

# Children Left Behind by Labour Migration: Supporting Moldovan and Ukrainian Transnational Families in the EU

✔ Project completed

## About the Project

The 'Children Left Behind by Labour Migration' (CASTLE) project aimed to support the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine in improving their child protection frameworks and migration and mobility policies. While circular and temporary labour schemes have often proven beneficial to the economies and cooperation of both countries of origin and destination, these programmes can exacerbate the vulnerabilities of the children left in the country of origin in comparison with their peers. To this end, the CASTLE project focused on the social and legal impacts of labour migration on transnational families, aiming to address the social protection gaps that adversely affected children remaining behind in Moldova and Ukraine.



### Partners

This MPF project was implemented by Babeş-Bolyai University (Romania) in collaboration with Terre des hommes – Aide à l'enfance dans les monde, Terre des Hommes Ukraine, Terre des Hommes Moldova, as well as the Ukrainian Institute for Social Research after Oleksandr Yaremenko and the Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova.



### Countries

Moldova, Romania and Ukraine



### Time frame

June 2021 – December 2023 (30.5 months)



### Budget

EUR 904, 700.94 (94.88% from AMIF)

## Activities



### In-depth qualitative research

A Research Centre for the Study of Transnational Families was established at the Babeş-Bolyai University of Romania. The Centre will continue to serve as a centre of excellence, advancing research on dimensions of social inclusion, including the risks, needs, and opportunities encountered by children and their rights in transnational family contexts. Additionally, the project has contributed to widening the knowledge base on children left behind by conducting empirical research that has provided insights into the experiences of children and parents as well as other stakeholders involved in labour migration in the three target countries.



### Awareness raising

Awareness raising was employed through an innovative YouCreate Methodology, which empowered Moldovan and Ukrainian adolescents and teachers to develop local awareness-raising initiatives that sensitized their communities and peers on the experiences of children remaining behind. Moreover, training workshops targeting communication specialists and students in journalism and communication sciences in Moldova, Ukraine, and Romania enhanced media coverage of the phenomena of transnational families and children left behind, allowing for a more nuanced and informed public narrative around labour migration.



*The YouCreate methodology at work in Ukraine and Moldova, in 2023 - participants addressing issues in their communities.*



*Experience exchange, Chisinau, 8 June 2023*



## Capacity building and support to transnational cooperation

The knowledge and evidence generated by the research component of the project were translated into a tailored capacity-building programme with the aim of bolstering the capacities of child protection specialists in Moldova and Ukraine who, despite regularly working with transnational families, had not received specialised training on labour migration issues before. A total of 181 local service provider staff were trained in data collection, legal advice and service provision, of which 76 were in Ukraine and 105 in Moldova. The capacity-building activities were strategically planned and executed to equip service providers with the necessary knowledge and skills to effectively understand and support transnational families. In this manner, the action strengthened institutional support for transnational families and promoted safe and ethical labour migration schemes in line with child protection standards.



Final conference, Cluj, 28 November 2023

## For more information about the project

Children Left Behind by Labor Migration: Supporting Moldovan and Ukrainian Transnational Families in the EU ([project website](#))

Advocacy Video: How can we tackle the problem of the rights of children" left behind" by migrating parents  
<https://youtu.be/QGL-okbvYFY>

Implemented by



## The Migration Partnership Facility



Migration Partnership Facility

This project was awarded and contracted in the framework of the Migration Partnership Facility (MPF), an EU-funded initiative implemented by ICMPD to support the external dimension of the EU migration policy. Through its grants, the MPF facilitates the execution of projects to strengthen dialogue and cooperation on migration and mobility between Member States and partner countries outside the EU.

Funded by the European Union



Contracted by ICMPD

