

ROADMAP TO ADULTHOOD

Milestones towards a Smooth
Transition into Adulthood



HELLENIC REPUBLIC

Ministry of Migration & Asylum

Special Secretariat for the Protection of UAMs

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INTRODUCTION

Scope

The Special Secretariat for the Protection of Unaccompanied Minors (SSPUAM) of the Ministry of Migration and Asylum (MoMA)¹ in Greece is participating in the multilateral project “Building Futures, Sharing good practices: Migrant Children’s Transition to Adulthood – UACFutures.” The project is coordinated by the Council of Europe and is jointly implemented with three additional partners: SolidarityNow – a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) from Greece; Fundación Cepaim – an NGO from Spain; and Stitching NIDOS – the Dutch Guardianship Institution. The project aims to strengthen the exchange of good practices with a view to fostering long-term improvements in the quality of support for migrant children during their transition to adulthood at the European level, with a particular focus on Greece, Spain, and the Netherlands.

In this context, the SSPUAM prepared a Roadmap highlighting a series of significant and strategic milestones aiming to facilitate the smooth transition of unaccompanied minors (UAM) to adulthood with specific suggestions on how to achieve each milestone. The Roadmap could be used as valuable source of information for all national actors in Greece. It can also be adapted to other national contexts across Europe with the aim of effectively supporting UAMs during their transition to adulthood. Each of the milestones developed aims to safeguard the rights and equal opportunities of young refugees and migrants transitioning to adulthood while promoting access to services and their smooth inclusion into the host society.

1. The Special Secretariat for the Protection of Unaccompanied Minors (SSPUAM) was established in February 2020 with the Presidential Decree 18/2020 (A ‘34). The SSPUAM operates in accordance with articles 35 and 42 of Law 4622/2019 (A ‘133) on the state and is supervised by the Deputy Minister of Migration and Asylum, responsible for social inclusion and protection of unaccompanied minors. SSPUAM was appointed as the competent authority for the overall protection of third country national or stateless minors deprived parental care while in Greece and regardless of legal status.

Methodology of Roadmap's Synthesis

The SSPUAM organized a focus group discussion with the active participation² of young refugees and migrants who have recently transitioned to adulthood with the view to listen to their views and experiences on how transition to adulthood looks like for them and on how it should be effectively approached to be successful. Moreover, the SSPUAM involved in the group discussion professionals from three NGOs i.e., International Rescue Committee (IRC) – Hellas, Terra Firma International and the European Expression. The input, hands-on experience and engagement of these professionals have been crucial for the development of this Roadmap and its milestones. Furthermore, these NGOs reached out to young refugees and migrants from their network who had recently reached adulthood.

Overall, the focus group brought together 13 participants and was facilitated by three staff members of the Unit of Integration and Support of the SSPUAM. Out of the 13 participants, seven were young adults, refugees, and migrants and six were field staff from the accommodation centers hosting UAMs (shelters and Supported Independent Living (SIL) apartments) mainly field coordinators and social workers. The young refugees and migrants who participated at the focus group were between 18 to 21 years old, male and female, they had been in Greece for two to four years, half of them were working in Greece at the time of the focus group and most of them were sufficiently fluent in the Greek language. Furthermore, two of the young adults, one male and one female, who participated at the focus group discussion were working at SSPUAM as mentors at the time of the focus group.³

At the beginning of the discussion, the SSPUAM informed the participants about its mandate, the purpose of the meeting and the objectives of the UACFutures project. To facilitate the discussion, the following definition of was also provided: 'Ageing

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2. "Active participation means that citizens themselves take a role in the exchange on policymaking, for instance by proposing policy-options. At the same time, the responsibility for policy formulation and final decision rests with the government. Engaging citizens in policy-making is an *advanced two-way relation* between government and citizens based on the principle of partnership." Organisation For Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD), "*Citizens as Partners - OECD Handbook on Information, Consultation and Public Participation in Policy-Making*," 2001, p. 16.
 3. Acknowledging the need to support unaccompanied children through various stages of their journey in Greece, from reception to adulthood, the SSPUAM created in July 2021 an innovative pilot activity called "Mentorship" with the direct funding of the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA). The "Mentorship" programme is led by former UAMs, who reside in Greece, have attended the Greek educational system, and had faced similar difficulties and challenges in the past. As young adults, who have reached Greece while being UAMs, mentors act as role models, transfer their knowledge and experience to inform children about their available options, support their needs, boost their confidence by drawing from their example and raise awareness on possibilities of exploitation and abuse.

out' "refers to the loss of rights children experience when turning 18"⁴; Transition into adulthood can be contemplated as "the assumption of new roles and tasks related to the acquisition of autonomy and social integration, that culminates in the achievement of education, training, work, mature relationships, financial and housing independence"⁵

The SSPUAM also provided a list of **key thematic areas** which are considered important for the transition of UAMs' to adulthood:⁶

- ▶ **psychological support** (e.g., services to reach out in case psychological support is needed; mature relationships; having a family and what does that mean for every person; access to health in general including access to hospitals and essential medicines)
- ▶ **social support** (e.g., how social security number can be issued)
- ▶ **legal support and access to basic rights** (e.g, information; rights and responsibilities; access to free legal counseling and aid)
- ▶ **access to education/vocational training** (e.g., formal/non formal; language education; European educational programmes; vocational trainings; certificates; access and equal opportunities; skills development; including digital skills)
- ▶ **access to labour market/employability** (e.g., employment information; opportunities; job counseling)
- ▶ **access to accommodation** (e.g., type of accommodation i.e., shelter, apartment; geographical proximity of the accommodation facility to the location residing as UAM)

Participants were asked to reflect on the aforementioned thematic areas and list them from most to the least important based on their needs and views. Participants were also encouraged to add other thematic areas that may be missing from the provided list.

4. Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM), "Turning 18 and undocumented: Supporting children in their transition into adulthood," 2022, p. 9.

5. López, M.L., Santos, I., Bravo, A. and del Valle, J.F., 2013, The process of transition to adulthood of young people fostered by the child welfare system. *An. Psicol.*, 29, p. 187–196; cited in PICUM, "Turning 18 and undocumented: Supporting children in their transition into adulthood," 2022, p. 9.

6. The specific key thematic areas were selected based on the four key thematic areas delineated in the UACFutures Project (psychological impact and support, legal support and access to basic rights, access to education and the labour market and access to accommodation). These thematic areas were further supplemented based on the Council of Europe, "Recommendation CM/Rec(2019)4 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on supporting young refugees in transition to adulthood," adopted on 24 April 2019.

When discussing each of the thematic areas, the participants were asked to reflect on the following questions:

- ▶ How could transition to adulthood be done better?
- ▶ What could organisations do to support it?
- ▶ What could young migrants and refugees do in order to better prepare themselves?

The thematic area identified as most important by the participants was **access to accommodation**, followed by legal and social support, access to education and the labour market with psychological support being the last (Figure 1).



Figure 1: Prioritisation of the thematic areas according to the participants of the focus group

Some young refugees and migrants and most of the field staff also noted the importance of **access to food** and **cash/vouchers assistance** regardless of the legal status for UAMs coming of age.

Introduction – “Waking up 18”⁷ in the Greek context

Unaccompanied children are among the most vulnerable⁸ groups due to their particular characteristics. UAMs usually experience high levels of stress because of the conditions (e.g., war, prosecution) forcing them to leave their country, their parents, and families. UAMs may also experience trauma, anxiety, and depression,⁹ may become victims of exploitation and abuse during their journey and may experience feelings of frustration, insecurity and distrust upon reaching a new, unknown country.

In Greece, UAMs are provided with accommodation, specialised child protection services on a 24/7 basis, including medical care access to school and psychosocial, educational, recreational and sports activities. Assistance is also provided on legal matters, especially related to asylum procedures.

However, this protective and secure environment **abruptly stops** once UAMs reach adulthood, as also confirmed through the focus group discussion. Upon turning 18, UAMs often experience a **discontinuation of support and access to services including loss of rights**.¹⁰ In comparison to the usual and gradual ageing out process for most children and young adults, UAMs are expected to become independent overnight, to be responsible and to have mastered all the necessary skills and competences to cope with adulthood. In reality, once they turn 18, many of them face acute difficulties in accessing services and support across many sectors i.e., housing, legal assistance, health care and psychosocial support, education, leisure and recreational activities, information on relevant administrative procedures etc. They are also susceptible to being pushed to the margins of society and are prone to risks such as homelessness, exploitation, discrimination, as well as detention and removal in case they remain undocumented.

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7. The subtitle is inspired from the video produced by SolidarityNow in the framework of the UACFutures project. The video is available on YouTube at the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=moJXilwQcQ>
 8. For the definition of vulnerability see Paragraph 3 in Article 30 and Paragraph 5 in Article 39 of Law 4636/2019, based on Directive 2011/95/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2011 on standards for the qualification of third-country nationals or stateless persons as beneficiaries of international protection, for a uniform status for refugees or persons eligible for subsidiary protection, and for the content of protection granted (recast), OJ L 337/9 and Directive 2013/33/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 June 2013 laying down standards for the reception of applicants for international protection (recast), 29 June 2013, OJ L 180/96.
 9. Stathopoulou, T, “Surveying the hard-to-survey. Refugees and unaccompanied minors in Greece,” May 2019, in M. Suarez-Orosco (Ed.), “Humanitarianism and Mass Migration”, California University Press.
 10. ISMU Foundation, “At a Crossroad. Unaccompanied and Separated Children in their Transition to Adulthood in Italy”, 2019, UNICEF, UNHCR e IOM, Roma. For more information on loss of rights see PICUM, “Turning 18 and undocumented: Supporting children in their transition into adulthood”, 2022.

All these have serious implications in their mental health.¹¹ Although childhood and adulthood for young refugees and migrants are generally seen as two totally different policy fields - **a continuity** of support for UAMs beyond the age of 18 would be important.

Findings from the field including from the focus group discussion organised for the development of this Roadmap, underline that in Greece, as well as in other countries across Europe, there is a need for further work in order to facilitate a more supportive, inclusive, and smooth transition of UAMs to adulthood.

For example, extended and uninterrupted provision of services and support for a sufficient period of time beyond the age of 18 would provide young adults with much needed stability. It would be important if upon reaching 18, UAMs could have access to a secure, long-term or “settled” residence status or at least a status that enables them to identify durable solutions for their survival, well-being, and development. Access to support services, including accommodation, psychosocial counseling, legal aid, and health care, should not end abruptly. A **transitional period of “after-care”** allowing enough time for **proper preparation** and acquisition of skills and competences with a view to empowering these youngsters needs to be also foreseen.

To this end, all accommodation facilities, be it shelters or SIL, need to follow and streamline good practices that support and prepare UAMs **for their transition to adulthood**. Such preparative practices can range from activities for enhancing UAMs’ life skills¹² and soft skills, for example, on financial management, or providing information and guidance on available employment and educational opportunities, developing CVs and career plans, etc. This way, UAMs can be supported to acquire or strengthen their self-reliance, resilience, and independence as future adults.

“Staff need to clearly show and explain to unaccompanied children before reaching adulthood specific skills and daily routines that will be needed, such as how to go to the supermarket, how to cook, how to clean,” one participant explained.

Another young participant added that

“some of us, as adults, got very surprised by the new roles and responsibilities that need to be undertaken overnight.”

11. For more information see Council of Europe, [“Recommendation CM/Rec\(2019\)4 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on supporting young refugees in transition to adulthood,”](#) adopted by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on 24 April 2019; Council of Europe and UNHCR, [“Unaccompanied and Separated Asylum-seeking and Refugee Children Turning Eighteen: What to Celebrate?”](#), March 2014; OXFAM, [“Teach us for what is coming: The transition into adulthood of foreign unaccompanied minors in Europe: case studies from France, Greece, Ireland, Italy, and the Netherlands,”](#) 2021; PICUM, [“Turning 18 and undocumented: Supporting children in their transition into adulthood,”](#) 2022.

12. For more information on life skills see UNFPA and UNICEF, [“Boys on the Move – A Trainer’s Handbook,”](#) 2019.

Participants agreed on and **recommended** the following **ideal preparation model**:

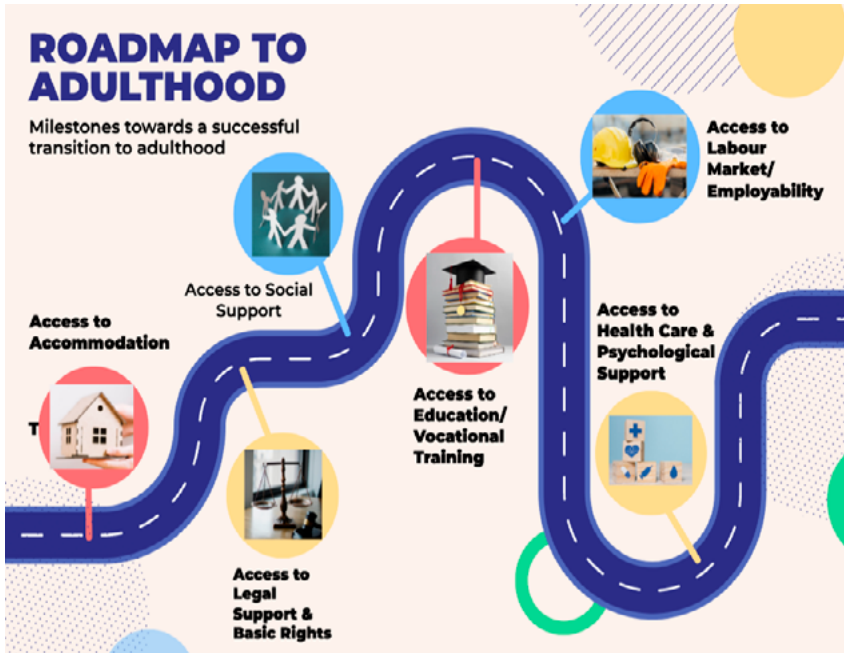
- ▶ Putting in place preparative procedures and methodologies in every UAMs' accommodation facility
- ▶ Continuing accommodation in SIL for a minimum of 6 months before UAMs are transferred to housing for adults
- ▶ Supporting the development of skills and abilities as well as the empowerment of UAMs

The importance of proper preparation before ageing out, was not only confirmed through the focus group discussion organised in the framework of this Roadmap, but also in other contexts across Europe. For example, 29 former UAMs interviewed in the framework of a study in the Netherlands expressed that they would have liked to have had more future-oriented discussion with their assigned guardians and/or mentors as children and to be more proactively involved towards their transition to adulthood.¹³

Lastly, a common EU policy approach on transition to adulthood would be beneficial. This common policy would provide a basis for harmonization of practices and the development of common guidelines for member states on a smoother, sustainable transition to adulthood and successful integration into society.

13. Kulu-Glasgow, I, van der Meer, M, Smit, M., Noyon, S.M., "Een onzekere toekomst. Kwalitatief onderzoek naar de ervaringen van afgewezen (ex-)alleenstaande minderjarige vreemdelingen en opvangouders met toekomstgerichte begeleiding, Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek- en Documentatiecentrum", 2021, cited in PICUM, Turning 18 and undocumented: Supporting children in their transition into adulthood, 2022, p. 27.

Roadmap to Adulthood – Milestones & Suggestions



Graphic: Roadmap to Adulthood

Access to Accommodation

Shortcomings

Several accommodation arrangements¹⁴ are in place for unaccompanied children in Greece. However, this well-established accommodation ecosystem totally changes upon someone's 18th birthday.

14. Accommodation arrangements include short-term accommodation facilities as an emergency response mechanism to children under precarious living conditions or homelessness, long-term accommodation facilities which can be either shelters (for boys and girls from 4 to 12 years old, for boys 12 to 18 years old and for girls and underage mothers from 12 to 18) or Supported independent living (SIL) apartments for UAMs (for boys and girls separately from 16 to 18 years old) who have a prospect to stay in Greece or acquire legal status and are more self-reliant.

- ▶ When UAMs reach the age of majority, they cease to be covered by the common law on child protection and the right to accommodation is abruptly lost. This means that upon turning 18, the young refugees and migrants must move out from the shelters or SIL apartments.¹⁵ This is the very first change UAMs usually experience, and many feelings might emerge during this phase. Young adults might struggle to balance feelings of independence and freedom and a sense of abandonment and anxiety when leaving their accommodation facility.
- ▶ The available accommodation options for young adults are very limited. Accommodation was offered to adult applicants for international protection who reached adulthood during their stay in accommodation facilities for UAMs¹⁶ through the ESTIA Program¹⁷ which ended in 2022. This development affects notably young adults. The alternatives to the ESTIA Program are:
 - placement to Open Accommodation Sites managed by the Reception and Identification Service (RIS) across Greece, if the young adults are asylum seekers. *“It is not quite good to return to camps;”* one young participant noted during the focus group discussion. The placement in camps seems uncertain and challenging because young adults might be placed in an open accommodation site larger than the shelter/SIL they used to live in and they have to share a room/space with many men of different ages. Additionally, young adults might be placed in an open accommodation site far away from the city and the shelter/SIL they used to live it. Consequently, their access to the network of friends, school, activities and integration process is interrupted;

15. With regards to the existing long-term accommodation scheme, prolonged duration of stay after coming of age in semi-autonomous supported independent living apartments (SIL) and accommodation centers for UAMs, is already foreseen for a certain period of time and under certain prerequisites. Following a needs-based assessment and in case of no further available referral pathway to an alternative housing and protection scheme, the provision of accommodation services may be prolonged along with the school attendance until the end of the current school year. For further information please see “Ministerial Decision on Semi -autonomous living of UAMs over the age of 16 years old, in Supported Independent Living Apartments”, D11/60207/2717/2020 (B’ 4924/2020), Annex article 9.10.1. Kindly also note, that currently, the SSPUAM is drafting a ministerial decision, regulating standard operating procedures and the licensing framework for Accommodation Centres for Unaccompanied Minors, where the above provisions will be also institutionally regulated. Moreover, a young adult’s stay in an accommodation center for UAMs shall be also prolonged in case the request for accommodation in an adult’s center is rejected by RIS based on special grounding. The extension in any case cannot exceed 6 (six) months after reaching adulthood.

16. Law 4636/2019.

17. Funded by the European Commission (DGHOME) and was operated by the Reception and Identification Service (RIS) of the MoMA and its implementing partners. For more information see <https://migration.gov.gr/en/ris2/filoxenia-aitoynton-asylo/>.

- securing accommodation on their own or through the HELIOS project, if the young adults are beneficiaries of international or subsidiary protection.¹⁸

Both alternatives are challenging for young adults who find it difficult to adjust to the new reality, with limited resources and preparation towards self-reliance. The process of searching, negotiating with house owners, renting, and paying the associated costs along with the possibility of being transferred to an open accommodation site, create anxiety, a feeling of hopelessness and may sometimes result in young people ending up homeless.

- there have also been some efforts to create accommodation facilities for young adults until the age of 21 with the possibility of extension until a sustainable solution is identified.¹⁹ However, such models were mainly developed as a pilot project, and lacked the sustainability and continuity needed to be considered viable alternatives.

Milestones & Recommendations – *In their own words*

To address the gaps and challenges young people face in accessing accommodation, key milestones and recommendations include:

- ▶ Providing “*continuation of accommodation regardless of legal status*” upon turning 18 through a centralized governmental plan.
- ▶ Extending the right of access to accommodation from the age of 18 to 20 or 21 years, to allow young adults to properly prepare for the transition to a more independent life. Some participants underlined the importance of an individualised approach when assessing the needs of young adults on accessing accommodation. For example, if a young adult studies and he/she is expected to conclude the studies while turning 23, then access to accommodation should be extended until graduating. This will provide stability, facilitate education, and allow for a smoother transition, empowerment, and integration into society.
- ▶ Ensuring the availability of appropriate accommodation facilities: All participants emphasised the importance of going beyond “*having somewhere to live when leaving the shelter/SIL,*” and ensuring good, dignified living conditions.

18. Ministry of Migration and Asylum, [Project HELIOS](#), last accessed on 10 January 2023.

19. The HOME Project promoted a model for those reaching adulthood in four areas of intervention: (1) accommodation, (2) educational support and capacity building opportunities, (3) employability, and (4) access to legal support and representation.

Which elements constitute, according to the participants, good and dignified living conditions?

- As one staff member noted, the “*right to adequate housing in humane conditions*” should be guaranteed, stressing the importance of the facility to meet basic standards i.e., heating, cooling systems, windows, doors, furniture etc.
- The accommodation facilities should have a maximum capacity of “*3 to 4 people per house/apartment*” in order to avoid overcrowding and ensure sufficient personal space and privacy for each of the residents and facilitate coordination on the everyday needs and tasks (such as cleaning).
- Furthermore, staff should be available and present at the accommodation facilities at regular intervals. As young participants explained, ideally, it would be “*very helpful if staff could occasionally supervise the facilities and support and guide the young adults.*” This type of support was differentiated from the 24/7 care provided in shelters. Participants clarified that they would need support from staff to develop and strengthen their skills and abilities towards autonomy and independence. Staff would thus act as a point of reference in situations where young adults face particular challenges or need information, instead of acting as carers directly providing services to them in shelters (staff cooking for them, cleaning, etc.).
- Moreover, full or partial financial assistance should be provided to allow young adults to cover operational costs, at least for a certain period of time. Ideally, bills, taxes, etc. should be covered by the entity responsible for the operation of the accommodation to allow for a gradual taking over of responsibilities, including the financial ones, by young adults.
- ▶ Geographical proximity to social and community ties established while UAMs’ were in childcare accommodation should be taken into consideration before placing young refugees in transition to adulthood in a new accommodation. Young participants noted that sometimes they are “*placed in camps very far away from the shelter they used to live in, finding themselves into a totally new context without any support network.*” Geographical proximity does not only facilitates maintaining social and community network but is also necessary for the continuation of the school attendance since most of the UAMs have not finished school upon reaching adulthood.

Best Practice: The example of France

Facility for unaccompanied children approaching 18 and young adults

In the facility of *Sauvegarde de l'Enfance et de l'Adolescence des Savoies*, unaccompanied children approaching the age of 18 and young adults are accommodated in independent flats or in «Foyers de Jeunes Travailleurs» (Young Workers residences). The youngsters enjoy a level of autonomy and have access to support from a team of 10 social workers who can assist them with their applications for residence permits, access to health, domestic issue, etc. Appointments with the social workers can be scheduled in the office or at the young adult's place, depending on their specific needs. Partnerships with public authorities are developed to enable young adults to find their own accommodation. The organisation develops partnerships with both private and public actors (including state services such as SIAO "service intégré d'accueil et d'orientation") in order to enable the young adults to find adequate accommodation.

Legal Support and Access to Basic Rights

Shortcomings

UAMs

- ▶ Under Greek legislation, the legal status of UAMs falls under the common rules applicable to all asylum applicants and migrants according to the Greek legislative framework regulating international protection and migration law, following certain provisions and procedural safeguards related to their vulnerability *per se* (i.e., guardianship/ representation, best interest assessment).²⁰
- ▶ In cases of particular vulnerability and in line with the Migration and Social Integration Code,²¹ a residence permit on humanitarian grounds may be granted specifically to third-country or stateless minors:
 - a) in need of protective measures who are hosted by non-profit institutions or other legal entities of public benefit in case it is assessed that they cannot be returned to a safe environment in terms of repatriation,

20. L. 4939/2022 (OGG A' 111) Ratification of the legislative code on reception, international protection of third-country nationals and stateless persons and the temporary protection in case of a mass influx of displaced aliens, article 80 "International protection applications lodged by unaccompanied minors" and art. 66E "Representation in matters of civil status". See also, Migration and Integration Code (L. 4251/2014, OGG A' 80), article 19A.

21. L. 4251/2014, OGG A' 80.

- b) accommodated in boarding schools operating under the supervision of the competent Ministries and
- c) whose custody has been assigned by court decision to Greek families or families of third-country nationals legally residing in the country or for whom adoption proceedings are pending before the Greek authorities. Upon reaching adulthood or in case the humanitarian grounds cease to exist, the abovementioned residence permit may be renewed under the conditions laid down in the Code of Immigration and Social Integration (i.e., renewal on the ground of coming of age, residence permit of third-country nationals for the purpose of paid employment).²²
- ▶ The distinct relevant privilege UAMs enjoy by law is the suspension of the return procedure until they reach adulthood. Due to the special guarantees that need to be met for the return of a minor (in terms of best interest assessment, certain prerequisites, and procedural framework),²³ in practice the return or removal procedure is rendered inapplicable until they come of age. The Greek legislation also stipulates that the return of a minor third country national is prohibited in case he or she is attending a Greek school of any level of education.²⁴ The return decision that may have been issued against them upon irregular entry, is suspended or revoked until the age of majority or until the return decision shall be enforced.²⁵
 - ▶ According to a recent amendment of the law, the provisional social insurance number (P.A.A.Y.P.A.) shall remain active only for UAMs rejected applicants of international protection until they reach the age of majority or until the return decision shall be enforced.²⁶

Young adults

- ▶ Under Greek legislation, the legal status of young adults, former UAMs, depends on the common rules normally applicable to all adult migrants according to international protection and migration law. Once they reach adulthood, and unless they are entitled to a temporary right to stay (as asylum applicants) or a (protection) status and a residence permit on any ground of international protection (L. 4939/2022, OGG A' 111) or Immigration and Social Integration Code (L. 4251/2014, OGG A' 80) based on a case-by-case assessment by the competent authorities, former UAMs who have reached

22. L. 4251/2014, Immigration and Social Integration Code, article 19 A, par. 2 (a), (b),(d) & par. 6, article 76 par. (5) and article 79.

23. L. 3907/2011 article 25 par. 1.

24. L. 3907/2011 article 41 par. 1.

25. L. 3907/2011, article 24, 41 & 42, in compliance with L. 3385/2005 article 75.

26. L. 4636/2019, article 55 par. 2, as recently amended by article 19 of L. 4825/2021.

adulthood are considered third country nationals residing irregularly in the country.

- ▶ As regards asylum procedures, young adults are, in principle, not considered as applicants in need of special procedural guarantees, unless other individual circumstances indicate that due to a specific vulnerability, they are not able to benefit from rights and fulfill the obligations relevant to the asylum procedures.²⁷
- ▶ According to the Migration and Social Integration Code, a third country national may apply for a residence permit for exceptional reasons on the ground of an unimpeded seven years stay in the country. The residence permit is granted once with a duration of three years and - in case the conditions are met - may be renewed for one of the other reasons specified in the Migration Code.²⁸
- ▶ Adult third country nationals who has successfully completed six grades of Greek school before reaching the age of 23, shall be granted a so-called “second generation” residence permit for five years, under the conditions laid down in the Code of Immigration and Social Integration.²⁹

Milestones & Recommendations – *In their own words*

During the focus group discussion, the participants underlined and recommended:

- ▶ The importance of improving the current legal framework for young adults in transition to adulthood.
- ▶ That specific category of residence permits (e.g., studying, working) could be foreseen and granted in cases where the submission of an application for international protection does not apply.
- ▶ That ensuring access to clear and transparent information is of critical importance.

27. L. 4939/2022 (OGG A' 111) article 72.

28. L. 4251/2014 article 19, par. 1.

29. L. 4251/2014 article 108 on “second generation residence permit”.

Best Practice: The example of France

Special interview to organise the transition to adulthood one year before unaccompanied children turn 18 years old³⁰

French law³¹ provides for a special interview when unaccompanied children reach the age of 17, in order to prepare for their transition to adulthood. Following the 2022 reform, unaccompanied children should also be informed about their rights (in particular their right to apply for a residence permit or asylum). A trustworthy adult can accompany the child during this interview which is expected to assess the situation of the youngsters and to plan for supporting them towards independence.³² An 'access to independence plan' is drafted by the President of the Departmental Council together with the child. Relevant institutions and bodies are also called upon to create a comprehensive solution adapted to the educational, social, health, housing, training, employment and resource needs of the unaccompanied child. In exceptional circumstances, the interview may be repeated to take into account of changes in the needs of the young person concerned.

Social Support

Shortcomings

Transition to adulthood brings abrupt changes and loss of the right to social support and financial benefits and other child protection services. For UAMs, everything, ranging from food, clothes, haircut, public transportation pass and monthly pocket money to assistance in reaching out to social services was provided on a 24/7 basis by the appointed staff. As adults, young refugees and migrants receive little to no social assistance and access to services compared to what they used to receive as UAMs:

- ▶ Provision of food, clothing, daily needs in general and access to services is no longer for granted.
- ▶ In case of beneficiaries of international protection, accessing social welfare benefits might be difficult to practically impossible. For example, as noted in the research conducted by FRA (2019), in Greece, applying for the solidarity allowance requires a *tax registration number*, a *social security number* and a *tax declaration* for the previous year. Issuance of such documentation can be complex and very frustrating for a young adult especially in case he/she is not fluent in Greek or not familiar with the bureaucracy required. For

30. European Migration Network (EMN), "Approaches to Unaccompanied Minors Following Status Determination in the EU plus Norway – Synthesis Report", Brussels, 2018, p. 28.

31. Code de l'action sociale et des familles, Article L222-5-1.

32. Code de l'action sociale et des familles, Article L222-5-1.

young adults undocumented or with different legal status there are even more challenges.³³

- ▶ There are barriers to opening bank accounts, where the young adults would need to receive the solidarity assistance or to receive their income in case they find a job.
- ▶ The language barrier might cause challenges in accessing social welfare procedures as special terms and administrative language is used and needed in order to navigate websites, follow and understand instructions, complete forms etc.
- ▶ Young adults might not have the necessary information on how to access services or if they meet the requirements in order apply for a particular state support.

Milestones & Recommendations – *In their own words*

During the focus group discussion, participants recommended:

- ▶ Guaranteeing the right to an adequate standard of living with social security benefits and social advantages and uninterrupted access to social services throughout the transition period to ensure a decent living for all those who lack sufficient resources and allow for a smooth integration into society. Access to food and cash/vouchers assistance regardless of asylum processes/status when UAMs come of age are essential. Research³⁴ also confirms that the provision of sufficient social assistance, is positively interrelated with future educational and employability opportunities.
- ▶ Providing proper preparation before reaching adulthood, allowing young refugees and migrants to know where to seek for support, familiarise themselves with basic procedures and administrative language such as how to acquire a social security number (AMKA), how to open a bank account, etc. The importance of preparation for adulthood before turning 18 was also underlined during the focus group discussion. *“We need to be familiar with such procedures and information before turning 18,”* underlined one young participant. *“We need support on how to issue a social security number, or a tax registration number, or an unemployment card and to have a person as focal point who knows us in order to help us in case, we find obstacles”* noted another participant.
- ▶ Increasing the capacity and awareness of services providers at the local level in municipalities, including the National Social Security Entity (EFKA), the Citizens’ Service Center (KEP), local banks etc., to ensure that young adults can effectively access key services and receive the support and guidance needed.

33. PICUM, “Turning 18 and undocumented: Supporting children in their transition into adulthood”, 2022.

34. EU Agency for Fundamental Rights, “Integration of young refugees in the EU: good practices and challenges”, 2019, p. 63.

Best Practice: The example of The Netherlands

The Connected Youngsters is a group of former unaccompanied children. They have set up a national platform to offer each other a reliable network where they can exchange experiences and ask for and provide advice. The Connected Youngsters organise an annual get-to-know-you event for all youth who have turned 18. Through the Connected Youngsters platform former unaccompanied children who have turned 18 can strengthen their social network in the Netherlands. This is very important because unaccompanied children often indicated that a social network is what they were missing once they turn 18, having been in touch mostly with professionals.

Access to Education / Vocational Training

Shortcomings

Early and effective access to inclusive, formal education is one of the most important and powerful tools for integration, as noted in the European Commission's 2017 Communication on the protection of children in migration.³⁵ According also to the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, Article 14 "everyone has the right to education and to have access to vocational and continuing training."³⁶

The provision of free education to all citizens, at all levels, in public educational organisations is a constitutional principle of the Greek State. Asylum applicants and children beneficiaries of international protection are required to attend primary and secondary school under the public education system under similar conditions as Greek nationals.³⁷ The law also envisages that access to secondary education shall not be withheld in a case a child has reached the age of the majority.³⁸ The Greek legislation also stipulates that the return of a minor third country national is prohibited in case he or she is attending a Greek school of any level of education.³⁹

35. European Commission, Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council, [the protection of children in migration](#), COM(2017)0211 final, 2017.

36. EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, Article 14.

37. Law 4540/2018, article 13.

38. L. 4939/2022, par. 1 article 55, OGG A'111.

39. L. 3907/2011 article 41 par.1, OGG A'7.

Although, access to education and vocational trainings⁴⁰ are considered a non-negotiable right, there are several gaps⁴¹ that hinder the continuing education and training for UAMs reaching adulthood.

The *continuation* of education is not always possible. Even if school-age children have the right to attend public schools, practical or logistical barriers may prevent them from attending public schools and thus not receiving formal education that could continue upon turning 18. This, for example, may occur due to delays in school enrollments, limited reception classes available in upper secondary schools (lyceum, 15–18 years old), the understaffing of reception classes,⁴² lack of transportation to schools in some areas, Covid-19 and lack of access to remote learning due to limited internet connection and IT equipment, and reluctance of some local communities to accept refugee and migrant children in school at local and regional level. The obstacles UAMs face in accessing education affects their motivation to continue learning as young adults.

Housing arrangements frequently influence access to education. UAMs upon turning 18 are transferred to adult accommodation which is usually far away their network. This often results in school drop-out or school disruption.⁴³

40. For more information see Ministry of Migration and Asylum, European Commission and UNICEF, “Με Οδηγό(Ω) (Σ)το Αύριο - Οδηγός για την Εκπαίδευση, την Κατάρτιση και την Απασχόληση για Επαγγελματίες που Υποστηρίζουν Ασυνοδευτους Ανηλικούς”.

41. For some gaps identified see Greek Council for Refugees, “Access to Education - Asylum Information Database: European Council on Refugees and Exiles.” *Asylum Information Database | European Council on Refugees and Exiles*, 30 May 2022, “Excluded and Segregated: The Vanishing Education of Refugee Children in Greece.” R.S.A., 14 Dec. 2021, and FRA., *Integration of Young Refugees in the EU*, 2019, p. 95-97.

42. Reasons for the understaffing, according to <https://rsaegean.org/en/excluded-and-segregated-the-vanishing-education-of-refugee-children-in-greece/> : Some substitute teachers reject offers upon receiving the announcement of the location and tasks of their assignment. This is notably the case for DYEP teachers who are often employed part-time or for few hours and cannot afford to relocate far from their home. The process envisages the possibility to nominate alternative teachers for those posts, yet that stage may take weeks or even months. Additionally, teachers hired for TY-ZEP and DYEP are substitute staff selected from Ministry lists of candidates. Teachers are selected according to a points system, which does not include criteria such as prior experience in working with refugees, minority groups or in teaching Greek as a second language resulting in high turnover rates.

43. EU Agency for Fundamental Rights, “Integration of young refugees in the EU: good practices and challenges”, 2019, p. 97. Also, with regards to the existing long term accommodation scheme, prolonged duration of stay after coming of age in semi-autonomous supported independent living apartments (SIL) and accommodation centers for UAMs, is already foreseen for certain period of time and under certain prerequisites. In particular, following a needs-based assessment and in case of no further available referral pathway to an alternative housing and protection scheme, the provision of accommodation services may be prolonged along with the school attendance until the end of the current school year.

Barriers to accessing vocational trainings⁴⁴ affect the opportunities for integration and self-reliance for UAMs. These, for example, include, lack of a residence permits, financial barriers since the cost for vocational trainings might be high, limited information on available training opportunities, the lack of choice due to the restricted vocational training opportunities, the physical distance to training facilities and sometimes the lack of official recognition by the state of previous education and qualifications gained in the country of origin.⁴⁵

Milestones & Recommendations – *In their own words*

Key milestones and recommendations to address the above noted gaps and challenges include:

- ▶ Building a sustainable education system for refugees and migrants, providing educational opportunities by ensuring timely and fair inclusion of young refugees and migrants in the system according to their needs and preparedness stage.
- ▶ Ensuring the continued access to educational pathways for young refugees and adults. Continuity in education can be facilitated by addressing some of the key barriers UAMs can be succeeded by addressing some of the key challenges UAMs face in trying to access education, as UAMs, by postponing the transfer of young adults to new accommodation facilities until the completion of their education, by providing social support, including housing and financial support to reduce drop-outs, etc.⁴⁶ Continued access to education also plays a key role in facilitating young adults' inclusion into Greek society.
- ▶ Facilitating and providing access to vocational trainings, apprenticeships, and on-the-job trainings to ensure greater employability.
- ▶ Providing Greek language training; specifically, integrating Greek language lessons free of charge in vocational trainings. This would allow young adults to improve their knowledge of the terminology needed to facilitate access

44. Vocational training includes knowledge and skills required in particular occupations or, more broadly, the labour market, see EU Agency for Fundamental Rights, “[Integration of young refugees in the EU: good practices and challenges](#)”, 2019, p. 99. EU law uses a broad definition of vocational training: “Any form of education which prepares for a qualification for a particular profession, trade or employment or which provides the necessary training and skills for such a profession, trade or employment is vocational training, whatever the age and the level of training of the pupils or students, and even if the training programme includes an element of general education.”; see CJEU, Case 293/83, *Françoise Gravier v. City of Liège*, 13 February 1985, paragraph 30.

45. EU Agency for Fundamental Rights, “[Integration of young refugees in the EU: good practices and challenges](#)”, 2019, p. 105.

46. EU Agency for Fundamental Rights, “[Integration of young refugees in the EU: good practices and challenges](#)”, 2019, p. 98.

to the labour market and increase opportunities for obtaining a job and effectively integrating into society.

- ▶ Previous educational experience, diplomas, certifications, and qualifications obtained in the country of origin, when available, should be officially recognised and certified by the host country thereby providing them a starting point and increasing their motivation.
- ▶ Granting special residence permit for educational or vocational purposes, as in Spain, Germany etc.
- ▶ Taking actions to reduce and end xenophobic hostility at schools, at the local, regional and community level.

Best Practice: The example of Germany

Support for vocational preparation measures

The German Federal Employment Agency (Agentur für Arbeit) offers certain programmes to support unaccompanied children who face challenges in accessing the labour market due to lack of school attendance before or during the escape from their country, language or cultural barriers, etc. The aim of these programmes is to facilitate integration into the labour market. They include career information centres within the Federal Employment agency's facilities and a wide range of transitional programmes in preparation for vocational training. This, for example, include:

- ▶ Programmes for young people who have had difficulties finding a vocational training placement, like Vocational Preparation Measures (Berufsvorbereitende Maßnahmen), which offers internship placement and further qualification from providers of educational services. Another offer in this category is an Introductory Training Measure (Einstiegsqualifizierungsmaßnahme), where an assisted internship of 6-12 months at a company is established with the goal of transitioning into a regular, usually three-year vocational training at the company.
- ▶ Programmes assisting those who already have company-based vocational training but need additional support due to social disadvantages or language problems in order to be able to successfully finish it and obtain a diploma, like the Assisted Vocational Training (Assistierte Ausbildung).⁴⁷

47. See information by the Federal Employment agency pertaining to their assistance programs here: [Bundesagentur für Arbeit. Ausbildung vorbereiten und unterstützen.](#)

Shortcomings

Achieving full economic independence is indeed one of the greatest aspirations and at the same time challenges for young refugees and migrants. There are many factors⁴⁸ affecting their entry and smooth integration into the job market:

- ▶ Their legal status and the lengthy asylum procedures. As one of the young participants noted during the focus group discussion, *"I was able to find a job at a fast-food store, but I faced many obstacles because I did not have all the necessary legal documentation."*
- ▶ The limited opportunities offered by the local job market, especially during a time of rising unemployment rates. Also, the available jobs in the local market may correspond to the abilities and aspirations of young adults. For example, while there is a need for more builders, welders, young adults may not be interested or able to take up these jobs which in turn leads to unemployment, lack of motivation, etc.
- ▶ The availability of adequate professional training.

Inability to access the job market usually results in young adults engaging in unpaid, undocumented, or illicit work, or even to falling victims to smuggling and trafficking networks.⁴⁹ Also, the longer a person does not have full access to rights and benefits, in particular those linked to vocational training and employment, the harder it is to catch up with the integration process once a status is granted.⁵⁰

Milestones & Recommendations – *In their own words*

To address these challenges, milestones and recommendations from young adults and those supporting them, include:

- ▶ Promoting the inclusion and integration of young refugees in transition to adulthood into the labour market. This means offering safe paths to employment, taking into consideration both the needs in the job market and the aspirations and abilities of the youth.

48. ISMU Foundation, *"At a Crossroad. Unaccompanied and Separated Children in their Transition to Adulthood in Italy"*, 2019 UNICEF, UNHCR e IOM, Roma.

49. EU Agency for Fundamental Rights, RISE Up, *"Teach us for what is coming. The transition into adulthood of foreign unaccompanied minors in Europe: case studies from France, Greece, Ireland, Italy, and the Netherlands."*, 2019; See also EU Agency for Fundamental Rights, *"Integration of young refugees in the EU: good practices and challenges"*, 2019.

50. EU Agency for Fundamental Rights, *"Integration of young refugees in the EU: good practices and challenges"*, 2019.

- ▶ Providing young refugees in transition to adulthood with employment information, guidance, opportunities for skills development,⁵¹ including ICT and digital skills, and other support in seeking and securing employment, such as skills assessment and CV writing, etc.
- ▶ EU support, as identified in the Action Plan on Integration and Inclusion 2021-2027.⁵² This can include funding, developing practical tools, coordinating actions, and establishing relevant partnerships and other targeted actions, for example to facilitate assessment and validation of skills, working with social and economic partners to promote a multi-stakeholder approach to labour market integration, providing support for inclusive entrepreneurship under InvestEU for both women and men, etc.

Best Practice: The example of Belgium

DUO for a JOB: an intergenerational mentoring programme to help find suitable employment⁵³

“Duo for a Job” is an association which brings together young migrants and refugees seeking employment (mentees) with experienced persons aged over 50 (mentors). The association recruits the mentors and mentees. Following an initial training, the duo meets for two hours a week for six months, under the guidance and supervision of the association. The relationship between the mentor and mentee is based on exchanging, learning and reciprocal trust. Through this mentoring programme, the mentor shares his/her knowledge and expertise with the young persons, supports them to develop their skills and autonomy, and to achieve their career plans. The programme aims at reducing youth unemployment in Belgium while at the same time avoiding the loss of social capital created by elderly people. It also facilitates intergenerational and intercultural exchanges, which in turn, fight discrimination and strengthen social cohesion.

Health Care and Psychological Support

Shortcomings

Young adults, especially those who have been in Greece while unaccompanied, need to be holistically supported due to their specific vulnerabilities and difficult

51. For more information see Ministry of Migration and Asylum, the European Commission and UNICEF, “Με Οδηγό(Ω) (Σ)το Αύριο - Οδηγος για την Εκπαιδευση, την Κατάρτιση και την Απασχοληση για Επαγγελματιες που Υποστηριζουν Ασυνοδευτους Ανηλικους”.

52. European Commission, “Action plan on Integration and Inclusion 2021-2027”, 2020.

53. European Commission, European Website on Integration, “Mentoring project - DUO for a JOB”, last accessed on 21 September 2022; see also <https://www.duoforajob.be/en/homepage/>.

experiences. These experiences may start before leaving their country of origin (war, violence, persecution, pressure by the parents to migrate etc.), during their journey (exploitation, abuse, separation from family and friends, environmental conditions, malnutrition/starvation, sleep deprivation etc.) and upon reaching the reception country (cultural and language barriers, lack of support network, violence, abuse, discrimination, new legal procedures resulting in limbo situation, poor reception conditions, etc.). UAMs upon turning 18 might be considered as adults, but vulnerability and prior experiences do not vanish overnight. Therefore, it is of paramount importance to ensure access to specialised psychological support considering that the traumatic experiences UAMs have gone through can compromise the healthy and smooth transition to autonomy, if not effectively handled.

The report “Integration of Young Refugees in the EU”⁵⁴ provides an extended analysis of the acknowledgement of the right to health including the mental health for refugees and migrants under EU Law and on several international law instruments. Yet, in practice, young adults face multiple challenges are faced by young adults in accessing health and mental health assistance:

- ▶ Public specialised services are not always available and accessible. Availability and accessibility depend on several factors such as geographical location, heavy workload, specialization etc. For example, a young adult might need specialised support due to trauma experienced from tortures during the journey as UAM. If the young adult lives in a rural area relevant support services might not be available or access to specialised support might be delayed for weeks or months due to excessive workload and limited availability of appointments. The alternative to public specialized care is usually the private care. However, as this type of care is generally very expensive young refugees and migrants do not have the means to pay and access these services. This is also the case regarding access to medical care and relevant treatments.
- ▶ Geographical distance between healthcare services, including mental health, and accommodation facilities, combined with scarce public transportation, pose another challenge for young adults. Changes in the accommodation facilities, i.e., when a young adult is transferred far away from the location where he/she received protection and support as UAM, may result to the discontinuation of the health care services previously provided.
- ▶ Cultural and language barriers. For example, sessions with psychologists or other mental health specialists are possible only if effective communication can be guaranteed.⁵⁵ Sometimes, young adults might not speak Greek

54. EU Agency for Fundamental Rights, “Integration of young refugees in the EU: good practices and challenges”, 2019, p. 77 - 79.

55. EU Agency for Fundamental Rights, “Integration of young refugees in the EU: good practices and challenges”, 2019.

fluently enough. In this case the assistance of an interpreter or cultural mediator is necessary but may not be always available.

- ▶ Young adults might not have the necessary information on the types of health care services available, and how to access them.

Milestones & Recommendations – *In their own words*

To facilitate access to health care and psychosocial support, key milestones and recommendations include:

- ▶ Ensuring and facilitating free and continuous access to basic health care i.e., access to hospitals, vaccinations, and medications, including mental health care for young refugees and migrants in transition to adulthood on the same basis as all national citizens. According to a recent law amendment, the provisional social insurance number (P.A.A.Y.P.A.) shall remain active only for UAMs rejected applicants of international protection until they reach the age of majority or until the return decision shall be enforced.⁵⁶
- ▶ Ensuring interpretation and cultural awareness through the presence of an interpreter or cultural mediator, either in person or, where this is not possible, over phone or video call interpretation.
- ▶ Providing quality psychological support for young refugees and migrants, including specialised mental health services, with particular attention to stress of displacement and trauma, experience of gender-based violence, the uncertainty of the asylum procedures, in addition to the difficulties experienced in their transition to adulthood.
- ▶ Supporting young migrants in acquiring key life skills, including effective and adaptive coping mechanisms. Psychologists and/or counselors should help young adults and prepare for transition into adulthood. Moreover, information on available services, and support in learning how to organize and book doctor's appointments should be provided to young migrants, even before they turn 18. To this end, as part of the preparation for a smooth transition, young adults should be provided with an updated health and mental health map of available services in the area they live in. Additionally, four essential elements have been proven helpful in ensuring counseling that is in line with the future orientation model: a broad perspective; autonomy and empowerment of the person; focus on the (long-term) process; and building trust in counsellors, while being realistic about the expectations.⁵⁷
- ▶ Proving information and awareness on sexual and reproductive health, including on how to access sexual and reproductive health services.

56. L. 4939/2022, article 59 par. 2, OGG A'111.

57. Based on a Belgian study "Kruispunt Migratie & Integratie, 2014, Toekomstoriëntering; met precare verblijvers werken aan een zinvoltoekomstperspectief", p. 11-13, as found in PICUM, "Turning 18 and undocumented: Supporting children in their transition into adulthood", 2022, p. 27.

Best Practice: The example of Spain

Transcultural Psychiatry Unit of the Vall d' Hebron Hospital in Barcelona

The Transcultural Psychiatry Unit of the Vall d' Hebron Hospital in Barcelona, aims at supporting patients who, due to belonging to a minority cultural group, face some difficulty that prevents an appropriate care management in the usual Mental Health system. This Transcultural Psychiatry Unit is a supra-sectoral Programme that serves the Public Mental Health Network throughout the territory of Catalonia (CSMA; CSMIJ, CAS) and the Primary Care, supporting the assistance of Catalan services on Mental Health and Addiction.

The main objectives of the Transcultural Psychiatry programme are to achieve cultural competence, understood as the set of behaviours, attitudes and policies that allow the system, device and / or individual, to function effectively with patients and communities of diverse cultural origin.

The secondary objectives are:

- ▶ To guarantee a global and specialized attention, within the framework of Transcultural Psychiatry, for those people who suffer psychiatric and / or psychological pathologies in the context of immigration and for those people with mental pathologies in which cultural characteristics may be influencing and hindering the diagnosis and / or treatment.
- ▶ Adapt the resources of the public psychiatric care network to the needs of these people, so that all patients, regardless of their belonging to an ethnic or cultural group, receive the same quality of care.
- ▶ Enhance the capacity of the conventional network to adequately face the situation of multiculturalism in the health field.
- ▶ Establish contacts with the different communities that allow a better knowledge of the needs of each of the groups and facilitate the development and dissemination of preventive measures or information campaigns.
- ▶ Culturally competent promotion of mental health, through research and teaching.
- ▶ Support and attention of the third sector and the devices of the public administration, such as the Ajuntament de Barcelona, which serve groups of high psychosocial vulnerability.
- ▶ Monthly case supervision and continuing education sessions in cultural competence in mental health are held with: Ajuntament de Barcelona in l'àrea de Drets de Ciutadania, Cultura, Participació i Transparència; sub-portfolio of The Directorate of Feminisms and LGTBI.

Concluding Remarks

Based on the recommendations and milestones identified under each thematic area that are important for a smooth transition to adulthood, the followings conclusions can be delineated:

The importance and necessity in the **continuity** of services and support. Continuity⁵⁸ is considered as a stabilizing factor and a central aspect of resilience building in the transition process from childhood to adulthood. Continuity can be created or maintained during transition period through accommodation stability and uninterrupted provision of legal, educational, social, health support and employability. Continuity can have significant positive effects for young refugees and migrants' overall well-being, improving their capacity to effectively respond to challenges, and cultivate of nurturing relationships.

The significance of a **preparation** period before reaching adulthood. Preparation is connected to provision of information, management of expectations, decisions making, acquisition and/or strengthening skills and competences, etc.

The thematic areas are **interconnected** and mutually reinforcing. This means a holistic approach is needed to ensure a smooth transition to adulthood. As participants from the focus group underlined "*what is the point of having accommodation for three years if I do not know where I am standing in terms of my legal status?*" or "*How shall I find and be able to keep a job if my legal status is not determined?*"

Migration and social inclusion policies should consider migrant children and young people transitioning into adulthood **as a group in their own right**, with specific support and safeguarding needs.⁵⁹

Provision of **equal opportunities** to all to access their rights and participate in the community and social life, regardless of their background, in line with the European Pillar of Social Rights⁶⁰ is of paramount importance while designing policies.

58. For more information on the issue of continuity see Refaeli, Tehila & Mangold, Katharina & Zeira, Anat & Koengeter, Stefan, "[Continuity and Discontinuity in the Transition from Care to Adulthood](#)", 2016, British Journal of Social Work, p. 16.

59. Council of Europe, European Youth Centre Strasbourg and UNHCR, "[Report on the Consultative meeting on Challenges Faced by Young Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Accessing their Social Rights and their Integration, while in Transition to Adulthood](#)", 2016.

60. European Commission, "[Action Plan on Integration and Inclusion 2021-2027](#)."

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