AGENDA OF THE CONFERENCE

08:30 - 09:00 Welcome Coffee and Registration

09:00-10:30 Opening Panel

10:30-11:00 Coffee Break

11:00-12:30 Panel 1: Great exclusion - persons in situations of street and “precarisation” of access to reception conditions for persons in exile

The purpose of this panel is to tackle the issues related to the growing exclusion of persons in situations of street and the “precarisation” of reception conditions of persons in exile throughout Lebanon, the Mediterranean and Europe. Mental health issues, lack or absence of access to fundamental rights and basic services for these most excluded groups are of alarming concern. In particular, the situation of children and youth in street situations in Beirut and in other cities in Lebanon is worsening. The Doms population (a nomadic group in the Middle East) is also in a situation of great exclusion with restrictive access to fundamental rights in Lebanon. The “precarisation” of reception conditions throughout Europe and along exile routes is a factor provoking greater exclusion and street situations.

The discussions of this panel will be linked with the field visit and especially the exchanges with protection mobile units. These mobile units are aiming at assisting children and youth in situations of street and their family in the southern suburb of Beirut and at contributing to the combat against social and health exclusion of these children and youth, especially among uprooted populations who found refuge in Lebanon. Composed of nurses, social assistants, social workers and a psychologist, they reach out to the most vulnerable populations in Beirut, to allow a professional and technical assessment of their needs and to provide basic assistance and enable access to fundamental rights. This visit will highlight situations of great exclusion among refugee populations in Lebanon.

12:30-13:30 Lunch

13:30-15:00 Panel 2: Social exclusion - towards a protection framework

This panel aims at examining legal frameworks and public policies related to refugee protection as one of the main or fundamental causes for impeding access to protection and socially excluding persons in exile. In the European context, the question of failure to assist persons in danger will be approached. European legal frameworks and policies tend to diminish refugees’ access to fundamental and basic rights constraining their protection and their integration. In the Lebanese context, the lack of legal protection framework (including legal status) and absence of systematic legal protection of refugees impedes their social integration. Rising stigmatisation and exclusion of exiled populations throughout Lebanon, Europe and the Mediterranean are of great concern.

The discussions, in this panel, will be linked to the visit of mobile and center based facilities, enabling a safe access to basic services for the most vulnerable populations in Lebanon. An educational mobile unit, a mobile medical unit and a medical center will be introduced, during the field visits. On that occasion, the protection constraints faced by the persons in exile, in Lebanon, will be highlighted, in addition to the need of finding innovative solution to ensure a dignified access to education, health and social activities, in the absence of a
clear protection framework for persons in exile, in Lebanon. A meeting with a municipality will also highlight these difficulties in addition to the gaps in the system meant to protect Lebanese.

15:00-15:15 Coffee Break

15:15-16:45 Panel 3: “Sur-exclusion” of persons with severe and specific vulnerabilities

The aim of this panel is to address the situation of “sur-exclusion” of persons with specific vulnerabilities. Indeed, the most vulnerable in exile tend to be the most invisible. Significant and specific vulnerabilities are a factor of “sur -” exclusion. Among others, unaccompanied minors on migratory routes and within asylum countries are the first to be exposed to exploitation, abuse, and trafficking. Lack of access to basic services for persons with disabilities often leads to situations of greater disability (surhandicap). Violence against women and girls along migratory routes also remains unspoken and invisible.

The field visit will also give the opportunity to the participants to address the question of “sur-exclusion”. In particular, focus group discussions on the question of gender related violence and on exclusion of elderly will be organized during the visit. The discussions with the protection mobile units will also bring out blatant situations of “sur-exclusion” of women victims of violence and of persons in situation of handicap with no access to assistance.

16:45-17:15 Closing Panel

17:30 Cocktail