



2020 has been a particularly challenging but very fruitful and inspiring year with great progress in the Equalcity project. After months of research, interviews and surveys with frontline workers and migrants, the project partners successfully developed 4 toolboxes that aim at tackling sexual and gender-based violence against migrants. The tools have all been carefully reviewed by a panel of thematic experts who contributed to making them sustainable, comprehensive and duplicable to various EU contexts ([read more](#)).

The 4 EU partner cities included in this project — Brussels, Luxembourg, Rome, Gothenburg — will continue their efforts in 2021, with key moments ahead, in particular the thematic workshops with the 35 trainee cities of the project ([see map](#)).

This project update focuses on the activities in Rome where The City of Rome, Sapienza University and NGO ETNA develops a toolbox focused on unaccompanied migrant children (UMC). For information on the other toolboxes, click below:

[LGBTQI+ migrants](#) / [Migrant women and girls](#) / [Migrant parents and families](#)



**TOOLBOX ON UNACCOMPANIED MIGRANT CHILDREN (UMC)**

The [City of Rome](#), [Sapienza University](#) and [ETNA](#) have created a SGBV toolbox targeting unaccompanied minor children (UMC) who are residing in reception structures. A UMC in this context is a migrant child that has arrived in the EU without being accompanied by an adult who is responsible for them.



SILVIA SPINUSO, IOM ITALY

[Equalcity website](#) — UMC + toolbox  
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*“... to provide UMCs with useful tools to gain greater self-awareness and to ensure they can imagine, design and build their own future, and to reduce the impact of the negative emotions these children face in their daily life.”*

ETNA

*“Equalcity provides an opportunity to put the issue of UMC’s wellbeing in the core place of policy-making.”*

City of Rome

*“...our contribution emphasizes Mindfulness-Based Interventions in order to increase psychological wellness and resilience.”*

Sapienza University

UPDATE FROM CITY OF ROME, ETNA & SAPIENZA

The Italian consortium are about to pilot the training curriculum designed for adult frontline stakeholders (social workers and educators, volunteer guardians, intercultural mediators) who are working with UMC in reception centres in Rome.

The structure of the training curriculum unfolds on two axes, educational and experiential, which will both be carried out online due to the COVID-19 restrictions.

The experiential training will provide participants a 5-week mindfulness-based stress reduction path; a significant number of trainees have welcomed this opportunity as much appreciated in this period due to many restrictions put in place.



**This toolbox contains:**

- 1 Training for social workers and community educators, including mindfulness module
- 1 Training for UMC, including mindfulness module
- 1 Training for intercultural mediators
- 1 Training for volunteer legal guardians



This project is funded by the European Union’s Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme (2014-2020).



## Meet the Experts

Toolbox UMCs

## THE EXPERT PANEL

Each toolbox developed in the project has been carefully reviewed by a diverse panel of thematic experts. The experts brought a wide variety of expertise and insights on the comprehensiveness, duplicability and practical use of the tools in other EU contexts.

The experts involved in the project include field specialists, activists, academics, and specialized city services.

Through this project update, we would like to **warmly thank** all of the Equalcity experts for their involvement in the project!

Consult the experts' profiles per toolbox on our [website](#).

## ROLL-OUT OF TRAINING

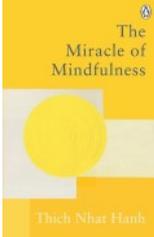
# 2021

## THEMATIC WORKSHOPS

At the start of 2021, the project partners will launch the piloting of the training tools across reception centres in Rome. Frontline workers will be trained on topics linked to the wellbeing of UMCs in reception, including the identification of SGBV and the adequate response from frontline workers. Participants will be asked to evaluate the tools created. This evaluation will help to tailor the tools further and to ensure that they are adapted to the beneficiaries' needs before publication.

This summer, the thematic workshops will take place and will gather the project's 35 trainee cities/organizations around the table to discuss the project toolboxes! This event will be interactive and insightful and will allow for trainee cities to network and provide feedback on the training manual developed by the project partners.

Trainee cities indeed play a crucial role in this project! Based on their feedback, the tools will be fine-tuned before translation.



**MUST READ!**

*The Miracle of Mindfulness: The Classic Guide to Meditation*, by Thich Nhat Hanh, 1975.



## TRAINEE CITIES—UMC

- Association for Legal Intervention (PL)
- CSC Split (HR)
- Ghent (BE)
- Hannover (DE)
- Heraklion (GR)
- Hope for Children (CY)
- Local Councils' Association (MT)
- Namur (BE)
- Palermo (IT)
- Paris (FR)
- Piraeus (GR)
- Toulouse (FR)



Any questions on your role as TRAINEE CITY?

<https://belgium.iom.int/equalcity-trainee-cities>

## STAY TUNED!

<https://belgium.iom.int/equalcity>

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