

## Informal Meeting on International Co-operation to End Institutionalisation

2014, 14:00-16:00

Leopold meeting room, Leopold Hotel Brussels EU

Minutes

### Summary

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss next steps for building greater policy coherence on ending the institutionalisation of children amongst international donors. The discussion was chaired and hosted by Lumos and attended by representatives from DG DevCo, EEAS, the US Mission to the EU, the World Bank, and Concord, as well as from DG Regio and DG Employment (See Annexe 1).

The meeting followed on from a Round Table hosted by Claude Moraes MEP and Lumos on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2014, where international donors acknowledged the progress made in regulating EU Structural Funds invested within the European region, and identified the need for greater policy coherence across international funding streams invested outside of Europe (See Annexe 3).

The group identified several next steps, all of which Lumos is prepared to support:

1. The EEAS, DevCo and the US Mission agreed to meet subsequently to discuss how they could improve policy coherence within and between agencies, including through an awareness-raising initiative.
2. Country level workshops for international donors on how to promote an end to institutional care. The group agreed Moldova could be a starting point as it is a priority of the Global Alliance for Children. It was also agreed that other GAC priority countries would be a good starting point.
3. Lumos, together with Concord, ChildPact, and other relevant NGO networks, would generate a piece of research analysing global funding for institutional care outside the EU, to identify challenges as well as good practice examples and to highlight where coordination could be improved.
4. Donors could meet to analyse the findings of the report in November and discuss how to create greater policy coherence within and between agencies.

### Discussion

[REDACTED], CEO of Lumos highlighted the importance of looking at the EU funding which is directed to non-EU countries. This would be a natural development after the success achieved with the introduction of ex-ante conditionality on transition from institutional to community based services in the European Structural and Investment Funds 2014-2020. If institutions are not good for the EU children, clearly, they are not good for any children.

She proposed establishing a Working Group with secretariat support from Lumos to:

- a. Analyse applicable EU funding mechanisms and policy initiatives, which target non-EU member-States and make an assessment of their actual and potential use to prioritise deinstitutionalisation.
- b. Make recommendations to the European Union
- c. Provide the European Union and its Member States with evidence and tools to make the case in multilateral and international fora and negotiations

- d. Identify ways in which the EU, US Government and other global actors, can cooperate more coherently and efficiently in the delivery of international aid regarding child development and protection.

██████████, Policy Analyst, Directorate General for Regional Policy, European Commission raised the question about what the relationship between the European Expert Group (EEG) on the Transition from Institutional to Community Based Care would be. He also made a point about the mandate of the Working Group, since European Commission representatives cannot be part of a body which is aiming to have an advisory function towards the EC.

██████████ explained that the EEG is focused on the EU funds spent internally, whereas this group would look at global funding spent outside of the European region. The EEG will be kept informed about the developments and invited to cooperate via its individual members. In particular, it is important to reconcile overlap on EU enlargement countries.

██████████, Counselor for Political Affairs, U.S. Mission to the EU said it would not be appropriate for the US to make an in-depth analysis of EU funds. However they would be happy to cooperate on awareness raising and sharing of experience.

██████████ Human Rights and Democracy Directorate, Human Rights Policy Guidelines Division, European External Action Service, European Commission highlighted that, whilst the GRULAC are leading on the rights of the child this year, next year the EU will lead and that presents opportunities for taking forward the deinstitutionalisation agenda.

██████████ representing World Vision and CONCORD, emphasised that Child Pact – a network of NGOs operating in 10 EU enlargement and partnership countries in the Black Sea area – could be a good partner in this initiative and have many examples of best practice to share.

██████████, charged with the implementation of the Investing in Children Recommendation, Unit D2: Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission shared his recent experience in Lithuania where a lack of information about what is happening on the ground is causing EC funds to be used on institutions without their knowledge.

██████████ suggested that Lumos, Concord, Child pact, and World Vision identify other relevant NGOs and together produce a report on funding for institutions outside of the EU (similar to the Spidla report). The findings can then be discussed with donors at a subsequent meeting in November. Lumos will provide the secretariat and the actual writing of the report.

██████████ suggested the research focuses on one or two countries such as Uganda or Moldova. She said that communications campaigns in cooperation with NGOs might also work well e.g. a travelling photographic exhibit.

██████████ DEVCO, European Commission, Democracy, Governance and Non-discrimination supported the idea of focusing on combining work at the global level with a focus on a certain area / set of countries, and of the need to raise awareness through communications work. She emphasised that EU delegations in-country are highly decentralised and many of the discussions need to take place at the national and regional level. She also highlighted that EU delegations work a lot on violence against children and domestic violence and that this may be a starting point for discussions. The focus of the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) in 2015 will be children and armed conflict. She will talk with ██████████ Policy Officer, Child rights, gender, discrimination about how to take forward DevCo's work on ending institutionalisation as he is the DevCo representative on this issue.

[REDACTED] and [REDACTED] Lumos Policy & Research Director highlighted various ways that Lumos can contribute including holding country/regional training workshops for donors, hosting inter-agency discussions, and producing tools and guidance, including a 'check-list' for anyone administering donor funds. Lumos has a dedicated team of trainers on deinstitutionalisation that run courses in countries around the world tailored to the local environment. It also runs an international school for donors, government staff and policy makers, for one week each August.

[REDACTED] World Bank highlighted that whilst the World Bank is keen to participate where it can, recent internal restructuring means that it is not yet clear who would be responsible for work related to deinstitutionalisation. As a result it would take them some time for them to become more actively involved.

[REDACTED] Policy Officer, European Commission; Enlargement; Enlargement Policy and Strategy shared that DG Enlargement is finalising its papers. Children's rights are there but very general. A colleague from the programming unit would be very relevant to discuss this with.

## Next steps

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4. Donors could meet to analyse the findings of the report in November and discuss how to create greater policy coherence within and between agencies.

These minutes were taken by [REDACTED] Policy and Advocacy Advisor, Lumos.

**Annexe 1. List of participants**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Email</b>
[REDACTED]	Human Rights and Democracy Directorate Human Rights Policy Guidelines Division	European External Action Service European Commission	[REDACTED]@ec.europa.eu
[REDACTED]	Counselor for Political Affairs	U.S. Mission to the EU	[REDACTED]@state.gov
[REDACTED]	Political Officer	U.S. Mission to the EU	[REDACTED]@state.gov
[REDACTED]	Official, charged with the implementation of the Investing in Children Recommendation	Unit D2: Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion European Commission	[REDACTED]@ec.europa.eu
[REDACTED]	Policy Analyst	Directorate General for Regional Policy, European Commission	[REDACTED]@ec.europa.eu
[REDACTED]	Policy Officer	European Commission; Enlargement; Enlargement Policy and Strategy	[REDACTED]@ec.europa.eu
[REDACTED]		World Vision	[REDACTED]@childpact.org
[REDACTED]		World Bank	[REDACTED]@worldbankgroup.org
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[REDACTED]	Director of Policy & Research	Lumos	[REDACTED]@lumos.org.uk
[REDACTED]	EU Policy and Advocacy Advisor	Lumos	[REDACTED]@lumos.org.uk

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