UNACCOMPANIED MINORS
Support and inclusion
IN THE EUROPEAN UNION
This guide was created as part of the Erasmus + Programme of the European Union.

Five organisations were involved:

- Ligue de l’enseignement du Pas-de-Calais (France)
- Andalucia Acoge (Spain)
- Nero e Non Solo (Italy)
- Die Wiener Volkshochschulen - VHS (Austria)
- Arbetarnas Bildningsförbund - ABF (Sweden)

(Edited in May 2019)

The content of this guide does not reflect the official opinion of the European Union. Responsibility for the information and views expressed lies entirely with the author(s).
La Ligue de l’enseignement du Pas-de-Calais is an independent and secular movement and a non-profit association founded in 1866. We act against inequalities, discriminations and we act for citizen training and social transformation.
www.ligue62.org/

The Federación Andalucía Acoge is a social entity sited in the South of Spain and the City of Ceuta and Melilla (at the North of Morocco). The entity offers social and legal support to migrant people, diverse families and people linked with migratory processes moreover lobby, awareness, educational and humanitarian actions.
www.acoge.org/

Nero e non solo! The association «Nero e non solo!” (meaning “Black and not only!”) is an anti-racist association based in Puglia, Italy. Since 1993 it has been carrying out activities for an open and multicultural society with the participation and active involvement of citizens, associations and public bodies.

Arbetarnas Bildningsförbund (ABF) is the leading study organization in Sweden. It’s founded by the labour movement and organize study circles and lectures all over Sweden.
www.abf.se

VHS Wien - education for everybody has more than 100 years of history and has made it possible for millions of people to work on their skills and most of all to break social barriers. VHS Wien provides the basis for further education for people with different qualifications by its huge range of courses and its democratic approach to education.
www.vhs.at

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Since the 1970s, European countries have seen a growing influx of unaccompanied minors, defined as children under 18, third-country nationals not from the European Union, and unaccompanied by a legal representative.

Children from Sub-Saharan Africa, Maghreb, the Middle East and even Asia, arrive every year in Europe looking for protection, a better life, or to join a family member.

Given their minority and isolation, and in view of the international Convention on the Rights of the Child signed by the countries of European Union, we must consider these young people first and foremost as minors in danger and not as foreigners.

The fact that we do consider this issue specifically at European level means that childhood professionals are forced to highlight the difficulty, lack of methods and lack of training as regards providing these young people with the best possible reception.

A consortium of five organisations from Spain, Italy, France, Austria and Sweden produced this guide as part of the Erasmus+ European project. Together, they set out the goals to improve the inclusion of unaccompanied minors in Europe.

To jointly create this guide, each organisation carried out research in its respective country to identify inspiring practices and new methods used out in the field regarding the health, education, inclusion and protection of unaccompanied minors.

Volunteers, employees, associations, public institutions, teachers and ordinary citizens interested in the situation of unaccompanied minors in the European Union and willing to find concrete actions, methods and various practices, can use this document.

We jointly decided not to classify collected practices into countries and fields, as we believe it is necessary to propose a transnational, transdisciplinary and harmonised level of reception and care.
Advice Centre for Asylum Seekers and Refugees under the Terms of the Geneva Convention. “Jawa Next” is a project for young participants with compulsory school education, offering them educational modules, internships and coaching.

They offer multilingual counselling regarding: psychological problems / legal issues (asylum law and laws concerning immigrants) / applications for employment and accommodation / all issues concerning kindergarten and school / all issues concerning education / problems in the socio-cultural sphere / the development of new life perspectives / special issues of unaccompanied minors / women-specific concerns / the integration of refugees under the terms of the Geneva Convention.

**INSTITUTIONS INVOLVED**
Health, education programmes, psychological counselling agencies, National Bank of Austria, SPÖ – Social democratic party of Austria.

**DURATION**
Jawa Next started in 2006 and has provided coaching for young adults since 2012.

**FUNDING**
The fund providers are the Ministry for social affairs, Information Centre for Asylum seekers and refugees, FSW – Social Fund of the City of Vienna (Fonds Soziales Wien), City department 11, European Union, Austrian Employment Centre – AMS, Ministry of Education.

**SUCCESS FACTORS**
In 2016, JAWA was very successful. 25 young people (80% of the participants) were provided with a job. 22 young persons started an apprenticeship and two more began to work in an industry-wide vocational education programme and one girl began a part-time apprenticeship.

Working as an agency to the highest standards made it possible for 60 participants to enrol in 2018. Other projects: projects for settlement and housing for unaccompanied foreign minors, with intensive support (i.e. better networking amongst young people, body-related self-assuredness).

**INSTITUTIONS INVOLVED**

**TARGET GROUP**
They provide support by addressing medical and psychological problems and in all areas of therapy.

Counselling in various languages: Arabic, Bosnian, Chinese, Croatian, French, German, English, Hebraic, Kinyarwanda, Kirundi, Persian (Farsi, Dari), Romanian, Russian, Serbian, Spanish, Swahili, Turkish.

**BENEFICIARIES**
The Austrian Federal Job Centre provides for mostly boys (approx. 67%) and girls (33%) offering various modules (IT, basic English and German + see above). The project is only for participants with compulsory school education.

30 participants/year. Participants may change over to a regular job in the course of the year thus terminating their training. This makes room for new participants.
Alternative Family Care is a project that welcomes UMs within local families in the area. This practice of receiving UMs within a family tends to initially clash with the will of the child. The minors say they already have a father and a mother and they do not want “new parents”. Having an important connection with their biological family and a strong sense of loyalty toward them, UMs may feel like they are cheating on their original family. They may also be worried about losing their family if they stay with the one in Italy.

As such, the practice of this Alternative Family Care project starts with respect for the UMs’ concerns and provides for contact with the biological family on a regular basis. This proves to be a great support, both for the minor and for the welcoming family. It is important that biological parents give their child the «emotional permission» to stay with the foster family in Italy. This approach makes it much easier for the UM to get really in touch with the «new» family. The trust and mutual respect between the biological and the host family support the child in his/her adaptation and integration.

In several parishes, voluntary families have been identified to create a loving and kind space to welcome the minor at the weekend. At least two days a week, a UM, maybe staying in a reception centre, is hosted by a local family. This experience is meaningful in order to build a deep sense of integration within the host culture. The challenge is to set and ensure time for the continuity of this experience. In some cases, the minor has been then legally adopted by the family.

### Institutions Involved

Public administration (Municipalities)

### Funding

Project funded by the public administration and through families’ resources, in collaboration with social entities.

### Sustainability

The sustainability of this practice requires strong awareness activities among families and the general population. Also relevant is the connection between the families and the UMs when the latter are staying in public or non-profit shelter.

### Target Group

All minors who want to participate, and families who apply to host UMs.

### Success Factors

- Integration processes shared with the UMs
- Resilience support
Regarding the difficulties of integrating unaccompanied minors from the street into mainstream schools, two volunteers in Nantes decided to create an alternative school for UMs.

The aim of this school is to offer young, isolated people the possibility of communicating in French as soon as possible, in order to end their isolation. The idea is also to give them a setting in which they can recoup and rebuild.

### Target Group

Mostly boys, between 15 and 18 years old, with no French knowledge, who have never attended school in their country of origin, and have not been recognised as minors.

### Success Factors

- The involvement and enthusiasm of the volunteer teachers, their attendance, their capacity to adapt to the children's needs, their awareness of the anxiety and the instability of the children's situations. Their willingness to work in a team, and mostly their adherence to the used method.
- The method starts from the experiences of the children. Diversifying communication topics helps the children acquire a richer vocabulary. Gesture, manipulation, role-play, songs and images help to reach a better understanding.
- The children take part in organising each lesson.
- The regular timetables and the fact that the children come in almost every day of the week for three hours.
- A safe environment, premises and materials adapted to their real needs.
- The children's strong motivation does the rest.

### Funding

No funding from institutions. The school receives donations from citizens of the region, which cover the cost of school materials.

### Institutions Involved

No local government is involved. “L’Amicale Laique des ponts (FAL 44)” is an association that provides school materials (chairs, tables, TVs, water, heaters) and a room for the school courses.

### Duration

Children stay from six to eight months.

### Sustainability

This action can last many years, as long as there are volunteers to teach the courses.

Currently, 10 volunteers are participating on a regular basis. The sustainability of this practice is linked to the involvement of the volunteers.
Asylkoordination Österreich (asylum coordination in Austria) has been concerned with the living conditions of unaccompanied young refugees for 20 years.

**INSTITUTIONS INVOLVED**

Asylkoordination Österreich initiated the project “connecting people” in 2001.

**DURATION**

Asylkoordination Österreich is the main funder of the project, whereas the Vienna Social Fund “FSW” funds one third of it and 2% are obtained through donations.

**FINANCING**

The Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs is the main funder of the project, whereas the Vienna Social Fund “FSW” funds one third of it and 2% are obtained through donations.

**SUCCESS FACTORS**

Before becoming a “godparent”, a character reference is requested and all volunteers receive training. Asylkoordination Österreich provides guidance for them while they are a “godparent” and organises regular meetings for discussion and information sharing as well as activities with the godparents and the young adults.

**BENEFICIARIES**

In the first years of the project, there was an average of 15-25 “godparent” assignments a year. The peak was in 2016 with 171. Now, the number has dropped back to 85 unaccompanied minor refugees.

The objective is to find people willing to act as an honorary “godparent”. The primary focus is on building longer-term, stable relationships for young adults and providing them with support in their difficult day-to-day lives – to be there for them 2 to 3 hours a week.
The main objective with Drevet is to create a platform where unaccompanied minors can feel safe and a physical place for them to go. To achieve this, Drevet is carrying out two main activities:

• Educating the participant in how to fix and repair broken bikes.
• Developing cooperation.

The project will last for 3 years, and the goal is that the cooperation will last after the projects ends.

There are two main beneficiary groups:

• The participants, who will be in a secure group to learn a craft and work in cooperation.
• The community. There is no bike repair training in Sweden, so this will be one of very few to provide this kind of learning.

The project is funded by Allmänna arvsfonden (a Swedish fund to which NGOs can apply for funding for projects regarding minors, young adult and people with various disabilities). Allmänna arvsfonden mostly paid for:

• Facilities
• Tools
• Salaries for the project staff
• Different kinds of activities

The main objective with Drevet is to create a platform where unaccompanied minors can feel safe and a physical place for them to go. To achieve this, Drevet is carrying out two main activities.

• Educating the participant in how to fix and repair broken bikes.
• Developing cooperation.

Contact information:
ABF Malmö
info.malmo@abf.se
Equalizent is a company with long-standing expertise in deafness, sign language and diversity management.

The main focus is: Deaf people, Hard-of-hearing people, Sign language, Diversity management (Diversity management means bringing together and supporting different people and lifestyles within a business. This means learning about and respecting people from different racial, cultural, social, geographic, economic and political backgrounds), Special support for unaccompanied foreign minors

All employees (55) speak Austrian sign language. Deaf and hearing people work together here. Many of the trainers and counsellors are deaf. They are role models and peers for their clients.

They work together with institutions in the areas of education, disabilities in general, diversity/diversity management/CSR, gender/women, sign language, deafness in general, health, deaf-blindness, and other international institutions.

Equalizent was founded in 2004.

Young and deaf refugees who know some sign language from home and various idioms. With their training, they support deaf and hard-of-hearing people, as well as people with other disabilities, to find work. Two tutors, one hearing and one deaf, teach writing or sign language respectively. Gym activities and field trips are also part of the programme.

Funding is partly provided by the organisation itself and partly by the Ministry for social affairs (application for support from FSW).

As it is already difficult to get people with residence permits jobs, it is even harder to do so for deaf unaccompanied foreign minors. Special projects are required. New projects: “Hands up” (for people with no impairment)

They offer courses and counselling in this field and are constantly developing new innovative products. They have won many awards.

Equalizent is Austria's leading provider of services for deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals, as well as their families and caregivers. With a focus on education, diversity management, and support services, Equalizent has become a leader in this field, offering courses, counselling, and innovative products to promote the inclusion of deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals in society.

Equalizent is supported by the Ministry for social affairs and partially by the organisation itself. The company has won many awards for its success in promoting inclusion and diversity. The company has achieved this success through its long-standing expertise in deafness, sign language, and diversity management, and its commitment to bringing together and supporting people from different backgrounds. Equalizent is a role model for inclusive practices in the workplace and beyond.

Equalizent is a prime example of how inclusive practices can benefit all individuals, regardless of their disabilities. The company’s success factors include its commitment to diversity management, its focus on education and support services, and its long-standing expertise in these fields. Equalizent’s success provides hope for the future of inclusivity in the workplace and beyond.

Equalizent’s success is due to its commitment to long-standing expertise in deafness, sign language, and diversity management. The company supports deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals and their families, offering courses, counselling, and innovative products to promote inclusion. Equalizent’s success is a testament to the power of inclusive practices, and it provides hope for the future of inclusivity in the workplace and beyond.
The Franz Fanon Centre has been using psychotherapy, counselling and psycho-social support services for refugee immigrants and torture victims — including UMs — for the past twenty years in Turin, in the north of Italy. The objectives are:

- to identify tools and strategies suitable for accommodating the complex experiential paths and needs of UMs at risk of being involved in organised crime and deviance;
- to enhance resilience strategies, activating individual and group resources, through a methodology aimed at grasping UMs’ needs and requests, in order to facilitate their orientation at present and their planning for the future;
- to be aware that the UMs affected by psychological disorders can be accepted and treated effectively if they are put in contact with the appropriate ethnological and anthropological services.

The centre’s working methods always take into account the uncertainty and discomfort of migrants. As such, they are treated with extreme sensitivity, especially when they have suffered violent experiences. Attention must therefore be given to the reception spaces to ensure they are informal and to avoid reproducing institutionalized contexts of long waits, coldness and staff indifference. The reception and the psychotherapeutic treatment is provided by psychiatric and psychological personnel who know, in addition to Italian, at least two of the major vehicular languages (English, French), and in some cases Spanish or other languages (Farsi, Serbian-Croatian, etc.), in the presence of mother-tongue mediators. The appointed linguistic-cultural mediators have specific expertise in the area of psychological and psychiatric assistance, have developed sensitive communication techniques, and learned to collect data and information discreetly.

The centre aims to respond to the request for help (sometimes expressed in a confused and contradictory manner) by UMs who have experienced hardship and misery, violence and precariousness. The priority is to build individual paths that can prevent the spiral that often leads to the reproduction of violence and deviance, condemning those who reach 18 to expulsion, the drama of bankruptcy, and often to a renewed attempt at illegal migration. The clinical work provides support and psychological counselling (individual and in a group) to UMs. It also offers advice for operators (in public services and private associations) on specific cases, followed by continuous training activities.

Franz Fanon Association

Minors who are victims of torture, minors with psychological problems, minors with experiences of violence in general.

Minors with whom the association has come into contact through its various activities.

The service is financed by public funds (national and European projects) and by NGOs.

The sustainability of the practice is integrated within the approach to the reception and protection of minors.

The Franz Fanon Centre is involved in the reception and protection of minors.

Minors with whom the association has come into contact through its various activities.

The Franz Fanon Association is involved in the reception and protection of minors.
This approach involves offering a family support system to young adult migrants who have been under the tutelage of the public administration and do not have public residential resources.

The objective is to facilitate the process of preparing for and transitioning to independent adult life with maximum emotional stability, guaranteed coverage of basic needs and maximum possibilities for personal and professional development.
This practice concerns helping unaccompanied minors reunite with their families.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) works to ensure that the legal channels work. The UNHCR communicates about the risk involved in clandestine and illegal channels (accident, exploitation network, etc.), and encourages unaccompanied minors along the coast and who want to go to England, to use the legal channels.

The stakeholders (child services, prefecture, associations, etc.) involved in family reunification, work in a coordinated manner, in the different steps: identification, information, guidance, support and protection.
This practice concerns the reception, support and inclusion of unaccompanied minors who have committed an offence.

The aim is to offer them a framework, and help them build a path (school, employment) in order to become independent, integrate within society and respect the law. The educational team was not trained in unaccompanied minor issues, because this training was not part of their initial course. However, being in contact with this public, the team have increased their skills and expertise.

The professionals improved their practices, and took into account the local customs and culture of origin. The team also got to work with people with expertise (social workers specialised in UM public) to learn about the needs and limits of the target group.

This object is a judicial protection service in Arras, France.

**INSTITUTIONS INVOLVED**

- Young judicial protection services: “Unité éducatif d’hébergement collectif” In Arras
- Municipality of Arras, local employers.

**DURATION**

According to the specification of the UEHC, the young people can stay a maximum of two years, but negotiations between the team and the regional authorities increased this time period (2 years ½) for unaccompanied minors. This increased time helps prevent any interruption in the educational transition from penal care to civil care.

**TARGET GROUP**

12 Boys from 13 years old to 18 years old, who have committed an offence.

**BENEFICIARIES**

For the moment, six unaccompanied minors are benefitting from this service.

**SUCCESS FACTORS**

- The structured framework
- Importance of the regulation and the rules of compliance
- Building links, and cultural respect to avoid communitarianism (French language in the collective instance)
- The caring and goodwill of the team, and the adaptation of the support
- The reception of new unaccompanied minors by former unaccompanied minors: trust is established more easily
- The network, good contacts, and the work with the schools and municipality
- To increase the proactive role of the minors (education, employment)
- The young people’s desire to stay in France

**FUNDING**

Public funding
The main objective of Otto is to improve the confidence and self-esteem of unaccompanied minors and young adults, but also to make life easier for unaccompanied minors. At Otto, the unaccompanied minor can participate in about twenty different activities per week - everything from help with homework and driving theory lessons to sports activities. The activities that take place at Otto are decided by the participants and most are coordinated by voluntary workers.
INSTITUTIONS INVOLVED
The department of Pas-de-Calais.

DURATION
From the minors’ entrance until they leave.
However, the minors have the possibility of contacting SAVI afterwards for support, advice and information that fall within the team’s area of expertise.

TARGET GROUP
The target group are unaccompanied minors who want to stay in France, and who have been recognised as minors by child protection services. The centre can accommodate 40 young people, boys and girls, between 15 and 18 years old.

FUNDING
The department of Pas-de-Calais.

SUCCESS FACTORS
- A multidisciplinary team with various skills: supporting young people in the fields of education, justice, psychology, vocational guidance, and health. This multidisciplinary approach gives a global overview of the support provided to the minors.
- The involvement, energy, strength, patience, and empathy of the team, and the establishment of an educational framework.
- A secure environment and structured framework. The work done to create links, confidence and mutual trust with the minors.
- Work in a team and partnership: use of the region’s resources. Encourage the minors to identify external resources.

The organisation SAVI (Support Service Toward Integration) has several apartments that accommodate unaccompanied minors.

These young people live in semi-autonomy and are overseen by a social worker team. The SAVI is a stabilisation facility, and not an emergency facility. The aim is to equip and empower the minors when they come out so that they can be independent.

SAVI’s multidisciplinary team have varied skills: social workers, psychologist, French teachers, lawyers in the rights of foreigners, a social and family finance counsellor (about managing daily life), and apprenticeship and employment specialists.

Access to cultural and sports activities is also an integration factor.
PROJECT “FIVE STARS”

This project is run by the organisation “Jugend am Werk” (Youth at work), which, amongst other services, provides guidance and support in finding an apprenticeship or work.

The first project took place in 2017.

Participants in the project “Five Stars” are asylum seekers and recognised refugees aged between 15 and 25.

Two groups with 12 participants each.

This project is funded by the Vienna Social Fund “FSW”, the Austrian Labour Market Service «AMS», the Viennese Employment Promotion Fund “waff”, the Viennese Chamber of Labour “AK Wien” and the Austrian Federation of Trade Unions “OGB”.

The follow-up project starts with a 6- to 8-week orientation class, after which the participants can decide whether they want to start with the main course lasting 6 months. This helps minimise drop-out rates.

The project “Five Stars” is a preparatory course for a culinary apprenticeship.
A participatory practice has been implemented by social cooperatives. Adopting internal regulations for the reception centres has been found to be very useful for transferring messages and content, and for the educational management of UMs. In particular, optimising the stay and daily activities are pivotal to everyday life at the centres and for the UMs’ personal growth. This includes wake-up times, adherence to the activities envisaged, collaboration in the common services, importance of punctuality in their commitments, and any financial benefits. The UMs’ participation in the centre’s daily activities and organisation of their time can, in fact, help them adapt during the transition to the second reception phase and civic integration. Living «with» them and establishing a true relationship has its benefits. Operators become educators and are not just bureaucrats. For example, food has been used to create an atmosphere of sharing and participation. In these communities, UMs take it in turns to cook their traditional food and the centre coordinator eats with them: sharing meals from the beginning is designed to create a family atmosphere.
The main objectives with Fredagshäng ("Slack Friday") is to make unaccompanied minors and young adults aware of their rights, especially regarding their sexual health and relations.

**Institutions Involved**
- Ensamkommandes förbund (an unaccompanied minors organisation)
- ABF (a study organisation)

**Duration**
The activities last for about 1-2 hours and used to have between 15 and 30 participants, mostly boys.

**Target Group**
A mix of unaccompanied minors and young adults. Most participants are about 17-18 years old.

**Beneficiaries**
- The participants
- NGOs in the area who have been participating in Slack Friday. Prior to the project, they lacked a network and knowledge of unaccompanied minors. Thanks to Slack Friday and its participants, they now have both the network and the knowledge.

**Sustainability**
The activity will continue after the project ends as part of Ensamkommandes förbunds' ordinary activities.

**Success Factors**
- The unaccompanied minors and young adults talk freely with each other – there is no agenda.
- Having facilitators/organisations that have a positive reputation among the participants.

Contact information:
Ensamkommandes förbund
info@ensamkommandesforbund.se

Financed by Allmänna arvsfonden: a Swedish fund to which NGOs can apply for funding for projects regarding minors, young adults and people with various disabilities.

The activity will continue after the project ends as part of Ensamkommandes förbunds' ordinary activities.
The idea of this project is to offer unaccompanied minors a positive role model provided by young adults. This can help improve their self-confidence, safety and behaviour, and prevent risk processes. Social mentoring also enhances resilience and peer-to-peer support networks. Other young adults who are not connected or directly linked with international immigration are also incorporated into the process.

Social entities, government

Until the young adult’s emancipation

Support funded by the government, and social entities’ or sponsors’ own resources.

The sustainability of this practice would depend on the professional support aimed at young mentors through joint planning of goals and purposes, and on the commitment of and coordinated work between public administrations, social entities and other stakeholders.

Effective, strong support provided by the government and social entities for young adults (mentors) and unaccompanied minors.

Delivery of a planned and evaluated process with close coordination with other tasks or actions carried out with unaccompanied minors.

Contact information:

Coordinadora Mentoria social: http://mentoriasocial.org/
COORDINATED QUALITY WORK PROCESSES

For unaccompanied minors under the guardianship of child protection services or young adults who are involved in an independent-living preparation process or without guardianship, coordinated work between the different institutions is proving to be a successful methodology:

• Sharing and optimising information, diagnostics, knowledge and resources and creating a key common discourse.

• Establishing a common framework of key actions with all the agents involved: government (involved in child welfare, social welfare, employment, migration policies, and education), social entities, enterprises, and community representatives, among others.

• Quick reporting in necessary urgent cases addressed to the public administrations, even with their collaboration.

• Supervising the government’s performance in and compliance with the fundamental rights of minors and also the working model and procedures of social entities or enterprises, with quality criteria.

• Adapting immigration law so that the rights of minors are given priority over their migratory administrative and residency status and work (this adaptation must be focused on minors’ rights, not on their immigration status).

• Guaranteeing access to and permanence within the educational system and the scholarship system with adequate professional and career development.

• Successful work planning for all the agents involved, planning for resources optimisation and improved joint processes that guarantee the best welfare for minors or young adults.

• Implementing common forums for communication, evaluation and analysis and objective results: number of improvement proposals raised, process assessment and active involvement of young adults.

ANTHROPOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE APPROACH TO THE MIGRATORY PROCESS

The anthropological approach is an interesting baseline for a common understanding of the reasons, ways and realities of unaccompanied minors and their migration projects and processes.

It involves providing updated research on the origin, causes, migratory processes and migratory projects of unaccompanied minors or young adults.

The information and acknowledgement have to be adapted to real situations and focused on improving services and activities at source and in destinations aimed at unaccompanied minors and young adults.
SWIMMING CLASSES

The main objective of the swimming classes is to help the participants learn how to swim, and in doing so, the participants can get their grades in physical education.

INSTITUTIONS INVOLVED
- Ensamkommandes förbund ("The Unaccompanied Minors’ Organisation")

DURATION
Each class is one hour and consists of five participants.

TARGET GROUP
Unaccompanied minors and young adults who cannot swim.

FUNDING
The class is free for the participants and the swimming instructors are voluntary workers.

SUSTAINABILITY
The course consists of five lessons.

SUCCESS FACTORS
- Commitment from the participants and the voluntary workers
- A good teaching structure
- Close cooperation with the owner of the swimming pool

Contact information:
Ensamkommandes förbund
info@ensamkommandesforbund.se
This practice represents a protection model for unaccompanied foreign minors (UM) with voluntary guardians. A guardian is a person who legally represents children and teenagers without parents or a suitable family context to take care of them. She or he is the legal representative of the UM, promoting their rights and acting as an intermediary between them and the surrounding context. The voluntary guardian plays an «external» role, compared to reception centres, thus making the UM feel more protected. An important goal of this experimental practice is to create a system that is able to listen to and answer UM needs.

The voluntary guardian’s functions are:
- to ensure the UM’s general well-being and ensure his/her needs are met;
- to protect and promote the UM’s best interests and, more importantly, his/her rights;
- to legally represent the UM.

A regional database of voluntary guardians for UM was established. It includes a list of UM who seek assistance on one side, and a list of private citizens who want to legally represent those minors on the other side. The purpose of the database is to provide a more professional and better quality service: to date, there are more than 200 voluntary guardians throughout the Puglia region. The database functions are:
- to keep updated information
- to organise the training of the voluntary guardians according to the needs of the territory
- to promptly appoint those who will take care of the minors
- to monitor the assignments assigned to the voluntary guardians
- to exchange experiences between guardians

All UM in the Puglia region

Services (regional database) funded by public financial resources (Puglia region)

The sustainability of this practice (or some of its activities) will be guaranteed by public stakeholders in the long-term.
The Youth College is a modular teaching program designed to help minors and young adults aged between 15 and 21 to transition into the mainstream school system or vocational education and or to facilitate their entry into a profession.

Core modules are German as a second language, English, mathematics, and information and communication technology. Other special modules cover specific areas of personal development and creative crafts. The extensive range of courses on offer also include social integration activities.

**Institutions Involved**

There are nine network partners working in the fields of special programmes for the further education of women, support for refugees, special programmes for deaf refugees, general education, health care and youth work: abz*austria, bpi der ÖJAB, Caritas Wien, Diakonie Flüchtlingsdienst, equalizent, Integraationshaus, interface Wien, VHS- Die Wiener Volkshochschulen and WUK.

**Duration**

This project was launched in June 2016.

**Target Group**

The Youth College offers courses to minors and young adults aged between 15 and 21, either immigrants, asylum seekers, beneficiaries of asylum, beneficiaries of subsidiary protection or disadvantaged young people, who are older than the compulsory education age.

**Beneficiaries**

1,000 learners are offered a place in one of the two locations in Vienna.

**Funding**

The Youth College is funded by the European Social Fund “ESF”, the Austrian Labour Market Service «AMS», the Municipal Department 17 (Integration and Diversity) “MA17”, and the Viennese Social Fund “FSW” with support from the Viennese Employment Promotion Fund “waff”.

**Sustainability**

The project has started in June 2016 and is extended yearly, likely until June 2019.

**Success Factors**

Due to different prior learning, the students first undergo an assessment to find out which learning provision best suits their different learning abilities and conditions, as well as their educational and professional goals. They spend an average of nine months in the Youth College depending on their prior knowledge. The educational and vocational assistance is oriented around the interests of the students.
The aim of this approach is to strengthen resilience by establishing connections and links between families, unaccompanied minors, and community support, at source or in countries where they have relations.

The sustainability of this practice depends on funding (guaranteeing continuity of the long-term action) and staff qualifications.

A confidential process with transnational mediation is important, along with the guarantee for each unaccompanied minor and young adult that this action aims to support them and their relatives, and not to return them to their country of origin.

**Institutions involved**
Social entities, public government

**Duration**
Until the young adult’s emancipation

**Funding**
Support funded by the government, and sponsors’ or social entities’ own resources

**Sustainability**
The sustainability of this practice depends on funding (guaranteeing continuity of the long-term action) and staff qualifications.

**Success factors**
- Improvement of family relationships.
- Reinforcing the process of emancipation for young adults and supporting the personal process of unaccompanied minors.
- Improving the welfare and emotional well-being of unaccompanied minors and young adults.
- Improving their relationship with their territories of origin, social environment and community.

Contact information:
- Mercedes Jimenez
  Mediacion social transnacional published by CIssOng
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HKm5tCeXR08
- Similar experiences carried out by the social entity Voluntarios por Otro Mundo
  https://es-la.facebook.com/VoluntariosPorOtroMundoEnJerez/
The idea of We Act was to educate minors and young adults aged 13-24 in the Swedish language and social codes through drama and theatre. This was carried out through “We Act” drama classes. Each class comprised four modules:

• The first module started with four exercises of five minutes each.
• The second module contained language exercises with specific words.
• The third module was a theatre workshop where the participants use the words.
• The forth module was a summary. The method was compiled into a handbook.

The project started in August 2015. Every group met once a week for about 45 minutes and stayed in the group for about six months to a year.

The project ended in July 2018. After completion of the project, the activities were continued as ongoing activities at ABF Södra Småland.

The target group was immigrant minors or young adults between 13-24 years old. Most of them were unaccompanied minors. The participants could be illiterate, but it was easier if they could read.

Each group consisted of about 10 participants and, during the project, hundreds of participants were involved in the activities launched by We Act.

Success factors:
- Working with two facilitators (one head facilitator and one co-facilitator).
- Making the groups a safe haven for the participants. When the participants feel safe, they dare to learn the new language.
- Close cooperation with the participants’ ordinary school teachers. We Act was intended to complement the normal languages class, not be an alternative.

Funding:
The project was funded by Allmänna arvsfonden, a Swedish fund to which NGOs can apply for funding for projects regarding minors, young adults and people with various disabilities.

Institutions involved:
- ABF Södra Småland (a study organisation)
- Scoolia (a company producing language learning materials for Swedish as a second language)
- Växjö kommun (the local municipality)
- Region Teatern (the regional theatre)

Contact information:
ABF Södra Småland
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sodra.smaland@abf.se
The “Welcome Clinique” project is an integrated UM age assessment and protection team located in the Giovanni XXIII Paediatric Hospital in Bari. The objective of the signed agreement between the hospital and Bari Municipality is to improve the age identification of foreign boys and girls under the age of 18 who come to Italy (entering the Puglia region).

This project aims to protect UM’s: in this way, they can benefit from child protection and assistance measures (provided by current legislation), and avoid the risk of becoming easy victims of exploitation and sex trafficking.

This clinic hosts a multidisciplinary committee, appointed for the age assessment, consisting of paediatricians, psychologists, social workers and radiologists. The committee, headed by a case manager, provides social and psychological counselling, auxological examination and, in the final analysis, radiological examination for the evaluation of skeletal age. During the examinations at the «Welcome Clinic» of the Paediatric Hospital, non-invasive procedures are used, according to the presumed age, and physical and psychological integrity of the individual. The premises provided for the clinic are appropriate for young people, with welcoming spaces and a private entrance. There is a big world map on the wall to allow them to show and talk about their journey to Italy. There are paintings made by other UMs showing images of their journey by boat. There is a circle of chairs to create a sense of listening and equality. By paying attention to everything, one recognises that there is a “person” behind a name and a story.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INSTITUTIONS INVOLVED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bari Municipality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Court of Minors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Health Company/Bari</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Giovanni XXIII Paediatric Hospital</td>
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</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DURATION</th>
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<tr>
<td>From 2017 to 2020.</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TARGET GROUP</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All UMs in Bari Municipality.</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FUNDING</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>This service is funded by public funds, through the regional health administration and the public municipal financial resources.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
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<tr>
<th>SUCCESS FACTORS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The multidisciplinary care and the identification of the minor’s age involves the child in the process and helps prevent further psychological damage.</td>
</tr>
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</table>
The main objective of “Välkommen till Skellefteå” (“Welcome to Skellefteå”) is not only to avoid culture clashes among unaccompanied minors and young adults, but also to help them better understand their own culture and that of their new country.

“Välkommen till Skellefteå” started when social services contacted ABF concerning the issue that many unaccompanied minors did not attend classes on Fridays and there were a lot of problems at lunchtime regarding what food the pupils could or could not eat. ABF employed facilitators from the same cultural backgrounds as the unaccompanied minors and started various study circles* named “Välkommen till Skellefteå”. The facilitators talked with the participants about what culture is and what it means to live in Sweden and at the same time to have another heritage, how to make Swedish friends and so on.

During the study circle, the facilitator established contacts for the unaccompanied minors with local ethnic organisations so that they could meet people from their own cultural background who have lived in Skellefteå for many years, which could help and guide them to avoid culture clashes in the future.

### Institutions Involved
- ABF Skellefteå
- Local ethnic organisations
- Local social services

### Target Group
Unaccompanied minors and young adults mostly from Somalia, Eritrea and Afghanistan.

### Beneficiaries
- The unaccompanied minors and young adults themselves
- The schools
- The local ethnic organisations

### Duration
About 2 hours for 4-5 meetings.

### Funding
ABF founded the study circle, which included:
- Salary for the facilitators
- Fika: the traditional Swedish institutionalised coffee-break gathering

### Success Factors
- Cooperation with local ethnic organisations
- The facilitator has to be from the same cultural background as the participants.

Contact information:
- ABF Skellefteå
  info.skelleftea@abf.se
The main objectives of “Ung i Småland” (“Young in Småland”) was to:

- Help young immigrants be a part of Swedish society through local organisations
- Create safe and fun leisure activities
- Bring immigrants and local organisations together

The project involved young immigrants describing what kind of activities they wanted to do. If there were any organisations in the area that provided these activities – the project helped the immigrant and the organisation to meet. If not, the project helped the immigrants to start their own activities by offering education in leadership, how to start up and run an organisation, but also weekly consultations so that the group could start their activities with close guidance from ABF.

**INSTITUTIONS INVOLVED**

- ABF Södra Småland (a study organisation)
- Tingsryds kommun (a local municipality)
- Uppvidinge kommun (a local municipality)

**DURATION**

Approximately 1-1.5 hours twice a week, depending on the groups.

**TARGET GROUP**

The project targeted immigrants aged between 13-24 years old, but the majority of the participants were unaccompanied minors and young adults.

**SUCCESS FACTORS**

Bottom up – start with ideas from the participants.

**FUNDING**

“Ung i Småland” was funded by MUCF (“Swedish Agency for Youth and Civil Society”). They mainly paid for:

- Salaries for project staff
- Facilities
- Material

**SUSTAINABILITY**

The method developed under the project has been used for four years, but the participants normally use the help from the project for about six months.

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Växjö
Sweden

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Växjö
Sweden
In 2015, Sweden opened its borders to 70,384 unaccompanied minors. In the following years, the number of unaccompanied minors decreased, but Sweden still welcomed more than 10,000 during 2016. Today, the situation is different, the country's borders are almost closed and only a few manage to get into Sweden.

According to Swedish migration regulations, the 290 Swedish municipalities are responsible for the reception and education of unaccompanied minors. After their initial reception and the administrative process at the Swedish Migration Agency, who question the unaccompanied minor about their identity, age and nationality, the unaccompanied minor is placed in a municipality for their living, educational and social needs during the asylum process.

As an unaccompanied minor, you have the same rights as all children and young people in Sweden. You have the right to education, health care and dental care, and to be treated with respect. All unaccompanied minors have the right to a “godparent”, an adult person that looks after your rights, and helps you at the Migration Agency, a reliable person who you can trust.

During 2017 and 2018, many young people did not get asylum in Sweden and they were sent to Afghanistan. Many of them had never lived in Afghanistan and were sent back to terror and torture, and major discussions concerning the situation were started. An organisation called “Young in Sweden” was formed, led by an unaccompanied minor named Fatemeh Khavari. Together with other NGOs such as The Association of Unaccompanied, they started discussions, protest marches and a strike in one of Stockholm's city squares and outside the Swedish Government.

The main demand was:

“We are young people from all over Sweden and we will not go anywhere until you give us somewhere to go to!

“Our demand – stop the deportation to Afghanistan!"

Due to the high number of unaccompanied minors, the Swedish Migration Agency failed to handle many asylum applications during these years, and many unaccompanied minors turned 18 before their application was processed.

After a long and quite intense debate, both in the media, within the government and among the people of Sweden, the Swedish government decided to give the Swedish Migration Agency a new assignment: Unaccompanied minors who had arrived in Sweden before 24 November 2015, but whose asylum application was registered with the Swedish Migration Agency after this date, may under certain circumstances be covered by the new law on upper secondary education and can apply to stay and finish their schooling.

The current situation for many unaccompanied minors in Sweden today is quite good and stable. They have a permanent residence, they study or work, and they have started a new life in Sweden.

Nevertheless, far too many are in a chaotic situation. They survive with no hope for the future, their situation is unstable and there is no joy in living or indeed any will to live. They do not know if they can stay in Sweden. They hide, have nowhere to go, and fear being sent to a country where they have never been. They live in poverty, anxiety and constant fear.

As in the rest of Europe, nationalistic right-wing winds are blowing and the rights and demands of unaccompanied minors have been and continue to be a struggle – a struggle for human rights, solidarity and human dignity.
The minor and adolescent period must be based on protection, respect, stability and coverage of needs, as well as on development, and adequate physical, cognitive, psycho-emotional and relational care. If a maximum amount of opportunities are generated in these two periods, this strengthens their transition to adult life and the creation of life goals.

These guarantees must prevail in all cases, and must adapt to those situations, contexts or characteristics that create or may create increased vulnerability.

In the case of minor migrants without family members, the necessary contexts and focuses are not only transnational, but also include everything from the rights of minors to the application of international protection.

Although Spain is considered, due to the multitude of migratory projects and processes, as a transit area for many young migrants, it is also a reception location of short, medium and long-term residency.

The autonomous local authorities responsible for assuming guardianship, must guarantee child and adolescent protection, absolute coverage of basic, psycho-emotional, educational, cultural and identity needs, both as an agent of socialisation and an attachment figure. It is also necessary to provide coverage and adequate provision of resources, development of specialised professional resources and methodological analysis from an intercultural and transnational perspective.

From protection environments and cohabitation facilities, positive references can be established and natural attachment figures developed from an educational and pedagogical point of view.

As with Spanish minors cared for by the state, migrant minors and young people who were previously in foster care must be provided with the opportunity to develop as young people with maximum guarantees, by linking the protection of minors with the status of migrant people. For this reason, it is essential that the residence permits for migrant minors are applied and processed correctly, with a work permit for those of working age, or where appropriate, when Spanish nationality is acquired. Equally, keeping or obtaining residence and/or work permits on reaching adulthood is also necessary.

The government and other entities developing and forming part of the network of public resources and minor protection centres, must primarily coordinate, supplement and apply protocols to detect and correctly manage cases of human trafficking, or those under asylum or subsidiary protection regulations, and other high vulnerability situations.

Other complementary needs must be covered by the relevant authorities to ensure the best inclusion of unaccompanied minors:

- Guarantees regarding the age measurement test in order to ensure that no underage case is erroneously recorded as the age of majority. In this secure process, it is necessary to have the full coordination of health services, social services involved in the Protection of Minors, and the relevant administration in different regions, among others.
- It is necessary to be able to promote effective inclusion and an intercultural approach. As such, “Ghetto shelters” should be avoided in order to ensure that public childcare centres remain inclusive, and a place where intercultural coexistence and diversity enrichment is the baseline approach.
- National and international links between public childcare shelters and social services working in the protection of migrant minors without family members (minors who migrate alone) are imperative for cases in which minors “voluntarily” disappear from the reception centre, especially where they may fall victim to trafficking or other violent crimes. They are also imperative for ensuring their security and continuing the guardianship that the relevant public administration has had to assume.
Unaccompanied minors in Austria

A high number of unaccompanied minors refugees have fled to Austria in recent years. The peak was in 2015 with 8,277 unaccompanied minor refugees (743 under the age of 14). The number decreased gradually in the following years until it reached 400 unaccompanied minor refugees (40 under the age of 14) arriving in 2018 until the end of September (*). Austria ranks as the fourth country of destination in Europe and Norway, with Afghanistan, Syria, Eritrea, Iraq and Somalia being the top five countries of origin (**). In 2015, 481 unaccompanied minor refugees were granted asylum. In 2016, the number rose to 673 before declining to 242 in 2017. During these three years, 2,048 refusals were documented. As for the subsidiary protection of this target group during this period, there were 1,898 positive and 386 negative decisions. As regards residence on humanitarian grounds, the numbers documented were 131 positive and 414 negative decisions between 2015 and 2017 (***).

To address this major challenge, different institutions and NGOs had to come up with ideas and projects to deal with this high number of young people and to help them in the best way.

The legal situation in Austria has changed in many ways since the last parliamentary elections in Austria in autumn 2017; the new government – a coalition of the conservative party ÖVP and the so-called freedom party FPÖ – introduced new laws concerning migrants and refugees. The situation for these target groups is getting more difficult: subsidy cuts, grouping unaccompanied minors in federal camps, etc.

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* Source: de.statista.com
** Source: EMN European Migration Network
*** Source: EMN European Migration Network
The data provided by the Italian Ministry of Interior show evidence, as of 31st December 2017, of 18,303 unaccompanied foreign minors (UM) staying in the country, with an increase of 5.4% compared to 2016 and of 53.5% compared to 2015. Unaccompanied foreign minors are mostly male (93.2%). The unaccompanied foreign minors present in Italy at the end of 2017 were 1,247, that is 6.8% of the total presence of UM.

In terms of age, 60.3% of UMs are 17 years old; 16-year-olds are just a fifth of the total, followed by the younger age component. Therefore, compared to the same period in the two previous years, the “older” UM arrival trend is continuing.

The main countries of origin of UMs staying in Italy are Gambia, Egypt, Guinea, Albania, Eritrea and the Ivory Coast. The other most represented nationalities, in smaller numbers, are Nigerian, Malian, Senegalese, Bangladeshi and Somali. The majority of female UMs come from Nigeria, Eritrea, Somalia and the Ivory Coast.

It is important to consider sea arrival data, relevant as regards Italy's geographical position. In 2017, there were 15,731 sea arrivals compared to 25,846 in 2016. It is equally important to consider the requests for international protection by unaccompanied foreign minors. In 2017, 9,782 applications for international protection were submitted against 5,930 applications in 2016. The African continent remains the main area of origin of UMs asking for international protection. The countries of origin are Gambia (21.4%), Nigeria (11.9%) and Bangladesh (11.4%).

Last year’s legislative changes - the first Italian law on UMs- aim to regulate all the relevant aspects of the UM presence in Italy with a single instrument. Act no. 47 of 2017 provides that a foreign unaccompanied minor is “a minor who is not an Italian or EU citizen who, for whatever reason, is found in Italian territory, or is subject to Italian jurisdiction, and who lacks the assistance or representation of their parents or other adults who would be responsible for them according to Italian legislation» (Art 2.1). The law sets out the necessary measures for defining the reception methods and the process of integration into Italian society.

Taking into consideration UMs’ reasons for departure and their arrival routes, two common traits can be identified. The first is the age: being 15-16 years old entitles them to rights as minors, but at the same time it exposes them to the risk of being exploited. The second common element is the centrality of their relationship, firstly with a transnational support network for travelling and subsequently with local networks for their integration. According to the Ministry of the Interior, in 2017, 90.8% of UMs in Italy were admitted to reception facilities, with only 3.1% placed privately. The remaining 6.1% could not be identified. The reception process in Italy is divided into steps: initial reception is in government-run centres, temporary accommodation facilities and municipal facilities; the second stages takes place in the SPRAR network (National Protection System for Asylum-Seekers and Refugees) or in accredited (authorised at regional or municipal level) second-level structures. It should be pointed out that when the UM turns 18 years old, they lose the special protection provided for by Italian legislation and are often forced to interrupt the integration process.
In France, the term “unaccompanied minors” replaced the term “foreign isolated minors” in 2016 in order to harmonise the French definition with European law. It also provided the opportunity to recall that unaccompanied minors are children that need protection, rather than foreigners. France ratified the international Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1990, so this convention prevails over national law.

In 2017, a census made by Garde des sceaux counted 25,000 isolated minors in the child welfare system in France. It is estimated that, at the end of 2018, this number exceeded 40,000. This number is underestimated because minors are difficult to identify and because the census did not include unaccompanied minors whose minority had not been officially recognised.

The majority are boys, and are over 15 years old. The reasons for their departure from their country of origin vary: conflicts, persecution, poverty, sent by the family, or reunification with a family member. Some of them want to stay in France, but most want to continue to northern Europe, and in particular England.

The main countries of origin of unaccompanied minors are part of Sub-Saharan Africa and French-speaking Africa (Mali, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Cameroon, DRC, Nigeria) because choosing France as a country of destination is a link to the common language and culture. However, some unaccompanied minors also come from Afghanistan, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Eritrea, Sudan, Angola, Syria and East Europe.

In France, unaccompanied minors are the responsibility of child welfare services, and it is the departments that provide these services via childhood assistance measures.

In practice, the reception facilities for unaccompanied minors are undersized and unsuited for their issues. The departments are overwhelmed and express the lack of funding, human resources and training (intercultural aspects, etc.). Furthermore, the distribution of unaccompanied minors in the country is unequal and some departments (Ile de France, Bouche du Rhône, Nord) have to deal with more requests than others.

Unaccompanied minors in France are victims of the national government’s general policy of not welcoming migrants, which exceeds the department framework.
MIGRATORY PROCESS
These are the different phases that a migrant person is faced with; preparation, organization, logistic travel management, the first period in the transit or destination areas, or the administrative provision or provision of the arrangements for immigration law requirements. Material goods at source where appropriate are also included in preparation, assignment or sale, along with personal and community relationships, contacts with agents involved in the move or official bodies, psycho-emotional management and migratory mourning, and the provision of basic needs coverage before, during and after the migratory journey.

GLOSSARY
ALLMÄNNA ARVSFONDEN
Allmänna Arvsfonden is a Swedish national fund collecting all fortune from estates without legatee. Non-profit organization can seek funding from the fund for different kinds of projects working with youth and disabled people. Many organizations in Sweden have been granted funds from Allmänna Arvsfonden to work with immigrant youth and among them unaccompanied minors.

COORDINATED QUALITY WORK PROCESSES
Union of agents of interest or stakeholders involved in some key aspects guaranteeing or improving the coverage of basic needs, granting of fundamental rights or the quality of the results.

FACILITATORS/STUDY CIRCLE LEADER
A facilitator is the leader of a study circle. The roll as a facilitator contains a role as a “teacher”, but with focus from the participants and their questions and experience.

KEY COMMON DISCOURSE
Common agreement and action between the agents of interest and stakeholders involved in some key and indispensable measures guaranteeing the rights of minors.

LIBERAL ADULT EDUCATION
Liberal adult education is a pedagogic tradition in Sweden based on the idea that the participants learn from each other’s and that knowledge grows in the connection between people. All the Study organizations and the 155 folk high schools are working with the liberal adult education-pedagogic.

MIGRATORY PROJECT
Structured, desired or idealized design which includes personal, emotional, family preparation, rationalization of the events and objectives which led to migration, desires, fears and hopes and projection of the personal, emotional, social and contextual situation in the short and medium term -in transit or destination areas.

MUNICIPALITY (IN ITALY)
A municipality, in the legal system of the Italian Republic, is an autonomous local territorial body. It can have the title of City. Italy has 7,954 municipalities for a total national population of 60.59 millions in 2017. The responsibility for an unaccompanied minor are on the municipality until the minor turns 18 years old.

MUNICIPALITY (IN SWEDEN)
Sweden are divided into 290 municipalities. The responsibility for an unaccompanied minor are on the municipality until the minor turns 18 years old.

PROCESS OF EMANCIPATION AND PREPARATION FOR INDEPENDENT LIFE
Personal, social, community, professional and work process of young adult who used to be in foster care, by themselves or with institutional, family support or other resources, to independently build and develop their life project.

RECEPTION CENTRE
Any UMs, who is in a situation of moral or material abandonment, can be reported to the Immigration Office by the Police Forces and/or the Social First Aid. They will provide an immediate placement in a protected place. Municipalities can offer a reception service for UMs, including applicants for international protection, and non-resident EU citizens, in residential and affiliated facilities. The latter offer material reception, legal guidance and the support of linguistic mediators. This model of reception aims at: guaranteeing protection in adequate places, ensuring the right to health and education, fostering integration in the territory and accomplishment for the achievement of autonomy (through paths aimed at getting a job and returning to the family if present in Europe).

RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES FOR UNACCOMPANIED MINORS
Emergency reception centres or residential resources for unaccompanied minors. They may be managed directly or via the state assuming guardianship or managed by other entities using public funds.

RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES FOR YOUNG ADULTS
Residential centres or living spaces to support transition to adult and independent living for young people who have reached legal age.

STUDY CIRCLE
And interactive educational form in Sweden that is based on the participants active participations. Study organization The Swedish government is funding specific study organizations to conduct study circles, public lecture and culture events built on liberal adult education. Theses study organizations have the independence to start different kinds off circles and lectures without nationally proved curriculums. This means that a study organization in theory can start study circles in almost every subject and that the circle are open for everyone to join independent of the participants background or education level. There are ten approved study organizations in Sweden and in 2017 they conducted about 330.000 study circles with 1.7 million participants and 380.000 lectures and culture events with 20 million participants. The ten study organizations consists of many different organizations in the civic society such as political parties, trade unions, the Swedish church, free churches, retired people's organizations and organizations and network for disabled people. ABF is the biggest and founded by the labor movement in Sweden. Since 2015 the ten study organizations have put a lot of effort to work with asylum seekers and unaccompanied minors.

VOLUNTARY GUARDIAN
The voluntary guardian in Italy is the person who legally represents children and teenagers without parents and a suitable family context to take care of them. s/he is the legal representative of the Unaccompanied Minors, promoting their rights and acting as an intermediary between them and the surrounding context. The voluntary guardian plays an «external» role, compared to reception centers, thus making the UM feel more protected. An important goal of this experimental practice is to create a system that is able to listen to and answer UM needs.

YOUNG ADULTS
Young people in Spain- who were migrant minors without family members- who have reached adulthood after having been in foster care or under the guardianship of the state.
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UNACCOMPANIED MINORS
Support and inclusion
IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

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“A child 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”. Article 20 Convention on the Rights of the Child.

This guide is intended for volunteers, employees, associations, public institutions, teachers or ordinary citizens, interested in the situation of unaccompanied minors in the European Union, and willing to find concrete actions, methods and various practices regarding the health, education, inclusion and protection.

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