

PARTNER SEARCH: Horizon 2020. Work Programme 'Europe in a Changing World: Inclusive, Innovative and Reflective Societies' (2018-2020).



The Centre of Expertise in Pedagogical support at the KdG University of Applied Sciences and Arts in Belgium, Antwerp is seeking a consortium for (one of) the following MIGRATION calls:

- *Mapping and overcoming integration challenges for migrant children (MIGRATION-05-2018-2020);*
- *Narratives on migration and its impact: past and present (MIGRATION-09-2020).*

Context

Currently, the Centre of Expertise is conducting an experiential research project with refugee children (aged 6 to 12) in reception centres in Belgium, investigating their wellbeing and sense of belonging.

Philosophical framework: Adhering to an ethics of care perspective, the research strives to take into account the interconnected nature of the care-giver and the care-receiver (Tronto, 2009).

Data gathering: The children's self-construed narratives and their agency are at the heart of the project. Aside from photo-voice inquiry, a set of (arts-based) participatory data-gathering techniques are used. The voices of the care-givers are represented by a network of professionals and volunteers, surrounding the children and their families.

Analysis: Narratological analysis combined with socio-constructive analysis.

Results: The narratives and testimonies are assembled on a digital tool, designed to inform professionals and policy makers about the wellbeing of the children and elicit reflection.

With respect to the call '**Mapping and overcoming integration challenges for migrant children' (MIGRATION-05-2018-2020)**' we would like to elaborate on our working concept of 'caring communities', which means we want to:

- bring educational and leisure activities closer to reception centres where the children reside;

- develop working models on integration that rely on the mutual commitments of care, thus making the processes of integration and care more democratic.

Regarding '**Narratives on migration and its impact: past and present' (MIGRATION-09-2020)** we would like to expand our existing collection of narratives and thus:

- maintain our focus on the 'care-receivers' as well as the 'care-givers' and investigate where their voices interconnect and have the potential to (re)shape polarisation and policy decisions.
- further explore the experiential research design, the innovative data-gathering techniques, the narratological analysis and co-design an interesting and accessible digital tool.

Centre Of Expertise

The Centre of Expertise in Pedagogical Support conducts practice-oriented research for and with professionals working with children under 12 years of age. *Following competences are relevant to the calls:*

- Extensive experience with practice-oriented research for stakeholders in the field of Early Childhood Education and Care, After School Care and Leisure Time facilities.
- Strong network in local organisations working with a diverse public of children (schools, childcare, reception centres, leisure time and cultural activities) and willing to participate in pilots and action research.
- Extensive experience in mixed -methods research, including experiential research with children, action research, evaluation research, research by design, as well as narratological analysis.
- Extensive experience in coaching methods for professionals working with young children, including and coaching on the floor coaching of low-skilled professionals.
- Experience in developing hands-on tools, such as a the INDYGAME, a playful method to discuss intercultural awareness.
- Experience with creating digital learning platforms.

The centre is currently involved in several EU projects:

- Two social innovation projects in the Interreg 2seas Programme: PACE (Providing Access to Childcare and Employment) and VRAC (It takes a Village to Raise A Child)
- One Erasmus + (Value+ project on the principle of Educare).
- The centre is also member of a COST action on parental participation and co-presiding the national preparatory committee of OMEP.

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