LOST is a new European Erasmus + KA2 Project (Strategic Partnerships) entitled “LOST – Learning Opportunities, Instruments and Investigation Techniques to Combat the Growing Phenomenon of MISSING PEOPLE in Europe”.

The project aims at informing society about the phenomenon of people disappearance without their will (mainly children and women).

The main purpose of the project is to research and design an innovative educational program aimed at professionals who are involved in searching the missing people (public servants, health professionals, volunteers, etc.) in order to improve the techniques used for the prevention, but also addressing the phenomenon.
Partners are public and private bodies, non-governmental organizations and training partners from Italy, Spain, Denmark, Portugal, Belgium and Greece. The first transnational meeting of the partners will be held in Pisa, Italy, on 28-29 / 11/2017, where the actions to be implemented will be discussed in detail.

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Kick Off Meeting in Italy

The Kick off Meeting was held in Pisa, Italy in 28th and 29th of November 2017. The main objective of the meeting was to define the route of the project, to set the next steps of the implementation plan and to coordinate the actions between the EU partners.

The meeting was successful and all partners had the opportunity to present their views and opinions about the efficient implementation of the project.

Greek Police met LOST project

Mr Anastassopoulos elaborated on the aims, the objectives and the final intellectual outputs that could be useful to the department of the Police, specialised in searching for missing people.

The meeting lasted more than an hour and General Mitropoulos was very content on this innovative initial been taken from the LOST Team on creating an on line training about this very sensitive issue.
EfVET attended to the event Opening Doors for Europe’s Children event “Maintain, Strengthen, Expand – How the EU can support the transition from institutional to family and community-based care in the next MFF” was held in the Charlemagne Building on the 20th March 2018 in Brussels.

EfVET was able to raise awareness about the LOST project (Learning Opportunities, Instruments and Investigation Techniques to fight the growing phenomenon of missing people in Europe).

The event was divided into two main sessions. First of all, the event touched on the EU’s added value in supporting the transition from institutional to family and community-based care. Remi Kolagbody, a Youth Care Leaver in Bulgaria shared his personal experience about violence and abuse in orphanages in Bulgaria. He said that there should be a greater need for more family-type care and foster-care network and that love, commitment and endurance to take care of a child does not come from an institution, it is a noble thing. In this respect, Remi concluded by confirming that foster care gives children a bright future and that the EU investments into the development of foster care in Bulgaria were life-turning.

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Association of missing children launches 'kit' to store DNA

Developed in partnership with Derek Forest, expert on the identification of victims of natural disasters and consultant of Interpol, this tool aims to "bridge the lack in Portugal of a tool, affordable to all, that allows families to use it in case of disappearance".

The virtuality of this kit is that it can contribute to a faster identification of missing persons or in the event of their death. In the event that a child is abducted, if the parents have this kit properly stored, they can hand it over to the police authorities so that they can
a child, a tool already used in European countries and the United States and considered the most important to investigate the disappearance of a minor. Samples stored in the kit have a minimum durability of 20 years, during which they will be kept by the family, and, after the age of 18, if they wish. "In the event of a natural disaster, crime or disappearance," this information may be "handed over to the police so that the sample is compared with the samples collected at the sites investigated by the police."

Of DNA collected with that of the child, it may be inferred that the child was in fact in the place examined. On the other hand, if the child is killed and his or her body is not recognizable, parents can know whether or not their child is treated by comparing the remains with the DNA sample stored in the kit.

Joana Marques Vidal explained that the disappearance of children is only a crime when in its base "is a criminal act". The Attorney General of the Republic, Joana Marques Vidal, said that the disappearance of unaccompanied migrant children requires a work of articulation between several institutions to combat the problem.

This reality, which also exists in Portugal, "is not only a problem of the courts, it is a problem that requires several institutions to articulate", so that "it is possible to respond to this problem".

Questioned about the number of cases in Portugal, the PGR explained that there is some data that is dispersed by several entities, namely in the Foreigners and Borders Service, in the police forces and in the Ministry of Internal Administration.

"At the moment, there is a concern with this issue and a work of articulation between various institutions is taking place so that there is a follow-up of refugees and also some more articulated work on missing children," he said.

Joana Marques Vidal explained that the disappearance of the children is only a crime when in its base "is a criminal act," and at that time an investigation is instituted.

"There are many missing children who are victims of trafficking networks, networks of illegal prostitution, drug trafficking," she said. "It's a problem that has many faces, many forms and many approaches."
Joaquín Amills gave the Secretario de Estado (Secretary of State) and the leaders of the Centro Nacional de Desaparecidos a brochure with written information on the LOST Project that they are very interested in supporting.

Sosdesaparecidos Spain attended the meeting with the Ministerio del Interior (Ministry of Internal Affairs) and the Centro Nacional de Desaparecidos (National Center for the Missing Persons), and found out about the official figures for missing persons in Spain: 6,053 persons are still missing.

### Last news on Missing people in Europe

- Missing Children Europe: What children think? Hear what children had to say about the role of adults in protecting and empowering them in situations related to their happiness and well being. [See here](#)
- European Commission: Missing children and child alert mechanisms - 16 000 hotline has been designed to report missing children. [See more](#)

### LOST project materials

[LOST Brochure](#)  
[LOST Flyer](#)