

The project «Shadow Game – creating involvement among EU citizens to improve the situation for unaccompanied minor refugees in Europe» was funded with the support of the European Union under the Programme "Europe for Citizens"

Strand 2 – Measure 2.3 "Civil Society Projects"

Preparatory activities

Location / Dates: Between March – August 2021

Short description: these activities consisted of cooperation, activities and budget arrangements between lead & partner organisations. In preparatory meetings, the focal theme of each activity was established, taking into account the relevant topics in each country and the background (age, profession etc) of the respective audiences.

Also: preparation of promotional documents, meetings with hosting organizations and (potential) partner institutions, programme speakers and civil society, as well as social media and media announcements of the events.

Events:

26 events have been carried out within this project.

Event # 1 Public screening & discussion

Participation: The event involved 78 citizens, including 78 participants from Ljubljana, Slovenia

Location / Dates: The event took place in Ljubljana, Slovenia, on 21st June 2022

Short description: The final screening took place in the Atrium of ZRC SAZU. It was the most extensive public activity held during the project, and included communication with a vast variety of media, including the Slovenian National Press Agency. The manifesto was published in two newspapers, on the newsfeed of the National Press Agency, and on ZRC SAZU website. The screening was preceded by a small press conference, when dr. izr. prof. Jure Gombač answered the questions concerning the project, and was followed by a round table. The round table was led by a renowned journalist Kristina Božič, and composed of four guests: Jano (one of film's protagonists), Zuhoor Alqaisi (researcher and translator of the film Shadow Game), Žiga Divjak (a film and theatre play producer, author of the play Gejm), and Jošt Žagar (an activist from InfoKolpa). The guests were discussing the topic of children's rights during migration, the possible improvement for enhanced protection of unaccompanied minors. They were discussing their personal approach to raising awareness about the illegal readmissions and the breach of basic human rights: either tackling these issues through art, activism, litigation, legal support, reporting and journalism. The crowd was extremely satisfied with the event and came to all 4 guests after the round table to further discuss the topics. Among the audience were representatives of the Government Office for the Support and Integration of Migrants.

2 Public screening & discussion (2 x)

Participation: The event consists of 2 screenings and discussions and involved a total of 26 citizens, including 23 participants from Maribor, Slovenia, 2 from Ljubljana, Slovenia and 1 from the Netherlands.

Location / Dates: The events took place in Maribor, Slovenia, on 4th & 16th November 2021

Short description: Two public events in the Cinema GT22, as a part of the program "intimate cinema" organized by a Transnational Guerilla Art School. The first screening was followed by a presentation of the manifest and a zoom Q&A with the film director Eefje Blankevoort.

At the second event, a discussion was led by Nana Desmond, a Cameroonian asylum seeker that reached Slovenia a month prior after living in Bosnia and Herzegovina for 3 years and collaborating with DRC and Save the Children in the protection of unaccompanied minors on the route.

3 Public screening & educational discussion

Participation: The event involved 52 citizens, participants from the city of Rijeka (Croatia).

Location / Dates: The event took place in Dječja kuća (**Rijeka, Croatia**), on 09/06/2022.

Short description: The aim of the event was to create awareness, particularly among the younger generations, about the effects of European asylum policy on the situation of unaccompanied minor refugees in Europe, and to stimulate them to think about how this could be done differently, and how they can contribute to this change.

We organised a screening with educational discussion, in cooperation with Art Cinema Croatia, in their youth venue Dječja kuća (Children's house). 52 participants attended the event, 47 of them were children (early teenage years). CPS' Sara Kekuš moderated the event, and was welcomed by Art Cinema's educational program coordinator Dina Ožanić. It allowed us to directly work with the local community, primarily youth, outside of Zagreb which is our usual area of work and influence.

4 Public screening & discussion

Participation: The event involved 300 citizens, from the cities of Rotterdam and Amsterdam.

Location / Dates: The event took place in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, on 19/11/2021.

Short description: The day before World Children's Rights Day, 20 November 2021, Prospektor in collaboration with International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam (IDFA), Movies that Matter and broadcaster KRO-NCRV organized the special children's rights day. In Tuschinski 1, the most legendary cinema of the Netherlands, 300 high school students from all over the country saw Hammoudi's Dream, one of Shadow Game's follow-up films. Hammoudi's Dream is about Mohammed who has been on a very dangerous journey through Europe, now lives in Rotterdam, goes to school and works as a stock filler. He dreams of becoming a doctor and to be reunited with his mother and sisters. Mohammed's own class at Vavo Rijnmond College and students from his old International Transition Class at Olympia College, both in Rotterdam, were also there.

The program consisted of a 'quiz' on migration and asylum policies in Europe and children's rights. The young audience was actively engaged using electronic voting devices.

In an interview with Mohammed about his journey through Europe and the difficulties he is facing while starting a new life in The Netherlands, especially the difficult procedure of family reunification was talked about. The audience was very touched by the film and Mohammed's personal testimony. We ended on a light note, with Mohammed on stage with rapper ReaZun performing the song from the film "Everything all by myself".

5 Public screening & discussion

Participation: The event involved 107 citizens, including 107 participants from the city of Brussels (**BELGIUM**),

Location / Dates: Cinema Galeries (Brussels, **BELGIUM**) on 28/04/2022

Short description:

On the evening of April 28th, ACAT Belgium and FIACAT organized a screening of the documentary Shadow Game. The projection was followed by a debate gathering by Nathalie Gilen, coordinator of the project "MENA Bruxelles" for "Médecin sans frontière" and Nina Roox, advisor at the office of the State Secretary for Asylum and Migration Sami Mahdi. Els van Driel, co-director of the documentary also participated to the discussion remotely. The debate was presented by Christophe D'Aloisio, from ACAT Belgium and member of the international bureau of FIACAT, and moderated by Delphine Freyssinet, journalist from RCF Bruxelles Radio. The discussion was an opportunity to present the manifesto elaborated by the Shadow Game project and calling for the protection of children on the move.

The event was also supported by the platforms "Défense des Enfants International Belgique" (DEI) and "Plateforme Mineurs en Exil / Platform Kinderen op de Vlucht".

6 Public screening & discussion

Participation: The event involved 41 citizens, including 2 participants from the Netherlands, 1 participant from Germany, and 38 participants from Slovenia.

Location / Dates: The event took place in Ljubljana, Slovenia, on 9th September 2021

Short description: After screening of the film Shadow Game, a debate was conducted between Petra Meterc (a film critique, co-creator of the Migrant Film Festival) and Zuhoor Alquaisi (translator and researcher of the film Shadow Game). It covered topics of unaccompanied minors on the Balkan route, the dangers of the illegalized journey, children's rights violations, illegal pushbacks happening in-between the Slovenian-Croatian and Croatian-Bosnian borders.

7 Public screening & discussion

Participation: The event involved 19 citizens, including 19 participants from Slovenia (different cities)

Location / Dates: The event took place in Višnja gora, Slovenia, on 12th October 2021

Short description: The screening was organized for youth living and working in the Educational Institution Višnja gora (aged 13 – 21). It was concluded by an open discussion led by Lucija Klun (human rights activist and a young researcher at the Institute of Migration, working on the topic of underaged refugees on the Balkan route) and Alja Zajec (social worker). Young participants showed a keen interest in the topic, especially as a majority was of a migrant background and aware of the rights violations occurring to illegal/undocumented people.

8 Public screening & discussion

Participation: The event involved 7 citizens, including 7 participants from Nova Gorica, Slovenia.

Location / Dates: The event took place in Nova Gorica, Slovenia, on 20th June 2022

Short description: The screening and a Q&A with dr. izr. prof. Jure Gombač, a researcher and narrowly focused on the migration in the Balkan corridor. Students were showing interest especially in the onward migration that leads people through their municipality towards Nova Gorica, close to the Italian border. Two participants showed interest to join the local initiative supporting the people on the move.

9 Public screening & discussion

Participation: The event involved 23 citizens, including 23 participants from the city of Strasbourg (FRANCE)

Location / Dates: Palais de l'Europe (Strasbourg, FRANCE) on 22/06/2022

Short description:

On 22 June 2022 FIACAT in partnership with the transmedia project Shadow Game and under the patronage of the Conference of INGOs and in particular its Committee on the Rights of Migrants and the Civil Society Committee on the Rights of the Child, organised a side event entitled "Shadow Game - the situation of unaccompanied minors in Europe" in the margins of the third part-session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE). The event was opened and moderated by His Excellency, Mr Roeland Böcker, Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the Council of Europe. It provided an opportunity to present the various problems encountered by unaccompanied minors throughout their journey in search of safety and once they have arrived in their country of destination. Many experts on migration issues came to present these issues, introduced by extracts from the transmedia project Shadow Game. It brought together just around 25 participants, mainly PACE parliamentarians.

10 Public screening & discussion

Participation: The event involved 46 citizens, including an indefinite number of participants from municipalities of Kočevje, Maribor, Ilirska Bistrica, Koper, Kranjska gora, and Ljubljana (all living in Ljubljana, Slovenia).

Location / Dates: The event took place in Ljubljana, Slovenia, on 10th May 2022

Short description: The screening was organized as an educational tool to prepare future journalists to ethically report on the issues of illegal migration, unaccompanied minors, the Balkan route, international protection, children's rights. Three discussants with a far-reaching reporting experience (Miha Turk, Jošt Žagar, Tit Starc) were invited to outline their journalistic reports. The discussion following the screening covered topics as: ethical journalism, "collecting" stories of vulnerable subject and the issue of "giving back"; identity protection, working with minors and especially unaccompanied minors, activism and journalism. The event culminated in the intervention in front of the Parliament, and gifting the newly appointed government and the Ministry of the Interior 2 copies of the Black Book of Pushbacks.

11 Public screening & discussion

Participation: The event involved 30 citizens, including 29 participants from the city of Nijmegen, the Netherlands, 1 participant from the city of Amsterdam.

Location / Dates: The event took place in Nijmegen, the Netherlands on 10/05/2022.

Short description: The aim of the event was to inform and discuss with students Radboud University Nijmegen, students LLM Human Rights and Migration. This screening was organized from a juridical point of view, 'European and Comparative Refugee Law'. In presence of director Els van Driel and asylum lawyer Mr. Andrea Pool.

12 Public screening & discussion

Participation: The event involved 94 citizens, including 93 participants from the city of Brussels (BELGIUM) and one from The Netherlands.

Location / Dates: Cinema Galeries (Brussels, BELGIUM) on 09/12/2021

Short description:

On the occasion of international Human Rights Day, ACAT Belgium organized a screening of the documentary *Shadow Game* in the evening of the 9th of December followed by a discussion moderated by Delphine Freyssinet, gathering key actors on the issues of migration and unaccompanied minors and more specifically, Eefje Blankevoort, co-director of the film, SK one of the protagonists of the film who was able to share his story and Cécile Auriol from ACAT Belgium. The discussion was also an opportunity to present the manifesto elaborated by the *Shadow Game* project and calling for the protection of children on the move.

The event was also supported by several other organisations working on migration-related issues.

13 Public screening & discussion

Participation: The event involved 113 citizens, including 112 participants from the city of Rome (ITALY) and one from The Netherlands.

Location / Dates: Cinema Troisi (Rome, ITALY) on 10/12/2021

Short description:

A screening of the 90 minutes long documentary *Shadow Game* was organised on 10 December 2021 by ACAT Italy in Roma. The screening of the documentary was preceded by the awarding of the ACAT Italy's "prize to end torture and for the rights of migrants" and was followed by a discussion on the right to asylum and related issues in the European union as well as on the necessary protection of unaccompanied minors. During the discussion, the following speakers were asked to intervene: Els Van Driel, co-director of *Shadow Game*, Gianfranco Schiavone from the Association for juridical Studies on Immigration, Paolo Naso and Marta Bernardini from Mediterranean Hope. A time dedicated to questions and answers was kept at the end.

The screening and the following discussion were attended by 113 persons in total among which 68 students from a Roman High School aged between 14 and 17 years old, and 45 adults (including the 4 teachers of the students).

14 Public screening & discussion (3x)

Participation: The event involved 510 citizens, including 84 participants from the city of Zagreb (Croatia), one from Amsterdam, The Netherlands, and 425 participants online.

Location / Dates: The event took place in Močvara, Tuškanac cinema, and Kinoteka (Zagreb, Croatia), from 01/12/2021, 07/12/2021 and 08/12/2021.

Short description: The aim of the event was to create awareness among a diverse audience, about the effects of European asylum policy on the situation of unaccompanied minor refugees in Europe. And to stimulate them to think about how this could be done differently, and how they can contribute to this change.

The first screening and discussion were part of a small-scale event "Towards HRFF: Screening of the film *Shadow game* and discussion on the topic of contemporary migration for young people" organised with Močvara, Zagreb, within their youth programme "Močvarna akademija" on 1 December 2021. There were 10 participants who watched the film and participated in the discussion afterwards.

The second screening was part of the official HRFF film program at Tuškanac cinema, Zagreb, on 7 December 2021. The screening was followed by a Q&A with *Shadow Game* director Eefje Blankevoort. Altogether 65 people attended the screening, and several participants provided questions and comments during the Q&A session.

The extensive follow-up discussion was organised the following day in Kinoteka, Zagreb, and live streamed in the Facebook event shared by the Human Rights Film Festival and the Centre for Peace Studies. Participants in the discussion were Eefje Blankevoort, co-author of *Shadow Game*, Milena Zajović from *Are You Syrious*, and Sara Kekuš from the Centre for Peace Studies. At the forum, we discussed the context of contemporary migration and the difficulties that unaccompanied children face on the move. The panel discussion was part of the accompanying discussion programme within HRFF and it was moderated by journalist Ivana Perić. Even though the attendance of the live discussion was significantly lower than anticipated (10 participants), mostly due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the online reach of the event was extremely successful (425 participants).

15 Public screening & discussion

Participation: The event involved 35 citizens, including 34 participants from the city of Utrecht,

1 participant from the city of Amsterdam.

Location / Dates: The event took place in Utrecht, the Netherlands, on 08/04/2022.

Short description: The aim of the event was to inform students from the University Utrecht of Focus Area Migration and Societal Change in presence of director Els van Driel and protagonist Jano and to discuss the dangers of migration with a reflection on the film by Nabil Kusballah, who fled himself and is now a scientist in the Netherlands.

16 Public screening & discussion

Participation: The event involved 28 citizens, Peace Studies students from various parts of Croatia, who participated online.

Location / Dates: The event took place online on 10/05/2022.

Short description: The aim of the event was to create awareness about the effects of European asylum policy on the situation of unaccompanied minor refugees in Europe, and to stimulate the participants to think about how this could be done differently, and how they can contribute to this change.

We screened the film for the students of the non-formal educational program of the Centre for Peace Studies, Peace Studies, within the course Human Security and Migration. Altogether 28 participants attended the online Zoom course where they first received a short introductory lecture about children in migration (EU migration policies and practices in migration were explained and debated in previous classes), watched the film, had a Q&A session with the film protagonist SK, and then continued to have an educative discussion with the Peace Studies' lecturer Sara Kekuš.

17 Expert meeting (online webinar)

Participation: The event involved 10 citizens, including 4 participants from the city of Amsterdam, the Netherlands, one citizen from Ljubljana, Slovenia, two from Zagreb, Croatia, two from Brussels, Belgium, one from Geneva, Switzerland.

Location / Dates: The event took place online, 28/03/2022

Short description: An online meeting with the Shadow Game team, project partners and external experts. The main focus of the meeting was the strategic preparation for the screening in European Parliament on June 14th, in order to maximise its impact.

18 Public screening & discussion

Participation: The event involved 108 citizens, including 107 participants from the city of Rome (ITALY), and one from Belgium.

Location / Dates: Auditorium Istituto Massimiliano Massimo (Rome, ITALY) on 01/06/2022

Short description:

The second screening of the documentary Shadow Game by ACAT Italy was held on 1 June 2022 at the Massimiliano Massimo Institute. The screening of the documentary and the preparation of this event by the teacher allowed four classes of high school students to become aware of the problems faced by unaccompanied minors in Europe. This gave rise to many reactions and questions during the discussion organised after the screening in the presence of one of the directors, an Italian parliamentarian, a representative of the ASGI association (Associazione per gli Studi Giuridici sull'Immigrazione) and with the virtual participation of SK one of the protagonists of the film. Following this event, further discussions were held in class in order to encourage students to reflect further and an article was published on the school's website, accessible to students, parents, teachers and the general public, on this subject.

19 Public screening & discussion

Participation: The event involved 126 citizens, participants from the city of Zagreb (Croatia), one citizen from Ljubljana, Slovenia and 3 from The Netherlands.

Location / Dates: The event took place in KIC, and Tuškanac Summer Stage (Zagreb, Croatia), on 20/06/2022.

Short description: The aim of the event was to create awareness among a diverse audience, particularly the younger generations, about the effects of European asylum policy on the situation of unaccompanied minor refugees in Europe, and to stimulate them to think about how this could be done differently, and how they can contribute to this change.

A panel in the Croatian language was held for the local audience about the position of unaccompanied children in Croatia – the obstacles they face in access to protection, integration, and respect of their rights. Journalist Barbara Matejčić moderated the panel and participated in it as a panelist as well, given her vast experience in the area of children in migration. Psychologist Dragana Knezić from the Rehabilitation Centre for Stress and Trauma gave an overview of the system, and the framework improvements which need to be implemented in order for unaccompanied children to enjoy their rights,

evolve, and have a quality involvement into society in Croatia. CPS's Sara Kekuš gave an overview of the issue of children gone missing, systemic flaws in providing children with the adequate care and uncoordinated statistics of the relevant ministries. Sajid Khan who arrived to Croatia from Afghanistan 5 years ago as unaccompanied child, received protection here, and lives in a small community in Lipik, spoke about his experience living in Croatia. 14 people participated at the panel organised at KIC. After the panel, Sajid Khan met his namesake and compatriot SK over a joint project dinner. In the evening, the special screening of *Shadow Game* was held in Tuškanac Summer Stage, or jungle cinema as SK and Jano called it. After the screening, powerful applause and cheering from the audience opened the Q&A in which the film crew participated and CPS' Sara Kekuš moderated it. After the long Q&A, the film crew, the audience and the organisers continued socializing at the venue. The Deputy City Mayor, Deputy Ombudswoman, members of the Parliament and embassy representatives were also among the audience that counted 112 participants.

20 Public screening & discussion

Participation: The event involved 109 citizens with 22 nationalities, of which 21 reside in the Netherlands, 7 in France and the remaining in Brussels, Belgium.

Location / Dates: The event took place in European Parliament in Brussels, 14/06/2022

Short description:

Together with a broad coalition consisting of MEPs from several political groups in the European Parliament, we organized, in the light of World Refugee Day, a large-scale cross-party event "*Protect Children on the Move*". One of the main purposes of this initiative was to give the children from the movie *Shadow Game* a platform to tell their story to a large audience of European policymakers and NGOs, and to raise attention with regards to the terrible conditions that a lot of children on the move must face in the EU.

After screening of the film, all protagonists gave a personal statement about how they were treated on the borders of Europe. This was followed by a panel discussion on the rights of children with the main protagonists Sajid, Mustafa and Jano, directors Els van Driel and Eefje Blankevoort as well as former Kinderombudsman Marc Dullaert, MEP Tineke Strik and Alexandra Cupsan-Catalin, representing Commissioner for Home Affairs Ylva Johansson. The panel will be chaired by Josephine Liebl, Head of Advocacy at the European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE).

The event closed with the presentation of the manifesto #protectchildrenonthemove with 35.000 signatures to Alexandra Cupsan-Catalin.

Extra events

To compensate for the smaller number of participants allowed due to covid regulations at the time of execution of the project, partner ZRC SAZU organized more events with fewer participants, to limit the risk of COVID-19 transmission, and to meet the legal "standards" for public events at that time – allowing max 20 participants.

#21

Participation: The event involved 20 citizens, including 20 students from the University of Ljubljana (unknown origin, Slovenian citizenship)

Location / Dates: The event took place in Ljubljana, Slovenia, on 8th November 2021

Short description: A public event at the Faculty of Education, specifically aimed at the students of social pedagogy and primary school education programs. The screening was concluded by a round table and a lively debate of participants. Appointed discussants were dr. Špela Razpotnik, a researcher and a university professor working on the topics of integration of children migrants into hosting societies, and Maša Bartol, a representative of an NGO Mozaik working in the Asylum home Ljubljana Vič with families and unaccompanied minors that recently reached Slovenia (via Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina).

#22

Participation: The event involved 15 people, 9 citizens and 6 asylum seekers. 8 were from Ljubljana, Slovenia, and 7 from Ilirska Bistrica, Slovenia.

Location / Dates: The event took place in Ilirska Bistrica, Slovenia, on 28th December 2021

Short description: A public event in the Youth club Nada Žagar in Ilirska Bistrica, organized by the members of InfoKolpa in collaboration with the municipality of Ilirska Bistrica. The event hosted 6 refugees/asylum seekers from Asylum home Ljubljana Vič and Asylum home Ljubljana Kotnikova, which spoke about their experiences during migration, including physically challenging journeys, violence and abuses from the side of policemen and other officials, "inability" to reach safety and inquire for asylum.

Two discussants were themselves minors when traveling through Europe. The audience was very interested in the stories of journeys leading through “their municipality” and usually media-framed as a “danger” to the local population. The screening was a fantastic opportunity to sensitize the public.

#23

Participation: The event involved 37 citizens, including 37 participants from the city of Maribor, Slovenia.

Location / Dates: The event took place in Maribor, Slovenia, on 21st January 2022

Short description: An online event with the Faculty of Criminal Justice and Security, University of Maribor. Event hosted Ajda Šulc, a young researcher working on the topic of integration of young migrant’s into the Slovenian educational system. The aim of the event was to accustom students of the Faculty of Criminal Justice and Law to the children’s and human’s rights violations on the fringes of Europe, the problems of undocumented people, irregular migration, inability to seek asylum.

#24

Participation: The event involved 24 citizens, including 24 students of the University of Ljubljana, Slovenia.

Location / Dates: The event took place in Ljubljana, Slovenia, on 28th February 2022

Short description: The public screening took place at the Faculty of Social Work and mostly included students of 2nd and 3rd year. The film screening was followed by a discussion with Špela Razpotnik, who opened important questions of social worker’s preparedness for encountering unaccompanied minors living in Slovenian institutions (youth home Postojna, asylum home Vič, children’s home Malči Beličeve Ljubljana). Students showed a great interest to further investigate the social system surrounding the protection of unaccompanied children in Slovenia, and their chances to acquire long term international protection. The aim of the event was to educate future social workers on the issues of protection of unaccompanied minors en-route to Europe and after they have reached their destinations. Social workers oftentimes find themselves in the situation, where they have to protect, advise, house, station, minor refugees, with almost no specialized knowledge on the problematics of irregular children, especially those traveling alone.

#25

Participation: The event involved 5 citizens, including 5 participants from the University of Ljubljana, Slovenia.

Location / Dates: The event took place in Ljubljana, Slovenia, on 4th April 2022

Short description: A small scale screening organized (mainly) for students that completed the ethnographic fieldwork in north-western Bosnia and Herzegovina, and have visited and written field reports about the refugee camps and informal settlements along the border. Discussion was led by dr. prof. Ana Sarah Lunaček Brumen. The aim of the event was to educate students before field work in the Una Sana Canton of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

#26

Participation: The event involved 56 citizens, including 56 participants from Ljubljana Slovenia and other regions (students at the University of Ljubljana, origin region unknown)

Location / Dates: The event took place in Ljubljana, Slovenia, on 19th April 2022

Short description: The second screening at the Faculty of Social work was mainly oriented towards the Masters and Graduate program’s students. The discussion was led by dr. prof. Mirijam Milharčič Hladnik, a senior researcher on the topics of immigration and emigration. Students were recognizing the importance of intercultural awareness, preparedness to recognize (and fight against) human right’s violations. They were accustomed to laws and regulations concerning migration, asylum, formal and informal readmissions.