



**Missing
Children
Europe**



*The President's
Foundation for the
Wellbeing of Society*

“Lost in migration” BLOG

Guidelines for submitting a post

Thank you for your interest in blogging for **“Lost in Migration – from European priorities to local realities”**. Thank you for being part of our community of field professionals, policy makers and researchers coming together to address the practical protection needs to prevent, protect and respond to the disappearance of unaccompanied children.

A. WHY should I write for the “Lost in Migration” blog?

The blog was launched during last year’s edition of the conference “Lost in Migration - Working together to protect children from disappearance”, taking place in Malta on 26-27 January 2017.

With the second edition of the conference “from European priorities to local realities” coming soon to Brussels on 11 & 12 April 2018, we want to take the chance to revive this important platform.

The goal of the conference will be to discuss challenges and progress made in implementing the European Commission [Communication](#) on Protecting Children in Migration. More precisely, to:

- > Take stock of the progress made since the adoption of the EC Communication on the protection of children in migration
- > Identify good / promising practices in the implementation of the commitments from the local level
- > Outline recommendations on the way forward

It will bring together authorities from the local, national and European level as well as experts, researchers, media, policy makers, frontline professionals and civil society organisations around the main issues addressed in the Communication, which are the following:




- > Root causes and protecting children along the migratory routes
- > Identification and protection
- > Reception
- > Access to status determination procedures and implementation of procedural safeguards
- > Ensuring durable solutions
- > Respect and guaranties for the best interest of the child in data, research, training and funding



With financial support from the “Rights, Equality and Citizenship 2014-2020” Programme of the European Union

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B. WHO is the audience of the "Lost in Migration" blog?

The blog will remain available online and will target a diverse range of professionals, including academics, researchers, media, policy makers and frontline professionals. This public access will allow exchange of perspectives and knowledge between all the actors concerned, who often do not have the opportunity to communicate with each other but need to cooperate to ensure the protection of migrant children. Blog posts will also be shared proactively through various social media channels, to further raise awareness on the topics addressed.

C. WHAT topics/themes is the "Lost in Migration" blog looking for?

A blog post could address any topic that is relevant for the aforementioned objectives of the conference, in particular good practices from the local level in protecting children in migration; a non-exhaustive list of topics includes:

- > Root causes and protecting children along the migratory routes
- > Identification and protection
- > Reception
- > Access to status determination procedures and implementation of procedural safeguards
- > Ensuring durable solutions
- > Respect and guaranties for the best interest of the child in data, research, training and funding

Blog posts can however also be of a more personal nature, for example to:






- > Talk about a personal experience of being a child in migration
- > Talk about working with children in migration, child victims of trafficking or child protection needs at the frontline
- > Describe an (anonymized / depersonalized) case you have managed of a child in migration, which you feel explains or illustrates the problem
- > Explain best practices or recurring challenges you face in your day to day work with children in migration

D. HOW do I submit a post to the "Lost in Migration" blog?

The post should be in English, and the ideal length is between 650 and 5000 words. Ideally, we would like to feature new content but if you would like to refer to a previously published post or research, please ensure publishing it on our blog entails no copyright infringement. Your submission should be in Word format and should be sent to info@missingchildreneurope.eu.



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In addition, the submission should include an author bio of approximately 60 words. The bio should include your Twitter handle if you have one, as well as any other relevant links you wish to display: your blog, LinkedIn profile, Facebook page, website URL, etc.

Your submissions should also include at least one supporting image (in PNG or JPG, ideally high resolution). This could be anything from the logo of your organisation, an image that illustrates the topic addressed, a picture of you. Please provide a title and credits, if applicable. Your submission may include infographics, videos, and interactive content. In this case, please include the embed code for the infographic/video within your Word doc.





Need help? Here are some tips for writing an engaging blog post!

- Use a title that would catch someone's attention - relatable, powerful and with a punch.
- What is the key message of your post? Make sure your introduction has the juiciest nugget of the story so that even if the reader only skims through the first paragraph they have the essential information.
- If relevant, make it personal - Relatable stories and experiences will often make a bigger impression than statistics. If you don't have a story, use quotes from children/trustworthy or other surprising and unique illustrations that help understanding your point.
- Now that you have your audience's interest and support, how can they help? Always end with a call to action or further information on how the audience can learn more or support the protection of children.
- Keep it short, simple and to the point. Avoid unnecessarily long explanations or repetitions.
- Remember to ask yourself - would you find value in this blogpost? Would the title catch your attention and make you read the article? If the answer is yes, then you're in good form.

Submissions will be curated by the organisers, and may be rejected if irrelevant to the theme of the conference, inappropriate or not in line with the children rights principles outlined in the UN CRC. Please make sure your document is proofread. If you prefer, we can proofread the document for you and send back to you for approval. If necessary, you may be asked for content/language tweaks. Missing Children Europe will acknowledge the receipt of your submission and will let you know within a week if it has been accepted for publication.



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