

EMN STUDY 2014

Policies, practices and data on unaccompanied minors in 2014

Italian Case

Top-line 'Factsheet' (National Contribution)

Migration patterns and the reasons driving Unaccompanied Minors (said in a brief “UAMs”) to Italy are very complex aspects of the country’s migratory phenomenon of the past decade. The presence of UAMs has increased at a very high rate with incoming flows of migrants, especially asylum seekers.

The actual number of UAMs within the territory is difficult to define (Giovannetti, 2007), since most of them do not fulfil residence regulations and move a lot within Italian territory. The law requires public officials, civil servants and public organizations providing health and care services to immediately inform the Ministerial Directorate if they are aware of the entry/presence of a UAM within the territory of the State. Yet, the data that have been regularly collected and published, however significant, are by no means complete. In fact, not all competent Authorities within the territory of the State systematically report the presence of UAMs without adults of reference. By the same token, not all UAMs who enter Italy come into contact with the institutions, nor are they necessarily intercepted by Law Enforcement Authorities, thus remaining in a situation of illegality (Giovannetti, 2007).

Ministerial Directorate data do not include UAMs who applied for asylum. They are, in fact, surveyed by the National Asylum Commission and by **SPRAR** (System of Protection for Asylum Seekers and Refugees). Over the past seven years, the number of UAMs has remained stable with an average of 7/8,000 per year, and a peak of 8,461 in 2013. This figure will be greatly exceeded in 2014 (according to the latest available data, there were 11,010 UAMs in Italy on 31 August 2014).

When it comes to the minors’ nationalities, the most significant change compared to the past concerns Romanian minors, who ceased to be surveyed after 1 January 2007, as they became EU nationals. The majority of reported UAMs are boys, and more than 80% belongs to the 15-17 age group. However, the presence of UAMs aged 11-12 and even 7 has been recorded. Another major phenomenon is that every year around 25% of all identified and unidentified UAMs make themselves “unfindable”. Most UAMs present in Italy come from Morocco, Egypt, Albania, and other North African and Middle Eastern countries. The social and economic difficulties and/or political problems of these countries may be the main reason why UAMs look for opportunities in other countries. Some authors (Bertozzi, 2005) argue that the social and economic conditions of their families of origin directly affect the migratory choice of minors. This causes a phenomenon of “adultization of children”, either to improve the economic conditions of their families, or due to their leaving family ties behind. Besides wars, it is poverty, associated with low social and educational statuses and poor employment opportunities, which drives minors to migrate. They hope to find a better situation in Italy, towards Europe. Analyses suggest that UAMs do not have structured migratory projects with pre-defined expectations. When minors see migration as a way to flee conflicts and persecution, their arrival in Italy is often accidental and determined by external factors. Or their arrival may be the result of progressive adjustments to the opportunities that arise during their journey from time to time. Only at a later stage, do they usually apply for international.

The picture of national practices outlined below has been built by analyzing regulatory provisions and by contrasting and comparing the practices of social players. The following reports: *ANCI 2009 Report* –

Unaccompanied Minors In Italy; Fourth ANCI-Cittalia 2011 Report; and “Foreign Minors – The Phenomenon of Temporary Reception in Italy in 2013, have provided additional information. Data and information refer to the June-September 2014 period. The organization responsible for dealing with and providing assistance to UAMs has also changed. A provision of 1999 established a Committee for Foreign Minors (**CMS**), as an autonomous body attached to the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies. The Committee was then incorporated into the General Directorate of Immigration and Integration Policies within the same Ministry. It is worth reminding that the responsibility for providing assistance to UAMs who seek asylum or apply for protection lies with the System of Protection For Asylum Seekers And Refugees (**SPRAR**). SPRAR was set up by the Ministry of the Interior – Department for Civil Liberties and Immigration - and entrusted to **ANCI** (*National Association of Italian Municipalities*) by an agreement.

Section 1: Motivations and circumstances of UAMs for entering the EU

- Q1. Please state what the motivations and circumstances of UAMs for entering your (Member) State are and provide further information (please cite existing evaluation reports / studies / other sources or based on information received from UAMs and/ or competent authorities).

According to the Decree of the President of the Council of Ministers No 535/1999, Article 1, laying down the “Regulation on the tasks of the Committee for Foreign Minors (in brief **CMS**), in conformity with Articles 33(2) and (2-bis) of the Legislative Decree No 286 of 25 July 1998”, in Italy UAM refers to “*a minor who does not have Italian or other EU citizenship, has not applied for asylum and is, for any reason, within the territory of the State without care or representation by their parents or other adults who are legally responsible for them under existing Italian laws*”.

This provision was defined as the solution to a social phenomenon that became particularly significant number-wise in the country in the 1990s. According to Campani and Salimbeni (2006) the phenomenon of the presence of UAMs in Italy developed in at least four phases. The first phase occurred during the 1950s and 1960s, following the arrival of groups of asylum seekers - a few dozen minors - from Hungary and Czechoslovakia. In the early 1960, the second phase saw the arrival of Vietnamese and Cambodian minors, mostly orphans and abandoned children, entrusted to religious organizations; and in the second part of the decade, some refugee minors from the Horn of Africa. In the third phase, in the 1980s, there were Eritrean, Tigrinya and Ethiopian groups, minors coming from Somalia (mainly Mogadishu) and Sudan, and later from the Maghreb area (Morocco and Tunisia in particular) and Algeria. At the end of the 1980s, following the Chernobyl nuclear accident, Italy started receiving minors aged between 7 and 14 from the regions of Belarus that were hit by the disaster, for temporary periods or even permanently (41,000 minors in 1995; 21,914, that is, almost half the number, in 2009; and 13,095 in 2013. Source: Ministry of Labour). Apart from the last case, the first three phases concerned children who had fled war zones, alone or with no adults accompanying them. So, in order to regulate the reception of Belarusian and Albanian children, and following Italy’s ratification of the New York Convention on the Rights of the Child of 1989 (by Law No 176/1991), in 1994 the Italian Government decided to set up the Committee for Foreign Minors (CMS). The CMS is responsible for monitoring solidarity interventions proposed by public and private entities, within international solidarity programmes aimed at UAMs, allowing them to stay with Italian families, usually for no longer than 90 days; and then with the entry into force of Legislative Decree n. 113/1999, aimed at all UAMs, in accordance with the provisions of the New York Convention. At the end of 2010, there was a fifth and more recent phase, following the events linked to the so-called “Arab Spring” and involving countries such as Egypt, Tunisia and later Syria (North Africa, but also the Middle East), with a sudden increase of migration flows between Mediterranean shores (the Sicilian coast

in particular), leading the Government to declare a state of national emergency (18 February 2011). The Committee For Foreign Minors (**CMS**) was also responsible for making a survey of UAMs in Italy and provide information on their presence over the past fifteen year. According to CMS analyses, in the early 2000s, minors came from Eastern Europe and the Balkans (Rumania, Albania and, later, Serbia and Moldavia) for a total number of 8,307 in 2000 and 8.146 in 2001. Between 2006 (6,543) and 2008 (7,343) the number dropped slightly - 6,100 minors in 2009 and 4,866 in 2010 - with prevailing flows from Sub-Saharan African countries (Egypt, Tunisia, Eritrea, and Somalia) and Asia (the Middle East-Afghanistan, Palestine, Iraq and also Bangladesh). From 2010, migration flows began increasing again, reaching 7,750 minors in 2011; 7,575 in 2012; 8,461 at the end of 2013; and 11,010 as of 31 August 2014, with a distinction between those who are present and those who are considered to be “unfindable”. According to Campani et al (2002) with reference to the past five years, they may be i) unaccompanied adolescents who are either asylum seekers or who may benefit from measures of temporary protection for humanitarian reasons (which may be specific to the country of origin); ii) UAMs who come to Italy to join their parents, who might not fulfil the requirements to start reunification procedures (the so-called “partially UAM ”); iii) UAMs exploited by criminal organizations (with ties to prostitution, begging, child labour or drug pushing) who are often abducted or who come with the consent of their families of origin; or iv) UAMs, who reach Italy illegally, through trafficking channels run by organized crime or who arrive, just like adults, with a specific economic migratory project; they often have to help their families pay for the debt incurred for their leaving.

Besides specific studies carried out by experts in this topic and by migration experts, data from different sources and specific reports on UAMs have been produced over the years. It is worthwhile mentioning the following: i) data produced by the Committee For Foreign Minors (**CMS**), which in 2012 was merged into the Directorate General of Immigration and Integration Policies - Ministry of Labour and Social Policies (**Ministerial Directorate**). It prepares a national report every two months. ii) the System of Protection for Asylum Seekers and Refugees (**SPRAR**), compiles an annual report every year; iii) since 2009 ANCI – National Association of Italian Municipalities, through *Cittalia-Fondazione Anci Ricerche*, has published five Reports on UAMs in Italy; and iv) the Ministerial Directorate published a Report in June 2014 entitled “*Foreign Minors. The Phenomenon of Temporary Reception in Italy in 2013*”.

Despite the attention of the Government, the actual number of UAMs within the territory of the State is difficult to define (Giovannetti, 2007), since most of them do not fulfil residence regulations and move a lot within Italian territory. The CMS, by virtue of Article 5 of the Decree of the President of the Council of Ministers No 535/1999, requires public officials, civil servants and public organizations providing health and care services to immediately inform the CMS if they are aware of the entry/presence of a UAM within the territory of the State. Yet, the data that have been regularly collected and published, however significant, are by no means complete. In fact, not all competent Authorities within the territory of the State systematically report the presence of UAMs. Suffice it to think that many of them are the victims of trafficking, and are therefore “hidden”; some are facing criminal proceedings, and some are “accompanied” by adults, who are not able, in fact, to take care of them. By the same token, not all UAMs who enter Italy come into contact with the institutions, nor are they necessarily intercepted by Law Enforcement Authorities (Giovannetti, 2007).

CMS data do not include UAMs who applied for asylum. They are, in fact, surveyed by the National Asylum Commission and by SPRAR.

Since 2002 the information collected by the CMS has been filed in two separate records. One contains the files on the identified minors who have a residence permit for minors. The other contains the files of all

other reported but unidentified children, included in the database only for survey purposes.

Over the past seven years, the number of UAMs has remained stable with an average of 7/8,000 per year, and a peak of 8,461 in 2013. This figure will be greatly exceeded in 2014 (according to the latest available data, there were 11,010 UAMs in Italy on 31 August 2014).

When it comes to the minors' nationalities, the most significant change compared to the past concerns Romanian minors. Their number increased six folds in seven years and exponentially in the years just before 1 January 2007, when Rumania, together with Bulgaria, joined the European Union, and the provisions contained in the Consolidated Text on Immigration, Legislative Decree No. 286/1998, (hereinafter Immigration Law) ceased to be applicable. Over the years, there have been a gradual but increasing presence of Albanians and then Moroccans, and lately Egyptians and Syrians.

The majority of reported UAMs are boys, while girls account for about 15-20% (mostly from Moldavia and Albania). As regards age, more than 80% belongs to the 15-17 age group, so they are teenagers; however, the presence of UAMs aged 11-12 and even 7 has been recorded very recently.

According to the ANCI Report, the Regions that have the highest presence of UAMs are Lombardy and Lazio, followed by Piedmont, Emilia-Romagna and Friuli-Venezia Giulia. The traditional trend is that the phenomenon is mainly concentrated in the central-northern regions, even if the minors may have arrived by sea.

The CMS database includes data on all UAMs reported by the Ministry in two separate archives. The first one contains the files on identified minors. The CMS has the authority to take decisions concerning them (the decision not to repatriate a minor or the decision to provide for his/her assisted repatriation). The second archive contains the files on all other minors whose presence has been reported, but who have not been identified. This second archive makes it possible to monitor the phenomenon of UAMs who made themselves "unfindable" (the CMS not having received any indication of the issue of a residence permit for minors). Out of 11,010 reports arrived as of 31 August 2014 of minors present in Italy, as many as 2,771 concern "unfindable" minors (25% of the total number); they are mainly boys between 16 and 17 years of age, coming, for the most part, from countries such as Morocco, Egypt and Syria, and reported from central-northern regions.

In conclusion, most UAMs present in Italy come from Morocco, Egypt, Albania and other North- African and Middle- Easter countries, where the social and economic difficulties and/or political problems of these countries may be the main reason why they look for opportunities elsewhere. Some authors (Bertozzi, 2005) argue that the social and economic conditions of the minors' families of origin directly affect their migratory choice; this causes a phenomenon of "adultization of children", either to improve the economic conditions of their families, or due to their leaving family ties behind. Besides wars, it is poverty, associated with low social and educational statuses and poor employment opportunities, which drives minors to migrate. They hope to find a better situation in Italy, towards Europe.

Analyses suggest that UAMs do not have structured migratory projects with pre-defined expectations. When minors see migration as a way to flee conflicts and persecution, their arrival in Italy is often accidental and determined by external factors. Or their arrival may be the result of progressive adjustments to the opportunities that arise during their journey from time to time. Only at a later stage, do they usually apply for international.

Q2. Please provide information on any prevention actions / projects / initiatives that your (Member) State undertakes together with Third Countries with the aim to address the root causes of UAMs' migration.

Apparently there is not any formal agreement in place to prevent the phenomenon of migration abroad by UAMs or asylum-seeking UAMs. The only significant experience of agreements between Italy and other

countries has to do with assisted repatriation. Minors are usually included in the general programme funded by the European Commission's Repatriation Fund.

An important experience was made with projects and programmes designed specifically for children at a local level. The first ones were implemented with Albania, and later with Morocco and Rumania. Just to give an example among many, a programme called "Return to the future" was implemented in the city of Turin in 2004-2005. The programme aimed at favouring quality assisted repatriation of Moroccan and Rumanian minors; it provided social protection to the minors waiting in their countries of origin to be entrusted back to the families, and helped the creation of a support network for the reintegration of minors. The programme was funded by the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies and promoted by the Prefecture and the Municipality of Turin.

In following years, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies signed a financing agreement for a project aimed at providing family tracing services for up to 700 UAMs present in Italy over fourteen months. For the minors who express their will to be reunited with their families following the family tracing, the projects provided for 50 social integration projects based on employment, education and health care. As mentioned in the EMN Report "Unaccompanied minors: quantitative aspects and reception, repatriation and integration policies. Analysis of the Italian case for a comparative study at community level" (2009) between April 2008 and March 2010, IOM made 881 surveys in 31 countries (755 were completed and only 76 were cancelled or considered unfeasible).

Italy has a convention with IOM still in force for the implementation of programmes aimed at tracing the families of UAMs, including in their countries of origin, according to the guiding principle of the best interest of the child and with an obligation to strict confidentiality (Legislative Decree No 140/2005). As is well known, the Assisted Voluntary Return measure is the option given to all third-country nationals in EU countries to receive help to go back voluntarily to their countries of origin safely and with suitable assistance. AVR is provided for in the 2008 EU Repatriation Directive and is regulated in Italy by Law No 129/2011 and relevant Guidelines.

Moreover, even though Italy has signed bilateral agreements with some countries (Mauritius, Moldavia, Albania, Sri Lanka, Morocco and Egypt) to strengthen the legal channels of entry for foreign workers and the matching mechanisms of supply and demand, minors are not mentioned in any of these agreements.

[Section 2: Entry and assessment procedures including border controls for asylum-seeking and non-asylum seeking UAMs](#)

[Section 2.1 Documentation required by unaccompanied minors for legal entry to the \(Member\) State \(non-asylum seeking UAMs, but also asylum-seeking UAMs in some instances\)](#)

Q3. What documents are required by third-country national UAMs at the border to fulfil the entry requirements to the (Member) State?

Entry documents required by unaccompanied minors	Please provide more information about the types of documents required and the conditions that apply, with a particular focus on developments since 2009.	Please state if the process is different for those cases when the minor's age is doubtful (for instance, when the child has no documents) and the age assessment procedure has not been undertaken yet to determine the age of the minor.
Visa permitting entry and stay, Passport, Travel document	Like for adults entering or staying in or in transit in the Schengen Area, to enter Italy foreigners need to have a passport or other travel document recognized as valid by all	No difference until age assessment.

	<p>Schengen States.</p> <p>However, all UAMs are entitled – simply by virtue of their being underage (and thus non-removable) - to obtain a “residence permit for minors” (Presidential Decree No 394/1999, Article 28), even if they do not have official documents, on the basis of their declarations.</p> <p>At the same time of the residence permit application, under Article 343 of the Civil Code requires that a “Public Guardianship” case must be opened within 30 days for all UAMs.</p> <p>A minor who has a residence permit for minors can convert it into a “residence permit for foster care” if, following the decision “not to repatriate the minor” by the Ministerial Directorate, he/she is placed in foster care directly by a decision of the Juvenile Court, or upon the initiative of the Social Services, made enforceable by the Guardianship Court.</p> <p>A residence permit for foster care allows a UAM to work in all the cases in which the Italian law permits minors to work. It can be converted into a residence permit for study or work reasons when he/she turns 18.</p> <p>If a UAM has a residence permit for foster care (due to a decision not to repatriate the minor and a foster care decision taken by the Juvenile Court or the Social Services and made enforceable by the Guardianship Court), he/she can immediately access the labour market – in compliance with the regulation on child labour - and the permit is converted into a residence permit for study or work reasons when he/she turns 18 (Circular of the Ministry of the Interior, 9 April 2001).</p> <p>A minor who is fostered by a third-country national regularly staying in Italy and who lives with him/her, is registered in the foster parent’s residence permit as long as he/she is under 14; and is given a residence permit for family reasons when turning 14.</p>	
<p>Other (ASYLUM APPLICATION)</p>	<p>A UAM who might suffer persecution in his/her country, for reasons of race, religion, nationality, political beliefs or belonging to a social group, is entitled to apply for asylum through his/her guardian.</p> <p>The asylum application is examined by the Local Commission for the Recognition of Refugee Status. If the minor is granted refugee status, he/she receives a residence permit for asylum reasons. If the asylum application is rejected, the Commission can still invite the Questore (Provincial Chief of</p>	

	<p>Police) to issue a residence permit for humanitarian reasons, if the repatriation of the minor may be dangerous or inappropriate. Anyhow, the minor is entitled – through his/her guardian - to lodge an appeal against the Commission’s decision before an ordinary Court.</p> <p>Generally, the Questore does grant a “residence permit for humanitarian reasons”, allowing the UAM to stay in the country legally since his/her turning 18.</p>	
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Section 2.2 Circumstances where an unaccompanied minor may be refused at the border (non-asylum seeking UAMs)

Q4. Can a non-asylum seeking unaccompanied minor be refused entry at the border if they do not fulfil the entry requirements set out above?

Categories of unaccompanied minors that may be refused entry at the border	Please provide more information about the circumstances under which unaccompanied minors may be refused entry at the border: a) in <u>national legislation</u> / policy and b) in <u>practice</u>, with a particular focus on developments since 2009.	Please state if the process is different for those cases when the minor’s age is doubtful (for instance, when the child has no documents) and the age assessment procedure has not been undertaken yet to determine the age of the minor.
<p><i>Non-asylum seeking unaccompanied minor arriving at a land / sea border or airport</i></p>	<p>There are no cases in which a minor is refused entry at the border under national legislation or in police practice. Moreover, the non-removable status of minors allow them to be entitled to a “residence permit for minors”, valid until they turn eighteen. Article 11 of the Presidential Decree No 394 of 31 August 1999 provides for the issue of a “residence permit for the integration of the minor”, after hearing the opinion of the Ministerial Directorate. When the UAMs comes of age, they can remain in Italy legally, provided they can prove they have been in our country for at least three years and have undertaken an integration programme for at least two years.</p> <p>UAMs cannot be removed except for reasons of public order and security of the State (in which case the removal decision must be taken by the Juvenile Court). However, the minor is entitled to follow his/her parent or foster parent if the latter is removed.</p> <p>In no case, can a minor be refused entry from a State in which he/she may suffer persecution for reasons of race, sex, language, nationality, religion, political – opinions, personal or social conditions, or may risk being sent to another State in which he/she is not protected from persecution.</p> <p>A UAM should never be refused entry at the border without prior investigation aimed at tracing his/her family members to whom the child may be entrusted and at assessing the</p>	<p>In the case of adolescents who have no valid documents and declare that they are underage but their age is doubtful; or who are caught committing a crime for which it must be assessed if they are under fourteen; or who declare they are of age but their age is doubtful (e.g. some underage victims of the exploitation of prostitution claim they are of age), the process provides for age assessment and never removal or refusal of entry.</p> <p>According to the Italian law, age assessment procedures must be undertaken fully respecting the minor’s rights, health and dignity; they must be carried out in the least invasive way possible, and never forcibly. Age assessment procedures must be undertaken by independent and properly trained professionals.</p>

	<p>option that responds to the “best interest of the child”. The UAM should be allowed to enter and stay in Italy until the investigation is concluded, in compliance with the obligation of child protection and the principle of the “best interest of the child”.</p> <p>If a UAM is stopped at the border, border officers immediately report the case to the Ministerial Directorate to guarantee the protection of the child. If relevant checks cannot be made in the country of origin, due to war, natural disasters, exceptional events or other serious and objective impediments, the minor must be allowed to enter Italy.</p> <p>Public Authorities are required to provide UAMs with the necessary assistance, placing them in a safe place and ensuring the respect of their fundamental rights. If a minor has nevertheless entered national territory, he/she must be reported to the Juvenile Court and the other competent Authorities (the Social Services of the local authorities and the Ministerial Directorate). The rules on the protection and rights of children (foster care, guardianship, right to health and education, etc.) provided for in the Italian legal system apply.</p> <p>UAMs cannot be detained in detention facilities for adults or in Centres for Identification and Deportation (CIEs).</p>	
Asylum seeking unaccompanied minor arriving at a land / sea border or airport	There are no cases in which asylum-seeking UAMs are refused entry at the border under national legislation or in police practice. In some cases, it has been reported that police officers have not identified minors at the border, allowing them to escape controls.	No difference.
Asylum seeking unaccompanied minor arriving at an internal authority (e.g. police, child protection service, etc.)	There are no cases in which asylum-seeking UAMs are refused entry at the border under national legislation or in police practice. In some cases, it has been reported that police officers have not identified minors at the border, allowing them to escape controls.	No difference.
Other (please state)	Nothing	Nothing

Section 2.3 Apprehensions of unaccompanied minors by national authorities (non-asylum seeking UAMs)

Q5. Please describe the *national rules and procedures* that apply where a non-asylum seeking unaccompanied minor is apprehended / identified at the border and within the territory of the (Member) State.

A UAM arriving at a land/sea border of the Italian State must be preliminarily identified by Police Authorities, also following a report by a public official. According to the law, Police Authorities must undertake an initial age assessment and should report the presence of the minor to the Ministerial

Directorate, the Public Prosecutor's Office at the Juvenile Court, and the Guardianship Court. Police Authorities check the availability of reception facilities within that district. If there is no availability, they immediately inform the Public Prosecutor's Office at the Juvenile Court, and request the Ministerial Directorate to indicate which facilities they may contact for prompt reception. These reception facilities, called bridge facilities, are located all over Italy, and take care of the initial phase of reception only. The minors are later transferred to reception facilities that will host them until they come of age. "Bridge facilities" provide and an immediate and safe placement of the minors; and at the same time they make it possible to carry out the necessary background checks to define the following integration process in the best interest of the child.

Once the Police Authorities have been instructed on which bridge facility to use, they transfer the minor and report his/her name to the local Social Services of the Municipality in which the bridge facility is located, to the Public Prosecutor's Office at the Juvenile Court and to the Guardianship Court. As soon as possible, the Mayor, or a representative of the Mayor, takes the following action at the "bridge facility": i) requests the Police Authorities to fully identify the child and to ascertain that he/she is actually underage; ii) checks his/her unaccompanied status; iii) acquires information on parents (if any) present in Italy; iv) informs the minor on the possibility to apply for international protection; and v) makes sure that a health check-up is arranged, which may be done in local health-care facilities, in order to protect both the minor and the community.

Then, the Mayor, or one of his/her representative, reports the minor to the Ministerial Directorate. The Ministerial Directorate indicates the Municipalities in which there are reception facilities that have availabilities and best respond to the protection needs of the minor. The bridge facility will take care of the transfer, agreeing on the specifics (when and how) with the Municipality of destination.

As soon as the minor arrives within the territory of the Municipality of destination, he/she is taken care of by the local Social Services. They initiate the procedures provided for by the law (request to the Guardianship Court to open a public guardianship case, application for a residence permit for minors, etc.) and update the Ministerial Directorate, the Public Prosecutor's Office at the Juvenile Court and the Guardianship Court.

If an official from a local authority identifies a UAM, he/she has to notify:

- The Public Prosecutor's Office at the Juvenile Court, which takes the relevant measures if the minor is in the state of abandonment and, usually, is below fourteen years of age;
- The Guardianship Court, which opens a legal guardianship case;
- The Ministerial Directorate, which uses the information for survey purposes, starts a family tracing investigation, and monitors the situation of the child, or to the SPRAR if the minor has already lodged an asylum application;
- The diplomatic mission/consular post of the minor's country of origin, to provide information on the protection measures that have been adopted (except for asylum-seeking UAMs, since this information may entail risks of persecution).

The notifications must be made as soon as possible, irrespective of whether or not the minor has been previously identified, has received a residence permit, and his/her identity has been cleared up (if he/she has given false personal particulars to different authorities). Notification must be made in a way to protect confidentiality.

The same reporting obligations to the Public Prosecutor's Office at the Juvenile Court and to the Ministerial Directorate lie upon the Police and other public officials, civil servants and providers of essential public services who trace a UAM.

If a minor shows up spontaneously at an Initial Reception Centre, the Centre must immediately notify the Social Services of the relevant local authority and the Questura (Provincial Police Headquarters) within 48 hours. It also has to lodge a request at the Guardianship Court for a Guardian to be appointed within 30 days from receiving the child. In practice, the Centre contacts the Social Services of the local authority. There are no differences in the event that the age of the child is uncertain or doubtful.

Section 2.4 Training of Border Guards and / or Police Authorities

Q6a. Does the (Member) State provide specific training to Border Guards and / or Police Authorities to recognise the situation of unaccompanied minors who try to enter the territory illegally / are apprehended within the territory, or who may be the victims of trafficking in human beings / smuggling?

No

Q6b. If yes, please provide further information below, stating also if this has involved cooperation with EU agencies.

There seems to be no training courses for Police Authorities on this issue, with the exception of a few specific modules, organized on a temporary basis and a local level within projects financed by European funds.

Third sector organizations have repeatedly highlighted the training needs of the staff working with UAMs (staff of Social Services, first reception facilities, Police Authorities, schools, health services, and guardians and foster parents). They should receive suitable training on the needs and rights of minors - including cultural, language and religious needs - as well as on the specificities of trafficking or exploitation victims and of asylum-seeking UAMs.

Section 2.5 The organisation of the national asylum procedures for asylum-seeking unaccompanied minors

Q7. Please set out the national rules and procedures that apply where an unaccompanied minor apprehended / identified at the border and within the territory of the (Member) State lodges an application for asylum.

In Italy, the definition of “asylum-seeking unaccompanied minors” (under Legislative Decree No. 85/2003, ena a brief “**asylum-seeking UAMs**”) refers to non EU-country nationals or stateless persons below 18 years of age who enter the national territory without being accompanied by an adult and who apply for international protection.

Notification of the asylum application is given to the competent Juvenile Court for adoption of the relevant measures (Legislative Decree 39/90).

Current regulation strengthens the responsibilities given to the institutions towards minors. Article 1 establishes that on arrival the minor is given all necessary information on his/her rights and the existing legal options. After the involvement of the Guardianship Court, the minor is immediately entrusted to the SPRAR (System of Protection for Asylum Seekers and Refugees), which allocates a certain number of places to asylum-seeking UAMs every year.

The asylum application is examined by the Commission for the Recognition of Refugee Status, which hears the minor and his/her guardian during the proceeding. If the Commission grants refugee status to the minor, he/she will receive a residence permit for asylum reasons. Or else, the minor may be granted “subsidiary protection” or “humanitarian protection”. This type of protection is regulated by the Immigration Law and is granted when, according to the Local Commission, there are serious humanitarian

reasons justifying the presence of the asylum-seeking UAM in Italy. This type of protection gives the opportunity to convert the “residence permit for humanitarian reasons” even after he/she has reached the age of 18. Anyhow, through his/her guardian or family members, the minor is entitled to lodge an appeal against the Commission’s decision before an ordinary Court.

At present, very few asylum-seeking UAMs submit an asylum application, even when they would be entitled to be granted refugee status. This is likely to be due to a lack of information. Moreover, those who apply do so on arrival or at the time of their identification.

There are no differences in the event that the age of the child is uncertain or doubtful.

Q8. Please describe the specific rules and procedures that apply in respect of the (asylum) applicant’s status as an (unaccompanied) minor.

Under Italian legislation, the asylum application submitted by an asylum-seeking unaccompanied minor must be confirmed by his/her guardian (if the minor has lodged the application before the appointment of the guardian, the Questura suspends the procedure and informs the Juvenile Court and the Ministerial Directorate).

Once it is ascertained that the asylum procedure falls under Italian jurisdiction, the Questura forwards the asylum application to the Local Commission for the Recognition of Refugee Status within two days. In theory, the Commission should arrange the interview within thirty days from reception of the application and should decide within the three following days. The examination of asylum applications submitted by asylum-seeking UAMs should be given priority over other asylum applications. The Commission usually examines the applications of those who are about to turn 18 first. In Rome, the Commission may interview asylum-seeking UAMs as late as 9 month from application submission (august 2014).

The Commission must interview the asylum-seeking minor in the presence of his/her guardian. The asylum-seeking UAM is entitled to speak in his/her language; the Commission appoints an interpreter, if needed.

The Commission decides on asylum applications on the basis of the criteria sanctioned in the Geneva Convention, also keeping into account the specific forms of persecution that may concern children.

There are no differences in the event that the age of the child is uncertain or doubtful.

Q9. Please describe the procedure for assessing the age of an asylum-seeking UAM who claims to be a minor.

Despite the reference to many principles sanctioned internationally, Italian regulation lacks organic unity when it comes to UAMs’ age assessment. Principles and procedural protections are regulated by sources of different nature, mostly secondary sources, and have a limited scope. Some principles refer, in fact, only to criminal offences or to international protection, and, as such, are not directly applicable to all age assessment procedures for presumed UAMs. Other principles are referred to only in secondary sources, such as Ministerial Circulars and Guidelines.

Moreover, some protections are not provided for or expressly regulated to date, in particular the multidisciplinary approach, the use of more invasive method only as a last resort, the use of qualified and independent staff, the presence of a qualified and independent legal representative and the obligation to indicate the error margin in the age assessment expertise.

Considering the general principles in the relevant regulation, like in all administrative and jurisdictional proceedings concerning minors, the principle of “the best interest” of the child applies to age assessment too. If there is uncertainty or doubt about the age, the presumed minor may undergo an anthropometric or other assessments provided for by law (Article 349, Code of Criminal Procedure 103; Circular of the Ministry of the Interior 9/7/2007; Article 19(2), Legislative Decree 25/2008; Article 8(1), Presidential Decree 448/1988).

The law states that the assessment is undertaken with the consent of the minor or his/her legal representative (Article 19(2), Legislative Decree 25/2008), after the minor has been informed on the possibility that his/her age is assessed through a medical examination, specifying the kind of medical examination and its possible consequences, and on the fact that his/her refusal to be medically examined does not constitute an impediment to the acceptance and examination of his/her asylum application (Article 19, comma 3, Legislative Decree 25/2008). However, in practice, in doubtful cases, the verification is made automatically.

The assessment is undertaken with methods that are non-invasive (Article 19(2), Legislative Decree 25/2008) and safe and that respects the health, dignity, physical integrity, age and gender of the minor (Committee for Foreign Minors, Guidelines; Circular of the Ministry of the Interior 9/7/2007). The exposure to ionizing radiation in a medical-legal context - with no direct benefit on health - must be specifically justified (principle of justification) and it must be assured that the radiation dose is kept at the lowest level that can be reasonably reached (Article 3(7), Legislative Decree 187/2000).

Age assessment is undertaken preferably in public health-care establishments with paediatric wards (Circular of the Ministry of the Interior 9/7/2007).

If age assessment does not allow for an accurate definition of the age and there are still doubts, the benefit of the doubt is guaranteed and the minor age is presumed for all effects (Committee for Foreign Minors, Guidelines; Article 19(2), Legislative Decree 25/2008; Article 8(2) Presidential Decree. 448/88; Circular of the Ministry of the Interior 9/7/2007). This principle must be respected even while awaiting the age assessment: the widest safeguard of rights and all the provisions on minors' protection must be applied (Circular of the Ministry of the Interior 9/7/2007).

The Circular of the Ministry of the Interior points out that «age assessment does not generally provide exact results», but only «an age group compatible with obtained results», specifying that, faced with an error margin in the expertise, the *favor minoris* (most favourable to the child) principle must be applied.

Finally, 2007 CMS Guidelines suggest that if a minor has a valid document indicating only the year of birth, attributing 31 December of that year as the date of birth is considered as best practice.

An attempt to introduce more safeguards in age assessment procedures was made with the "Protocol for the age assessment of minors according to the multidimensional approach model" (so-called Ascone Protocol) compiled in 2009 by an inter-institutional Technical Group set up at the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Policies, keeping into account the opinion of the Higher Health Council of 25 February 2009. This health protocol refers to some fundamental principles that are not currently included in regulations, in particular: i) the need to introduce the same age assessment procedure at a national level, integrating data from the x-rays of the hand and wrist skeletal development (based on the Greulich and Pyle method) and from a physical examination made by a paediatrician (anthropometric measurements, inspection of the signs of sexual maturity, with identification of development disorders, if any, definition of dentition stage, use of axiological tables from different/the nearest countries); ii) the need to indicate the error margin in any age assessment expertise; iii) a multidisciplinary and multidimensional approach, combining medical examinations with an interview and a psychological assessment; iv) the role of the Judicial Authority, which orders an investigation in the case of UAMs, if parents/legal representatives cannot be found; v) the importance of a cultural mediator; and vi) the need to identify public facilities with specialized staff with specific and multidisciplinary skills, to whom regular training and refresher courses are provided.

Unfortunately, the fragmentation of the Italian regulatory framework tends to result in a lack of homogeneity in national and local practices, and in a partial application of principles and safeguards when

it comes to age assessment.

The most widespread practice is to undertake the age assessment through one medical examination only, mainly an x-ray of the left wrist. This examination may be supplemented with or replaced by a general check-up, an examination of the dental arch or of pubertal development. Assessments are generally made in public hospitals by on duty staff, who are not necessarily specialized. However, some specialized facilities do make age assessments with multidisciplinary methods, including a complete paediatric examination of the personal and family history, an age assessment of the skeleton and of the dental arch, and a number of interviews to assess psychological development. The assessments are made by specialized staff. An age assessment expertise is then prepared by the whole team; it contains an opinion on a possible age, specifying an error margin with the reasons for that error margin.

In addition, age assessment is fundamental to determine criminal responsibility, the jurisdiction of the Judicial authority if the UAM commits a criminal offence, and whether jurisdiction lies with the Juvenile Court or a regular court (if the crime is committed by a legal adult, i.e., over 18). The Department for Juvenile Justice is competent for enforcing the decisions taken by the Juvenile Court for minors aged 14-10 who have committed a crime. If the minor is assessed to be fewer than fourteen, he/she is not considered criminally responsible under the Italian legal system. However, considering specific elements such as the seriousness of the crime and the social dangerousness of the minor, the court may impose a security measure, entrusting him/her to the Social Services of the local authority where he/she lives (if this is not already the case). Determining the age of the minor with certainty is therefore necessary in order to apply all the benefits provided for by the regulation and, hence, fully protecting the minor' subjective rights.

Q10. Please provide the average (or where this is not available median) duration of an asylum procedure for a UAM.

In 2013 a study was carried (published in 2013) on 128 local cases, involving Reception Centres for Asylum Seekers (**CARAs**), Administrations, Organizations and Reception Centres, with a particular focus on metropolitan areas (Milan, Rome, Bologna and Turin). The findings of the study suggested that there is a time gap ranging from 30 days to more than six months between the time an applicant expresses his/her will to apply for asylum and his/her being interviewed by the Commission. As mentioned above, the average duration of an asylum procedure exceeds nine months.

The average duration of an interview ranges between one and three hours. If needed, the interviews lasts longer, which is often the case. Besides, no codes of conduct, handbooks or guidelines have been prepared on how to conduct an interview. Presently, the only tool that is available to a Local Commission is an interview report template, provided by the National Commission. The interview report template is useful only to the extent that the interviewer is able to go deeper and adjust questions depending on the specifics that come up with each individual interviewee.

Section 2.6 Guardianship and age assessment for non-asylum seeking UAMs

Q11. Please describe the arrangements for guardianship of non-asylum seeking UAMs. Please specify, for example: who organises guardianship for UAMs, who can become a guardian to a UAM, what the role of a guardian to a UAM is, which UAMs are entitled to a guardian, until what age and whether this depends on the status of the UAM, e.g. does the UAM get another guardian when s/he is granted international protection, etc.

According to current Italian regulation a minor is not considered able to exercise his/her rights, ("unable to act"), and this applies to anyone under 18 years of age. If we consider that besides the age factor, the concerned person is an unaccompanied foreigner, the law provides for the appointment of a guardian,

who will guarantee the protection of the minor and the exercise of his/her rights, pursuant to Article 343 of the Civil Code. The legal guardian is appointed by the Guardianship Court; the general procedure is to appoint the Mayor of the place where the minor is received. The Mayor then usually delegates the local Social Services, even though there are no specific provisions in this regard. In some cities, given the high number of guardianship cases, public guardianship offices have been set up, usually within the Social Services Directorate. The law states that every year the guardian has to submit a report to the court on the conditions and has to take care of him/her on a regular basis. In Rome, there are sixteen guardians from the local authority, who are required to report to the Public Prosecutor's Office every six months on the 3,500 UAMs placed in reception facilities.

The guardian must – personally or through others (for instance the staff of the Reception Centres) - apply for a residence permit at the Questura, register the minor with the National Health-Care Service and give consent to the medical treatments that may be needed, and enrol the minor at school, recreational activities and working activities, as the case may be. The guardian is also required to legally represent the minor when needed or if the minor is involved in a criminal case, and assist him/her if he/she intends to contest the rejection of the international protection application. Also, the guardian has to accompany the asylum-seeking UAMs to the interview with the Commission for the Recognition of Refugee Status. Finally, the guardian has to manage the minor's assets reliably and conscientiously. The guardian's proxy is however temporary: all these duties have to be performed only until the minor comes of age.

In the unfortunate case that a guardian turns out to be unsuited to his role, he/she may be suspended and removed from his office by the Guardianship Court.

A guardian may accept more than one assignment and be responsible for a number of minors at the same time. A guardian is on call at all times, since his/her consent may be needed any time in an emergency that, as such, is unpredictable. The guardian's assignment implies a long-term commitment and a number of responsibilities, but no remuneration.

It has been observed several times that *«mismatches between procedures and the interpretations of regulation in different local contexts is a crucial issue in Italy, due to which the right of an unaccompanied minor to have a guardian is not always adequately respected»* (Moyersoen and Tarzia, 2002, p. 26). The opening of a guardianship case – pursuant to Article 343 of the Civil Code - is not required in all Municipalities; a case may be submitted to the Juvenile Court that provides for adoption, foster care or other measures, in accordance to Articles 9 and 10 of Law 184/1983 (Tarzia, 2008). In addition, it may take a long time for the guardianship case to be opened, which is perhaps even more serious; in Rome it may take up to twelve months in some cases.

Another major issue has to do with the appointment of guardians. It has already been said that the mayor is usually appointed; the mayor, in turn, delegates a social assistant, a psychologist or a professional educator from the Social Services. However, it has been questioned whether it makes sense to have guardianship exercised as a bureaucratic task by a civil servant, or as an additional burden on top of educational tasks in the reception facility (moreover, the law forbids to appoint people who are in charge of reception facilities). As a result, in Regions like Emilia-Romagna, Lazio, Veneto, and others, an increasing number of guardians have been appointed who do not have other duties and who are willing to perform this role full time

Finally, the *Closing a Protection Gap* Project should be mentioned, within a European initiative for defining the standards of UAMs' protection. A lack of guidelines and protection models has been identified in Italy. According to the preliminary findings of the research carried out in 2012 by *Defence for Children – Italy*, the figure of the guardian is not always clearly defined, is not independent and lacks skills and training

tools.

Q12. Please describe the procedure for assessing the age of a non-asylum seeking UAM who claims to be a minor. Please specify different situations (e.g. UAMs who apply for asylum, at the border, illegally staying UAMs, etc.).

There are no differences with UAMs, so what is generally described in Q9) above applies here as well.

Section 2.7 Residence permits granted to unaccompanied minors (both asylum- and non-asylum seeking UAMs)

Q13a. Please provide details on the possible residence options available to unaccompanied minors not applying for asylum and to those whose claims for asylum have been rejected.

Unlike accompanied minors who generally follow the destiny of their families, there are statutory institutions in Italy focusing on UAMs. These institutions are intended to provide reception, care, services, guardianship and the rights granted by the legal system.

The starting point of Italian regulation is to pursue the best interest of the child, which takes priority over any other issue, including age assessment or refugee status recognition. Hence, once the minor has entered Italian borders, he/she acquires a real individual right, and thus benefits from a number of instruments intended to provide protection, assistance, reception and care.

There are two formal acts giving rise to the process of assistance and care: the issue of a residence permit for minors (for foster care or for asylum application) and the opening of the public guardianship case, with the appointment of a legal guardian.

A minor who submits an asylum application and whose application is rejected is never removed from the country. His stay in Italy is assessed based on the principle of the “best interest of the child”. If the asylum-seeking UAMs is staying in a Centre of the System of Protection for Asylum Seekers and Refugees, the SPRAR Central Service, together with the Committee for Foreigners, will consider whether it is appropriate to host the minor in another Centre for minors, or a Centre for Adults, if he/she has come of age in the meanwhile. However, the Commission can invite the Questore (Provincial Chief of Police) to issue a residence permit for humanitarian reasons, if the repatriation of the minor is considered dangerous or inappropriate. This permit for humanitarian protection may be converted into a permit for reasons of study, access to work, employed work, or self-employment when the holder of the permit turns eighteen, following a positive opinion of the Ministerial Directorate.

In addition, with the enactment of Laws No 125/2008 and No 94/2009 (so-called “Security Package”), obtaining a residence permit on coming of age has become more difficult in Italy. The amended rule has become more restrictive: a minor in foster care or under guardianship must fulfil the requirements specified in Article 32 of the Immigration Law, concerning the so called “three plus two” (three years of stay in Italy plus two years in a social and civil integration programme run by a public or private entity, registered at the Presidency of the Council of Ministers under Article 52 of Presidential Decree No 394/1999) (compare with the answer to Q48). According to some experts, stricter rules may further lower the age of arrival of minors; they may hope that a longer stay would make it easier for them to convert their residence permits when they come of age. Besides, there is a higher risk of minor dropping out of integration processes and, perhaps, even escaping from initial and secondary reception facilities. The point is that if they have to relinquish making easy money in the streets, they expect to get the papers in return. Otherwise, it is not worthwhile remaining in a place with rules and communal life (Save the Children, 2010). There are several cases of former UAMs who are discharged from reception centres for minors when they turn 18 and are entered in assistance programmes for adults.

Q13b. Please provide details of the residence permit granted to unaccompanied minors whose claims for asylum are successful (e.g. refugee status, residence permit issued on other grounds than international protection, etc.).

Generally, under Article 32 of the Immigration Law, an asylum-seeking UAM who is placed in a reception community or under public guardianship may be granted “a residence permit for asylum application. Then if the refugee status is recognized, he/she is granted a “*residence permit for reasons of asylum, international protection, subsidiary protection or humanitarian reasons*”. A “*residence permit for asylum application*” does not give permission to work, while an “*asylum residence permit*” does. These types of residence permits can be renewed after the holder turns 18. A “*residence permit for humanitarian reasons*” can be converted into a “*residence permit for study reasons*”, or for reasons of “*access to work*” or “*employed work*” or “*self-employed work*”, when the permit holder turns 18, following a positive opinion of the Ministerial Directorate.

Q13c. Please provide details of the (temporary) residence permit granted to unaccompanied minors who do not fulfil the entry requirements of the (Member) State but are not refused entry at the border / or who are apprehended in the territory of the (Member) State (e.g. tolerated stay, etc.).

Categories of unaccompanied minors	Please describe the residence permits granted to unaccompanied minors	Please state if the process is different for those cases when the minor's age is doubtful (for instance, when the child has no documents) and the age assessment procedure has not been undertaken yet to determine the age of the minor.
Non-asylum seeking unaccompanied minor arriving at a land / sea border or airport	Residence permit for minors	Residence permit for minors
Non-asylum seeking unaccompanied minor apprehended in the territory of the (Member) State	Residence permit for minors	Residence permit for minors
Asylum seeking unaccompanied minor arriving at a land / sea border or airport	Residence permit for asylum application	Residence permit for asylum application
Asylum seeking unaccompanied minor apprehended or identified in the territory of the (Member) State	Residence permit for asylum application	Residence permit for asylum application
Asylum seeking unaccompanied minor arriving at an internal authority (e.g. police, child protection service, etc.)	Residence permit for asylum application	Residence permit for asylum application
Other (please state)		

Section 3: Reception arrangements, including integration measures for UAMs

This section of the Synthesis Report will provide a factual, comparative overview of the reception arrangements in place for asylum-seeking and non-asylum seeking unaccompanied minors that exist in the EU, including integration measures such as access to healthcare, education and employment.

Section 3.1: Reception and care arrangements for unaccompanied minors

Q14. Please provide an overview of the national legal framework of your (Member) State with regard to the reception and care arrangements available to UAMs from first arrival until a durable solution is found.

UAMs are subject to the rules laid down by the Italian law on the care and protection of children. In particular, the following rules apply: i) when a child is found in a state of abandonment, the local authority (usually, the municipality) places the minor in a safe place; ii) a guardianship case is opened for a child whose parents cannot objectively exercise their parental authority; and iii) the child, temporarily deprived of a suitable family environment, is assigned to a foster family or a community or community centre, pursuant to article 403 of the Civil Code.

As pointed out in our reply to Q5, a UAM arriving to Italy by sea or land must be first identified by the Police, even when a report has been submitted by a public official. According to the law, the Police shall assess the minor's age and report their presence to the Ministerial Directorate, Public Prosecutor's Office at the Juvenile Court and to the Guardianship Court. The Police authority must check the availability of a suitable facility in the relevant district; if no facility is available, after promptly informing the Public Prosecutor's Office at the Juvenile Court, they request the Ministerial Directorate to list the reception facilities available. Such facilities, called "bridge facilities", are located across the country; they take care of the first stage of reception only, while minors wait to be transferred to the facilities where they stay until they become of age. The "bridge facilities" immediately receive minors in a safe place; at the same time, more details on the child are collected, in "the minor's best interest", to facilitate their subsequent integration.

The Police, as soon as they know what "bridge facility" to use, transfer minors and send their names to the local social services of the Municipality where the facility is located as well as to the Public Prosecutor's Office at the Juvenile Court and to the Guardianship Court. At the "bridge facility", the Mayor or his/her proxy promptly do the following: ask the Police to finally identify the child and verify the minor's age; check the actual status of UAM ; gather information on any siblings already present in Italy; inform the minor on the possibility to ask for international protection; a health screening is performed at the local healthcare facilities, in the minor's and community's best interest.

Then, the Mayor or his proxy report minors to the Ministerial Directorate, which in turn tells the Municipality what reception communities are available, to best respond to the minor's protection interest. The minor leaves the "bridge facility" when and how agreed upon with the destination Municipality.

As soon as a minor arrives at their final (destination) municipality, they are taken care of by local social services. These latter initiate every statutory procedure (request the Guardianship Court to open a public guardianship case, apply for the residence permit granted to minors, etc.), update the Ministerial Directorate, as well as the local Public Prosecutor's Office at the Juvenile Court and Guardianship Court.

When a local body official identifies a UAM, it must report the minor to:

- the Public Prosecutor's Office at the Juvenile Court, for any statutory proceeding, if the child is in a state of abandonment and has not turned 14 yet;
- the Guardianship Court, to open a legal guardianship case;
- the Ministerial Directorate, for survey purposes, to start a family inquiry and monitor their stay, or to

SPRAR whenever a minor has already applied for asylum;

- The diplomatic-consular office of the minor's country of origin, to inform on any minor's protection proceeding adopted (to the exception of asylum-seeking UAMs, due to the persecution risk that such information may imply).

Reports must be filed as soon as possible regardless of whether the child has been previously identified, has received a residence permit, or his/her identity has been ascertained (i.e. a child who has given different names to different Authorities). Any such communications must guarantee both protection and confidentiality.

The same reporting requirements to the Public Prosecutor's Office at the Juvenile Court and the Ministerial Directorate apply to the police and other public officials, public servants and public service operators who trace a UAM.

In the event a minor has shown up spontaneously to a reception community, this latter must immediately report the minor to the local social services of reference and inform the Police within 48 hours, as well as apply to the Guardianship Court for the appointment of a guardian within 30 days; in practice, it is the Community to contact the local social services.

The same applies when the child's age is uncertain or doubtful; the actual age must be determined according to the procedures described above.

The only difference for asylum seekers is the following: in addition to the Ministerial Directorate, it is SPRAR to be in charge (and responsible for reception); in other words, such cases fall outside the care process provided by the Ministerial Directorate, throughout the inquiry subsequent to the asylum application.

Q15. Which national authorities and organisations (including Non-Governmental Organisations where relevant) are responsible for the reception and care of UAMs from first arrival until a durable solution is found, indicating also the arrangements for funding (e.g. reception centres, healthcare, schooling, etc.)?

The responsibility for care and management of UAMs is up to the local social services, by virtue of the principle introduced by article 23 letter c) of Presidential Decree n. 616 of 1977, which attributed to local authorities a number of functions, including care activities related to any minor (Italians and foreigners) present in the area.

This principle was also confirmed by article 13 of Legislative Decree No 267/2000 ("*Law on Local Bodies*"). Foreign children who are traced locally, or who spontaneously show up, are placed in a safe place (article 403 of the Civil Code), and taken care of by the Mayor of the local jurisdiction which activates the Social Services. The local authority must initiate the procedures provided for by the Italian law, such as the opening of public protection, foster care, the start of an integration process and the application for a residence permit (the so-called "taking charge of the child").

To achieve similar objectives, in 2007 the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs launched the "*National Programme for the protection of UAMs*", in agreement with ANCI, to test a national system to take charge of and integrate UAMs, coordinate local interventions and ensure monitoring. The programme objective was to develop and disseminate standardized procedures, test innovative instruments and promote the knowledge and use of family custody for UAMs; however, the programme was never financed.

As to minors who request international protection, once a public guardianship case has been initiated, social protection measures are provided for asylum seekers in accordance with Article 1-sexies of Decree-Law 416/1989 ("*Martelli Law*"), which provides for and governs SPRAR, and Legislative Decree 140/2005 (Article 8(4), establishing the reception of UAMs, according to the decision of the Juvenile Court, by the local authority; within the framework of SPRAR services, local authorities may provide specific reception

programmes reserved to UAMs, asylum seekers and refugees; such subjects are the addressees of the National Fund for Asylum Policies and Services).

Therefore, the reception of a minor by a community or another suitable facility falls under the responsibility of the Local Authority (Municipality). In most cases, although it depends on the local welfare system, it entrusts the reception management to a non-profit organisation, usually with a direct procedure, while maintaining the responsibility of taking care of the minor. The Ministerial Directorate and SPRAR (for asylum seeking unaccompanied minors) provide funds to the local authorities so as to cover nearly every expense, even if the local authorities are increasingly supplementing the funds of the ministerial bodies through their own budget.

Within community/reception centres, UAMs go through an integration project defined by the Social Services of the Municipality, on education, health and leisure facilities; in addition, their juridical-legal position is defined.

Whenever the minor's age is doubtful, the so-called minor should be treated as such and should receive the necessary protection and assistance until it is assessed that he/she is actually of age.

In the event a child leaves the reception centre without being authorised, the community manager must report their absence to the Social Service of reference and to the competent Judicial Authority (Juvenile and/or Guardianship Court). The Social Services report the child's absence to the Public Prosecutor's Office at the Juvenile Court, Guardianship Court and Ministerial Directorate.

Q16a. What is considered a durable solution for the child in your (Member) State (could also be derived from practices in place, guidelines used by reception / care facilities, etc.)?

A bill has been submitted to the Parliament; it provides for the establishment of a "National System for the reception of unaccompanied minors" in order to reach a long-term solution in the child's best interest. In particular, the system should identify the most appropriate reception facility in cases where no family foster care is possible or the child must be entrusted to a family-type community or a care institution. The system is based on the consultation of an electronic system of the accredited reception communities for minors, to determine which places are available nationwide.

On the other hand, the system should ensure placement in the community / facilities more quickly than the current one; at present, minors stay for too long in the "bridge facilities", partly due to recent migratory pressure. Also, it would be necessary to define the terms and characteristics of facility accreditation on a national basis; at present, it is up to the Regions to establish specific organizational requirements for communities that accommodate UAMs, including cultural mediation services and free legal support.

In addition, at the time of selecting the available facility, account should be taken of the issues raised during the interview with the child. If, at that time, there is a reasonable doubt on the classification of the child as a victim of trafficking or applicant for international protection, the UAM is placed in one of the facilities that operate within the framework of SPRAR services or structures, as provided by the assistance programme for victims of trafficking pursuant to Article 13 of Law 228/2003. A national reception system would relieve the local authorities from such burden, with respect to the reception of minors and the definition of their personal action plan.

Q16b. How quickly do the competent authorities take decisions on durable solutions for UAMs based on the best interests of the child? Please specify the starting point for the time taken by (Member) States to identify durable solutions (e.g. date of apprehension / application, etc.).

Once a child has been identified (usually, they are immediately identified; at landing, or at the border or at the police offices), it is difficult to quantify how much time they spend in the "bridge facilities". It largely

depends on the flow and reception capacity of the system to take charge of UAMs (under the Ministerial Directorate's responsibility) or asylum-seeking UAMs (in the case of SPRAR). However, when a child is assigned to a local body and placed in a reception centre, they immediately receive assistance and are taken care of. Shortly, an action plan is defined by the reception centre staff in agreement with the local authority. Yet, it takes quite a long time to open a guardianship proceeding and without guardianship a UAM may be in trouble. Moreover, in actuality (by word of mouth) UAMs arrive directly where they are properly and quickly received.

Section 3.2: Accommodation and other material reception provisions

Q17. Please describe in the tables below the reception and care arrangements granted to UAMs in your (Member) State (in accordance with Directive 2003/9/EC¹) from first arrival until a durable solution is found. Where relevant, please distinguish between UAMs who are seeking asylum or have been granted international protection and UAMs who are not seeking asylum, including those who entered irregularly and/ or are in a trafficked situation.

¹ Please note that Ireland does not participate in this Directive.

Policies, practices and data on unaccompanied minors in 2014

	Please state (Y/N) whether the accommodation types and other material reception provisions listed are available to UAMs (in cash or in kind) in each of the categories below, and provide a brief description of the facilities available in each case:		
Accommodation type and access to other care and material reception provisions	UAMs seeking asylum or have been granted international protection	UAMs not seeking asylum, including those who entered irregularly and / or child victims of trafficking	Please state if the process is different for those cases when the minor's age is doubtful (for instance, when the child has no documents) and the age assessment procedure has not been undertaken yet to determine the age of the minor.
Accommodation with adults	No	No	No difference
Accommodation with a foster family	Yes	Yes	
Accommodation / reception facilities specifically for minors	Yes	Yes	
Accommodation / reception facilities with special provisions for minors	Yes	Yes	
Specialised accommodation facilities available for UAM victims of trafficking	There were some in a number of areas (for instance, in Rome), but they are no longer in operation.	No	
Specialised accommodation facilities available to UAMS to meet specific identified needs	No	No	
Other types of accommodation (please state, e.g. in adult accommodation facilities if over 16 years of age)	No	No	
Food (please indicate how this is arranged in practice, e.g. meal vouchers to buy or prepare own meals, prepared meals, etc.)	UAMs should be accommodated at duly authorised reception communities; according to the law, these should guarantee: a warm, friendly environment where the child feels to be welcome and respected; decent living conditions, suitable to promote their physical and mental development (open 24 h a day,	Ditto	
Clothing (please indicate how this is arranged in		Ditto	

Policies, practices and data on unaccompanied minors in 2014

<p><i>practice, e.g. provision of a budget to buy clothes, provision of second-hand clothes, etc.)</i></p>	<p>appropriate meals (quality and quantity), personal grooming, clothing etc.); respect of the child's cultural and religious needs (respect of his dietary habits, freedom to practice one's own religious worship, to speak one's own language etc.).</p> <p>The community staff should be properly trained on the needs and rights of unaccompanied minors, including exploitation/trafficking victims and asylum seekers.</p>		
<p><i>Allowance / pocket money (please provide details on what possibilities there are to earn pocket money in reception facilities, what amount and how this is paid, etc.)</i></p>	<p>SPRAR does provide for pocket money, although this is up to the reception facilities.</p>		
<p><i>Other types of material reception provisions (please state)</i></p>			

Q18. Please explain if UAMs have the freedom to make their own choices with regard to the provisions available to them (e.g. do UAMs have the possibility to prepare their own meals, buy their own clothes, etc.) with the ultimate goal of preparing them for the transition to adulthood (please see also section 5).

It is difficult to answer this question because each reception centre/facility follows its own internal rules and practices; these reflect the regional guidelines which, in turn, are different from each other. No national provision applies. In spite of regional differences, it is a well-established common practice to involve UAMs into the facility management.

The only available national provision is contained in the SPRAR Manual, addressed to asylum-seeking UAMs only; it makes no reference to either meals or shopping but it states that "*at the reception facility, the child must not only find hospitality but also a life dimension that can offer emotional, social and cognitive stimuli, in order to organise and develop plans for his/her future.*"

Q19. Which organisations (governmental and non-governmental) are responsible for the provision of accommodation / other material reception conditions of UAMs (if different from above)?

The local body (Municipality) finances action plans of reception facilities handled by the Third Sector; usually, they provide for a 'per person per day' funding to cover any needs.

Q20. Please provide more information on the staff (e.g. care/ social workers, etc.) responsible for the reception and care of UAMs,

Again, a single answer applicable on a national level cannot be given; usually, the official responsible for the local body is an expert from the Social Services (Social Worker, Educator, and Psychologist) who works along with lawyers, work counsellors, teachers, etc. The UAM's legal guardian has relations with both the judicial authorities and the managing body and oversees the UAM's customized action plan.

As to the operators of the centres/facilities, the only applicable provision is contained in the SPRAR manual: hence, it only applies to asylum-seeking UAMs. It establishes an operators/users 1:3 ratio; at night, at least one operator should be present, as well as qualified interpreters and mediators. Also, it calls for a close collaboration with local healthcare and social services; it is possible to sign agreements and protocols with these latter, possibly including a mutual exchange of expertise and information updates between the project and local services.

Q21. What is the overall assessment of the standard of accommodation / material reception conditions provided to UAMs in your (Member) State (as cited in existing evaluation reports / studies / other sources or based on publicly available information received from competent authorities)? Please provide references to these sources of information.

Do you foresee an evolution of the national legislation and / or the practice in light of the recast Reception Conditions Directive (2013/33/EU)?

There is no detailed information or national reports on the reception system to answer this question exhaustively.

The only available document has been produced by the NGO *Save the Children Italy* under the project "Praesidium", in agreement with the *Ministry of the Interior* and in partnership with the *United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)*, *International Organisation for Migration (IOM)* and the *Italian Red Cross (CRI)*. Save the Children was asked to conduct a survey of reception standards and procedures to protect children in 71 UAM residential communities in Sicily, Puglia and Marche. The survey was conducted between January and August 2010. It was observed that almost no reception centre munity was organized according to the family model provided by the national and regional legislation; generally, the staff consist of cooperatives members or other employees of the managing bodies. In some cases, the centres avail

themselves of external consultants and operators.

On a national level, it seems that one major issue is related to difficulties of the Municipalities to make payments. This affects the quality offered by the managing bodies in terms of staff professionalism and number of services offered to UAMs. In particular, legal support and cultural mediation seem to be criticalities in all three regions. In addition, despite local differences, inclusive education, training and work are often the most difficult steps along the child's integration process. It is precisely the housing conditions in the different facilities to determine the rate of minors moving away, according to the source. The survey concluded that the facilities have different reception standards and that much depends on the current "migration pressure", namely on the flow of arrivals and the system overload.

Section 3.3: Access to legal advice

Q22: Please describe access by UAMs to legal advice in your (Member) State.

Legal advice	UAMs seeking asylum or have been granted international protection	UAMs not seeking asylum, including those who entered irregularly and / or child victims of trafficking	Please state if the process is different for those cases when the minor's age is doubtful (for instance, when the child has no documents) and the age assessment procedure has not been undertaken yet to determine the age of the minor.
Legal advice and other forms of legal support	<p>Police authorities and third-sector organizations are the two main information sources; after being appointed, guardians play a key role in making sure that minors do understand the information delivered to them.</p> <p>Guardians play a key role in ensuring access to legal support for asylum and migration proceedings. Their role, amongst others, consists of informing minors about procedures and their right to legal support, finding a legal advisor or a specializing lawyer when lawyers are automatically appointed by the court or by the Authorities. The quality of legal support is often inextricably linked to the availability and commitment of guardians with enough time and resources to help UAMs in completing any relevant proceeding. A late appointment of guardians can negatively impact UAM's access to legal support. A Guardian is appointed after a minor has been reported to the court - Guardianship Court Section.</p> <p>Until the Guardianship Court appoints a guardian, the minor cannot formalize his international protection application (unless it has been submitted previously or upon his/her arrival).</p> <p>Beside the Guardian's formal role, third-sector organizations have historically played a key advocacy role, especially for asylum seeking unaccompanied minors.</p>		Not relevant

Q23: Which organisations (governmental and non-governmental) are responsible for the provision of legal support to UAMs (if different from above)?

It is difficult to answer in terms of responsibility. The Mayor, in accordance with the Law, is the public guardianship official; he/she is appointed as a Guardian by the Guardianship Court, and is therefore the legal representative for UAMs and for asylum-seeking UAMs.

Q24: What is the overall assessment of the provision of legal support to UAMs in your (Member) State (e.g. cited in existing evaluation reports / studies / other sources or based on publicly available information received from competent authorities)? Please provide references to these sources of information.

No information or information sources are available on this aspect.

As indicated in our answer to Q11, mention should be made of the project "Closing a protection gap", as part of the European initiative to define standards for the protection of UAMs. As regards Italy, a lack of guidelines and protection models was highlighted. According to the preliminary results of the research study carried out in 2012 by *Defence for Children - Italy*, the figure of the guardian is often poorly defined, not independent, with a few skills and training tools.

Section 3.4: Healthcare

Q25: Please describe access by UAMs to healthcare in your (Member) State.

	Please state (Y/N) whether the healthcare types listed are available to UAMs in each of the categories below, and provide a brief description of the healthcare available in each case:		
Healthcare	UAMs seeking asylum or have been granted international protection	UAMs not seeking asylum, including those who entered irregularly and / or child victims of trafficking	Please state if the process is different for those cases when the minor's age is doubtful (for instance, when the child has no documents) and the age assessment procedure has not been undertaken yet to determine the age of the minor.
Emergency treatment	<p>UAMs and asylum-seeking UAMs must be compulsorily registered by their guardians with the National Healthcare Service; therefore, they are fully entitled to access all the benefits guaranteed by the Italian National Healthcare Service. To register a child with the NHS, it is necessary to go to the Local Healthcare Authority of the place of residence or usual residence (address shown in the residence permit), and exhibit: proof of ID, social security number, residence permit, self-certification of one's own place of residence or usual residence ('usual residence' means a reception centre where one has been living in for more than three months).</p> <p>Once the public guardianship case has been opened, foreign minors who have no residence permit and are not covered by the NHS are still entitled to outpatient care and urgent or essential hospital care, or even long term care, injury and sickness care and preventive medicine programmes. The following benefits are guaranteed: assistance for the social protection of pregnancy and maternity; protection of health;</p>		

	vaccinations, according to the law and within the scope of collective prevention campaigns authorized by the Regions; international prophylaxis measures; and prevention, diagnosis and treatment of infectious diseases.		
Basic medical care	Upon registration, one can choose a family doctor or paediatrician. Upon registration an ID Health Card is issued, which entitles to receive a number of services for free or for a fee ('health ticket') - depending on the region where one lives. The services are the following: medical outpatient visits and specialist medical visits, home medical visits, hospitalisation, vaccinations, blood tests, x-rays, ultrasound studies, medicines, rehabilitation and prosthesis.		
Essential / specialised healthcare if required			
Psychological support / counselling			
Other (please state)			
Do UAMs have equal access to healthcare as child citizens in the (Member) State?	Yes	Yes	Yes
Are UAMs assessed to ensure their healthcare needs are met (e.g. through a health assessment)?	It depends on the regional healthcare systems and on the definition of UAMs.		
Do UAM have access to health insurance? If yes, under what conditions?	The NHS has universal coverage and is available for free.		
How is reception organised for UAMs with psychiatric problems or addictions?	Through access to specific services under the regional healthcare system. Yet, cultural mediation, an important element of therapy, is not paid by the NHS; in other words, either the local body has allocated specific funds, or it is hardly implemented.		

Q26: Which organisations (governmental and non-governmental) are responsible for the healthcare of UAMs (if different from above)?

The Local Healthcare Authority of the place of residence or usual residence is responsible for the treatment and healthcare of UAMs.

Q27: What is the overall assessment of the standard of healthcare provided to UAMs in your (Member) State (e.g. as cited in existing evaluation reports / studies / other sources or based on publically available information received from competent authorities, please give references)? Please provide references to these sources of information.

Do you foresee an evolution of the national legislation and / or the practice in light of the recast Reception Conditions Directive (2013/33/EU)?

No information or information source are available on this aspect.

Section 3.5: Education

Q28: Please describe access by UAMs to education in your (Member) State.

	Please provide information on the issues raised below on access to education by UAMs:		
Education	UAMs seeking asylum or	UAMs not seeking asylum,	Please state if the

	<i>have been granted international protection</i>	<i>including those who entered irregularly and / or child victims of trafficking</i>	<i>process is different for those cases when the minor's age is doubtful (for instance, when the child has no documents) and the age assessment procedure has not been undertaken yet to determine the age of the minor.</i>
<i>Is access to education (appropriate to the age and needs of the UAM) provided for in legislation in your (Member) State?</i>	All foreign children, including those without a residence permit, have the right to be enrolled in school (all grades, not just compulsory education). The enrolment of foreign children takes place in the manner and under the same conditions provided for Italian minors, and can be requested at any time of the year. The minor subject to compulsory education must be enrolled by parents or by the guardian, in the class corresponding to his/her age, unless the Academic Board approves the enrolment in a different class.		Foreign minors whose age is undocumented, or with an irregular or incomplete documentation, are enrolled with a reservation. An enrolment with reservation does not affect the achievement of the final school certificate or diploma, in every school institution. In the absence of negative findings about the identity of the student, the certificate/diploma is issued to the person concerned with the identification data acquired at the time of enrolment, thereby lifting the reservation at the end of compulsory education.
<i>How quickly can a UAM access education in the (Member) State?</i>	As soon as a social integration programme is defined by the Body in charge of the facility where the child has been received.		
<i>How does the (Member) State ensure that the education provided to UAMs are adapted</i>	UAMs are subject to compulsory education; they are enrolled by their parents or guardian in a class in line with their age, unless the Academic		

<p>to their age, level of education in the country of origin and the degree of the language barrier (e.g. individual assessments etc.)?</p>	<p>Board approves enrolment in a different class. The Board takes into account a series of factors: the educational system in the country of origin, assessment of skills, qualifications and levels of preparation of the student, type of school the child attended in the country of origin, student's level of education. The knowledge of the Italian language is also supported with specific activities delivered by Permanent Territorial Centres (CTPs). In actuality, there are many problems concerning the recognition of qualifications obtained abroad.</p>
<p>What support measures are available to help the UAM with the transition to education in the (Member) State (e.g. language training, mentoring, vocational training, other support mechanisms – please state?)</p>	<p>There is no national standard, but in some contexts there are specific projects supporting UAMs within the school system. It is always the Academic Board to define a possible adjustment of school curricula. For this specific purpose, individualized or specific interventions may be adopted for groups of students to facilitate the learning of Italian. The proper knowledge of the Italian language is also facilitated through crash courses based on specific projects as defined by the Board.</p>
<p>Do UAMs have the same right to education as other children in the (Member) State?</p>	<p>Yes, absolutely.</p>
<p>Do UAMs receive education in specialised educational establishments? If yes, does the (Member) State have plans to integrate these UAMs in the general education system?</p>	<p>No, there is no specialized educational establishment; UAMs and asylum-seeking UAMs attend the same schools as any other student (Italians and foreigners).</p>
<p>How does the education provided to UAMs support their social integration in the (Member) State?</p>	<p>It depends on the school establishment and on the individualized intervention: no national provision applies.</p>
<p>How does the (Member) State prepare UAMs for accessing their labour market (e.g. provision of training, vocational guidance, etc.)?</p>	<p>It depends on the school establishment and on the individualized intervention: no national provision applies. According to the national legislation, all children must complete compulsory education up to 18 years; they may attend high school or take specific vocational training courses or an apprenticeship.</p>

Q29: Which organisations (governmental and non-governmental) are responsible for the education of UAMs (if different from above)?

The Ministry of Education, University and Research is responsible for education at a national level. At the local level, the Ministry has a network of Regional Education Offices. They have relations with schools and training centres, which, in turn, independently define interventions as well as education and training support initiatives.
However, mention should be made of the role played by Permanent Territorial Centres (CTPs) for education and training, aimed at adult citizens who wish to take courses or improve their communication, interpersonal and professional skills. CTPs were established by the Ministry of Education through

Ministerial Order 455/97 and represent an important resource for UAMs above 16 years of age; they complete the public education offering.

Q30: What is the overall assessment of the standard of educational support provided to UAMs in your (Member) State (as cited in existing evaluation reports / studies / other sources or based on publically available information received from competent authorities, please give references)? Please provide references to these sources of information.

Do you foresee an evolution of the national legislation and / or the practice in light of the recast Reception Conditions Directive (2013/33/EU)?

No information or information source are available. Even the Ministry Reports on foreign students do not mention UAMs or asylum-seeking UAMs.

Section 3.6: Access to support to employment

Q31: Please describe access by UAMs to employment in your (Member) State.

	Please state (Y/N) whether the measures to support access to employment listed are available to UAMs in each of the categories below:		
Access to support to employment	UAMs seeking asylum or have been granted international protection	UAMs not seeking asylum, including those who entered irregularly and / or child victims of trafficking	Please state if the process is different for those cases when the minor's age is doubtful (for instance, when the child has no documents) and the age assessment procedure has not been undertaken yet to determine the age of the minor.
What is the minimum age a UAM can take up employment in the (Member) State?	The same rules on employment apply to both Italian and foreign minors: they can take up employment after age 16 and after completing compulsory schooling, in compliance with their training right-duty. In other words, they can work under a contract of apprenticeship or a contract other than apprenticeship which allows the child to attend school classes or vocational training courses.		
Is access to employment for UAMs conditional upon obtaining legal (residence) status, a work permit, etc.?	Yes, UAMs must be holders of a “permit for minor’s integration”, “foster care”, “asylum” or for “humanitarian reasons”. However, with respect to minors holding a ‘minor’s permit’, the right to take up employment is not expressly established or prohibited by the Italian law. A circular by the Ministry of the Interior, dated 13.11.2000, states that minors holding such permit are not allowed to work. However, according to the case law of several courts, such prohibition is unlawful; it would discriminate against minors and infringe the principle of the “best interest of the child”, as well as the Italian Constitution and the Convention on the rights of children and adolescents. Moreover, Article 32(1-ter) of the Immigration Law seems to implicitly allow minors to work: having a job is, in		

	fact, one of the conditions under which one can apply for a residence permit upon turning 18 years of age.
Under what circumstances does a UAM receive a permit to work in the (Member) State once the minimum age is reached?	Only after completing compulsory schooling, without infringing the training right-duty; in other words, they can work under a contract of apprenticeship or a contract other than apprenticeship which allows the child to attend school classes or vocational training courses.
Is labour market access limited to a maximum number of days per year?	No, no restriction applies. However, there are different types of apprenticeship contracts; one has a maximum length of 3 years, the other 2 have a maximum length of 6 years.
Can UAMs take up paid employment / household tasks for pocket money from the accommodation facilities where they are residing?	No information is available, but it is unlikely.
What other forms of support are available to UAMs once working age is reached if they are unable to find employment?	The local body should support UAMs in finding a job, through grants, guidance and support in their job search, and tutoring concerning work relationships, even with the help of cultural mediators. However, there is no national legislation in this regard, so it all depends on local policy.

Q32. Which organisations (governmental and non-governmental) are responsible for providing employment access support to UAMs (if different from above)?

Managing and local bodies put in place actions to promote access to employment. In Italy, work placement is under the responsibility of the "Provincial Labour Directorate" of the UAM's place of residence. However, some aspects should be pointed out. First, many UAMs may take undeclared jobs. Indeed, a delayed opening of the public guardianship case prevents the child from getting regular employment (hence, UAMs do not receive a salary and cannot send money to pay off the debt incurred by the families of origin for their emigration). Also, local authorities tried to introduce apprenticeships (for a salary) and 'work-grants'. In 2012, the Ministerial Directorate funded 440 "endowments" for the social-occupational inclusion of UAMs/ asylum-seeking UAMs (born in 1995) and young migrants. That effort was aimed at supporting the development of skills and individualized job placement initiatives to be implemented in all regions, to the exception of Campania, Puglia, Calabria and Sicily.

Q33. What is the overall assessment of the standard of employment access support provided to UAMs in your (Member) State (as cited in existing evaluation reports / studies / other sources or based on publicly available information received from competent authorities)? Please provide references to these sources of information.

Do you foresee an evolution of the national legislation and / or the practice in light of the recast Reception Conditions Directive (2013/33/EU)?

No information or specific information sources for UAMs are available.

A recent survey highlighted the unique features of UAMs; the survey was conducted by *Association Bruno Trentin* and *Save the Children*. It included approximately 2,000 children (10% of which were UAMs); it showed that child labour is still relevant in Italy, although it is taking on new forms: it involves many children less than 16 years of age, who, according to the national legislation, should not perform any type

of work activity. The survey clearly highlighted that many working children belong to the 'early school leavers' group, i.e. *dropouts* from school and training courses.

Section 3.7: Other integration measures

Q34. Does your (Member) State have any other integration measures in place supporting UAMs? If yes, please provide further information below.

A recent initiative, aimed at promoting the social inclusion of UAMs through sport, was promoted last year through a Memorandum of Understanding signed by ANCI and the Italian National Olympic Committee (CONI). Its purpose is the local dissemination of sports activities by asking municipal governments and sports clubs to involve UAMs.

Section 3.8: Withdrawal of reception and integration support

Q35. Under what circumstance can any of the above reception and integration support provisions be withdrawn from UAMs?

	Circumstances for withdrawal of reception / integration support		
Type of support (please list)	UAMs seeking asylum or have been granted international protection	UAMs not seeking asylum, including those who entered irregularly and / or child victims of trafficking	Please state if the process is different for those cases when the minor's age is doubtful (for instance, when the child has no documents) and the age assessment procedure has not been undertaken yet to determine the age of the minor.
	Each UAM follows his own social intervention project, defined by the local body; changes may occur on the basis of the project itself.		In the event a minor is found to be of age, all reception and integration provisions are revoked.

Q36. Are there any complaint mechanisms available to UAMs in case of withdrawal of reception and integration support? If yes, please specify below.

No information available.

Section 3.9 Identified challenges and good practices

Q37. Please indicate any **challenges** associated with the reception, care and integration of UAMs in your (Member) State (based on existing studies/ evaluations or information received from competent authorities) and how these can be overcome.

According to the analysis carried out by ANCI in 2009, common strengths are: i) collaboration with the network of services; ii) the presence of qualified staff; and iii) prompt intervention and an integrated response to the needs of the child, including immediate reception and proper guidance on the resources

available in the area. The main criticalities to effectively take charge of the child are: i) the lack of resources, facilities and dedicated services; ii) difficult coordination and collaboration with the Questura (Provincial Police Headquarters), the Police, the Ministerial Directorate; and iii) difficulties in identifying integration projects when minors come of age.

Section 4: UAMs that go missing / abscond from reception / care facilities

Q38. Have evaluations or studies on the number/ rate / country of origin of UAMs who go missing or abscond from guardianship/ reception/ care facilities been undertaken in your (Member) State?

No scientific studies have analysed the phenomenon of UAMs who go missing.

The few existing data are extrapolated from cases reported by initial reception centres/facilities. Some data are contained in the *ANCI Cittalia IV Report (2012)*. The Report states that about 10,000 UAMs have abandoned or have disappeared from the facilities between 2006 and 2010, i.e. 42% of the total number of UAMs in the five year period covered by such statistics.

However, it is worth recalling the report published in 2013 under the European project PUCAFREU "*Promoting unaccompanied children's access to fundamental rights in the European Union*", co-funded by the European Union Programme on Fundamental Rights and Citizenship. According to the report, many UAMs are left out of the protection system: they refuse, abandon or are excluded from the institutional protection facilities for several reasons. These include: i) the inadequacy of the offered services, not fulfilling the real needs and expectations of the child; ii) lack of long term solutions to enable children to continue to live in the host country once they turn 18; iii) lack of information and awareness of their rights and access to protection programmes as UAMs; and iv) personal reasons, such as the pressure of their social context, the need to generate an income, etc.. .

This is a very important issue, repeatedly stressed and reported by humanitarian organizations and by the managing bodies of the reception centres. According to Save the Children, after the recent migration flows of Eritreans, Syrians, Egyptians, Somalis, sub-Saharan people, 13,000 minors have arrived to Italy as of June 2014 (5,450 hand-in-hand, 7,550 unaccompanied: the first are mainly Syrians, the latter are Eritreans). Syrian minors do not allow you to either recognize or identify them; they escape to Milan, where a temporary accommodation centre has been set up at the Central Station, and where they generally spend 2-3 days as they wait to get on a train off to other European destinations.

An example from 2010 involves UAMs from Afghanistan and a couple of big cities, like Rome and Milan. According to the *Fourth ANCI-Cittalia Report* published in 2012, several Afghan children left the reception facilities (74.1% of the total number of Afghan UAMs at the end of the reception projects). The first few days clearly represent the most critical phase when taking care of Afghan children. 80.1% of them were missing within the first ten days, 9.8% moved away within twenty days and 6% within a month.

Q39. What are the possible reasons for the disappearance of UAMs, including absconding from guardianship/ reception / care facilities (as cited in existing evaluations/ studies/ other sources or based on publicly available information received from competent authorities)?

Again, no confirmed information is available to answer this question. According to social workers, UAMs and asylum-seeking UAMs are often victims of trafficking, handled by 'passeurs' to send them to other European destinations.

Q40. What is the socio-demographic profile of UAMs that go missing / abscond from reception / care facilities (e.g. asylum seekers or non-asylum seekers, nationality, appointed with a guardian or not, etc.)?

In most cases, such UAMs are part of a travel package that includes a "stopover" in Italy, although the final destination is elsewhere, where they have relatives or personal connections or community staff. In recent months, such phenomenon has affected particularly Syrian UAMs, but not only them. In many cases, in spite of their entitlement, they hardly file a request for international protection, because they know that they would be forced to return to Italy. In this country, even with the complicity of some authorities, the significance of such phenomenon was not properly considered during some time periods.

The *Fourth ANCI-Cittalia Report* (2012) does not give any reliable data about UAMs on the run; however, it shows that one good reason to escape from the centres where UAMs are first received is the informal network of fellow countrymen attracting the minors. Minors sometimes try to reach reference figures they had already contacted before leaving, but they usually join a group of countrymen who already know the territory and can guide them to settle there.

Q41. When are UAMs most likely to disappear from guardianship/ reception/ care facilities (e.g. within first few days of arrival, during weekends, before / after age assessment procedures, etc.)? Please provide evidence cited in existing evaluations/ studies/ other sources or based on publically available information received from competent authorities.

No reliable information and data from the authorities are available to answer this question. Moreover, there is neither a unique nor a general profile of those who disappear. Social workers claim that UAMs usually run away within the first few days of their arrival at the reception centre, before identification procedures, during the night.

Q42. Please provide any other evidence that may be available of the impact of guardianship/ reception/ care facilities on the proportion of missing or absconding UAMs.

No reliable information and data from the authorities are available to answer this question. As a rule, UAMs flee to be received elsewhere in the country or they choose to refuse reception because they are part of and depend on criminal groups.

Q43. What measures has your (Member) State developed to a) prevent or to b) react to disappearances of UAMs (e.g. existence and use of support services, national hotlines for missing children, missing persons alerts in the Schengen Information System, NGO networks such as Missing Children Europe and their member organisations, taking fingerprints and photographs of UAMs as an aid for tracing, etc.)? Is there any evidence to suggest how effective these measures have been in practice (e.g. cited in existing evaluations/ studies/ other sources or based on publically available information received from competent authorities)?

In June 2014, some of the most active organizations, engaged for years in promoting the rights of migrant children (AIBI, Amnesty International, Italian Caritas, Centro Astalli, CIR, CNCA, CNCM, Community of Sant'Egidio, Emergency, INTERSOS, Save the Children Italy, Terre des Hommes) rallied together for the first time. They made specific requests to the Italian Government and Parliament in order to address the critical and inadequate conditions of reception and protection of the UAMs who are in Italy and of those who will arrive.

The Plea made to the Government and Parliament, while appreciating the life-saving effort of *Mare Nostrum*, stresses that UAMs should be properly welcomed and protected; they should have the opportunity to start their integration process as quickly as possible, while this is not the case, due to the chronic lack of a structured system and dedicated staff. In their plea, for the first time the signatory organizations asked the Italian Government to take full and direct responsibility for the initial reception

system for UAMs. The authorities were asked to provide decent hospitality, a system of temporary shelter facilities based on homogeneous quality criteria and standards, in order to avoid overcrowding, favour the subsequent transfer of minors to the reception communities scattered throughout the country (accredited communities, in line with any current regional criteria, including the SPRAR network), as well as to promote family foster care.

Such efforts should also include measures to prevent the risk of escape and exploitation of lone children; the identification and appointment of guardians should become faster, promoting the independence of minors by means of appropriate social inclusion measures.

Q44. *What are the procedures and practices of your (Member) State to a) report and b) deal with disappearances of UAMs (e.g. protocols among authorities, standardised procedure for dealing with disappearances, etc.)?*

Apparently, no procedure has been put in place

Q45. *How is the registration of disappearances of UAMs organised in your (Member) State (e.g. by child, by incident, etc.)?*

The Ministerial Directorate, upon receipt of the report from the local social services or reception facility, flags it in the database.

The same UAM may appear under multiple identities in the database and at the Police office if he/she has given different names.

Q46. *Please indicate any **challenges** associated with UAMs who go missing or abscond from guardianship/ reception/ care facilities in your (Member) State (based on existing studies/ evaluations or publically available information received from competent authorities) and how these can be overcome.*

According to the *Fourth ANCI-Cittalia Report* published in 2012, the tools employed for the immediate reception and integration of the child by the local bodies (municipalities and reception centres managing bodies), seem to have favoured the permanence of children within the community, significantly reducing escape rates. Compared to previous years, a positive change occurred in 2010 with regard to children who stay at least one month in immediate reception centres (from 34.5% in 2006 to 59% in 2010); at the same time, fewer minors fled the facilities, down from 62% in 2006 to 31.3% during the last year considered.

Q47. *Please provide any examples of proven (e.g. through evaluation reports / studies) **good practices** regarding UAMs who go missing or abscond from guardianship/ reception/ care facilities in your (Member) State. Please specify the source (as cited in existing evaluations/ studies/ other sources or based on publically available information received from competent authorities).*

In previous years, interesting experiences were tested in this regard by the local authorities. Generally, these included outreach activities sponsored by various Third Sector organizations in Rome (*Civico Zero, Caritas of Rome*), Naples (*Dedalus Cooperative*), Turin (*Una finestra sulla piazza*). Many of those initiatives are no longer active due to a lack of public funding.

[Section 5: Arrangements in the \(Member\) States for UAMs when turning 18 years of age](#)

This section examines the arrangements for former UAMs, both those seeking asylum and those not seeking asylum, once they reach the age of 18 years.

Q48. *Please describe the situation in your Member State for former UAMs once they reach the age of 18 years:*

Please describe the situation in your Member State for former UAMs once they reach the age of 18 years

Arrangements for former UAMs	UAMs seeking asylum or who have been granted international protection	UAMs not seeking asylum including those who entered irregularly and / or child victims of trafficking
<p>What residence permit provisions are in place for the UAM turning 18 years of age in your (Member) State? What are the consequences for the rights and obligations of the former UAM in accordance with these residence provisions?</p>	<p>All UAMs seeking asylum, who are entrusted to reception centres/facilities when they are still minors, and are issued a "permit for asylum application" (acknowledged as refugees) and then get a "permit for asylum", "international protection", "subsidiary protection", or "humanitarian reasons" have such permit renewable after the age of 18. Moreover, the humanitarian permit can be converted into a "permit for study purposes" and "access to employment" or permit for "paid employment", upon their coming of age, following an approval by the Ministerial Directorate. SPRAR envisages protection measures until reaching the age of 18 years and 6 months.</p>	<p>The residence permit for minors allows UAMs to work in specific cases envisaged by the Italian law; it can be converted into a permit for study or work (apprenticeship and traineeship in general, but even for regular, long term employment), when they reach the age of 18.</p>
<p>Are there any exceptions to the residence provisions that are in place for UAMs who are turning 18 years of age? If not, what are the implications of these provisions for the reception arrangements and integration measures that have supported the UAM up to that stage?</p>	<p>Under the terms of the Immigration Law and the case-law of the Constitutional Court and the Council of State, minors holding a permit for minor's integration, foster care, family reasons or minor age, should be granted a residence permit for study, access to employment, employment or self-employment, upon turning 18 years of age, under the following conditions:</p> <p>1) Minors who have lived in Italy for 3 years and have gone through an integration project for 2 years (Article 32, 1-bis and ter):</p> <p>UAMs who fulfil the following requirements can obtain a permit for study, access to employment, employment or self-employment, upon turning 18 years of age:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - they have not been subject to any measure by the Ministerial Directorate; - they have been in Italy for at least 3 years before, i.e. before turning 15; - they have taken part in a social and civil integration project run by a public or private body for at least 2 years (only national projects listed in the registry provided for by Article 52, Presidential Decree 394/99;) - they attend school classes, or are engaged in paid employment in the forms and in the manner required by the Italian law, or hold an 	<p>Since the residence permit for minors, for integration and for family reasons or foster care are granted because of the minor age of the applicant, it should expire when children turn 18. Currently, the rules relating to the granting of a residence permit to UAMs when they turn 18 are often interpreted quite restrictively by the Questura (Provincial Police headquarters). In addition, practices are quite inconsistent across the country and tend to change).</p>

	<p>employment contract even they have not started working yet; - have a place to live. The fulfilment of such requirements must be duly proven by means of relevant documents.</p> <p>2) Fostered minors (Article 32,1)</p> <p>a) Children with a permit for foster care and decision against repatriation taken by the Ministerial Directorate. At age 18, a permit for study, access to employment, employment or self-employment, or for health or treatment reasons can be granted to minors who, after receiving the decision against repatriation by the Ministerial Directorate and after being given in foster care under Law 184/83, received a residence permit for foster care before the age of 18.</p> <p>b) Minors under foster care, under Law 184/83 At age 18, minors under foster care under Article 2 of Law 184/83 on adoptions can obtain a permit to study, access to employment, employment or self-employment, or for health or treatment reasons.</p> <p>c) Minors under protection and minors under "de facto" foster care by relatives up to the fourth degree. The judgment of the Constitutional Court No 198/2003 stated that minors under protection and those under "de facto" foster care by a relative up to the fourth degree are equivalent to minors under foster care according to Article 2 of Law 184/83, for the purpose of issuing a residence permit at age 18.</p>	
<p>What measures are in place to support the UAM in advance of the transition (e.g. integration support, return support)?</p>	<p>There is no standard measure. Local authorities should put in place measures to support those who have just come of age and who received assistance as UAMs, to help them during this delicate phase of transition, avoiding sudden discontinuation of all support.</p> <p>In particular, it is essential that local authorities support and assist those who have just come of age: i) in obtaining a residence permit for study, access to employment or work; ii) by providing housing young people can live for a certain period of time after coming of age and by supporting them to gain access to the private market; and iii) in finding a job.</p> <p>Currently, however, local authorities have limited resources to invest to help 18 years old youth to gain their quasi-independence. Hence, there is a terrible divide between before and after turning 18 years of age.</p>	
<p>What measures are in place to support the former UAM after the transition (e.g. formal follow up or after-care service, open door policy at residential homes, personal adviser, pathway plan,</p>	<p>None.</p>	

<i>etc.)?</i>		
What are the implications of the change in residence status for the access to education and/ or training of the former UAM?	No formal implication in terms of access requirement; however, unless a guardian is appointed, the whole process becomes very difficult. In most cases, they have to work and UAMs tend to become school dropouts.	
What are the implications of the change in residence status for the access to employment of the former UAM?	No implication	

Q49. Please describe the monitoring mechanisms in place to ensure the effective transition of unaccompanied minors from the age of minority to 18 years of age, including the types of measure undertaken and the duration of the monitoring period, where the situation in the Member State has changed since 2009, or where the (Member) State did not take part in the 2009 Study.

No known mechanism

Q50. Please indicate any **challenges** associated with the transition to 18 years of age experienced by unaccompanied minors in your (Member) State (based on existing studies / evaluations or information received from competent authorities) and how these can be overcome.

We have no reliable information; however, social workers claim that the current rules governing the issuance of a residence permit to UAMs when they turn 18 are often interpreted very restrictively by the Questura (provincial police headquarters). In addition, practices are very inconsistent across the country and subject to change (moreover, such practice is not limited to minors under foster care by order of the Juvenile Court). It is hoped that the Police enforce the law in accordance with the indications contained in Judgment No 198/2003. In many cases, the "residence permit for minors" is transformed into a "residence permit for job seekers."

Q51. Please provide any examples of proven (e.g. through evaluation reports / studies) **good practices** regarding the transition to 18 years of age of UAMs in your (Member) State. Please specify the source (e.g. cited in existing evaluations/ studies / other sources or based on publically available information received from competent authorities).

No good practices to mention.

Section 6: Return practices, including reintegration of UAMs

This section of the Synthesis Report will provide an overview of (Member) States' Return policies with regard to unaccompanied minors. (Member) States are also requested to provide information on the procedures that apply when an unaccompanied minor claims to be a minor and once minority is either confirmed or disproved.

Q52. Can an unaccompanied minor be returned (through voluntary or forced return) to the country of origin if s/he does not fulfil the entry requirements set out in Section 2?

Categories of unaccompanied minors that may be returned to the	Please provide more information about the circumstances under which unaccompanied minors may be returned <u>voluntarily</u> to the country of origin a) in	Please provide more information about the circumstances under which unaccompanied minors may be the subject of a <u>forced</u>	Please state if the process is different for those cases when the minor's age is doubtful (for
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country of origin	national legislation / policy and b) in practice, with a particular focus on developments since 2009.	return to the country of origin / Dublin country / transit country a) in national legislation / policy and b) in practice, with a particular focus on developments since 2009.	instance, when the child has no documents) and the age assessment procedure has not been undertaken yet to determine the age of the minor.
Non-asylum seeking unaccompanied minor arriving at a land / sea border or airport	Based on Articles 5 and 7 of Decision 2007/575 / EC and Italian legislation (Law No 129 of 2 August 2011 and relevant guidelines – Ministerial Decree 27.10.11) Assisted Voluntary Repatriation is currently intended, in Italy, amongst others, to vulnerable subjects as per Article 5(2) of Decision 2007/575 / EC or minors in general and UAMs in particular, without any further specification.	Non existent	Non existent
Non-asylum seeking unaccompanied minor apprehended in the territory of the (Member) State		Non existent	Non existent
Asylum seeking unaccompanied minor arriving at a land / sea border or airport	Non existent		
Asylum seeking unaccompanied minor apprehended in the territory of the (Member) State	Non existent		
Asylum seeking unaccompanied minor arriving at an internal authority (e.g. police, child protection service, etc.)	Non existent		
Other (please state)			

Q53a. Can unaccompanied minors be detained whilst awaiting return?

No

In the event that a UAM or an asylum-seeking UAM is accused of a criminal offense (a proceeding is opened), they are assigned to the Centre for Juvenile Justice (CGM). If a guardian was not already appointed, it is done at this time, and this responsibility is given to the mayor. The child is quickly identified, whereas CGM remains in charge of any relevant responsibilities and educational support.

Once the subject has served his imprisonment term for crimes committed when he/she was a minor and has proven to be willing to participate in an assistance and integration programme, it is desirable that he/she is subject to measures other than detention or to probation, but it all depends on the decisions of the Juvenile Court.

Q54. Are there any alternatives to detention in place in the (Member) State for unaccompanied minors awaiting return? If yes, please provide more information in this regard.

Q55a. Does the (Member) State provide reintegration support to unaccompanied minors returning to their country of origin under return procedures? Please consider both voluntary and forced return in your answer.

Yes

Q55b. If yes, please describe the reintegration measures in place to support unaccompanied minors before, during and after their return under return procedures.

The Ministerial Directorate makes every effort to ensure that UAMs are protected, in order to prevent them from being exploited and/or entering circuits that may harm their development. However, to have an effective protection and to fully realize the "best interests" of the minors, under the New York Convention on the Rights of the Child, the minor's right to family unity must also be recognized. Its purpose is to allow the child to grow with his/her family of origin and preserve family ties. The Ministerial Directorate incur repatriation costs (airfare and accompanied return to the family) and provides the child with a plan for his/her r reintegration into the social fabric of the country of origin. The reintegration plan is drawn up jointly by the social services of the municipality that is in charge of the child and by IOM. It is worked out on an individual basis, according to the skills, aptitude and preferences of the child. The primary objective of reintegration programmes is to establish, finance and monitor an educational, school and/or work process allowing the child to become financially independent of the family in a relatively short time.

5c. Please describe the monitoring mechanisms in place to ensure the effective reintegration of unaccompanied minors, including the types of measure undertaken and the duration of the monitoring period.

Non existent

Section 8: Conclusions

The Synthesis Report will outline the main findings of the Study and present conclusions relevant for policymakers at national and EU level. Member States should include any overall conclusions in the Topline Factsheet at the beginning of the Common Template rather than duplicate information in this Section.

The description of the procedures for the reception of UAMs and asylum-seeking UAMs most likely does not fully reflect the impact of this social phenomenon on each welfare service provider at a local level. As a matter of fact, Italy is characterized by an extremely varied reception models for UAMs. At the same time, we can identify a common intervention process, where reception is the main protection and security measure, followed by integration policies, with a special focus on training and employment, until minors turn 18 years of age.

In Italy, the social policies adopted by local authorities are mainly concentrated on two types of intervention, integration and housing. These policies unfold and develop differently according to the local context, local resources, the role played by the Mayor in defining and managing this phenomenon, and the level of involvement and interaction among local social stakeholders. According to the information gathered, it is clear that the management and care of UAMs are based on a welfare mix, where an extremely important role is played by Third Sector organizations (NGO) in agreement with Local Authorities.

Other than presenting a varied landscape, in this final section we will try to recommend some ways to help define a plan of action addressed to UAMs and asylum-seeking UAMs.

First of all, it is necessary to strengthen any child de-institutionalisation experience, since foster families are very few nationwide. For the purposes of a child's successful integration in Italy, it is essential to start procedures for regularizing the minor, recognizing international protection and speeding up the opening of a public guardianship case.

According to the available information available, there are pronounced differences at a local level with regard to the issuance of the residence permit or the guardianship process, with significant variations depending on where the child is received.

An analysis of relations among the subjects appointed to take charge of UAM, shows that it is necessary to strengthen and formalise inter-institutional relationships among the various entities; most importantly, it is necessary to ensure that adequate financial resources are allocated to the Local Authorities for such interventions and for adapting the facilities, so as to increase the number of places available for UAMs reception.

Local Authorities seem to be fundamental to the coordination of institutional interventions; they can help solve an issue that does not originate locally, but elsewhere; this is why many have been asking for a national intervention framework to support complex processes aimed at taking charge of minors.

One critical issue in the protection of UAMs is the regulatory framework. This has not been fully systematized yet, with very heterogeneous practices from one city to another. UAM migration projects are highly diverse, and local welfare institutions need to pay attention to individual cases in order to define practices which best protect the child's interest. Migration flows evolve continuously, while adolescent minors present unique characteristics, and this makes continuous demands to local policies. Fragmented interventions should be replaced by more effective operational protocols: local authority operators feel they are alone, with no power to coordinate interventions, in the absence of a coherent national policy.

According to research reports, the following ten recommendations seem to be especially important to design any future interventions.

a - Informal network of support

Although the legal definition of UAM is clear and unambiguous, it is believed that the concept of "unaccompanied" contains significant subtleties: indeed, the network of countrymen or relatives without a legal residence permit exerts a strong influence on UAMs' lives.

Direct sources (staff, operators) confirm that a significant proportion of children for whom a guardianship case for UAM is opened have, in fact, been present within the territory of the State for a long time. It is necessary to understand with whom, for how long, doing what and why they decide to rely on institutional guardianship at a given moment. Even though it can be assumed that, to a certain extent and particularly for some nationalities, minors enter the guardianship system only when they are close to turning 18 for the specific purpose of getting a regular residence permit, as they are

pushed and encouraged by their fellow countrymen.

b - Need to provide consistent rules

Our analysis shows that regulations on UAMs as holders of a residence permit when they are still minors are quite incomplete and contradictory. Given the existence of an uncoordinated and inconsistent set of rules on UAMs, inevitably, the Police make arbitrary decisions. A unified legislation would consolidate all rules governing the matter, in a consistent and coordinated fashion. This approach would contribute to permanently separate the legislation on foreign minors from immigration legislation in general, and from controlled flow policies, as is actually the case when these subjects turn 18.

At the same time, a general principle should be affirmed: in case of delays by public administration or by a Foreign Authority in taking measures to safeguard the legitimate interests of the child, appropriate arrangements should be put in place to prevent the child from suffering any harm. For example, a specific provision should be made on the effects of the Administration failing to take action in sensitive cases such as the opening of guardianship case, the issuing of residence permits, etc.

As to the arrangement of administrative and judicial offices, it would be desirable to encourage training of specialised professionals with an expertise on the issues and rights of UAMs and asylum-seeking UAMs. These professionals should work permanently for the entities which are involved in different ways and capacities in the management of this issue. A close synergy should be promoted to ensure the effective protection of the child's interest. Moreover, the rules governing the powers of the Guardianship Court, Juvenile Court and Ordinary Courts should be amended in order to establish collaboration between these authorities. For example, one jurisdiction, such as the Juvenile Court, could be given different competences, for instance, to initiate the procedure for an assisted return to the country of origin.

c - Local authorities as guarantors of UAMs' rights

The Mayor of the city where a child without adults is identified has the task of enforcing the rights that the law grants to minors, on behalf and under the supervision of the Guardianship Court, even though this supervision is more theoretical than real.

An analysis of procedures shows a dual function played by the Mayor in terms of local welfare. On one hand, the Mayor reports to and is informed by institutions that take decisions concerning the minor, such as age identification and assessment by the Police, recognition of refugee status by the Territorial Committees, issue of the residence permit by the Questura, foster care by relatives as decided by the Guardianship Court, repatriation agreed upon by the Ministerial Directorate and IOM, recognition of certificates and diplomas with the Embassies, etc. An analysis of these procedures has highlighted the need to introduce operational protocols to make the integration of competences effective and timely.

On the other hand, the Mayor plays a crucial role in setting the local network of welfare services in motion; he/she acts as an intermediary for minors to full benefit from the public services they are entitled to. At times, their rights are not implemented because of difficulties in using such services: for instance, healthcare services to protect mental health (where no cultural mediation is provided) or integration into compulsory education, or job placement services, or other leisure time and socialization services.

There is unanimous consensus on rights such as health, training or leisure time. Still, this turns into a complex task on a local level, with many institutions hardly keeping up with the new needs of a dynamic intercultural society. UAMs constitute a particularly hard test, due to a number of reasons: cultural barriers, their age (adolescents) and their history of discomfort.

d – Central role of the educational project

Within the framework of local welfare, an individualized educational project seems to be the fundamental tool to make measures aimed at minors, more consistent and harmonious. Social workers claim that they work on an emergency basis, with their job being based on providing assistance in most cases. However difficult, it is necessary to shift from an approach based on assistance to education and promotion, i.e. from emergency to regular actions, even when such actions result from contingent situations. This effort entails a number of firm beliefs as well as concrete methods and strategies.

A national in-depth study suggests that the child should be first and foremost considered as the holder of rights and not just a recipient of varied interventions: the real task consists in supporting, guiding, accompanying, helping and verifying the child's development process.

In this perspective, interventions aimed at training and job placement are not sufficient; the growth of children should be approached holistically, offering ongoing, coordinated interventions while monitoring their effectiveness, whatever goal they pursue, even after eighteen years of age.

The educational approach goes beyond the emergency and assistance. It is focused on the child as a person; it tries to grasp his/her potential and resources and get him/her interested in a different type of future. Also, it stimulates the child's desire and boosts his/her confidence in outcomes that can be reached with the child's personal commitment, which is supported and monitored.

e – Relationship with street minors and fight the problem of missing children

In addition to improving and upgrading the local system for the protection of children, it is necessary to meet any emerging needs through targeted interventions which address existing criticalities, such as the fight against the issue of missing children, through an outreach educational programme.

In the field of social interventions, it is a common practice to report the presence of children in the street who avoid any contact with the social services. They are part of circuits of exploitation that which are hard to counter. These minors often flee the initial reception centre after a very short time. Involving street children in the fight against the problem of missing children is one of the most critical areas, where reception policies seem to have forgotten the dimension of prevention and community development.

f – Education and training

Training and employment seem to be crucial tools for the integration of UAMs into the Italian society. In our answers, we have tried to show the widespread recognition of the right to education for all children, especially to primary schooling, while highlighting some difficulties in terms of inclusion into secondary education or other forms of training.

The so-called Permanent Territorial Centres play a key role in teaching basic Italian and obtaining a high school diploma. This highlights the importance of system actions offering students aged 15-18 the possibility to attend courses conducive to this diploma or qualification. However, the recognition of the school titles obtained in the countries of origin seems difficult due to lengthy and complex bureaucratic procedures.

g – Cultural mediation and peer education

Multicultural and multidisciplinary teams seem to be an appropriate way to work with UAMs. These teams often avail themselves of cultural mediators, especially during the initial interview with minors and at the time of getting in touch with the families (or Territorial Committees, in the case of refugees). The nature of interventions, professionalism and skills of mediators varies with the context, especially because there is no clear national legislation in this area.

Locally conducted analyses show that these professionals are involved mainly in emergency situations,

instead of working with project teams on a regular basis. This is mostly due to a lack of resources and proposals for staff training.

i – Coming of age, a true challenge

The path to protect UAMs on the part of local authorities is put to the test during the transition to adulthood, when many rights are lost. Job placement is fundamental to successfully address two important aspects: the residence permit (as an adult) and an independent living arrangement.

l – Girls are more vulnerable

First of all, UAMs are mostly boy; in all variables we have considered (timeliness of the care provided to UAMs, job placement, independent living arrangement, etc.), the “gender” variable clearly indicates that girls are more vulnerable in their integration process.

This evidence should provide food for thought for the operators at the different levels of local welfare systems. They should give greater attention to female UAMs; girls should be helped remove any obstacles they may encounter during the integration process due to mere fact of being female (besides being alone and being migrants). This extra effort should also aim at protecting them against the risk of being victims of the trafficking of human being and prostitution, and the risks connected to being alone asylum-seeking girls in their teens. .

Aside from the above mentioned social policies, more remarks can be made.

First of all, there is a need to contribute to the definition of standardized procedures; these latter should be sure and shared among the European, national, local and inter-institutional levels; in this way, local authorities could design and implement sustainable quality protection measures, also from a financial perspective. Secondly, a circular, timely and appropriate information exchange should be promoted between the European, national, local and inter-institutional levels. The aim is to encourage a synergistic approach where competences and roles of the various stakeholders are geared toward common goals. In particular, an improved and practical identification procedure for minors should be applied. Finally, planning efforts should enable to put together an improved network of services, to be defined through multilevel governance involving every local welfare stakeholder, for a more effective response to such a dynamic, moving target.

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Annex 1

Table 1: Statistics on asylum applications from unaccompanied minors in the (Member) State (2009-2013)

Please provide the cumulative figures per calendar year (i.e. the number of unaccompanied minors recorded against each criteria during each calendar year). To ensure comparability of data, please provide statistics on UAMs considered by the national authorities to be UAMs. Where available / appropriate, please provide statistics on UAMs who claim to be minors but whose age is doubtful and the age assessment procedure has not yet been undertaken to determine the age of the minor.

1. Statistics on numbers of <u>asylum applications submitted by third-country nationals unaccompanied minors</u>	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Source / further information
1.1 Total Number of Asylum Applications submitted by unaccompanied minors in the (Member) State in each reference period	420	305	825	970	805	Eurostat

1.2 Total number of <u>Asylum Applications</u> submitted by unaccompanied minors in the (Member) State in each reference period, disaggregated by their country of nationality, where available:	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	National authorities/ Eurostat
Algeria		7				Eurostat
Afghanistan	90	124	125	117	70	Eurostat
Bangladesh		9	30	37	70	Eurostat
Côte d'Ivoire	22	13	123	215		Eurostat
Egypt					24	Eurostat
Eritrea	36	16			45	Eurostat
Gambia	28			50	116	Eurostat
Ghana	18		56	62		Eurostat
Guinea	9	16	41	59		Eurostat
Iraq	11	11				Eurostat
Mali			90	175	70	Eurostat

Nigeria	72	12	43	28	39	Eurostat
Pakistan		13	27	26	39	Eurostat
Senegal					44	Eurostat
Somalia	39		37	31	159	Eurostat
Tunisia			53			Eurostat
Turkey	14	24				Eurostat
Other: (please include any numbers of unaccompanied minors not included in any of the categories above)	81	60	200	170	129	Eurostat
Total (must equal the total in 1.1)	420	305	825	970	805	Eurostat

1.3 Total number of <u>Asylum Applications</u> submitted by unaccompanied minors in the (Member) State in each reference period, disaggregated by their sex and age, where available:	2009		2010		2011		2012		2013		Source/ further information
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
Less than 14 years old	15	0	11	3	25	6	4	1	7	1	Eurostat
From 14 to 15 years old	39	12	26	7	69	8	24	8	79	5	Eurostat
From 16 to 17 years old	312	42	242	16	689	28	912	21	675	38	Eurostat
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Eurostat
Total (should equal 1.1)	366	54	279	26	783	42	940	30	761	44	Eurostat

1.4 Total <u>Asylum Decisions</u> for unaccompanied minors, disaggregated by sex	2009		2010		2011		2012		2013		Source/ further information
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	National authorities
1.4.1 Total number of <u>asylum decisions</u> for unaccompanied minors in the reference year (disaggregated by sex)	25	5	11	6	33	6	26	11	99	11	S.I Vestanet C3
1.4.2 Total number of <u>positive asylum decisions</u> for unaccompanied minors in the reference year (disaggregated by sex)	11	2	3	3	9	3	9	6	55	2	S.I Vestanet C3
1.4.2.1 Of the total positive asylum decisions provided above please provide the <u>status granted to the unaccompanied minor</u> :	25	5	11	6	33	6	26	11	99	11	S.I Vestanet C3
a) Refugee status	1	1	3	3	7	1	4	4	32	1	S.I Vestanet C3
b) Subsidiary protection	10	1			2	2	5	2	23	1	S.I Vestanet C3
c) Humanitarian reasons	1		2		5	2	10	2	30	3	S.I Vestanet C3
d) Other	13	3	6	3	19	1	7	3	14	6	S.I Vestanet C3
Total (must equal 1.4.2.1)	25	5	11	6	33	6	26	11	99	11	S.I Vestanet C3

1.5 Total number of residence permits granted to unaccompanied minors receiving positive asylum decisions	2009		2010		2011		2012		2013		Source/ further information
	M	F									
Type of residence permit granted 1 etc... (please add in additional rows as required):	NA	NA	NA								

1.6 Asylum seeking unaccompanied minors that abscond and/ or are reported as missing from the asylum system (including those then accounted for)	2009		2010		2011		2012		2013		Source/ further information
	M	F									
1.6.1 Total number of <u>Asylum seeking unaccompanied minors that abscond and/ or are reported as missing from the asylum system (e.g. before first interview/ decision, etc.)</u> , disaggregated by sex	1		1		6		1	1	10	6	S.I Vestanet C3
1.6.2 Total number of <u>Asylum seeking unaccompanied minors that are found back (after being reported as missing)</u> ; if and when possible, please provide the country in which they are found (to capture the cross-border dimension of the phenomenon)	NA	NA									

Table 2: Statistics on unaccompanied minors NOT applying for asylum in the (Member) State (2009-2013)

Please provide the cumulative figures per calendar year (i.e. the number of unaccompanied minors recorded against each criteria during each calendar year). To ensure comparability of data, please provide statistics on UAMs considered by the national authorities to be UAMs. Where available / appropriate, please provide statistics on UAMs who claim to be minors but whose age is doubtful and the age assessment procedure has not yet been undertaken to determine the age of the minor.

Statistics on numbers of third-country national unaccompanied minors NOT applying for asylum	2009*		2010		2011		2012		2013		Source / further information
	M+F	F									
2.1 Total number of unaccompanied minors NOT applying for asylum in the (Member) State in each reference period	5,984	544	4,438	422	7,750	417	7,575	440	8,461	553	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy

* For 2009, the number of unaccompanied minors NOT applying for asylum could be incorrect, because data provided by Ministry of Labour and Social Policy do not report the number of non-asylum seeking UAMs that were untraceable.

2.2 Total number of unaccompanied minors NOT applying for asylum in the (Member) State in each reference period, disaggregated by their country of nationality, where available:	2009*	2010	2011	2012	2013	Source / further information
Algeria	42	60	53	43	51	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
Afghanistan	772	919	1,094	1,193	1,087	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
Albania	743	400	388	708	804	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
Bangladesh	164	255	514	1,409	1,107	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy

Bosnia and Herzegovina	41	38	37	38	36	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
Brazil	27	23	20	22	14	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
Burkina Faso	15		73	33		Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
Cameroon			16	14	11	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
Chad			29	12		Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
Congo				12	11	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
Côte d'Ivoire	27	23	449	103	25	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
Croatia	51	52	48	52		Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
Ecuador				10		Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
Egypt	824	492	1,172	1,225	1,828	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
Eritrea	281	145	87	125	537	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
Ethiopia	13		22	15	17	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia			11	13	11	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy

Gabon	29	24	20			Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
Gambia	15		78	54	210	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
Ghana	102	53	219	91	58	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
Guinea	11	10	147	38	27	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
Guinea Bissau			13			Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
India	12	12				Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
Iran	17	17	18	20	20	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
Iraq	160	77	56	48	38	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
Libya			37	19		Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
Mali	11	10	464	151	100	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
Morocco	908	652	497	421	333	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
Mauritania			10			Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
Niger	10		45	17		Ministry of Labour and Social Policy

Nigeria	210	105	216	89	102	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
Pakistan	78	95	107	151	174	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
Palestine	361	137	60	34	23	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
Peru	13	11	10			Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
Kosovo		168	127	106	127	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
Moldova	55	50	32	26	21	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
Serbia	260	22	21	31	31	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
Senegal	143	110	173	154	209	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
Syria				29	110	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
Somalia	262	172	189	458	932	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
Sudan	15		25	15	14	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
Togo	12		14			Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
Tunisia	147	115	1,013	448	229	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy

Turkey	17	21	25	19	17	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
Ukraine	14	12	18	17	17	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
Other: (please include any numbers of unaccompanied minors not included in any of the categories above)	122	158	103	112	130	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
Total (must equal the total in 2.1)	5,984	4,438	7,750	7,575	8,461	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy

* For 2009, the total number of unaccompanied minors NOT applying for asylum could be incorrect, because data provided by Ministry of Labour and Social Policy do not report the number of non-asylum seeking UAMs that were untraceable.

2.3 Total number of unaccompanied minors NOT applying for asylum in the (Member) State in each reference period, disaggregated by their sex and age*:	2009**	2010	2011	2012	2013	Source / further information
Less than 15 years old	791	647	720	698	892	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
15 years old	629	558	817	746	1083	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
16 years old	1,359	1,104	2,006	1,895	2,114	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
17 years old	3,205	2,129	4,207	4,236	4,372	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
Total (should equal 2.1)	5,984	4,438	7,750	7,575	8,461	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy

* Data provided by the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy show the number of unaccompanied minors by age, but they are not disaggregated by sex. With reference to age classes, we point out that they are different from those required by EMN.

**For 2009 numbers could be incorrect, because data provided by Ministry of Labour and Social Policy do not report the number of non-asylum seeking UAMs that were untraceable.

2.3.1 Total number of unaccompanied minors NOT applying for asylum in the (Member) State in each reference period, disaggregated by their sex and age:	2012		2013		Source / further information
	M	F	M	F	National data
Less than 14 years old	199	83	241	84	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
From 14 to 15 years old	671	74	962	70	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
From 16 to 17 years old	4,618	176	4,723	239	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
Unknown	0	0	0	0	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
Total (should equal 2.1)**	5,488	333	5,926	393	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy

** For the years 2012 and 2013, table 2.3.1. shows data provided by the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy disaggregated by sex and classes of age. The age classes are correct, but the total not equal 2.1 because data provided do not report the number of non-asylum seeking UAMs that were untraceable.

2.4 Total number of residence permits granted to unaccompanied minors not in the asylum system, disaggregated by sex*	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Source / further information
Residence permit for custody (permesso di soggiorno per affidamento)	891	976	1,168	1,324	1,071	Ministry of Interior
Residence permit for minors (permesso di soggiorno per minore età)	1,344	1,297	2,362	2,780	2,712	Ministry of Interior

* Data provided by the Ministry of Interior are not disaggregated by sex.

2.5 Non-asylum seeking unaccompanied minors that <u>abscond and/ or are reported as missing</u> for at least x weeks from the care of public authorities (including those then accounted for)	2009		2010		2011		2012		2013		Source / further information
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
2.5.1 Total number of <u>non-asylum seeking unaccompanied minors that abscond and/ or are reported as missing</u> from the care of public authorities, disaggregated by sex and, if and when possible, the type of UAMs that 'goes missing', e.g. runaways, child victims of trafficking, etc.	NA	NA	1,191	105	1,724	67	1,647	107	1,982	160	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
2.5.2 Total number of <u>non-asylum seeking unaccompanied minors that are found back (after being reported as missing)</u> ; if and when possible, please provide the country in which they are found (to capture the cross-border dimension of the phenomenon)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	

* For 2009, data provided by the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy do not report the number of non-asylum seeking UAMs that were untraceable

Table 3: Statistics on asylum and / or non-asylum seeking unaccompanied minors in the care of public authorities in the (Member) State (2009-2013)

Please provide the cumulative figures per calendar year (i.e. the number of unaccompanied minors recorded against each criteria during each calendar year). To ensure comparability of data, please provide statistics on UAMs considered by the national authorities to be UAMs. Where available / appropriate, please provide statistics on UAMs who claim to be minors but whose age is doubtful and the age assessment procedure has not yet been undertaken to determine the age of the minor.

Statistics on numbers of third-country national unaccompanied minors in the care of the public authorities	2009		2010		2011		2012		2013		Source / further information
	M+F	F									
3.1 Total Number of unaccompanied minors in the care of the public authorities in each reference period	5,984	544	3,142	317	5,959	350	5,821	333	6,319	393	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy

3.2 Total Number of unaccompanied minors in the care of the public authorities in each reference period, disaggregated by their country of nationality, where available:	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Source / further information
Algeria	42	33	19	17	25	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
Afghanistan	772	482	534	626	551	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
Albania	743	392	378	679	779	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
Bangladesh	164	253	504	1,384	1,063	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy

Bosnia and Herzegovina	41	30	29	24	19	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
Brazil	27	22	20	22	14	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
Burkina Faso	15		71	28	7	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
Cameroon		9	16	14	11	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
Chad			27	10		Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
China					5	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
Congo		7		11	11	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
Côte d'Ivoire	27	19	436	82	22	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
Croatia	51	17	15	21		Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
Ecuador		6		9	7	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
Egypt	824	314	901	969	1,415	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
El Salvador		9				Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
Eritrea	281	61	49	69	275	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy

Ethiopia	13	9	17	5	5	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia		7	10	13	11	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
Gabon	29	14	10	4		Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
Gambia	15	8	71	51	206	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
Ghana	102	37	206	76	52	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
Guinea	11	9	140	35	27	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
Guinea Bissau			13		8	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
India	12	10				Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
Iran	17	9	9	10	10	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
Iraq	160	36	33	29	24	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
Lebanon		5				Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
Libya			22	11	5	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
Mali	11	8	444	129	88	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy

Morocco	908	582	443	370	277	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
Mauritania			10			Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
Niger	10		43	14	6	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
Nigeria	210	57	196	64	84	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
Pakistan	78	87	97	137	156	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
Palestine	361	37	19	13	11	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
Peru	13	11	10			Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
Republic of Kosovo		165	124	104	127	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
Republic of Moldova	55	50	31	23	17	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
Republic of Serbia	260	18	16	16	15	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
Senegal	143	99	158	135	184	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
Syria				21	70	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
Somalia	262	60	102	218	475	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy

Sudan	15	5	23	11	7	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
Togo	12		12			Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
Tunisia	147	66	570	239	143	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
Turkey	17	19	22	17	17	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
Ukraine	14	12	17	17	17	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
Other: (please include any numbers of unaccompanied minors not included in any of the categories above)	122	68	92	94	73	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
Total (must equal the total in 3.1)	5,984	3,142	5,959	5,821	6,319	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy

3.3 Total Number of unaccompanied minors in the care of the public authorities in each reference period, disaggregated by their sex and age:	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Source / further information
Less than 15 years old	791	461	564	511	619	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
15 years old	629	378	596	516	738	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
16 years old	1359	784	1545	1419	1481	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy

17 years old	3205	1519	3254	3375	3481	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
Total (should equal 3.1)	5,984	3,142	5,959	5,821	6,319	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy

* Data provided by the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy show the number of unaccompanied minors in the care of the public authorities by age, but they are not disaggregated by sex. With reference to age classes, we point out that they are different from those required by EMN.

Table 4: Statistics on unaccompanied minors in detention pending return in the (Member) State (2009-2013)

Please provide the cumulative figures per calendar year (i.e. the number of unaccompanied minors recorded against each criteria during each calendar year). To ensure comparability of data, please provide statistics on UAMs considered by the national authorities to be UAMs. Where available / appropriate, please provide statistics on UAMs who claim to be minors but whose age is doubtful and the age assessment procedure has not yet been undertaken to determine the age of the minor.

4.1 Total Number of unaccompanied minors <u>in detention</u> pending return in each reference period, disaggregated by their sex and age:	2009		2010		2011		2012		2013		Source / further information
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
Less than 14 years old	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
From 14 to 15 years old	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
From 16 to 17 years old	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

4.2 Total Number of unaccompanied minors in detention pending return to a Dublin country / transit country in each reference period, disaggregated by their sex and age:	2009		2010		2011		2012		2013		Source / further information
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	National data
Less than 14 years old	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
From 14 to 15 years old	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
From 16 to 17 years old	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

4.3 Total Number of unaccompanied minors in alternatives to detention pending return in each reference period, disaggregated by their sex and age:	2009		2010		2011		2012		2013		Source / further information
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	National data
Less than 14 years old	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
From 14 to 15 years old	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
From 16 to 17 years old	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

4.4 Total Number of unaccompanied minors <u>in alternatives to detention</u> pending return to a <u>Dublin country / transit country</u> in each reference period, disaggregated by their sex and age:	2009		2010		2011		2012		2013		Source / further information
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	National data
Less than 14 years old	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
From 14 to 15 years old	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
From 16 to 17 years old	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Table 5: Statistics on unaccompanied minors returned from (Member) States (2009-2013)

Please provide the cumulative figures per calendar year (i.e. the number of unaccompanied minors recorded against each criteria during each calendar year). To ensure comparability of data, please provide statistics on UAMs considered by the national authorities to be UAMs. Where available / appropriate, please provide statistics on UAMs who claim to be minors but whose age is doubtful and the age assessment procedure has not yet been undertaken to determine the age of the minor.

5.1 Forced Return measures	2009		2010		2011		2012		2013		Source / further information
	M	F	National data								
5.1 Total Number of unaccompanied minors returned as part of <u>forced return</u> measures in each reference period (where data exists)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Country of return (country of origin) 1 etc...: (please add in additional rows as required):	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Country of return (Dublin country) 1 etc... (please add in additional rows as required):	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Country of return (transit country) 1 etc... (please add in additional rows as required):	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other: (please include any numbers of unaccompanied minors not included in any of the categories above)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total (must equal 5.1)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

5.2 <u>Voluntary Return</u> measures	2009		2010		2011		2012		2013		Source / further information
	M	F	National data								
5.2 Total Number of unaccompanied minors returned as part of <u>voluntary return</u> measure in each reference period (where data exists)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Country of return 1 etc...: (please add in additional rows as required):	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other: (please include any numbers of unaccompanied minors not included in any of the categories above)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total (must equal 5.2)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

5.3 Assisted (Voluntary) Return measures	2009		2010		2011		2012		2013		Source / further information
	M	F	National data								
5.3 Total Number of unaccompanied minors returned as part of <u>assisted voluntary return</u> measure in each reference period (where data exists)	2	1	3	1	7	1	2		2		
Albania			1		1				1		
Brazil			1			1					
Chile	1										
Egypt		1					1				
Ghana					1						
Kosovo	1										
Morocco				1							
Niger							1				
Rep. Moldova			1		1						
Santo Domingo					1						
Tunisia					1				1		
Turkey					1						
Total (must equal 5.3)	2	1	3	1	7	1	2		2		

Table 6: Statistics on outcomes for UAMs on reaching 18 years of age (2009-2013)

Please provide the cumulative figures per calendar year (i.e. the number of unaccompanied minors recorded against each criteria during each calendar year).

6.1 Outcomes for UAMs on reaching 18 years of age during the reference period, disaggregated by sex, where available	2009		2010		2011		2012		2013		Source / further information
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	National data
6.1.1 Total Number of unaccompanied minors reaching 18 years of age during the reference year obtaining a <u>temporary</u> residence permit to remain in the (Member) State											
6.1.2 Total Number of unaccompanied minors reaching 18 years of age during the reference year obtaining a <u>permanent</u> residence permit to remain in the (Member) State											
6.1.3 Total Number of unaccompanied minors who become adults in the host country during the reference year, if and when possible disaggregated by those who are at school / possess a work permit / have reunited with their family											
