

+ Policy coherence & implementation





# Policy coherence & implementation

Steps forward



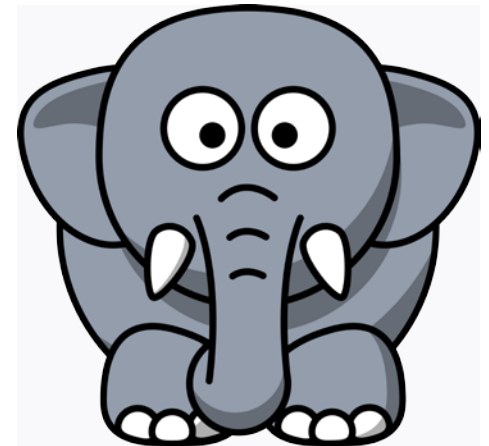
- Why do we not have coherent policies?
  - Migration and child protection: two different discourses and frameworks, with mismatches following from that
  - Much is unknown and underdeveloped, one way of explaining why



# Illustrations different discourses



- Unaccompanied children arriving in the EU are often smuggled, sometimes trafficked and almost always extra vulnerable
- Unaccompanied children arriving in the EU are in many cases part of the elite of the country they came from; the ones who could afford to get to the EU

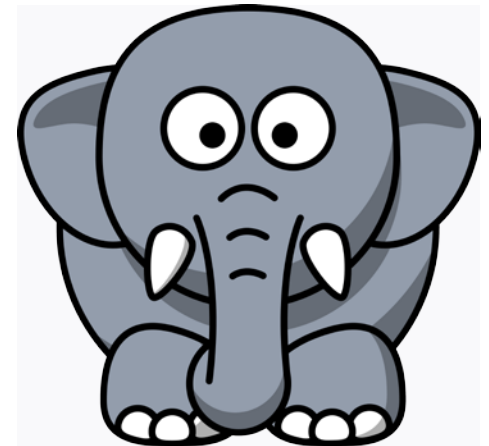




# Illustrations different discourses



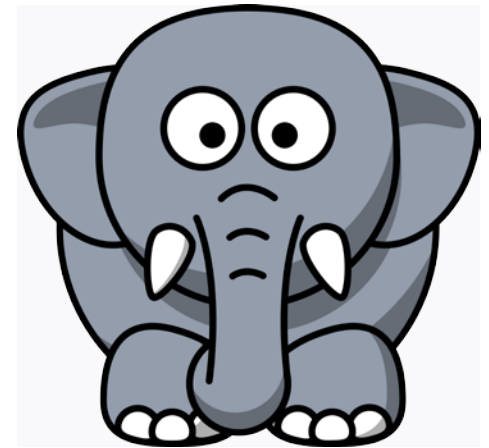
- Sweden is an example of good practice in the EU: unaccompanied children are treated equal to Swedish children and are offered perspective
- Unaccompanied children choose Sweden over other European countries, as the opportunities for a permanent status (and sometimes family reunification afterwards) are the best



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# Illustrations different discourses

- Unaccompanied children need to be offered someone they can confide in and can trust
- Unaccompanied children do not trust anyone, maybe only after they receive a status

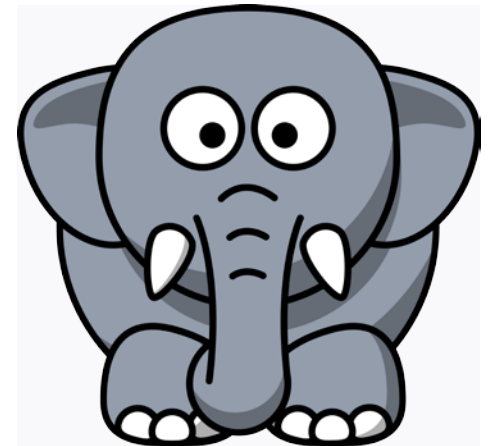




# Illustrations different discourses



- Unaccompanied children are under a lot of stress and suffer often from trauma's, as they are left in an insecure situation and they have no idea what their future will look like
- Unaccompanied children are under a lot of stress as they are sent by their families and under a lot of pressure to reach the goals set for them

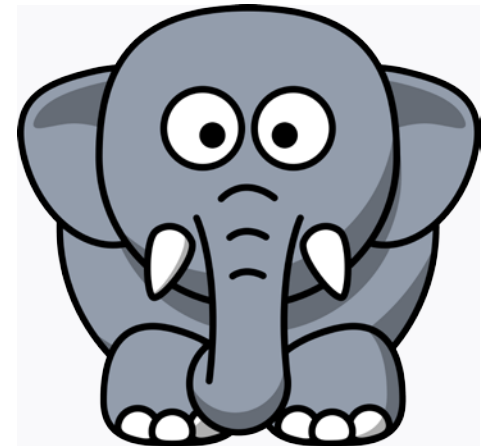




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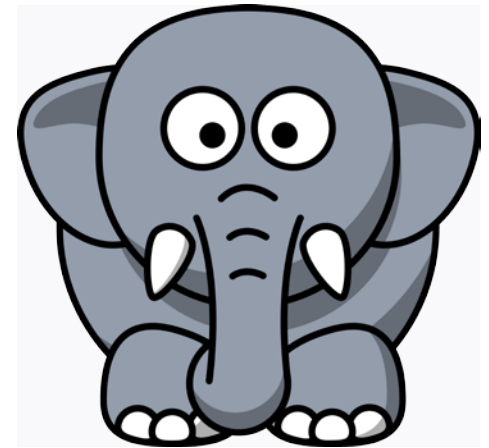
- Unaccompanied children do not undertake the dangers of travelling to Europe for nothing: they seriously fear the situation they are facing at what once was home
- Improving conditions and perspective will act as a pull-factor for new groups of unaccompanied children



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# Illustrations different discourses

- Asylum should be granted if a child has insufficient perspective for development upon return, based upon weighing the best interest
- The asylum system is abused, it was never intended to be a safety net for poverty and economic underdevelopment







# Policy coherence & implementation

So what does this tell us?

Reasons for a lack of policy coherence:

- Different rights frames
- Different policies targeting different 'versions' of reality
- Polarised realities (making a paradigm shift very hard)



# + And, how is this helpful?

Target the consequences, if not the causes

Consequences of a lack of policy coherence:

- Lack of ownership (accountability, and capacity to carry out)
- Lack of knowledge and capacity
- Gaps between policy (EU-level) and implementation (paper coherence)
- Gaps between child protection & migration systems



# + Good examples

Delivering knowledge, ownership and policy gaps

- Dublin – FR
- This project: involving / informing the judicial field
- Belgium: cultural mediation experiences
- Guardianship (mandates/resources)
- Reception: developing family reception
- COO information
- CONNECT: practice touching EU-policy-level
- EASO capacity building
- Return monitoring
- MCE: 'regular' actors stepping in
- Evolution of the best interest discussion



# + More upcoming

Delivering knowledge, ownership and policy gaps

- Research and methodology 'youth care approach' vs. target group of uma's
- European training offer & methodology for guardians, potentially helpdesks/back-offices
- Participation & research – adjusted participation for the target group
- Return & research
- Ownership in disappearances
- Further operationalisation of best interest, motivation of steps taken/taking into account best interest
- Knowledge base – more information stored and shared
- Research / analysis defying push & pullfactor myths

