**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE**

**"Children left behind. Best Practices and Challenges –**

**Romania, Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova"**

**AGENDA**

The conference takes place in the framework of the **”CASTLE - Children Left Behind by Labour Migration: Supporting Moldovan and Ukrainian Transnational Families in the European Union”**project.

Delegations from the Republic of Moldova, Romania and Ukraine will meet at the conference to discuss public policies, best practices and challenges in child protection field of the children left at home as a result of parental migration to work abroad.

**Date:** 08 June 2023

**Location:** Jolly Alon Hotel & Business Center. 37, Maria Cebotari str., Chisinau

<https://jollyalon.com>

**Organiser:** Terre des hommes Moldova Foundation

**Participants:** national and local public authorities, implementing partners and participants from the academic environment from Moldova, Ukraine and Romania.

The event will take place in a hybrid format.

**Zoom link:** <https://bit.ly/link-Zoom-Castle-Conference-June8>

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| **Time** | **Subject** |
| 09:30 – 10:00 | Registration of participants. Welcome coffee. |
| 10:00 – 10:30 | **A word of greeting**   * **Sophie Dagand,** Programme Manager – Security and Migration, EU Delegation to the Republic of Moldova (online participation) * **Ahmed Sharmarke,** Project Officer, Representative of International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) Brussels, Belgium (online participation) * **Elena Madan**, Director, Terre des hommes Moldova * Representative of the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Republic of Moldova |
| 10:30 – 10:45 | **CASTLE Project Presentation**  **Teodora Rebeja,** Programm Manager, Tdh Moldova  **Cristina Triboi**, Project Coordinator, Tdh Moldova |
| 10:45 – 11:15 | **Celebrating successes, presenting the results of YouCreate - CASTLE initiatives**  **Corina Erhan,** expert/ consultant YouCreate Methodology  **Liliana Astrahan,** Child Protection and Youth Work Specialist, YouCreate Methodology Expert, Tdh Molodva  *Q&A* |
| 11:15 – 11:45 | **Coffee break** |
| 11:45 – 13:15 | **Romania, Ukraine, Republic of Moldova: Best practices in the field of protection of children left behind by parents working abroad.**  In this session each country team will present:   1. The legal framework and policies for the protection of children left behind by parents working abroad. 2. Challenges in the field of protection of children left behind by parents working abroad. 3. Positive experiences in the field of protection of children left behind by parents working abroad. 4. “How children can be supported after their parents leave to work abroad” research (Terre des hommes Romania, Terre des hommes Moldova, Terre des hommes Ukraine, The Center for the Study of Transnational Families within Babeș-Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca, the Academy of Economic Studies from the Republic of Moldova, and the Ukrainian Institute of Social Research after Oleksandr Yaremenko. |
| 11:45 – 12:15 | **Romania: Best practices in the field of protection of children left behind by parents working abroad.**  **Sandra Niță-Munteanu,** National Authority for Chid's Rights Protection and Adoption  **Alina Bărbuță,** PhD Candidate, Babeș-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca |
| 12:15 – 12:45 | **Ukraine: Best practices in the field of protection of children left behind by parents working abroad.**  **Iryna Tymchuk, Halyna Senyk,** Ivano-Frankivsk Regional State (Military) Administration  *Q&A* |
| 12:45 – 13:15 | **Republic of Moldova: Best practices in the field of protection of children left behind by parents working abroad.**  **Emilia Ciobanu,** Head of the General Directorate of Social Assistance, Family and Child Protection, Falesti district  *Q&A* |
| 13:15 – 14:00 | **Summary. Closing Remarks.**  **Elena Madan,** Director, Terre des hommes Moldova |
| 14:00 | **Lunch** |

**About CASTLE project**

Terre des hommes România, Terre des hommes Moldova and Terre des hommes Ukraine – along with Babeș-Bolyai University from Cluj-Napoca (coordinator), the Academy of Economic Studies from the Republic of Moldova, and the Ukrainian Institute of Social Research after Oleksandr Yaremenko. – implements, between June 2021 – December 2023, the project **“CASTLE - Children Left Behind by Labour Migration: Supporting Moldovan and Ukrainian Transnational Families in the European Union”**

**Background**

Labour migration of Eastern Europe citizens to the European Union has increased considerably over the last 10 years, and families do not always migrate entirely. Many children stay at home with one parent or none at all, this being the phenomenon of *transnational families*.

In Moldova, 21% of children have at least one parent who has left abroad. In the absence of their parents, these children become even more vulnerable and face, more than others, physical or mental health problems such as anxiety, depression or may develop anti-social behaviour. In addition, the Covid pandemic has brought even more challenges into their lives.

In this project, Romania is both country of destination and of origin of labour migrants. With almost 350,000 children left at home, it has the highest number in Europe in this category.

*\*Note: As the project has started in 2021, the migration situation in Ukraine was different before the war.* *With the outbreak of the war in 2022 the migration phenomenon has taken on new proportions and significance.*

**Objectives**

**CASTLE project aims** to support the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine in improving their national protection systems and knowledge about transnational families and about the social and legal impact of labour migration.

To this end, the project foresees:

* Conducting a series of solution-oriented research to better understand the (potentially negative) impact of migration policies and child protection dynamics in Moldova and Ukraine;
* developing a course for local service providers in Moldova and Ukraine;
* developing an online course for service providers in destination countries;
* developing an online course for transnational families.

**Expected results** at the end of the project:

Remaining children and their families in Moldova and Ukraine will be given the confidence to contribute to legal and policy reform related to labour migration.

**Rezultatele** scontate la finalul proiectului:

* Legal frameworks and policies impacting migration in Moldova and Ukraine will be improved through empirical research.
* Transnational families and stakeholders will be better informed about the reality and practical problems related to labour migration.
* Staying at home children and their families in Moldova and Ukraine will be given the confidence to contribute to legal and policy reform related to labour migration.

*The “CASTLE: children left behind by labour migration – supporting Moldovan and Ukrainian transnational families in the EU” action project is co-financed by the European Union, and contracted by the International Center for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) through the Migration Partnership Facility (MPF) -   
ICMPD/2021/MPF-357-004.*

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| **Further information and materials**  **developed within the CASTLE project:** |  |