Child Protection Sub-Working Group
10.06.2025 Minutes of Meeting

Date:	**Tuesday, 10 June 2025 from 10.00 a.m. to 12.00 p.m., via Webex**	
Participants:	MMA(Representatives from Deputy Miniser's Office, GSPVIP, RIS), MoSCF, IOM, EUAA, UNHCR CO, UNHCR Lesvos, UNHCR FUA, METAdrasi, NCR, Vela Greece, Zeuxis, IRC Helas, The Home Project, Solidarity Now, MdM Greece, Prolepsis Institute, Intersos Hellas, Safe Passage International, PRAKSIS, Velos Youth, Iliaktida, European Expression	
Chair:	**UNHCR: Theodora D. Tsovili (tsovili@unhcr.org)**	
Agenda	**Support Services for UAC in Greece:** • First year of the **guardianship's** implementation in Greece: An assessment **(GSVPIP)** • The **PYXIDA** project **(GSVPIP)** • The Helios Junior project **(IOM)**	
First year of the guardianship's implementation in Greece: An assessment (GSVPIP)	**Feedback results on the implementation of the National Guardianship System for unaccompanied children in 2024.** The feedback exercise was carried out in collaboration with the GSVPIP, EUAA, UNICEF, and the implementing partners METAdrasi and PRAKSIS. The **objectives** of the feedback process included identifying gaps or the need for adjustments based on improvement suggestions and increasing the flexibility and adaptability of the programme through a trial-and-error approach aimed at continuous improvement. **Methodology:** The feedback was collected through a specially designed questionnaire used during focus group discussions with UAC. In total, **12 focus group sessions** were held with **67 UAC** in Athens, Thessaloniki, and Lesvos. Interpretation was provided by EUAA in Arabic, Farsi, Urdu, and French. In addition, an **online questionnaire** was also distributed to **staff** from **37 shelters** and **8 SILs**, **55 mandated guardianship persons** and **8 guardianship coordinators**. State actors, including the Asylum Service, Reception and Identification Service (RIS), and Public Prosecutor, were also invited to provide structured feedback via an electronic questionnaire. Participants rated the guardianship programme on a scale of 1 (not satisfied) to 5 (very satisfied). The average score was approximately **3**, indicating a moderate to good level of satisfaction and pointing to areas for further improvement. In 2024, the national guardianship programme achieved **significant milestones**. It successfully expanded its national coverage, operating across 25 locations throughout Greece. A total of 4,475 UAC benefitted from guardianship services, notably exceeding the initial project target of 2,700 children. Additionally, two important Ministerial Decisions were	**Action Points:** n/a

	issued during that year - one establishing a formal complaints mechanism and another regulating the functioning of the Guardianship Council. Some of the most notable **best practices** identified include the close collaboration among all involved actors, the immediate identification of cases of irregular child labour, and the increase in referrals to the National Mechanism for the Protection of Victims of Trafficking. In addition, the development of an internal electronic tool for guardianship proved useful for real-time identification of protection gaps, prioritisation of guardian assignments, and access to individual child case files. At the same time, several **challenges** have been highlighted: the increased number of unaccompanied children, particularly at entry points; the need for further training of the mandated guardianship persons; the absence of comprehensive SOPs in some areas; the need to simplify the legal framework governing the employment of UAC; and delays in the early assignment of guardians. Further challenges were also noted during certain phases of the implementation, such as delays in salary payments and high staff turnover due to frequent resignations. Importantly, the feedback exercise enabled the General Secretariat to develop concrete, tailored **recommendations** to address the challenges observed in the field. These include continuous information sharing among competent authorities and public services on the role of guardians; integration of the guardianship programme into the state budget; amendments to the legal framework to reflect current needs by simplifying and accelerating procedures; and the recruitment of the full number of guardians foreseen under the project—up to 180 nationwide. For more detailed information on the findings and data, please refer to the attached presentation.	
The PYXIDA project (GSVPIP)	The "**PYXIDA Project – Complementary Mechanism for Supporting the National Strategy for the Protection of Unaccompanied Minors in Greece"** aims to establish an effective mechanism to address the needs and structural gaps in the existing protection system for UAC. The project is funded by the European Union, coordinated by **SYNYPARXIS**, with implementing partners **Iliaktida**, **Zeuxis**, **Solidarity Now**, **European Expression**, and **SOS Children's Villages Greece**. The project's target population includes unaccompanied children residing in accommodation centres across Greece, young refugees aged 18–21 who have recently aged out of the protection system and lack a supportive framework, as well as professionals working in both long-term and emergency accommodation centres for UAC, including Guardianship Mandated Persons and their Coordinators. The goal is to support approximately 3,000 UAC, 500 recently aged-out youth, and 1,742 professionals working in the field. The project's activities include the establishment of five centres across Greece to provide specialised mental health services with a focus on trauma, alongside the provision of specialised legal assistance. It also offers targeted services to	**Action Points:** n/a

	address crises, including clinical supervision for professionals working with UAC. In addition, the project delivers accompaniment services during hospitalisation, as well as specialised emergency accompaniment to health facilities. Finally, it develops educational materials and conducts workshops aimed at empowering UAMs. For further details on the activities provided and statistics on project implementation, please refer to the attached presentation.	
The Helios Junior project (IOM)	The **Helios Junior** project, funded under the AMIF, is implemented by IOM in partnership with Praksis, METAdrasi, Iliaktida, Solidarity Now, VELA Greece, Nostos, Ploygos, and Faros Elpidas. The project runs from October 2024 to May 2027 and provides accommodation, integration support, and financial assistance to beneficiaries. The project's goal is to facilitate the integration of **up to 2,000 former UAC** (aged 18 to 20 years and 6 months -at the time of application- who reside legally in Greece) into Greek society and support their transition to adulthood up is former unaccompanied minors. It offers **1,000 accommodation slots** in apartments (maximum four individuals per apartment) for up to 18 months, in Athens, Larissa, Thessaloniki, Ioannina, Crete, and Lesvos, as approved by the Integration Directorate of the Ministry of Migration and Asylum. **Integration services**, delivered by IOM Integration Counsellors, include: developing an individual integration plan; mandatory participation in Greek language learning or vocational training (or support in obtaining skills certification); referrals to relevant services; and interpretation support. Each beneficiary also receives a tailored action plan based on their specific needs. Beneficiaries receive a **monthly financial allowance of €150** via prepaid card for 16 months to cover basic needs. Applications can be made directly by eligible adults or through referrals from shelters, SILs, emergency accommodation centres, CCACs, RICs, CFTAACs, KEMs, day centres, and other relevant actors. **Eligibility** requires legal residence in Greece, previous status as UAC prior to adulthood (from at least 17 years and 6 months to 20 years and 6 months at application), full self-care capacity, no behaviour that put others at risk, and no use of addictive substances.	**Action Points:** n/a

	For more details on prioritisation criteria, conditions for remaining in the programme, and referral/application procedures, please see the attached presentation or contact: Email: iomathensheliosjuniorinfo@iom.int Tel: +30 6940152251 (Telegram helpline for voice and text messages) Link: **https://greece.iom.int/el/helios-junior**	
AOB	The next CPsWG meeting will take place in September 2025. The exact date and time will be confirmed.	**Action Points:** n/a