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## Position paper of CESI Youth

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### **For the successful reception and integration of young migrants, support public sector workers**

All members of the European Union are affected in one way or another by international migration flows. Migration is now seen through a different lens and at CESI Youth there is a strong belief in protecting the fundamental rights of minors and young refugee and asylum seekers making their way to the European Union.

CESI Youth refers to the position paper of CESI, its parent organisation, on the successful reception and integration of migrants and the support for public sectors workers<sup>1</sup> that calls for a revision of the Dublin agreements for a more fairly distributed reception and distribution of migrants together with an establishment of a shared management of external borders system. The position paper further supports ensuring access to training courses and resources for asylum reception staff; highlighting the importance of civil and public services for social cohesion and the need for adequate structures; underscoring the need to inform and consult public sector workers about decisions that impact their working conditions.

The European Commission has granted particular attention to the reception policies in the member states and has provided European funds for this purpose. The Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) is the best example of its contribution to the ongoing efforts.

Decent reception and integration is not possible without increased support to public service employees:

#### **1. Challenges in terms of reception:**

- 1.1. Authorities should be ensuring that all asylum seekers have access to services essential to their wellbeing including mental health and other services necessary to support their recovery from past trauma. This is particularly important for young people who have made their way to Europe on their own and who are entitled to benefit from a full guarantee of the right to adequate protection and humanitarian assistance according to the UN Children's Convention<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Position of the European Confederation of Independent Trade Unions (CESI) "For the successful reception and integration of migrants, support public sector workers" Adopted in Brussels December 2015 by the Presidium.

<sup>2</sup> Refer to article

European Confederation of Independent Trade Unions • Confédération Européenne des Syndicats Indépendants • Europäische Union unabhängiger Gewerkschaften • Confederazione Europea dei Sindacati Indipendenti • Confederación Europea de Sindicatos Independientes

- 1.2. The work of civil society has been determinant for the setting up of alternative ways of receiving refugees and asylum seekers. CESI-Youth believes that the youth clubs and all the networks of non-formal education play a key role in integrating young refugees and thus have to be supported and funded proportionally in order to encourage initiatives that include young refugees in youth work activities.
- 1.3. Local administrations are already having great difficulty to house the migrants and are forced to house young migrants in accommodations that are not adapted to their needs, many times unaccompanied minors. CESI-Youth recommends the creation of EU-wide minimum standards for housing and caring in line with the Convention on the Rights of the child (housing, care, education and leisure)<sup>3</sup>.

## **2. Integration:**

Belonging to a society is in large part the result of participation on the labour market, in education, public services and politics and civil services play a fundamental role in each one of these areas. CESI-Youth highlights the following points that are essential for integration of young migrants:

- 2.1. Integration in the education systems is fundamental to acquire the capacities to integrate into the labour market. The possibility of accessing training in the migrants' host countries therefore plays a decisive role in this context, especially for young migrants.
- 2.2. Formal education should be a space where social ideas and values are taught, and where young people first receive a solid human rights education. This will foster a positive image of cultural diversity.
- 2.3. A great difficulty is when minors and young migrants arrive and their diplomas and certifications are not recognised. This is a real problem for the persons in question and the host country as a great amount of resources is then needed to provide a durable solution. This also might have a major effect on young people as they might feel excluded and rejected. This is difficult for younger people to understand and becomes as much as a physical obstacle as a psychological one.
- 2.4. The delicate situation during the transition to adulthood when turning 18 and, therefore, losing special support entitled to minors, has to be well planned for young refugees in order to avoid disorientation and a complete loss of autonomy.

**To tackle challenges regarding the safeguarding of minors and their fundamental rights, CESI-Youth recommends:**

1. Abolishing measures of detention of young and minor refugees.
2. Fostering informed public debates and public discourses to avoid growing intolerance and encouraging cohabitation.
3. Allocating special support to the search of family members of unaccompanied minor and young migrants.

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<sup>3</sup> Refer to article