



International Child  
Development Initiatives

# BONDS

Booster the emotional dimension of social inclusion  
for immigrant mothers and children

Presentation at the conference "FROM CRISIS  
MANAGEMENT TOWARDS EVERYDAY  
PRACTICE – Lessons from the refugees' integration  
for future labour market and social policies"  
6 November 2017, European Economic and Social  
Committee

By Mathijs Euwema  
International Child Development  
Initiatives (ICDI)





# General presentation

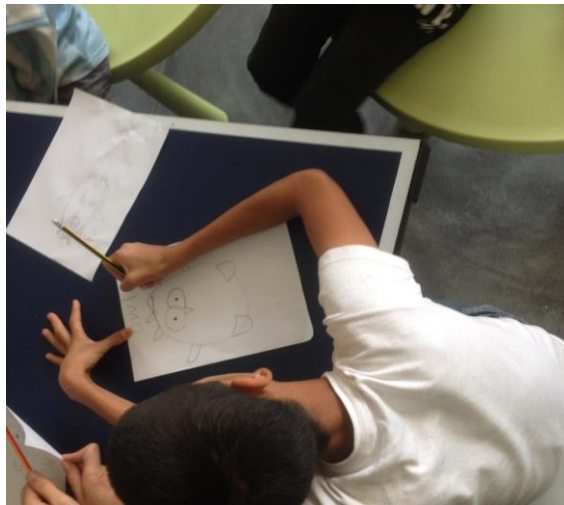
- The project started on 1st October 2016 with a total duration of 24 months;
- BONDS intends to design and develop specific training/education programme for immigrant mothers and children, focusing on the acquisition of key competences and soft skills for social inclusion and well-being through the methodology of Collaborative Comics Storytelling;
- BONDS has project partners in Spain, Italy, Slovenia, Greece, Cyprus and The Netherlands.





## And we use Comics!

- Comics is a narrative form that combines two other forms of expression, words and pictures. Comics creation is nevertheless a co-creation process. Either you work alone, or you work inside a team you always interact with your audience and external environment. We use comics storytelling as a tool to foster collaboration, teamwork and creativity;
- Comics, don't tell the stories of creatures with supernatural powers, but they also have this supernatural power to transfer knowledge!





## Planned project activities

- a preliminary survey for defining the main contextual factors that in the host community affect emotional/knowledge dimension of immigrant women and children and hinder their social inclusion;
- educational workshops and seminars for women and children for letting them acquire key competences for social inclusion and well-being;
- evaluation of the educational programme at European level so to define its effectiveness and impact;
- realization of a specific framework for organizations working with immigrants as well as policy makers, aimed at developing training models which address the needs of immigrants.



## How the project relates to the workshop theme

Today's workshop investigates policies relevant to the social inclusion of refugee children and young adults, including tailored and mainstreamed approaches that could facilitate the inclusion of this and other vulnerable groups.

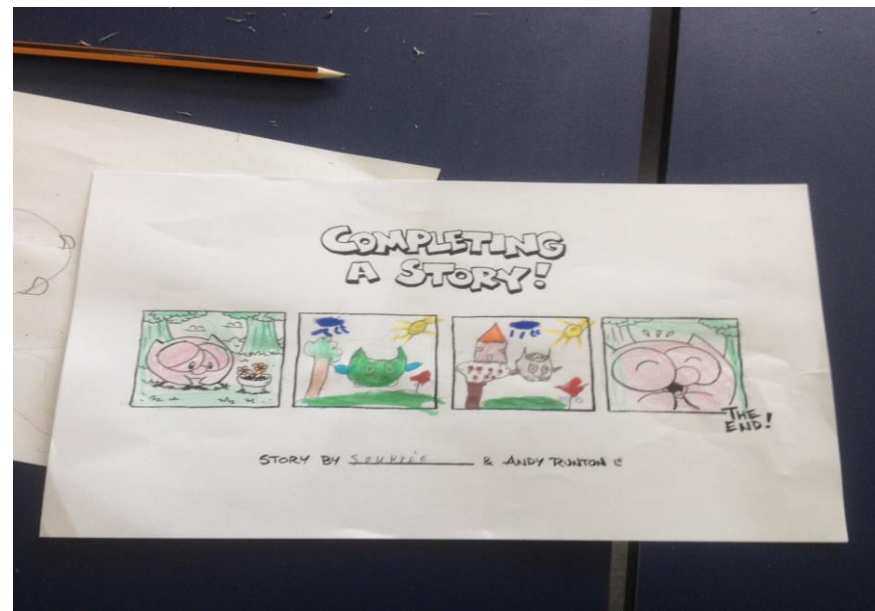
**Supporting inclusion of young refugees and migrants is what  
BONDS is all about!**





# Challenges

- How to reach those targetgroups who need this kind of integration programmes the most;
- How to upscale BONDS;
- How to embed BONDS in other integration activities and policies.






## Brief conclusion

*Language, educational qualifications, and work skills are important when it comes to integration of migrants. However, we tend to overlook the human or emotional dimension: people (and children too) need a sense of belonging and dignity. In the end this emotional dimension seems to be more important than the exact method or tool that we use when developing integration activities.*





International Child Development Initiatives (ICDI)  
promotes the psychosocial well-being of children  
growing up in difficult circumstances.

We provide • training • research • advice • partnership