

Child Protection Sub-Working Group
24.03.2022 Minutes of Meeting

Date:	Thursday, 24 March 2022 at 10.00-12.00 a.m., via Webex	
Participants:	Special Secretary for the Protection of UAM/ MoMA, MoLSA, EKKA, GCR, SOS Children’s Villages, Amal Alliance, IOM, NCR, Safe Passage, ELIX, Velos Youth Center, The Home Project, METAdrasi, IRC, Smile of the Child, Synyparksis, Solidarity Now, Arsis, RIC&CCACI Directorate - RIS HQ, RIS/Directorate of North Greece Facilities	
Chair:	UNHCR: Theodora D. Tsovili (tsovili@unhcr.org)	
Agenda	<p style="text-align: center;">Situation in Ukraine, SSPUAM: Evaluation of services' quality in shelters, Current 18+ projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ UNHCR: Situation in Ukraine/ update, Intersectoral needs' assessment: process and timelines ➤ SSPUAM: Activities and goals of the Monitoring and Evaluation of Accommodation Centres Unit ➤ SSPUAM: AMIF project “Building Futures, Sharing Good Practices: Migrant Children’s Transition to Adulthood” in collaboration with Solidarity Now ➤ METAdrasi: 18+ project for young adults, asylum seekers and refugees ➤ Arsis: Re-generations project 	
	<p style="text-align: center;">UNHCR: Situation in Ukraine/ update, Intersectoral needs' assessment: process and timelines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ On 11 March, the European Union Solidarity platform was initiated. Its aim is to support EU member states on responsibility sharing for the reception of arrivals from Ukraine in the context of application of the Temporary Protection Directive. The countries neighbouring Ukraine have generously kept their borders open and welcomed refugees, but national reception capacity and services are increasingly becoming strained. The proposed transfer of vulnerable persons to EU member states, under the auspices of the EU Solidarity Platform, would ease the pressure on the neighbouring states and offer protection, adequate reception conditions and a solution for refugees from Ukraine. In this context, six EU member states have so far made concrete pledges of 12,000 places to transfer refugees from Moldova to their territory, including Austria, France, Germany, Ireland, Lithuania and Spain. Other countries have also expressed interest in engaging. 	Action Points:

- **In response to the Ukraine emergency, UNHCR and UNICEF have agreed to jointly roll out the ‘Blue Dots’ in 6 countries (Czech Republic, Hungary, the Republic of Moldova, Poland, Romania and Slovakia).** Other countries may be added as the situation evolves and depending on the needs on the ground. Some 30 Blue Dot hubs will be established, while several are already operational. The Blue Dots are one-stop-shops, and safe spaces which provide a minimum set of protection services for children, families and others with specific needs, in support of existing services and government efforts. Greece so far has been deprioritized for the implementation of the Blue Dots as the country is considered in a position to provide state services.
- **Regarding children, it has been observed since the beginning of crisis that the most vulnerable group in Greece seems to be the separated ones;** many children come to the country without their nuclear family members. In order to better manage the situation, SSPUAM in consultation with UNHCR, has prepared a guidance note that has been distributed to the Police and RIS HQs for further dissemination to their staff present at the borders. The aim of the note is the timely identification and proper registration of this group. Additionally, the MoMA has officially announced that the NERM has been assigned as the receiving responsible agency.
- **Discussions are taking place for humanitarian evacuations of children from Ukraine to Greece but there are no developments so far.**
- **UNHCR is leading a collaborative, intersectoral needs assessment in Greece, in line with the agency’s institutional role as the lead in coordinating refugee situations.** The findings will lead to a better understanding of the situation of refugees from Ukraine and can help actors plan their response in an evidence-based way. Actors were asked to share their comments on the tool and also their availability to contribute to the data collection by Monday at 12.00.
- **Regarding education, there is good collaboration between UNICEF and MoE and already the first Ukrainian children have started being enrolled in Greek schools.** There is a new circular from MoE to be published soon. UNHCR is in contact with the Ukrainian community in Greece and the embassy to see identify the needs.

SSPUAM: Activities and goals of the Monitoring and Evaluation of Accommodation Centres Unit

- **The Monitoring & Evaluation of Accommodation Centres Unit’s responsibilities** include control for the implementation of the SOPs for the accommodation centres, monitoring and evaluation of the quality of the services provided in the accommodation centres and improvement of the quality of the existing services of the accommodation centres for UAMs.

- **The SOPs will include among others an evaluation and monitoring framework and a licensing framework.** The licence will be given by the Municipalities only to the shelters who fit all the criteria and will be based in the SOPs.
- **The aim of the unit is to create a harmonized approach** for all shelters and finally to also have a harmonization of all funding under one grant.
- **During the process of drafting the SOPs, SSPUAM consulted TAME;** they will be in public consultation therefore the private donors can comment.
- **SSPUAM is in collaboration with the Municipalities** so they can proceed with checks on the infrastructure/buildings in order to match the SOPs and therefore an actor to be eligible to get the license (άρθρο λειτουργίας). Additionally, they are in communication with MoL to align their SOPs.
- **SSPUAM is trying to proceed strategic placements, meaning that UAC are placed in shelters according to their individual needs, when possible.**

SSPUAM: AMIF project “Building Futures, Sharing Good Practices: Migrant Children’s Transition to Adulthood” (in collaboration with Solidarity Now)

- **The goal of the project is to foster long-term improvements on migrant children’s transition to adulthood in Europe with a focus in Greece, Spain and the Netherlands.**
- **The activities include exchange of know-how, compendium of good practices, specific training materials, sustained dialogue across Europe.**
- **There is a void when children reach adulthood and the project’s aim is to try and support them.**
- **For Greece the partner is SSPUAM along with Solidarity Now.** The project will be implemented in the future and one of its most crucial deliverables will be study visits in the framework of exchanging good practices. For the study visit in Greece, actors will be called to present good practices on examples of children’s transition to adulthood.
- **SSPUAM will create a questionnaire to collect data from the actors on their experiences.**

METAdrasi: 18+ project for young adults, asylum seekers and refugees

- **METAdrasi runs the Supported Independent Living in Adulthood scheme (SILA 18+). So far, 35 young adults have been hosted in flats in Athens and Kalamata.**
- **The goal of the project is to provide a safe environment, integration prospects, empowerment, and access to labor market.**
- **Referrals can be received at sila@metadrasi.org**

Arsis: Re-generations project

- **The project is designed to reach front line countries that host unaccompanied minors and young third country nationals and aims at improving the support to young people towards integration process.**
- **Its actions include** training courses for mentors and local students, organizing sport, cultural and other educational activities and events that promote exchange, meetings and exchanges events with local organizations, seminars and events to share results and raise awareness in EU level.
- **Once unaccompanied children turn 18, they no longer are eligible for several protection benefits and services.** Losing their right of having a representative or a legal guardian they immediately experience an abrupt loss of guidance which affect their stay in the country dramatically.
- **Mentoring supports beneficiaries beyond reaching their 'typical' adulthood.** The mentorship relationship embodies the first months after the mentee turns 18, and/or their possible future relationship after the end of the mentoring contract.
- **The project is ending in May 2022.** Since February 2022, they started the implementation of another mentoring project targeting minors 16 to 18 and some young adults.
- **Arsis will invite the actors to the closing workshop in May to share lessons learnt of the project.**

