

EU Year 2010 - Contributing to ending poverty among migrants?
EAPN Conference 2010
Workshop Session: Children
Ajax Hotel, Cyprus, Friday 11 June

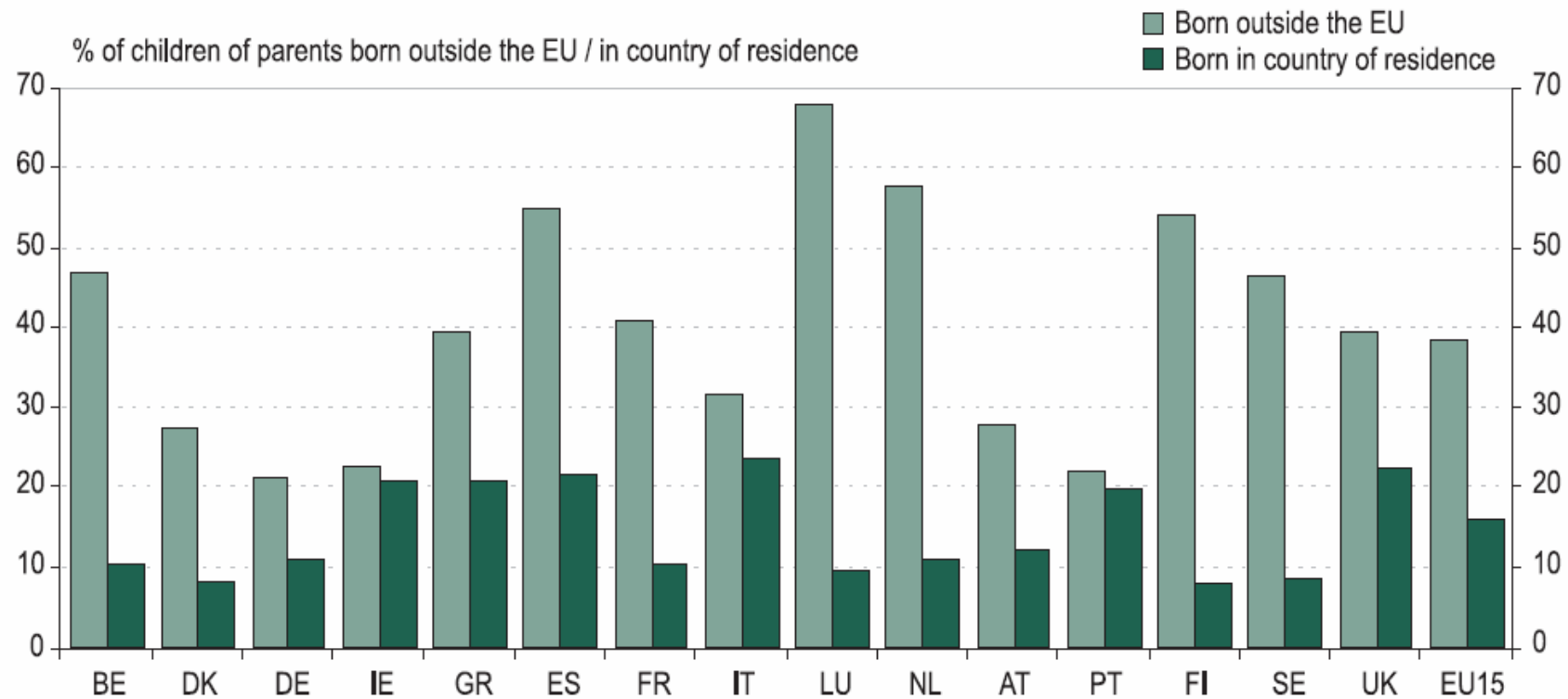
Making migration a *minor* matter: **the need for more child-focused work on** **poverty and migration in Europe**

John H. McKendrick
on behalf of Eurochild



Far from a minor matter – it is a Europe-wide problem

Proportion of children with income below the poverty line, EU 15, 2005



Source: European Observatory on the Social Situation and Demography Network on Income Distribution and Living Conditions: European Inequalities – Social Inclusion and Income Distribution in the European Union, page 95

Presentation outline

Part A – General Introduction

1. Introduction to Eurochild
2. Eurochild and child well being
3. Poverty, migration and EAPN
4. Understanding children

Part B – Understanding Children and Migration

5. Rethinking and moving beyond family migration
6. Child migration in Europe

Part C - Issues

7. Key problems for the EAPN agenda
8. Other poverty problems of children and migration in EU
9. Information gaps

10. Conclusion



1. Eurochild – 1 of 2



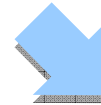
- Representing over 80 organisations from 32 European countries;
- All members working directly with and for children;
- Mission to promote the rights and welfare of children in Europe by:
 - *Influencing policies in Europe*
 - *Helping to exchange good practice & knowledge*
 - *Raising awareness*
 - *Promoting the participation of children & young people*

1. Eurochild – 2 of 2

Our aim is to promote the rights and well-being of children and young people



Empower children and young people



**United Nations
Convention on the Rights
of the Child (UNCRC)**

THEMATIC PRIORITIES

- early years education & care
- family & parenting support
- children without parental care
- child participation

2. Eurochild and Child Well being

2010 Campaign

- Campaign website for 2010 – www.endchildpoverty.eu
- Petition for 2011 – aiming for 100,000 signatures to be handed over to EU Leaders in January 2011

What We Want The EU To Do

- Setting clear targets to reduce child poverty
- Producing an annual scoreboard on child well-being
- Improving data collection and reporting on children
- Showing what works and helping member states improve their policy and practice through mutual learning and exchange
- Working together across all policy areas that influence child well-being.

Our 10 Key Policy Messages

- See attached paper



3. Poverty, Migration and EAPN

EAPN Position Paper

- Delivered this morning
- Main focus on third country nationals
- Orientation and principles paper – not seeking immediate actions

EAPN Working Definition of a Migrant

- Definition
- Limitations for Europe
- Limitations for International migration

Defining Poverty and Migration

- Additional Challenges in Migration

Poverty and Migration

- Goal
- Possibilities/ instances not determinants



4. *Understanding Children*

Appollonian and Post-Appollonian Thinking

- Children inherently vulnerable
- Element in more recent thinking
- Important ... but not everything

Children are Active Agents

- Decision-makers in their own right

Children are 'Rights' holders

- UNCRC
- Held independently of the family
- Children should (also) be the focus of policy and action



5. Rethinking and Moving Beyond Family Migration

EAPN Workshop

- Significant – demonstrates EAPN acknowledge the need for a child-sensitive focus
- ... or maybe that they needed another theme for a fifth workshop!!!

Need to distinguish apart how children are affected by migration

Different types of 'child migration'

- Dependent voluntary migration (with parents)
- Independent voluntary migration (alone – education/work)
- Forced migration (trafficking, smuggling, refugees)
- Left behind when parents migrate
- Second generation migrants (born in host country)

Pathways for child migrants

- Linear assimilation
- Segmented assimilation
- Socio-economic disadvantage



6. *Child Migrants in Europe*

Migration Flows are Dynamic

- Historically Emigration
- In-migration from Southern Europe and North Africa
- West Europe, post 1970s
- Internal market and Eastern European migration
- Global slowdown?

Significant number of non-nationals currently living in Europe (5.5% - 25m)

Children are less numerous among migrant population

- In EU15, 16.6% of population are aged under 16
- in EU15, 4.7% of international migrants are aged under 16

Still a significant number of child migrants in EU

- Varies across different migrant groups (up to 12% from North America)
- Different propensities to migrate to particular EU nations
- Socio-economic disadvantage

Second Generation Migrants



7. Key Problems for the EAPN Agenda

Intrinsic and Instrumental Importance

- Rights issue, and
- Practical problem

Prevention to Avoid Cure

- Lower educational achievement of migrant children – low education achievement of children – short-term and long-term social and economic costs

Wide Range of Negative Impacts Associated with Child Migration

- Common problems
- Particular to migration type

Tensions to Resolve / Issues to Address

- *Whether becoming more selective in migration will sustain and exacerbate inequality gaps in exporting nations*
- *Whether to maximise the role of remittances as a development strategy (e.g. tax relief for remittances)*
- *How to attend effectively to short-term migration: immediacy of attending to migrant children's needs*
- *Protecting child migrants as an economic development strategy – acknowledging that children are important stakeholders for future social economic development both in receiving and sending countries*

8. *Other Poverty Problems of Child Migrants in Europe*

Positive / Child Migration as a Tool to Tackle Insularity

- Promote cultural awareness
- Promote European identity

Negative / Movement of Families as a Means to Widen Social Inequalities

- e.g. local migration to 'better schools' catchment areas in the UK



9. Information Gaps

More Data, Better Data

- Engage migrant children
- Child as a unit of analysis

Understand Migration Complexity

- *Need a focus on host country conditions, processes, and policies facilitates or hinders the development of capabilities of young people affected by migration*
- *Articulate how the nature of the migration shapes experiences and institutional responses to it*
- *Explore parallels between forced migration and 'voluntary' family migration (in the new family economics of migration) in which the child makes no contribution to decision-making.*
- *Differences in perceptions between migrant children and migrant parents*
- *Length of stay impact in receiving and sending countries*



10. Conclusion

Injustices to Address

Refine Understanding of Child Migration

Need Information for Change



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

**Eurochild is working toward the preparation of a position paper on
children, migration and poverty in the EU**

How to find out more....

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