

Reception and Living in Families (RLF)

Unaccompanied minors living in families

In Europe, the majority of unaccompanied minors (UAM's) are placed in institutional reception provisions. However, practices exist to make use of reception provisions within families. Until now, the knowledge of these practices and approaches in different countries has been incidental and scattered. However, providing reception arrangements within families is a promising approach on which wider use should be researched further.

Nidos (the Netherlands) in cooperation with Counter Human Trafficking Bureau (CHTB, UK) and SALAR (Sweden) will be implementing a project, aiming to develop knowledge on the reception provisions within families for UAM's. The project will be implemented between 01-09-2013 to 01-03-2015 and is co-funded by the European Commission. The goal of the project is to map the current practice and promote the reception of UAM's in families.

Having reception provisions within families in place in each EU-country is one of the recommendations of the ENGI-project 'Guardianship in practice' (October 2011). This goal also results from the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). In the preamble the following statement is taken in: "Recognizing that the child, for the full and harmonious development of his or her personality, should grow up in a family environment, in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding". Furthermore article 20 states that a child that is temporarily or permanently deprived of his or her family environment, or in whose own best interests cannot be allowed to remain in that environment, shall be entitled to special protection and assistance provided by the State. States Parties shall in accordance with their national laws ensure alternative care for such a child. Such care could include, inter alia, foster placement, kafalah of Islamic law, adoption or if necessary placement in suitable institutions for the care of children. When considering solutions, due regard shall be paid to the desirability of continuity in a child's upbringing and to the child's ethnic, religious, cultural and linguistic background.



Goals of the project

Not all EU-countries currently have reception provisions within families in place and those countries which have, sometimes face capacity problems, especially with hosting adolescents.

With this in mind, the project promotes the reception of UAM's within families by:

- increasing knowledge available throughout the EU;
- connecting relevant stakeholders;
- promoting good and promising practices;
- offering country-by-country strategies on increasing family reception for UAM's.

By means of study visits and desk research, a full inventory of family reception for UAM's in each member state will be made, as well as an overview of the relevant stakeholders.

The project will be finalized with a detailed report and a list of stakeholders.

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