

# Mentorship Project



**HELLENIC REPUBLIC**

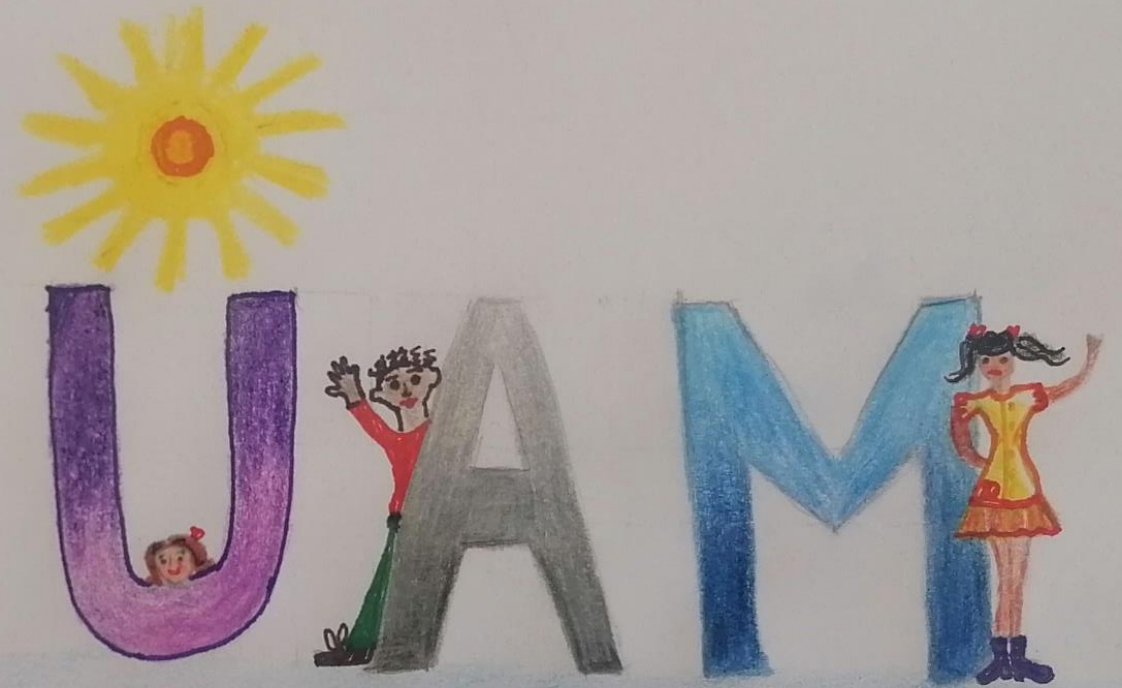
Ministry of Migration & Asylum

Special Secretariat for the Protection of UAMs



## Special Secretariat for the Protection of Unaccompanied Minors

- Its mission is to plan, implement & supervise the National Strategy for the Protection of UAMs in Greece.
- To initiate and implement all necessary policies in order to ensure the protection and well-being of third-country nationals and stateless and separated children.





# Mentorship project

The project is implemented for the first time in Greece by the Ministry of Migration and Asylum.

It is led by six mentors most of which are former unaccompanied minors, who reside in Greece and faced similar difficulties and challenges in the past.

# What is the mentor's role?

- To act as a role model
- Peer-to-peer support
- To provide advice
- To motivate
- To support minors' transition to adulthood



# The goals of the project

- Identify children's needs
- Encourage school participation
- Collaborate with actors to further support children
- Boost referrals for the SIL project
- Raise awareness of available projects & activities
- Provide hands-on experience and feedback for policy making
- Encourage children's participation (Teens Network)
- Create child-friendly material



# Activities with UAMs

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## 1. Teens Network

- Monthly online meetings
- Thematic sessions
- To encourage child participation



## 2. Art workshop





### 3. Guided visits by the Mentors





## 4. Sports activities

### The 1<sup>st</sup> Football tournament

# 5. School Visits & info awareness sessions

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# Figures

- 1.018 children have participated in the field visits and activities organized.
- 888 boys and 133 girls
- 18 different nationalities mainly children from Afghanistan, Pakistan, Somalia and Syria & a considerable number of children from other African countries
- Children from 65 accommodation centers & 54 SIL apartments benefited.

# Key challenges

- Lack of projects targeting 18+, which increases children's main concerns.
- Need to quickly adapt to policy changes.
- Specific representation of UAMs nationalities and limited resources.
- Hesitancy of some actors to collaborate with the mentors.
- Geographical diaspora of long-term facilities.

# What are the benefits of the mentorship project?

- A relationship of trust is quickly developed
- Children feel safe expressing themselves through their network and community
- They feel empowered and motivated
- Effective peer-to-peer support & community-level messaging
- They can be linked to support services or social assistance schemes
- Provide direct feedback to policy-makers





Thank you!

PUAM

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