CEST)  
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## Programme:

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**10:00 - 10:05**    **Welcoming note**

Prof. Marco Borraccetti, Global Campus South East Europe Co-Director, University of Bologna

**10:05 - 10:10**    **Opening remarks**

Nikolina Milić, Children's Rights Regional Officer for South East Europe, Global Campus of Human Rights

**10:10 - 10:20**    **Keynote speech**

Prof. Nevena Vučković Šahović, member of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (2003-2009)

**10:20 - 11:10**    **PANEL 1: REGIONAL OVERVIEW**

**Refugee and migrant children in Croatia – perspective of the Ombudsman for Children**

Ivana Buljan, Deputy Ombudsman for Children in the Republic of Croatia

**Access to asylum and durable solutions for asylum-seeking and refugee children in Bosnia and Herzegovina**

Stephanie Woldenberg, Senior Protection Officer, UNHCR Bosnia and Herzegovina

**Girls on the move in the Balkans**

Bogdan Krasić, Programme Director – Balkans Migration and Displacement Hub, Save the Children International in North West Balkans

**Refugee and migrant children in Bulgaria**

Annie Raykov, Senior Project Assistant, IOM Bulgaria

**11:10 - 12:00**    **PANEL 2: IDENTIFICATION AND ACCESS TO ASYLUM**

**Pushbacks at the cost of child's best interests in Croatia**

Ana Čuća, Legal Officer, Centre for Peace Studies

**Age assessment practices in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia**

Mersiha Behlulović, Researcher

**Identification of children at risk of trafficking and abuse in Bosnia and Herzegovina**

Nermina Jerković, Inspector, State Investigation and Protection Agency, Bosnia and Herzegovina and a PhD candidate at the University of Montpellier, France

**Children in the asylum procedure in Serbia**

Dr Uroš Novaković, Assistant Professor, University of Belgrade, Faculty of Law

**12:00 - 12:10**    **Break**

## Programme:

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### 12:10 - 13:00 **PANEL 3: ALTERNATIVE CARE AND GUARDIANSHIP**

#### Response system for migrant children in Serbia

Prof. Nevenka Žegarac, University of Belgrade, Faculty of Political Sciences

#### Protection and care of children on the move in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Tara Kalaputi, Child Protection Outreach Manager, Save the Children

#### Alternative care and guardianship for migrant children in Bulgaria

Denitsa Markova, Information Provision Support, EASO - Malta Operations

#### Guardianship for refugee and migrant children in Serbia

Meris Mušanović, Human Rights Lawyer

### 13:00 - 13:50 **PANEL 4: INTEGRATION AND EDUCATION**

#### Education of migrant and refugee children in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Amila Madžak, Education in Emergency Officer, UNICEF in BiH (tbc)

#### Education of migrant and refugee children in Bulgaria: A paradigm shift endangered by COVID-19

Iva Partsaleva, Senior Protection Assistant, UNHCR in Bulgaria

#### Policies for inclusion of migrant children in the education system in Serbia

Ivana Cenerić, Research Coordinator, Centre for Education Policy

#### Integration of migrant children in the formal education system in Slovenia

Miloš Burzan, Academic Tutor, University Donja Gorica, Faculty of Humanities

### 13:50 - 14:00 *Closing and next steps*