



**Third thematic meeting
Children in Migration
“Ensuring the best interests of the child in the implementation of the Pact”**

25 June 2026

From 09.30 to 17.00 CEST

Chambre des salariés

2-4 rue Pierre Hentges L-1726 Luxembourg

EMN Luxembourg and the Luxembourg Ombudsman for Children and Youngsters (OKaJu) warmly invite practitioners and experts to their third thematic meeting on children in migration.

This edition brings together EU ombudsmen for children and youth, as well as child welfare agencies, around a topic of **the best interests of the child in the context of the implementation of the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum.**

The meeting aims to provide a dedicated space for practitioners and experts working on children's rights to exchange experiences, discuss challenges, and share good practices in an open and informal setting.

Why this meeting, why now?

As Member States move from the formal adoption of the Pact on Migration and Asylum into its practical implementation, this is a critical moment for reflection. The event offers a timely opportunity to take stock of early experiences and emerging practices, with a particular focus on ensuring that fundamental rights obligations, especially those relating to children, are upheld in national systems.

Discussions will centre on how the principle of the best interests of the child can be meaningfully applied across different national contexts, particularly in situations involving detention or alternatives to detention. By fostering cross-border dialogue, the meeting aims to support a more consistent and rights-based approach to the implementation of EU frameworks, while remaining attentive to the practical realities faced by child protection and migration authorities across the Union.

Ad-hoc query results: the role of the Children's Ombudsman

The event will also provide a first opportunity to discuss the results of a joint EMN Luxembourg and OKaJu ad-hoc query, designed to map the role of Children's Ombudsmen within the relevant monitoring mechanisms established under the Pact. The query explores whether this function is also carried out by national ombudsmen, and what role Children's Ombudsmen are expected to play going forward — whether advisory, observational, complaint-based, reporting, or decision-making. It also examines whether their mandate includes specific responsibilities in key areas such as the best interests of the child, age assessment, accommodation, access to information, and legal assistance.



Practical information

This will be a **hybrid event**, taking place on **25 June 2026**, with an in-person session in **Luxembourg** and online participation via **Webex**.

On 24 June 2026, participants are kindly invited to a **welcome dinner**. More information on the time and venue will be provided in due course.

Participants are kindly invited to register for the event by completing **the online registration form** available here: [Ensuring the Best Interests of the Child in the Implementation of the Pact, 25 June 2026 – Fill out form](#)

25 June 2026

9.30 – 10.00	Registration and welcome coffee
10.00 – 10.10	Opening and welcome words Prof. Dr. Birte Nienaber, coordinator of the EMN Luxembourg Charel Schmit, Ombudsman fir Kanner a Jugendlecher, Luxembourg
10.10 – 11.20	Moderator: Charel Schmit , Ombudsman fir Kanner a Jugendlecher, Luxembourg Isabela Atanasiu , DG HOME, European Commission (online) Monica Gutierrez Arquese , European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (online) Nilde Robotti , Vulnerability Officer, Reception and Vulnerability Sector, European Union Agency for Asylum With questions and answers
11.20 – 12.00	Presentation of the report "Foreign Children in Spain: Alone or Accompanied" developed by Spanish Ombudsman Patricia Bárcena , Second Deputy of the Ombudsman's Office and Elena Arce Jiménez , Director of the Migration and Equal Treatment Area With questions and answers
12.00 – 13.00	Lunch break, networking opportunity (family photo)
13.00 – 14.00	Roundtable discussion on the best interests of the child in the context of the Pact implementation
14.00 – 15.00	Roundtable discussion on detention of children in the context of the Pact implementation



15.00 – 16.00	Presentation of the first key findings from the EMN Luxembourg and OKaJu ad-hoc query With questions and answers
16.00 -16.30	Exchange on further information needs
16.30 – 16.45	Closing remarks, steps forward Adolfo Sommarribas, EMN Luxembourg Charel Schmit, Ombudsman fir Kanner a Jugendlecher, Luxembourg