

Reception and Living in families

Results of the RLF-project



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Co-funded by
the European Union



Responsible for the RLF-project

- * Nidos, The Netherlands
- * Counter Human Trafficking Bureau, UK
- * Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions



Goals of the RLF-project

Promote the reception of unaccompanied minors within families by:

- * increasing knowledge
- * connecting stakeholders
- * promoting good practice
- * offering strategies on increasing it

What did we do?

- * Visit 9 EU member states and Norway
- * Desk research on the other 19 EU member states and Switzerland
- * Organize 2 workshops in the UK and in Sweden with experts on RLF
- * Write a report on the findings

FINDINGS

- * General consensus:
RLF is better for most unaccompanied minors
- * However, most of them live in institutional care
- * Scattered practise on RLF in 11 countries
- * Structured system on RLF in place in 5 countries
- * RLF not available in 14 countries

FINDINGS

Scattered practise on RLF:

- * Austria
- * Belgium
- * Denmark
- * Finland
- * France
- * Germany

Italy
Luxemburg
Portugal
Spain
Switzerland

FINDINGS

System on RLF in place:

- * Ireland
- * Sweden
- * The Netherlands
- * UK
- * Norway

FINDINGS

RLF not available:

- * Bulgaria
- * Croatia
- * Cyprus
- * Czech Republic
- * Estonia
- * Greece
- * Hungary
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Malta
- Poland
- Romania
- Slovakia
- Slovenia

FINDINGS

- * Use of both traditional foster care and kinship care
- * Use of both indigenous families and ethnic families

FINDINGS

- * There is an interest and a need to develop special training for both foster carers and the professionals working with them
- * There is an ambition and a need to develop tools for those who have the responsibility for counselling foster families

STEPS FORWARD: NEEDS

- * Coordinated development of capacities
- * Both on a local, national and European level
- * A one-fits-all foster care system will not work
- * Setting up a system that fits specific Member States is the key

STEPS FORWARD: RECOMMENDATIONS

- * Create a system of RLF for unaccompanied minors
- * Develop tools and training for foster carers and the professionals working with them
- * Support and monitor the system
- * Stimulate improvement of the system
- * Stimulate research on the effects of RLF

“I like to live in this family. It feels like my own family and I like that.”

“I feel appreciated at home.

This is because they make me feel part of the family. That is important to me”

“My parents take really good care of me. I am very happy with the care I receive here”

“Everything is good here and I feel safe”

“My foster mother and foster father are important to me. When something worries me, I can talk about it with them”

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

QUESTIONS?

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