

National Seminar

Report, Slovenia, Celje 25. 10. 2018



Mednarodna fakulteta
za družbene in poslovne študije
International School
for Social and Business Studies
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training and youth • Project Number: 592154-EPP-1-2017-1-SI-EPPKA3-IPI-SOC-IN
3-year project: 31 December 2017 – 31 December 2020
Project countries: Slovenia, Germany, Greece, Italy, Turkey

Preparation phase of the seminar

Development of the program, September –October 2018

- First phase was preparation of draft programme (beginning of September 2018), with proposed topics. After that, we prepared invitations for key speakers (speakers in the first part of the programme) and speakers at the roundtable. When we received confirmation of speaker, we prepared the final programme for the seminar (beginning of October 2018).
- Programme with invitation:



WP 3 SI CiSoTra_
nacionalni seminar

The content of the National seminar was structured in the following parts:

1. Situation of unaccompanied minor migrants and young migrants in Slovenia and activities/projects/initiatives in the area (presentations made by **I.** Government Office for the Support and Integration of Migrants of RS; **II.** Slovene Philanthropy; **III.** Social Chamber of Slovenia)
2. Roundtable with presentation and discussion
3. Discussion with participants of national seminar regarding their intent for future cooperation in project activities CiSoTRA.

Speakers

- Representatives with the expertise and experiences in the field of UAM and young adult migrants.

Invited participants

- Professionals and volunteers who work with unaccompanied minors and/or young adults – professionals from educational institutions, labour market, social care and housing, health care, guardianship, protection of human rights, security ...
- Stakeholders: ministries, researchers, academics, officers from local/regional authorities, human rights ombudsman, other NGOs or public entities that work on the issue of migrants, professionals who work with unaccompanied minors & young adults ...
- The invitations for the events were disseminated through emails, personal communication with organisations that work with UAM and young adult migrants
- Participants registered for the events through our electronic system Ika.

Delivery of the national seminar

Date and location: 25. October 2018, at International Faculty of Social and Business Studies in Celje.

No of participants: 44

Programme, content:

11.00–12.45

- Welcome address, presentation of the project and of national seminar : Dr. Nada Trunk Širca, ISSBS, project coordinator
- Unaccompanied minor migrants in transition into early adulthood; and young adult migrants (up to 25) – challenges in partner countries of the project CiSoTRA: dr. Andrej Koren, dr. Valerij Dermol, dr. Nada Trunk Širca in mag. Anica Novak, ISSBS
- The importance of cooperation between various stakeholders that work with migrants: Tina Kotar, Government Office for the Support and Integration of Migrants of RS
- Education and competences of professionals in kindergartens and schools for work with migrant children and young adult migrants: mag. Franci Zlatar, Slovene Philanthropy & Social Chamber of Slovenia.
- Good practices in various fields of integration of minor migrants into society: Marina Uzelac, Slovene Philanthropy
- Discussion

13.45–15.30

Presentations by:

- dr. Vera Klopčič, Ethnic Minority Institute
- Iva Perhavec, International Organization for Migration (IOM)
- Tina Bazjako, Adult Education Centre - Postojna (Knowledge centre Postojna)
- dr. Tina Zorman, Postojna Dormitory (project of accommodation of unaccompanied minors).
- Goran Popović, Primary school Livada, Ljubljana

15.30 – 16.15

- Discussion with participants of national seminar regarding their intent for future cooperation in project activities CiSoTRA.

I.st part of the seminar

In the first part of the seminar, Ms. Tina Kotar from the Government Office for the Support and Integration of Migrants of RS presented the role of the office, with which organisations the office cooperates.

This was followed by presentation of Social Chamber by Franci Zlatar. Mr. Zlatar presented several projects of Social Chamber in the area of migrants:

- "Holistic approach to successful integration of migrants" – two year international project: 1. 9. 2016 – 31. 8. 2018 (coordinated by Social chamber of Slovenia)
Important outputs of this project are: I. Training program for professionals working with migrants; II. Creating professional starting points for a new vocational qualification "cultural mediator".
- Strengthening the social security system for the protection of children and adolescent refugees and migrants; and unaccompanied children and adolescents (coordinated by Social chamber of Slovenia, in partnership with UNICEF).
Main aim of the training program is the development of additional professional competence of professionals, all those working in the field of social security in the field of migrants and refugees, with the greatest possible provision of better response and services in line with social changes in this field.

Marina Uzelac, from Slovene Philanthropy presented the activities of Philanthropy. Philanthropy works on the issues of unaccompanied children since 1994. Main activities: psychosocial support and support with integration, mentoring activities for unaccompanied children, practical help with integration, help with learning the Slovenian language ... In the period 2001- 2013 Slovene Philanthropy was the only organisation in Slovenia, responsible for guardianship for unaccompanied children; guardianship is now under the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities.

In 2nd part of the seminar was held roundtable presentation of experts. Further on are presented short summaries of each presentation:

- Vera Klopčič from Ethnic Minority Institute was speaking about Minor migrants in Slovenia. She stressed that still many xenophobic and anti-migration messages exist in Slovenia (eg. in many cases local population is against accommodating migrants in their neighbourhood, parents in many cases do not agree that migrants attend the same school as their children). Beside accepting & protecting minor migrants who stay in Slovenia is very important to ensure save transition of those minors whose destination is not Slovenia.
- Iva Perhavec from International Organization for Migration presented the contribution Children's Rights in the light of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. The goal of Global Agreement is to enable safe, legal and responsible migration ...The rights and needs of the migrant child must be at the forefront regardless of the legal and formal status of the child.
- Tina Bazjako from Adult Education Centre - Postojna presented the contribution: Programme for learning the Slovenian language, conducted for migrants, asylum seekers, accommodated in Student Residence of Postojna. In Slovenia, only 2 centres implement literacy programme (*Adult Education centre Postojna* and *Educational centre Cene Štupar Ljubljana*). The programme is of 400 hours; lectures are held from Monday to Friday, at Adult Education centre.
- Tina Zorman from Postojna Dormitory presented the contribution Challenges and characteristics of work with unaccompanied minors in transition to adulthood. She presented the work with UAM in Dormitory of Postojna. The project of accommodation of UAM started 1.8. 2016. Until now approx. 340 minor migrants were accommodated, but only around 20 of them decided to stay in Slovenia. She stressed that one of big problems for work is lack of legal basis for integration of minor migrants

–professionals that deal with UAM work without guidelines, but on basis of experience, cooperation with the guardians/ administrators, on the basis of knowledge gained at professional training at home and abroad ...

- Goran Popović from Primary school Livada was speaking about inclusion of migrant children in education. In Livada primary school - around 90% students are from non-Slovenia families. The school is involved in several initiatives and projects that promote inter-culturalism, ensured is open/welcoming school environment for migrants (*flags of all the countries from where children are - on each flag is written no. of children from single country, word 'welcomed' in all the languages of the countries that children come from*).

Main emphasises/messages during the delivery of national seminar:

Participants and speakers stressed that there are still number of challenges / problems in the area of the integration of unaccompanied minor migrants and young migrants:

- There is no systemic regulation at national level – no national strategy/ national policies exists in this field.
- Minor migrants are not treated as children, they are not treated in individual / integrative way, no systemic accommodation, non-harmonized custodial system, insufficient psychological and psychotherapeutic support, interpreters are only in official procedures.
- It is necessary to provide better protection for minors who choose to leave Slovenia (ensuring safe transition to the target country).
- It is necessary to promote the training of professionals and institutional capacity.
- Several initiatives and concrete solutions are needed in the field of transition of minor migrants to adulthood.
- Further cooperation between organizations working with minor migrants and young migrants is needed.
- Lack of systematic accommodation for UAM.
- Unregulated area of legal representatives/ custodians.

Evaluation of the seminar and policy recommendation

Letter of thanks and evaluation questionnaire

A week after the training we sent to the speakers and all the participants the *Letter of thanks*, for their contribution and participation. We asked them for feedback through evaluation questionnaires and we promised them to keep them informed about other activities in the future.

Evaluation analysis

Evaluation of the national seminar is presented below:

Figures 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 are giving summary of training evaluation:

- In Figure 1, shows that the evaluation sheet filled out 26 respondents. Majority of them were: I.) professionals from education institutions, II.) other, III.) representatives of NGOs, IV.) researchers in the area of the event.
- Figure 2 shows the type of activities, in which are involved participants of the national seminar. Majority of respondents had been involved in the area of education or training (58%), other areas-not specified (42 %), human rights (24 %), labour market and employment (18%), social care and accommodation (18%) safety and security (6%), creation of policies (6%). However, only 17% of respondents had previous experience with innovative methods of fostering social inclusion of unaccompanied minor migrants in transition to early adulthood.
- Figure 3 shows satisfaction with the usefulness of activities at the seminar. As international expert did not participate in the seminar, statement regarding international experts are not relevant in our case (statement 3 and 4 of figure 3). The respondents were in general satisfied with the national seminar - on the scale from 1 to 4, satisfaction was 3,2. Respondents were very satisfied with opportunities to exchange the experiences with peers, and colleagues (average satisfaction was 3,6) and with discussion about general aspects (3,4), while they were a bit less satisfied with lecturers' materials (satisfaction was 2,9).
- From Figure 4 it is evident that most respondents were satisfied with opportunities to express suggestions and opinions (92%), only 8 % of respondents claimed that they had only partly opportunity to express suggestions and opinions.
- On the question if participants obtained new knowledge in the event 82 % respondents claimed that they obtained new knowledge; 18% that they obtained new knowledge only partly.
- From Figure 5, we can conclude that improvements of further training should include specific case studies, more practical exercises and more discussions. It has also been stressed that participants of national seminar shall also receive some knowledge regarding the techniques for work with UAM.

Figure 1: Structure of participants:

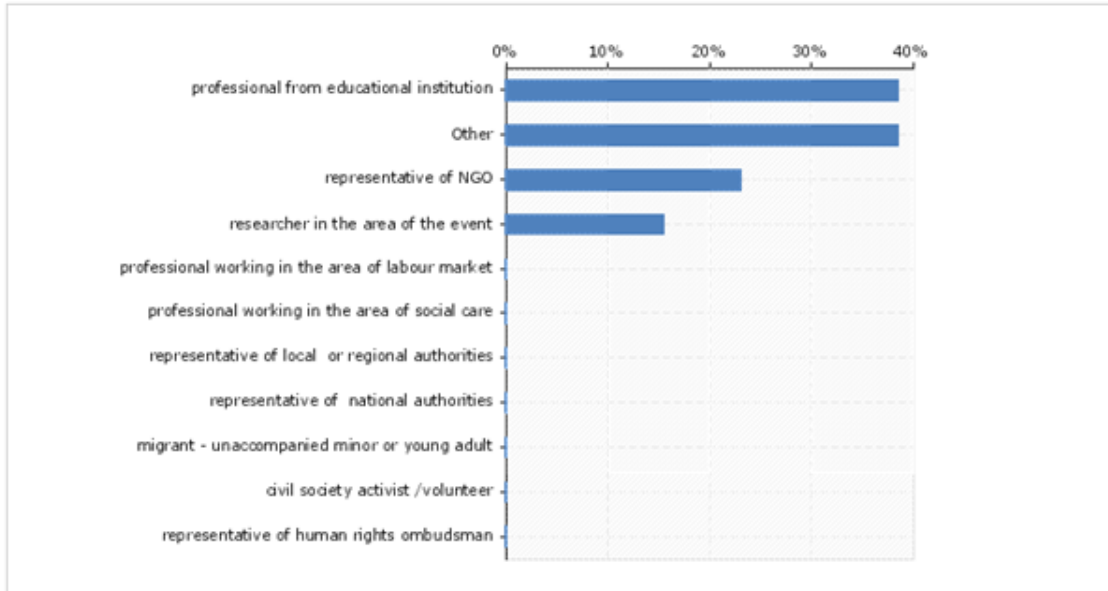
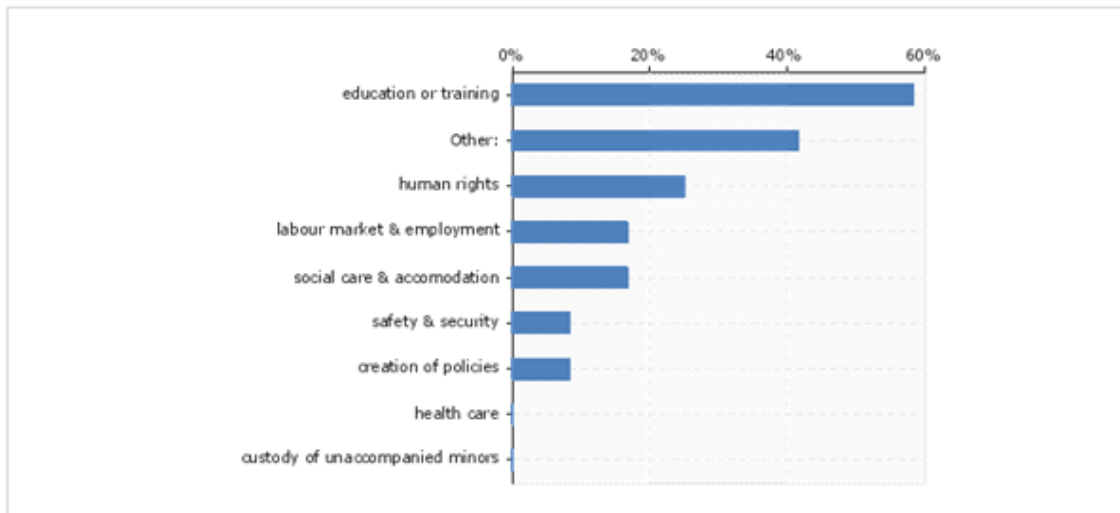


Figure 2: Experience of participants (count):

a.) professionally, involved in the areas of activities related to



b.) previous experience with innovative methods of fostering social inclusion of unaccompanied minor migrants in transition to early adulthood

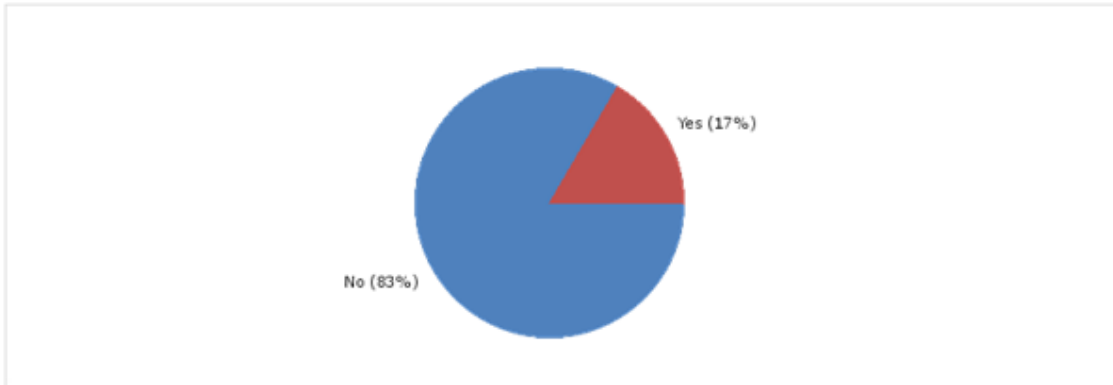


Figure 3: Assessment of content and methodology of presentations (grades from 1 to 4):

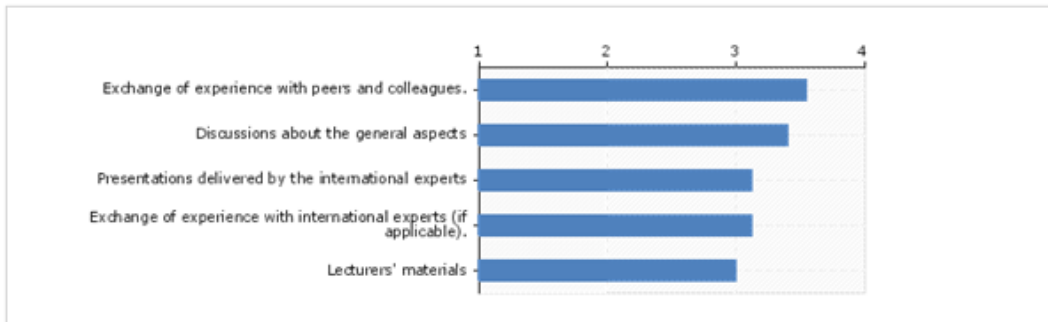
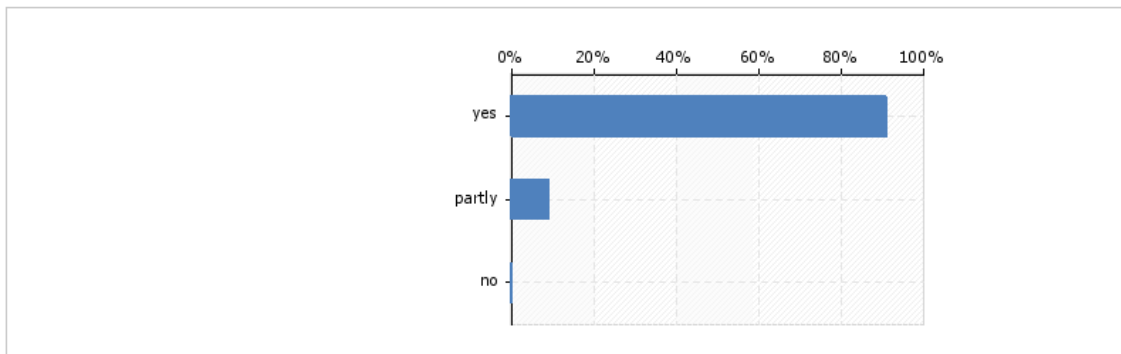


Figure 4: Learning and discussion (frequency in %):

a.) Had opportunities to express suggestions and opinions at the seminar



a.) *Had obtained new knowledge in the event*

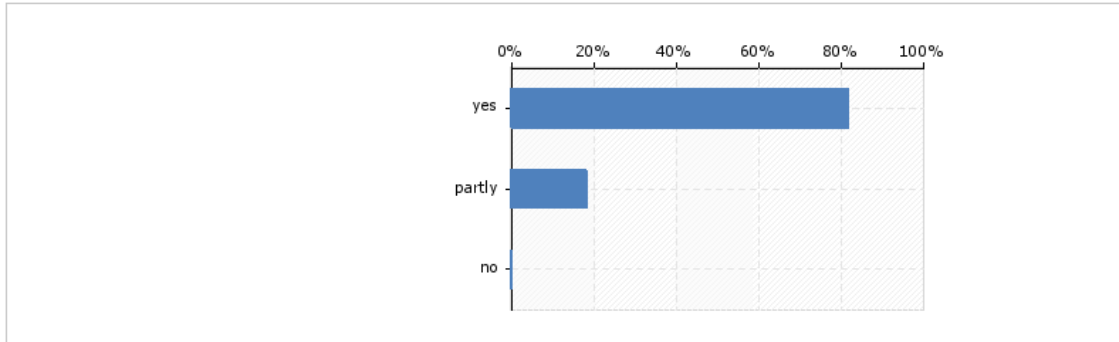
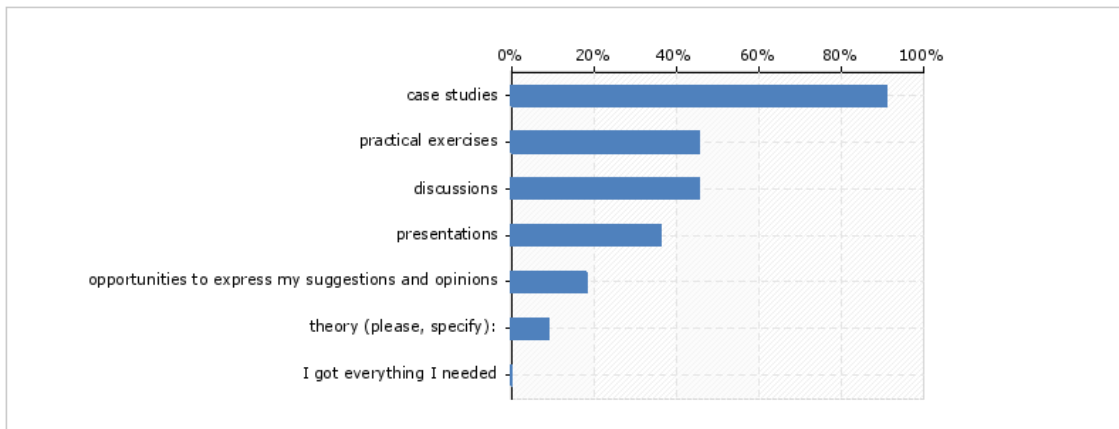


Figure 5: *Suggestions for improvements (count):*



Answers of participants on open question: What were the most valuable “lessons learned” in the event?

- Very valuable were presentation of good practices by organisations/speakers at the seminar.
- The organisations that work in the area, had opportunity to exchange opinions on issues, to share their ideas.

Policy recommendations

From the seminar discussions and evaluation, we can extract the following policy recommendations:

There is need for systemic solution - accepting an integrative national policy/ national strategies in the field of unaccompanied children and unaccompanied minors (in cooperation with all relevant departments), and to regulate the areas of:

a.) accommodation and care

- Need for systemic solution

b.) treatment of children

- Comprehensive, individual and in accordance with the principle of the best interests of a child

c.) foster care

d.) procedures

- At the border, asylum procedures, protection status, family reunification
- Ensuring safe transition of those minors whose destination is not Slovenia

e.) age assessment

f.) the field of legal representation and custodians

g.) Health care

h.) education, acquisition of competences

i.) employment

j.) integration in general

k.) support of minors and youngsters; support for transition to adulthood

- Main areas of support in general: Support in understanding the system of bureaucracy, support in the field of social inclusion, psychosocial support, support in the educational process, acquiring competences, support for integration into the labor market, including help with finding a job..
- Support for transition into adulthood: I.) It is necessary to establish support programs for the transition of unaccompanied children into adulthood. Support programs need to be focused on strengthening autonomy. II.) Event before they turn 18, should be organized visit of institutions, that can help them with empowerment (visit, get in touch, get to know people there ..) III.) It is important that adequate accommodation and care are provided even after they are 18.

l.) training of personnel

- Trainings for professionals should become permanent practice
- Professionals need mainly the following knowledge for work:
 - o techniques for working with traumatized individuals, providing psychosocial support,
 - o knowledge and competences in following area: what are the characteristics of UAM and young adults and on what should professionals pay attention when working with this group, knowledge of their culture, working with individuals and groups, strengthening social skills, conducting interviews....

m.) mutual cooperation between different actors (including exchange of opinions on regular basis...)