

Improving the Protection and Wellbeing of Children: International Collaboration

The Erasmus+ funded project 'Improving the Protection and Wellbeing of Children in Europe: Enhancing the Curriculum' is a three year collaboration (commenced September 2016) between eight European higher education institutions delivering professional social work training, together with Terre des Hommes. The project is designed to develop social worker training to help foster synergies and consistency across jurisdictions in response to the increasing marginalisation and vulnerability of children on the move across Europe.

Eighteen months into the project the proposed workshop aims to share some of the initial learning and reflect on the challenges inherent in working across countries with divergent histories and cultures. One of the areas identified to date is how best to incorporate a 'shared' understanding of the core values and ethics of the social work profession, in relation to social justice and anti-oppressive practice, across jurisdictions in relation to child protection practice. The proposed workshop will provide an opportunity to discuss these cross-border challenges, based on the learning to date from the Erasmus+ project. Critical reflection and debate, involving multi-national participants, will form the cornerstone of an interactive and participative workshop that is informed by an ongoing collaboration across post-conflict and post-communist jurisdictions.