The active involvement of civil society and other relevant parties in terms of volunteers, either as experts or as practitioners, is an inalienable element of any successful inclusion strategy for street children and for any group of children at high risk. The conference aims to contribute to the reflection process on the role of civil society in the promotion of active inclusion in the light of the European Year to Combat Poverty and Social Exclusion 2010 and on the future of the Lisbon strategy post 2010. It will present, in a comparative way, innovative approaches of civil society involvement from new and “old” EU Member States in order to develop innovative practice-oriented concepts, focussing in particular on the active role of civil society and the voluntary work carried out in the area of strongly excluded children.

In this context the future status of social services of general interest will also be highlighted. Based on the different EU communications on this issue during the last decade, the crucial question to be discussed will be how far active inclusion of high risk children will necessitate a European framework to ensure favourable working conditions for volunteers and thus the active involvement of civil society in the inclusion process. Strategic approaches shall be developed to combine high quality social services for the most vulnerable with the principles related to the EC internal market.

The conference will adopt a joint declaration on the necessity of making civil society and inclusion of street children a priority issue of the European Year 2010 and to define key priorities for the European Year on Volunteering 2011.

Target group: Representatives and decision-makers from Child protection NGOs and welfare associations, local governments, child and youth authorities, EU institutions, social and street workers, experts from research institutes, EFSC member organisations.

European Federation for Street Children (EFSC) is a non-profit Brussels-based association committed to the improvement of the rights and living conditions of children at risk, particularly street children.

As a platform for lobbying and advocacy towards the European Union, we provide non-governmental organisations, both inside and outside the EU, committed to this cause with information and advice concerning all children and youth-related policies and assistance programmes of the EU and facilitate the exchange of best practice between them.

EFSC aims at the improvement of rights and living conditions of young people at risk by raising public and political awareness with the EU institutions.

EFSC promotes and facilitates a better mutual exchange and cooperation between EU policy makers, national governments and NGOs working for children and youth at risk. To achieve this goal, we organise seminars and conferences for our partners, professional, experts, researchers and politicians to encourage networking and information exchange at international, European, national and local level.

For further information about EFSC’s mission and objectives, please consult our statutes: http://www.efsc-eu.org

European Federation for Street Children - EFSC
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IAC (Child Care Institute) is a private institution of Social Welfare set up in 1983. It is a non-profit organization which has as its main purpose, the contribution to the full development of children and the protection and promotion of their rights. IAC carries out this mission through several projects, one of which is IAC-Projecto Rua (Street Project), created in 1989 to respond to a vast increase in the number of children found roaming on the streets. The main goal of Projecto Rua is to reduce the number of children and teenagers in danger, especially those on the streets, contributing to their social reintegration.

A policy for Childhood is the work of the whole Community” (João dos Santos). IAC - For the Protection of Children’s rights To contribute to IAC´s Mission:
IAC´s IBAN: PT5000350150000505803090
IAC´s NIB: 0030150000505803090

Instituto de Apoio a Criança

European Forum on Street Children
Street children as a challenge to social policies and the renewed Lisbon Strategy: The role of the civil society as a catalyst for the social inclusion process for children at high risk and street children

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I. CIVIL SOCIETY AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY: EUROPEAN AND NATIONAL APPROACHES
Moderation: Reinhold Müller – EFSC Director.

12.30 Marian Harkin, Member of the European Parliament, Group of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe, Rapporteur for “The role of volunteering in contributing to economic and social cohesion”. Civil rights and civil society – How can the EU contribute to a citizen oriented social integration model in Europe?
13.00 Lunch break.
14.15 Father Lino Maia, President of the National Confederation of Social Institutions (CNIS), Portugal. The role of civil society in the context of the Lisbon Treaty.
14.45 Marie-Anne Paraskevas, Policy Officer Directorate-General Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, European Commission. 2010 - The European Year to Combat Poverty and Social Exclusion: Using civil society resources to practice social inclusion.
15.15 Coffee break.

II. INNOVATIVE APPROACHES ON CIVIL SOCIETY INVOLVEMENT IN NEW AND OLD EU MEMBER STATES
Moderation: Dulce Rocha – Executive President of IAC.

15.45 Armando Leandro, President of the National Commission for children and youngsters at risk, Portugal. From tradition to innovation: The evolution in civil society participation. Different patterns and organizational structures between public organizations and NGOs.
16.15 Nico Nagtzzaam, Project Officer Cross border voluntary co-operation in Europe: The "Freiwilligenbörse" in the Euregio Maas-Rhine -co-operation project between the Belgian, Dutch and German Red Cross.
16.45 Michal Smigieliski, Society of the Friends of Children (TPD). Innovative examples of the organisation of voluntary work in Poland.

III. VOLUNTARY WORK IN EUROPE IN PRACTICE: LEGAL, FINANCIAL AND POLITICAL FRAMEWORK CONDITIONS
Moderation: Annette Bosscher, EFSC Board Member, Reinhold Müller

09.30 Elza Chambel, President of the Council for the promotion of Voluntary Work, Portugal. Innovative practices in Voluntary Work organization in Portugal.
10.00 Dr. Ágnes Cser (to be confirmed). President, Democratic Trade Union of Health and Social Workers, Hungary, Member of the European Economic and Social Committee. Voluntary work and the protection of children’s rights in the context of the renewed European Social Agenda. Would a European legal framework improve the efficiency of volunteering?
10.30 N.N., Member of European Parliament. Services of general interest in Europe: Voluntary work between market and state in a globalized world.
11.00 Coffee break.

IV. CIVIL SOCIETY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL INCLUSION OF STREET CHILDREN: GOOD PRACTICES AND KEY CHALLENGES
Moderation: Paula Paçó – Team coordinator of IAC – Project Rua.

11.15 Matilde Sirgado, General Coordinator of IAC-Project Rua, Portugal. Improving the access of street children and youth to high quality services through the involvement of civil society actors: Concepts and methods used by IAC.
11.45 Alessandro Padovani, Director; Sabrina Brutto, Project Manager Istituto Don Calabria, Italy. The Azimut project: A good practice oriented towards a dynamic capacity building : Characteristics of a youth integration project run by Istituto Don Calabria.
12.15 Mihai-Florin Rosca, FRCCF. The role of volunteers in community based approaches to re-integrate street children: good practices and key challenges.
12.45 Lunch break.
14.00 Panel discussion: Towards the European Year on Volunteering 2011: How can the co-operation of NGOs and public institutions with Civil Society be reinforced? Moderation: Fátima Campos Ferreira, Journalist.

Dr. Ágnes Cser (to be confirmed), President, Democratic Trade Union of Health and Social Workers, Hungary, Member of the European Economic and Social Committee.
María Harkin, Member of the European Parliament, Group of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe.
João Lázaro, Portuguese Forum of NGOs for Inclusion.
Cécile Le Clercq, Unité D4 - Politique de la citoyenneté ; «Europe pour les Citoyens», Directorate-General Education and Culture, European Commission.
Eugénio José da Cruz Fonseca, President of Caritas Portugal.
Ivan Ivanov, Executive Director, European Roma Information Office.

15.30 Coffee break.
16.00 Adoption of a joint declaration by the participants to make civil society and inclusion of street children a priority issue of the European Year 2010 and to define key priorities for the European Year on Volunteering 2011.
16.30 Closing session.
17.00 José Coelho Antunes, Vice-President of IAC.
Idália Marques Moniz, Secretary of State Adjunct to the Minister of Labour and Social Solidarity, Portugal.
A Representative from EFSC.