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ACCESS TO BASIC RIGHTS, LEGAL SUPPORT AND MENTAL HEALTH: TRANSNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON MIGRANT CHILDREN'S TRANSITION TO ADULTHOOD

REPORT



This report was funded by the European Union's Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund and the Council of Europe.¹

SUMMARY

On 31 January 2023, SolidarityNow held a Transnational Workshop on "Access to basic rights, legal support and mental health: transnational workshop on migrant children's transition to adulthood" (the workshop). The workshop was organised in the framework of the multilateral project "Building Futures, Sharing Good Practices: Migrant Children's Transition to Adulthood", funded by the European Union's Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund and the Council of Europe.

¹ The content of this report represents the views of the author only and is his/her sole responsibility. The European Commission and the Council of Europe do not accept any responsibility for use that may be made of the information it contains.

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The Workshop aimed to provide a common space for interaction and exchange of good practices on the well-being of unaccompanied minors in transition to adulthood for different professionals across Europe. The workshop brought together professionals from 11 countries: Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Greece, Italy, Luxemburg, the Netherlands, Norway, Serbia, Spain and Sweden.

RESULTS

In total, **61 participants from over 50 different organisations**, national, European and international entities joined the workshop in vivo.

A total of 17 speakers – from governmental and European institutions, International organisations, academic institutions and non-governmental organisations – gave presentations and exchanged on issues related to access to basic rights, legal, and psychosocial support for unaccompanied children in transition to adulthood. An overview with the key points of the different presentations can be found in the following table:



KEY POINTS OF PRESENTATIONS

3 DIFFERENT PANEL DISCUSSIONS		
<p><u>ACCESS TO RIGHTS</u></p> <p>PLATFORM FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ON UNDOCUMENTED MIGRANTS (PICUM): TURNING 18 AND UNDOCUMENTED</p> <p>EUROPEAN MIGRATION NETWORK: OVERVIEW OF THE EUROPEAN STATUS AND CHALLENGES FOR THE TRANSITION TO ADULTHOOD</p> <p>EUROPEAN COMMISSION: EU PERSPECTIVE ON FACILITATING UAM's TRANSITION TO ADULTHOOD</p> <p>UNHCR GREECE: RESULTS FOR GREECE IN REGARDS TO TRANSITION TO ADULTHOOD</p> <p>INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL RESEARCH: VULNER PROJECT – RESEARCH ON CHALLENGES AND GOOD PRACTICES</p>	<p><u>MENTAL HEALTH AND YOUTH WELL BEING</u></p> <p>NATIONAL & KAPODISTRIAN UNIVERSITY OF ATHENS: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE MENTAL HEALTH AND ADAPTATION</p> <p>SPECIAL SECRETARIAT FOR THE PROTECTION OF UNACCOMPANIED MINORS (SSPUAM): THE MENTAL HEALTH HUB PROJECT</p> <p>CONSORTIUM ON REFUGEES' AND MIGRANTS' MENTAL HEALTH (COREMH): MENTAL HEALTH OF REFUGEES IN TRANSIT</p> <p>EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY CYPRUS: THE NECESSITY OF MEANINGFUL ACTIVITIES IN THE DAILY LIFE OF YOUNGSTERS</p>	<p><u>PRACTICES ON YOUTH SUPPORT</u></p> <p>KAROLINSKA INSTITUTET: THE INTERACT TOOLKIT FOR THE PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT OF REFUGEES</p> <p>PSYCHOSOCIAL INNOVATION NETWORK: TOWARDS IMPROVEMENT OF MHPSS FOR REFUGEE CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN SERBIA</p> <p>BABEL: ADOLESCENCE AND RELATED FACTORS FOR UAMs</p> <p>SOLIDARITYNOW: REFLECTIONS FROM PRACTICE WITH YOUTH – FEMALE YOUNGSTERS IN NEED</p>

<p>NIDOS: TRUSTED JUNIORS PROJECT AND THE IMPORTANCE OF EQUITABLE PARTICIPATION</p>	<p>HEMAYAT: CHALLENGES AND THE NEEDS OF UNACCOMPANIED MINORS IN (TRAUMA) THERAPY</p>	
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The Workshop was opened by Mr **Stelios Zavvos**, Chairman of the Board of Directors of SolidarityNow. Mr Zavvos highlighted the work SolidarityNow has accomplished over the years, outlining in particular the services and projects that are dedicated to the support and empowerment of UAMs in their transition to adulthood.

Ms **Lilja Grétarsdóttir**, Head of the Co-operation Programmes Division, Directorate General Human Rights and Rule of Law (DGI), Council of Europe, stressed the importance of securing the fundamental rights of youth transitioning to adulthood, in line with the international and European human rights standards. Ms. **Grétarsdóttir** also underlined that transition to adulthood is a priority area for the Council of Europe and provided an overview of the different activities of the organisation in the field.



The first panel discussion focused on access to basic rights and legal support and was moderated by the experienced lawyer Ms **Marina Kanta** from SolidarityNow.

The first speaker, Ms **Laetitia van der Vennet**, representing the Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM), focused on children becoming undocumented at 18. She underlined that «*in many countries, children and young people cannot regularise their stay, which makes them*

vulnerable to harm.» Ms van der Vennet outlined three recommendations for governments: 1) improving residence procedures – making sure they exist and are accessible, 2) better understanding of policy gaps and needs of children and young people, and 3) providing support, services, and funding to ensure a smooth transition into adulthood for all children.

Then, Mr **Adolfo Somarribas** from the European Migration Network (EMN) outlined the particular situation of UAMs who reach adulthood in the European Union (EU) member States and Norway. Mr Somarribas noted that UAMs are obliged to leave the child protection system when they turn 18. As a positive practice, he also noted that some member states (MS) and Norway have now started to prepare UAMs for their transition to adulthood a few years prior to their 18th birthday. Finally, he stressed three challenges in providing support and services for the transition of unaccompanied minors to adulthood, namely housing, governance, and integration.

Next, Ms **Monika Ekström**, Policy Officer, European Commission, highlighted existing protection gaps for UAMs when turning 18. She explained that there is no legal framework at the EU level with specific obligations related to the transition of UAMs to adulthood and that this aspect is not addressed in the Migration Pact either. Consequently, practices on the transition of UAMs to adulthood vary greatly across EU member States. Ms Ekström also underlined that the European Commission provides support in this area through non-legislative instruments and funding.

Ms **Dora Tsovili**, Senior Protection Associate, Child Protection Unit, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Greece, presented the current state of play regarding access to basic rights and legal support for aged out UAMs in Greece. As underlined, access to physical and mental health services, opportunities for education, and legal support provided through the asylum and family reunion procedures is limited. Ms Tsovili also referred to the need to improve integration prospects for young adults notably through the provision of a residence permit entitling former UAMs to study and work, accommodation allowance, and individual guidance to achieve independence at least up to 21 years old.



Prof. Hilde Liden of the Institute for Social Research presented the research of "The VULNER project", focussing on the limitations of the existing protection mechanisms for UAMs in Norway. She outlined the consequences from the different statuses UAMs can have when they turn 18, and presented relevant good practices in the field, including a responsible Child welfare/refugee team for UAMs until they reach the age of 20+ and aftercare until the age of 23.

Ms **Hamasa Maksoudi** from Stichting Nidos, engaged the participants in interactive activities aiming to highlight the importance of identifying and acknowledging the needs of youngsters and preparing them for their transition to adulthood based on an individual and inclusive approach.



Then, the participants had the opportunity to watch the video "[I woke up 18](#)" directed by Ms **Vera Iona Papadopoulou**. This video shows six unaccompanied children talking about their life in their new country, Greece, and the abrupt changes and difficulties they face when turning 18.

The second panel discussion focused on mental health and youth well-being and was moderated by social worker Ms Ioanna Pertsinidou.

First, **Prof. Motti-Stefanidi** of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens presented her research on the transition of UAMs to adulthood from a strength and resilience-based perspective. She addressed the following questions: 1) What are the criteria for judging positive adaptation among unaccompanied refugee youth into adulthood in the transition to adulthood?; 2) What puts their

successful transition to adulthood at risk?; and 3) What matters for refugee youth's positive adaptation? Prof. Motti-Stefanidi concluded that without the serious commitment of settlement and appropriate health services providing early support to promote mental health, scientific evidence suggests that a high proportion of UAMs will struggle to integrate in their host communities and are at risk of educational disadvantage.

Then, Ms **Claire Pavlaki** of the Special Secretariat for the Protection of Unaccompanied Minors (SSPUAM) presented the National Strategy for the Protection of Unaccompanied Minors in Greece (2021-2025). The key objectives of the Strategy are: 1) addressing the needs of UAMs for physical and mental health, 2) mainstreaming mental health and prevention of mental illness and 3) the capacity building of mental health professionals.

Ms **Draga Sagic**, Consortium on Refugees' and Migrants' Mental Health (CoReMH) in Serbia, highlighted the importance of providing mental health and psychosocial support along the transit route, including culturally sensitive practices that take into account the beneficiaries' opinions and perspectives. She underlined that there is a need for establishing coordination mechanisms at local, regional, and international levels. Finally, Ms Sagic emphasised the importance of hope and recommended providing individual or group psychosocial support programmes that focus on increasing hope.

Ms **Marina Georgiadou**, European University Cyprus, underlined the importance of establishing daily habits and routines to prevent boredom and negative thoughts; engaging in culturally meaningful occupations to create a sense of community and coherence; and empowering youngsters in their acculturation process towards the hosting community.

Finally, Ms **Birgit Koch**, Hemayat in Austria, explained how the organisation supports torture and war survivors through therapy. She presented some of the challenges and needs of UAMs in (trauma) therapy as well as good practices to address them.

The last panel discussion was dedicated to "Practices on Youth Support" and was moderated by child-protection specialist, Ms Domniki Georgopoulou from SolidarityNow.

Firstly, **Margarita Mondaca**, InterACT, Karolinska Institutet Sweden, outlined the issues surrounding refugees' health. She presented the InterACT project that seeks to provide psychosocial support for young refugees. She particularly focussed on an educational toolkit developed by InterACT.



parents and family members.

Then, Ms **Aleksandra Bobic**, Psychosocial Innovation Serbia, outlined how research, policy and advocacy work contributed to improvements of mental health and psychosocial support services in Serbia. She emphasised the need 1) to further strengthen multisectoral cooperation regarding highly vulnerable persons, 2) to set up necessary procedures, and 3) to develop Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) programmes oriented towards supporting and building the capacity of

Ms **Margarita Karavella**, Babel – Day Centre for the Mental Health of Migrants and Refugees Greece, outlined key factors to effectively supporting the mental health of UAMs: identity/ego formation, independence, positive self-image, functional romantic relationships, and realistic professional goals.

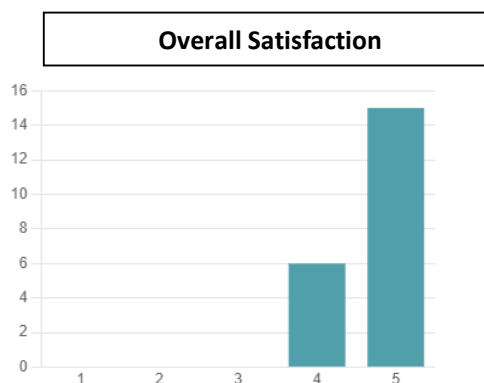
Finally, Ms **Eleni Panagiotakopoulou** presented the psychological services of the Athens Solidarity Centre, a programme run by SolidarityNow. She emphasised the need for long-term holistic approach and highlighted the need to include unaccompanied and young women in the design and implementation of support programmes.

EVALUATION OF THE WORKSHOP

Overall, **21 participants completed** the evaluation form. On a scale from 1 (lowest) to 5 (highest), **the overall satisfaction** of participants from the workshop was 4.71.

The **average satisfaction for each panel** was as follows:

- Access to basic rights and legal support: 4.57/5
- Mental Health and Youth Wellbeing: 4.71/5
- Practices on Youth Support: 4.71/5



Similarly, **the venue, catering and information** that was provided prior to the workshop received an overall evaluation of 4.71/5.

The **overall satisfaction of panel moderators** reached 4.48, with most participants noting that they would have liked more time for discussion (responses received can be found in the comments section below).

Finally, some of **the key messages from the participants** include:



A lot of inspiration for future projects and collaborations

Common practices and challenges we face in our work

The importance of faith and hope

That we all work with the same children and in working together and learning from each other we can provide them a better future.

The importance and complexity of the mental health intervention

The need to raise the issue on the political and practical level - and to improve access to legal support and rights

Don't give up and the importance of sharing

The most important thing from the workshop that I am taking with me, is the inspiration that I received from colleagues and their work. Especially their effort to find different pathways toward solutions of most prominent issues refugee face in everyday life.

UAM reaching adulthood have to sort out too many obstacles to continue living in the host countries.

Seek connection with each other and share good practice with each other. My compliments to the organisation and thank you.

The excellent presentations and hands-on experience from the professionals working in the field.

CONCLUSIONS

All Key speakers, presenters and participants emphasised the following **key messages**:

- ✓ Transition to adulthood is important topic to be set as a priority at all levels.
- ✓ The exchange of good practices among professionals is a key element to facilitating and promoting access to the necessary legal and psychosocial support, including basic needs.
- ✓ The legal age of adulthood does not necessarily reflect the level of support that youngsters need and transition to adulthood is a complex phenomenon.
- ✓ Collaboration among stakeholders is a key element of success.
- ✓ Council of Europe member states have the obligation to ensure the fundamental rights of UAMs in transition to adulthood.

ANNEX I: AGENDA

ACCESS TO BASIC RIGHTS, LEGAL SUPPORT AND MENTAL HEALTH: TRANSNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON MIGRANT CHILDREN'S TRANSITION TO ADULTHOOD

Athens, Greece - 31 January 2023

Organised by SolidarityNow in the framework of the project "Building Futures, Sharing Good Practices: Migrant Children's Transition to Adulthood (UACFutures)"

This Transnational Workshop is funded by the European Union's Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund and the Council of Europe.

Tuesday, 31 January 2023 | [Royal Olympic Hotel](#) (28-34 Athanasiou Diakou Str., Athens)

09:00 – 09:30 *Registration & coffee*

09:30 – 10:00 **Welcome & Introduction**

Stelios Zavvos, Chairman of the Board of Directors, SolidarityNow
Lilja Gretarsdottir, Head of the Cooperation Programmes Division,
DGI, Council of Europe

10:00 – 11:30 **Panel Discussion: Access to Basic Rights & Legal Support**

Laetitia van der Vennet, Platform for International Cooperation on
Undocumented Migrants (PICUM)
Adolfo Somarribas, European Migration Network
Monika Ekström, Policy Officer, European Commission
Dora Tsovili, Child Protection Unit, United Nations High
Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Greece
Prof. Hilde Liden, Institute for Social Research "The VULNER
project", (NORWAY)
Hamasa Maksoudi, Nidos, (NETHERLANDS)

moderated by Marina Kanta, SolidarityNow

11:30 – 11:45 *Coffee Break*

11:45 – 12:30 **"I woke up 18"**
Video presentation & discussion

12:30 – 14:00 *Lunch Break*

14:00 – 15:30

Panel Discussion: Mental Health and Youth Well Being

Prof. Motti-Stefanidi, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, (GREECE)

Claire Pavlaki, Special Secretariat for the Protection of Unaccompanied Minors, (GREECE)

Draga Sagic, Consortium on Refugees' and Migrants' Mental Health (CoReMH) (SERBIA)

Marina Georgiadou, European University Cyprus (CYPRUS)

Birgit Koch, Hemayat (AUSTRIA)

moderated by Ioanna Pertsinidou, Medecins sans Frontieres, Greece

15:30 – 15:45

Coffee Break

16:15 – 17:00

Panel discussion: Practices on Youth Support

Margarita Mondaca, InteACT, Karolinska Institutet (SWEDEN)

Aleksandra Bobic, Psychosocial Innovation (PIN) (SERBIA)

Margarita Karavella, Babel (GREECE)

Eleni Panagiotakopoulou, SolidarityNow (GREECE)

moderated by Domniki Georgopoulou, SolidarityNow

ANNEX II: COMMON PRESS RELEASE FOR THE TRANSNATIONAL WORKSHOPS OCCURRED AT 30TH -31ST JANUARY (GREEK)

Αθήνα, 1 Φεβρουαρίου 2023

ΔΕΛΤΙΟ ΤΥΠΟΥ

«Χτίζοντας το μέλλον, Ανταλλάσοντας καλές πρακτικές: Υποστηρίζοντας τους ασυνόδετους ανήλικους στη μετάβασή τους στην ενηλικίωση»

Ολοκληρώθηκαν με επιτυχία τα Διακρατικά Εργαστήρια για την ουσιαστική βελτίωση του πλαισίου υποστήριξης των ασυνόδετων παιδιών που ενηλικιώνονται

Δύο Διακρατικά Εργαστήρια υλοποιήθηκαν στις 30 και 31 Ιανουαρίου, στην Αθήνα, το πρώτο από την Ειδική Γραμματεία Προστασίας Ασυνόδετων Ανηλίκων του Υπουργείου Μετανάστευσης και Ασύλου, μέσω της Μονάδας Ένταξης και Υποστήριξης και το δεύτερο από το SolidarityNow, εταίρους του προγράμματος «Χτίζοντας το μέλλον, Ανταλλάσοντας καλές πρακτικές: Υποστηρίζοντας τους ασυνόδετους ανήλικους στη μετάβασή τους στην ενηλικίωση/Building Futures, Sharing good practices: Migrant Children's Transition to Adulthood (UACFutures)».

Τα εργαστήρια τίμησαν με την παρουσία τους εκπρόσωποι του Συμβουλίου της Ευρώπης, συμπεριλαμβανομένου του κ. Χρήστου Γιακουμόπουλου επικεφαλής της Γενικής Διεύθυνσης Δικαιωμάτων του Ανθρώπου και του Κράτος Δικαίου του Συμβουλίου της Ευρώπης, της Ευρωπαϊκής Επιτροπής, του Ακαδημαϊκού χώρου, καθώς και εκπρόσωποι διεθνών και τοπικών φορέων που δραστηριοποιούνται ενεργά σε θέματα ανθρωπίνων δικαιωμάτων και παιδικής προστασίας.

Τα εργαστήρια ενίσχυσαν τη γόνιμη ανταλλαγή απόψεων και καλών πρακτικών, με σκοπό την προώθηση μακροπρόθεσμων βελτιώσεων στην ποιότητα της στήριξης των ασυνόδετων ανηλίκων κατά τη μετάβασή τους στην ενηλικίωση σε ευρωπαϊκό επίπεδο, μέσα από τις εμπειρίες και τα παραδείγματα της Ελλάδας, Ισπανίας, Ολλανδίας, Σερβίας, Κύπρου, Ιταλίας, Σουηδίας, Νορβηγίας, Αυστρίας και Λουξεμβούργου.

Κατά τη διάρκεια των εργασιών συζητήθηκαν βασικές θεματικές που περιλαμβάνουν την επαγγελματική κατάρτιση και ένταξη στην εργασία, την διασφάλιση θεμελιωδών δικαιωμάτων καθώς και γενικότερα ζητήματα ψυχικής υγείας των ασυνόδετων ανηλίκων που ενηλικιώνονται. Μια επιπλέον θεματική αφιερώθηκε στον θεσμό της Επιτροπείας από την Μονάδα Θεσμικής Προστασίας της ΕΓΠΑΑ. Στην θεματική αυτή έγινε παρουσίαση από εκπρόσωπο του Οργανισμού Θεμελιωδών Δικαιωμάτων της Ευρωπαϊκής Ένωσης (FRA) σχετικά με τις εξελίξεις των συστημάτων επιτροπείας στις χώρες της ΕΕ από το 2014. Εκπρόσωποι από τον εταίρο του προγράμματος *Stitching NIDOS* Ολλανδίας παρουσίασαν το σύστημά επιτροπείας και αναδοχής στην χώρα τους.

Οι συζητήσεις ανέδειξαν τη σημασία ανάληψης περισσότερων πρωτοβουλιών για τη φροντίδα των παιδιών που ενηλικιώνονται σε ευρωπαϊκό έδαφος και την ανάγκη επέκτασης του πλαισίου προστασίας μετά το ορόσημο των 18 ετών, προκειμένου να γίνει ομαλότερη η μετάβαση στην επαγγελματική ζωή και την αυτόνομη διαβίωση.

Στο πλαίσιο της εκδήλωσης, ο Ειδικός Γραμματέας Προστασίας Ασυνόδετων Ανηλίκων, κος Ηρακλής Μοσκόφ, κατά την ομιλία του υπογράμμισε ότι «Αποτελεί ύψιστη προτεραιότητα για μας, να διασφαλιστεί η συνέχιση της υποστήριξης, των υπηρεσιών και των δικαιωμάτων για τα ασυνόδετα παιδιά που μεταβαίνουν στην ενηλικίωση. Όμως, το πιο σημαντικό είναι να

δημιουργηθούν ευκαιρίες, στην εκπαίδευση και την αγορά εργασίας, προκειμένου οι ασυνόδευτοι ανήλικοι ως νέοι ενήλικες να απολαμβάνουν ισότιμα τα δικαιώματά τους».

Η **Επικεφαλής της Διεύθυνσης Προγραμμάτων Συνεργασίας του Συμβουλίου της Ευρώπης, κα Lilja Grétarsdóttir** τόνισε ότι «με βάση τις διεθνείς και ευρωπαϊκές συνθήκες συγκεκριμένα θεμελιώδη δικαιώματα συνδέονται με το δικαίωμα στη ζωή και την αξιοπρέπεια και πρέπει να τα απολαμβάνουν όλοι οι άνθρωποι που βρίσκονται στη δικαιοδοσία των κρατών-μελών του Συμβουλίου της Ευρώπης ανεξαρτήτως εθνικότητας και νομικού καθεστώτος».

Ο **Πρόεδρος του Διοικητικού Συμβουλίου του SolidarityNow, κος Στέλιος Ζαββός** ανέφερε μεταξύ άλλων: «Μέχρι σήμερα, έχουμε υποστηρίξει με υπηρεσίες στέγασης, προστασίας και νομικής εκπροσώπησης περισσότερα από 800 ασυνόδευτα παιδιά και είμαστε παρόντες για να συμβάλλουμε στην παροχή των απαραίτητων υπηρεσιών και εφοδίων στα παιδιά που ενηλικιώνονται στη χώρα μας, αγκαλιάζοντας το όνειρό τους για μια καλύτερη ζωή στην Ευρώπη».

*Το πρόγραμμα συντονίζεται από το Συμβούλιο της Ευρώπης και περιλαμβάνει πέντε (5) εταίρους (Ειδική Γραμματεία Προστασίας Ασυνόδευτων Ανηλίκων, SolidarityNow, Fundacion Ceraim (Spain), Stitching NIDOS (Netherlands) και χρηματοδοτείται από το Ευρωπαϊκό Ταμείο Ασύλου, Μετανάστευσης και Ένταξης και το Συμβούλιο της Ευρώπης.

Το περιεχόμενο του δελτίου τύπου αντικατοπτρίζει μόνο τις απόψεις του/της συγγραφέα και αποτελεί αποκλειστική ευθύνη του/της. Η Ευρωπαϊκή Επιτροπή και το Συμβούλιο της Ευρώπης δεν φέρουν καμία ευθύνη για τη χρήση των πληροφοριών που περιέχονται σε αυτό.

COMMON PRESS RELEASE FOR THE TRANSNATIONAL WORKSHOPS OCCURRED AT 30TH -31ST JANUARY(ENGLISH)

“Building Futures, Sharing Good Practices: Migrant Children’s Transition to Adulthood”

The Transnational Workshops for the Unaccompanied Minors by SolidarityNow & The Special Secretariat for the Protection of the Unaccompanied Minors are completed

Two Transnational Workshops were implemented on January 30 and 31st, in Athens, the first by the Special Secretariat for the Protection of Unaccompanied Minors (SSPUAM) of the Ministry of Migration and Asylum, through the Integration and Support Unit, and the second by SolidarityNow, partners of the project “Building Futures, Sharing good practices: Migrant Children’s Transition to Adulthood (UACFutures)”.

The workshops were honored with the presence of representatives of the Council of Europe, including Mr. Christos Giakoumopoulos, Director General of Human Rights and Rule of Law of the Council of Europe, the European Commission, the academic field, as well as representatives of international and local organizations that are active in human rights and child protection issues.

The workshops strengthened the fruitful exchange of views and good practices, to promote long-term improvements in the quality of support of unaccompanied minors during their transition to adulthood at the European level, through the experiences and examples of Greece, Spain, the Netherlands, Serbia, Cyprus, Italy, Sweden, Norway, Austria, and Luxembourg.

During the workshops, key topics included vocational training and access to labor, the safeguarding of fundamental rights as well as general mental health issues of the unaccompanied children who turn 18. **An additional topic was dedicated to the Institution of the Commission by the Institutional Protection Unit of the SSPUAM.** A representative of the European Union’s Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) made a presentation on this topic focusing on the developments of guardianship systems in EU countries since 2014. Representatives of the partner organization Stitching NIDOS from the Netherlands presented the guardianship and foster care system in their country.

Discussions highlighted the importance of taking more initiatives for the care of children coming of age in Europe and the need to extend the protection framework after the 18-year-old milestone to make the transition to working life and independent living, smoother.

In the context of the event, **the Special Secretary for the Protection of Unaccompanied Minors, Mr. Heracles Moskoff, in his speech underlined** *“It is a top priority for us to ensure the continuation of support, services, and rights for unaccompanied children entering adulthood. But the most important thing is to create opportunities in education and the labor market, so that unaccompanied minors as young adults enjoy their rights equally.”*

The Deputy Head of Division and Secretary to the Council of Europe, Mrs. Lilja Grétarsdóttir stressed that *“Based on international and European treaties specific fundamental rights are linked to the right to life and dignity and should be enjoyed by all people who are under the jurisdiction of the Member States of the Council of Europe, irrespective of nationality and legal status.”*

The Chairman of the Board of Directors of SolidarityNow, Mr. Stelios Zavvos stated among others: *“To date, we have supported with housing, protection, and legal services more than 800 unaccompanied children and we are present to contribute to the provision of the necessary services and supplies to children who grow up in our country, embracing their dream of a better life in Europe”.*

**The project is coordinated by the Council of Europe and includes five partners, (Convive – Fundación Cepaim), the Netherlands (NIDOS, the national guardianship institution), the Special Secretariat for the Protection of Unaccompanied Minors and SolidarityNow in Greece, and it is funded by the European Union’s Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund and the Council of Europe.*

This press release was funded by the European Union’s Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) and the Council of Europe.

The content of this press release represents the views of the author only and is his/her sole responsibility. The European Commission and the Council of Europe do not accept any responsibility for the use that may be made of the information it contains.

ANNEX III: DISSEMINATION OF THE PRESS RELEASE & PHOTOS

Presentations Recordings

All presentations from the 3 different panel discussions have been uploaded to the Bodossaki Lectures on Demand Platform.

<https://www.blod.gr/events/migrant-children-transition-to-adulthood/>

The press release in Greek and English can be found at the following link:

<https://www.solidaritynow.org/en/%ce%b4%ce%b5%ce%bb%cf%84%ce%b9%ce%bf-%cf%84%cf%85%cf%80%ce%bf%cf%85/>

Mass media news sites

The press release disseminated after the completion of the 2-day workshops can be found here: <https://bit.ly/3Ygzvsg>. "[Improving the support framework for unaccompanied children coming of age.](#)" | csrindex.gr.

Social Media Posts

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/SolidarityNow/posts/pfbid02XyqiLYrtg8naGpmKqXJmjYYYJ68xeq6rrDHS3tHkyyjeU15eCaxTjtdbtmfnfyewel>

<https://www.facebook.com/SolidarityNow/posts/pfbid032vcpxeTaCcj7nbPyFeh23Msn5YzCSrCup5QwuXprWEJE3GjxSd2RFEGj4B71xhcl>

<https://www.facebook.com/SolidarityNow/posts/pfbid02BM7hZiUXbrpETKrZ87VBwPkvkxZv5YyGAnCdkXHPPAs9NVLen3esyVkukjPgkNbcI>

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📍Ολοκληρώθηκαν με επιτυχία τα Διακρατικά Εργαστήρια για την ουσιαστική βελτίωση του πλαισίου υποστήριξης των ασυνόδευτων ανηλίκων που ενηλικιώνονται.

📍1ο εργαστήριο: 30/1 από την Ειδική Γραμματεία Προστασίας Ασυνόδευτων Ανηλίκων (Heracles Moskoff - sspuam) του Υπουργείου Μετανάστευσης & Ασύλου μέσω της Μονάδας Ενταξης και Υποστήριξης

📍2ο εργαστήριο: 31/1 από το SolidarityNow

📍Τα εργαστήρια διοργανώθηκαν στο πλαίσιο του προγράμματος «Χτίζοντας το μέλλον. Ανταλλάσσοντας καλές πρακτικές. Υποστηρίζοντας τους ασυνόδευτους ανηλίκους στη μετάβαση τους στην ενηλικίωση/Building Futures. Sharing good practices: Migrant Children's Transition to Adulthood (UACFutures)».

📍Στο πλαίσιο της εκδήλωσης, ο Ειδικός Γραμματέας Προστασίας Ασυνόδευτων Ανηλίκων, κος Ηρακλής Μοσκόφ, κατά την ομιλία του υπογράμμισε ότι «Αποτελεί ύψιστη προτεραιότητα για μας να διασφαλιστεί η συνέχιση της υποστήριξης, των υπηρεσιών και των δικαιωμάτων για τα ασυνόδευτα παιδιά που μεταβαίνουν στην ενηλικίωση. Όμως, το πιο σημαντικό είναι να δημιουργηθούν ευκαιρίες, στην εκπαίδευση και την αγορά εργασίας, προκειμένου οι ασυνόδευτοι ανήλικοι ως νέοι ενήλικες να απολαμβάνουν ισότιμα τα δικαιώματά τους».

📍Η Επικεφαλής της Διεύθυνσης Προγραμμάτων Συνεργασίας του Συμβουλίου της Ευρώπης, κα Lijla Grētersdōttir τόνισε ότι «Με βάση τις διεθνείς και ευρωπαϊκές συνθήκες συγκεκριμένα θεμελιώδη δικαιώματα συνδέονται με το δικαίωμα στη ζωή και την αξιοπρέπεια και πρέπει να τα απολαμβάνουν όλοι οι άνθρωποι που βρίσκονται στη δικαιοδοσία των κρατών-μελών του Συμβουλίου της Ευρώπης ανεξαρτήτως εθνικότητας και νομικού καθεστώτος».

📍Ο Πρόεδρος του Διοικητικού Συμβουλίου του SolidarityNow, κος Στέλιος Σαββός ανέφερε μεταξύ άλλων: «Μέρι» σήμερα, έχουμε υποστήριξη με υπηρεσίες στέγασης, προστασίας και νομικής εκπροσώπησης περισσότερα από 800 ασυνόδευτα παιδιά και είμαστε παρόντες για να συμβάλουμε στην παροχή των απαραίτητων υπηρεσιών και εφοδίων στα παιδιά που ενηλικιώνονται στη χώρα μας, αγκαλιάζοντας το όνειρό τους για μια καλύτερη ζωή στην Ευρώπη».

📍Το πρόγραμμα συντονίζεται από το Συμβούλιο της Ευρώπης και περιλαμβάνει πέντε (5) εταιρίες (Ειδική Γραμματεία Προστασίας Ασυνόδευτων Ανηλίκων, #SolidarityNow, Fundación Cerpaam (Spain), Stichting #NI-DOS (Netherlands) και χρηματοδοτείται από το Ευρωπαϊκό Ταμείο Ασύλου, Μετανάστευσης και Ενταξης και το Συμβούλιο της Ευρώπης/Council of Europe.

📍<https://bit.ly/3-HoaEL8>

📍Aggelos Barai/<https://www.art-works.gr/en/fellows/aggelos-barai/>



Instagram:

https://www.instagram.com/p/CoH1qLjo4dx/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link

https://www.instagram.com/p/CoCuQc5IFkf/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link

Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/SolidarityNow/status/1620067294629224451/photo/1>

<https://twitter.com/SolidarityNow/status/1620410281456455686/photo/1>

<https://twitter.com/SolidarityNow/status/1620781972502249472/photo/1>

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solidarity.now 📍 Διακρατικό εργαστήριο στην Αθήνα, στο πλαίσιο του προγράμματος «Χτίζοντας το μέλλον. Ανταλλάσσοντας καλές πρακτικές. Υποστηρίζοντας τα παιδιά μετανάστες στη μετάβαση στην ενηλικίωση - UACFutures», σήμερα από την Ειδική Γραμματεία Προστασίας Ασυνόδευτων Ανηλίκων, μέσω της Μονάδας Ενταξης και Υποστήριξης και αμοιρ από το #SolidarityNow.

← Tweet

Solidarity Now
@SolidarityNow

📍 Διακρατικό εργαστήριο από το #SolidarityNow για τα ασυνόδευτα παιδιά που γίνονται 18, στις ευρωπαϊκές χώρες, με εκπροσώπους των 5 εταιριών του προγράμματος #UACFutures, του συντονιστή φορέα-Συμβούλιο της Ευρώπης και φορέας της Κοινωνίας των Πολιτών. @sspuaam @coe



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📺 Δείτε στο βίντεο, τις συζητήσεις του Διακρατικού Εργαστηρίου που διοργανώθηκε από το #SolidarityNow στις 31/1, στο πλαίσιο των Διακρατικών Εργαστηρίων στις 30 & 31/1 για την ουσιαστική βελτίωση του πλαισίου υποστήριξης των ασυνόδευτων ανηλικών που ενηλικιώνονται.

👉 Την 1η μέρα εργαστήριο πραγματοποιήθηκε από τη Γενική Γραμματεία Προστασίας Ασυνόδευτων Ανηλικών (Heracles Moskoff - sspuam).

👉 Τα εργαστήρια διοργανώθηκαν στο πλαίσιο του προγράμματος: «Χτίζοντας το μέλλον, Ανταλλάσσοντας καλές πρακτικές; Υποστηρίζοντας τους ασυνόδευτους ανήλικους στη μετάβασή τους στην ενηλικίωση (UACFutures)».

👉 Το πρόγραμμα συντονίζεται από το Συμβούλιο της Ευρώπης και περιλαμβάνει πέντε (5) εταιρίες (Ειδική Γραμματεία Προστασίας Ασυνόδευτων Ανηλικών, #SolidarityNow, Fundaci6n Cepaim, Stitching #NIDOS (Netherlands) και χρηματοδοτείται από το Ευρωπαϊκό Ταμείο Ασύλου, Μετανάστευσης και Ενταξης και το Συμβούλιο της Ευρώπης/ Council of Europe.

👉 Ευχαριστούμε θερμά το [Blod.gr-Lectures on Demand](https://bit.ly/3YtnDml), για τη βιντεοσκόπηση της εκδήλωσης.

<https://bit.ly/3YtnDml>



Panel Discussion: Access to Basic Rights & Legal Support
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