



Characteristics of child labor among unaccompanied children migrants and refugees

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Content of the presentation



1

Research problem

2

Literature review

3

Theoretical background of the research

4

Operationalization

5

Research objectives and research questions

6

Research method and process of research

Research problem

Statistics of child labor and specifics of unaccompanied minors

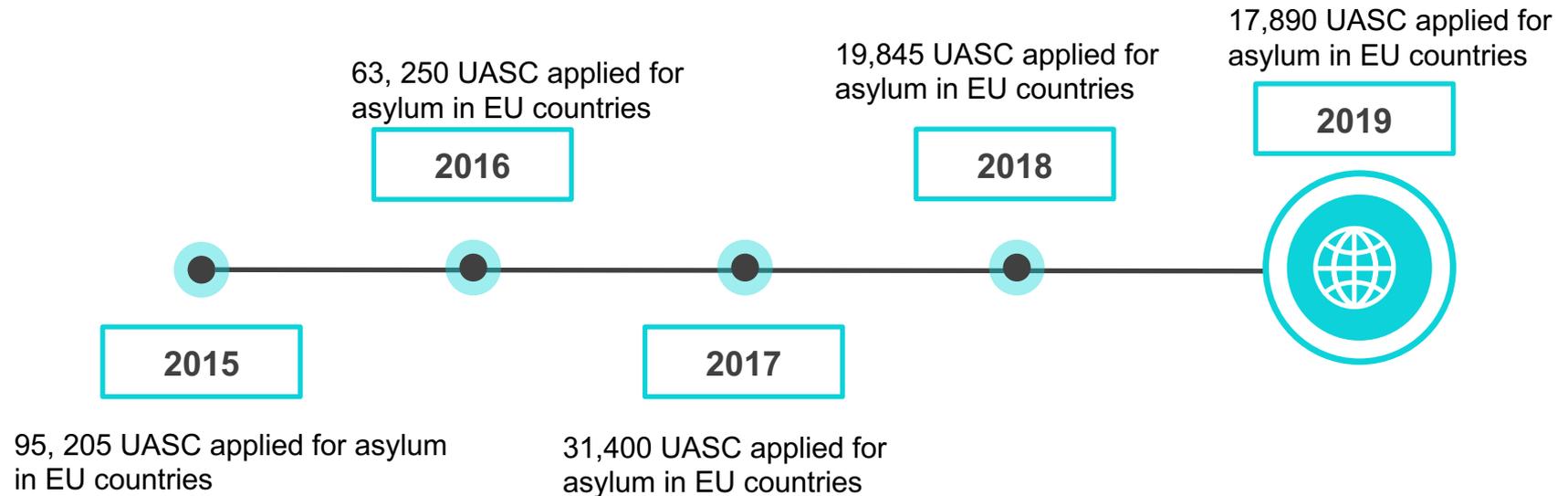
- ILO estimates: 152 million children experience child labor; 73 million children is exposed to the worst forms of child labor
- Large number of unaccompanied children migrating across multiple international borders
- Migration contains all the risks usually connected to child labor: poverty, irregular attendance of school, unemployment of caregivers, but posts additional risks for unaccompanied children: not knowing local language, lack of support network, not knowing local norms, unequal access to education and health care, legal status, in addition to their increased vulnerability of them being children

Legal Framework and context

- Child labor – legal framework defined with CRC (1989) and two ILO Conventions (138 and 182)
- Local legal frameworks – difficulties in establishing a unique definition of child labor
- Difficulties for children moving across multiple countries – differences in local legal regulative and attitudes in transit countries
- Lack of research in Europe on child labor – many reports of labor exploitation in media



Research problem/Numbers of UASC in Europe



Nearly 300,000 unaccompanied and separated children moving across borders were registered in 80 countries in 2015-2016. In the next years there was a drop in new arrivals (20,000 in 2017, 12,700 in 2018, 9000 in 2019) – data for Greece, Spain, Italy and Bulgaria, many children are not visible due to legal status

Research problem/2

Research subject

- The subject of the research is the analysis of forms of child labor that unaccompanied children from the refugee and migrant population experience on their way to the Republic of Serbia in the period from 2015 to 2020 classification of those forms, and available interventions of social and child protection systems in Serbia, in order to create interventions that are based on identified risks and protective factors tailored to the child needs in accordance with the culture and rights of children.

Identified research problem

- With this research we want to determine what are the forms of child labor to which unaccompanied and separated children are exposed, as well as the risks and consequences of including unaccompanied children in child labor on their way from the country of origin to Serbia. We also want to examine the extent to which professionals involved in child protection in Serbia are informed about children's rights in this area, the frequency, risks and consequences of child labor as well as existing interventions.



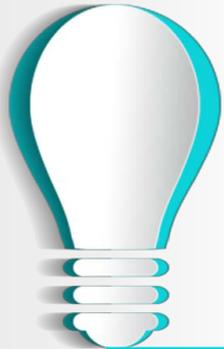
Literature Review

Children migrating with parents

- Many research focus on children travelling with parents in the countries bordering Syria (Jordan, Iraq, Turkey, Lebanon)
- These research show conditions in which children work, their age, sectors in which they are involved, and how it affects children's wellbeing

Unaccompanied children

- Limited number of research on unaccompanied minors – usually mentioned in research about child labor experienced by children travelling with caregivers as a specially vulnerable group in risk to be exposed to exploitation and human trafficking
- Literature review showed research of child labor in unaccompanied children is connected to push and pull factors
- Push factors – those which force a child to move to another country
- Pull factors – help a child determine whether migrating brings a significant benefit
- Push factors dominate migration since 2015
- One research on the child labor in Balkan route in 2016 before EU-Turkey agreement



Theoretical background

Child protection
Concept of Child Agency
Concept of Resilience

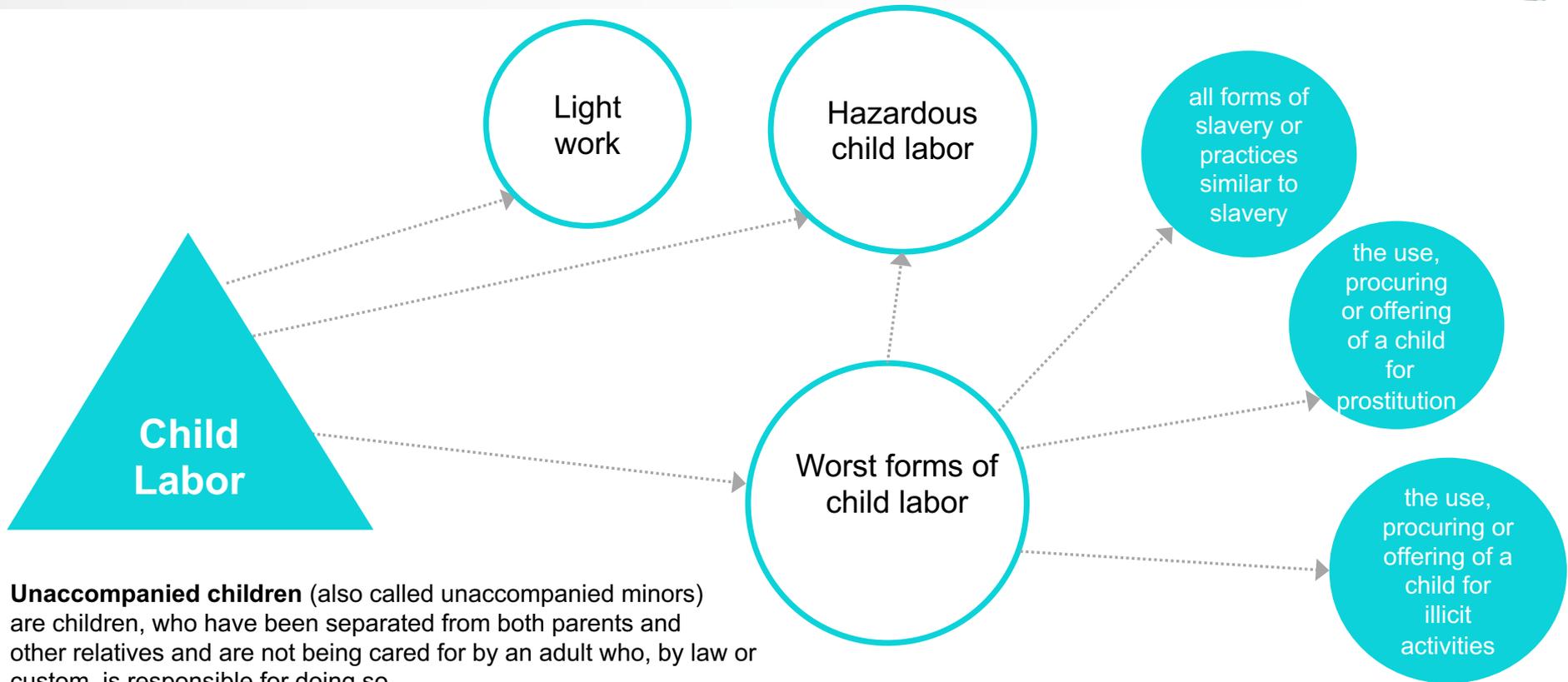


Child protection – based on the international legal framework and local framework which shape interventions to protect children

Child agency – regarding motivation to work and how children view their experience in working

Resilience – risk factors and protective factors – analyzing these factors with children's capacities to overcome adversity connected to their experiences working on the journey to Serbia

Operationalization of research subject



Unaccompanied children (also called unaccompanied minors) are children, who have been separated from both parents and other relatives and are not being cared for by an adult who, by law or custom, is responsible for doing so.

Separated children are children, who have been separated from both parents, or from their previous legal or customary primary care-giver, but not necessarily from other relatives.

Research objectives

General objective

To determine the characteristics of child labor (industries, working conditions, risks and consequences of child labor), among unaccompanied children from refugee and migrant populations on their way to Serbia, as well as experiences and interventions of professionals engaged in their protection in Serbia.

Specific objectives:

1. Identification of the characteristics of child labor in relation to the branches of the economy and working conditions.
2. Analyze the risks of including unaccompanied and separated children in relation to different forms of child labor.
3. Analyze the risks and consequences for unaccompanied and separated children when they are involved in child labor.
4. Analyze the degree and form of inclusion of unaccompanied and separated children in the decision-making on ways of inclusion in the labor market.
5. To determine the level of information and knowledge of professionals involved in the protection of unaccompanied children in Serbia on the rights in the field of child labor.
6. Identify experiences and existing interventions that professionals involved in the protection of unaccompanied children use in the field of child labor and analyze their adaptation to the needs of children.



Research questions

General research question:

What are the experiences in child labor of unaccompanied and separated children on their journey from the country of origin to Serbia, and what are the experiences, knowledge and protection interventions that professionals in Serbia have?

Specific research question 1

What are characteristics of child labor in relation to the branches of the economy and working conditions in order to understand the dynamics of child labor among unaccompanied children on their journey from the country of origin to Serbia?

Specific question 3

To what extent and in what form are unaccompanied children involved in decision making process on how to enter the labor market?

Specific question 2

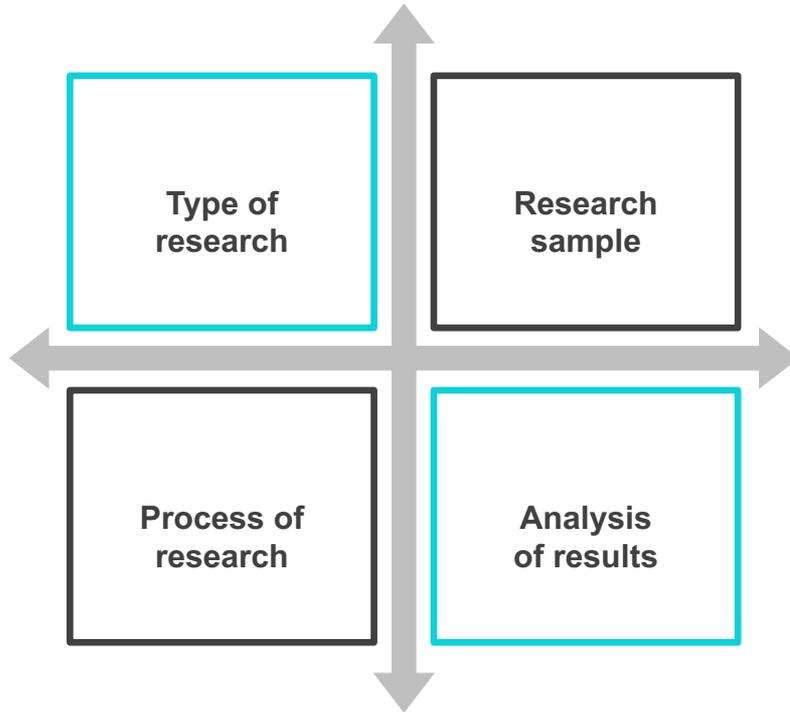
What are the risks and consequences for unaccompanied minors when included in the labor market on their journey to Serbia?

Specific question 4

What are the experiences and knowledge about child labor among professionals involved in child protection in Serbia?



Research method



Type of research

Mixed method research – quantitative and qualitative

Research sample

1. Professionals in Serbia
2. Unaccompanied children

Process of research and analysis of results

Two phases of research:

1. Quantitative research with professionals
2. Qualitative research with professionals and focus groups and interviews with unaccompanied children

Results will be analyzed using thematic analysis, triangulation and using statistical methods in SPSS.

Process of research





Thank you for attention!

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