

1) Are you/your organisation involved in street work activities? Please clarify.

ARSIS has been implementing community outreach and streetwork interventions since 1996, addressing to various socially vulnerable groups, with a special aim to children and young people at risk.

Currently, ARSIS is operating four different streetwork teams; for child labor and sexual exploitation, for children in vulnerable families, for homeless adult people and for homeless unaccompanied minors. The last has a special focus on unaccompanied minor refugees, asylum seekers and migrants.

Since January 2017 ARSIS has been deploying a two-shift streetwork team (from 10am to 10pm) in the urban area of Thessaloniki consisting of streetworkers, cultural mediators and a legal team. Identification of this population group, needs assessment and case management and protection services are the main goals of this intervention.

2) Please share best practices and the comparative advantages of your organisation in this activity?

ARSIS has a yearly expertise on child protection and has constructed over the years a cohesive child protection network consisting of streetwork teams, youth support centers, safe zones and shelters, supported independent living and social apartments for young adults. What is more, ARSIS is participating in various national and international coalitions and networks for capacity building, exchange of good practices and advocacy campaigns (FEANTSA, ECPAT, SCEP, Dynamo International, etc).

As far as best practices are concerned, suffice it to say that our professionals are in smooth collaboration with the authorities in order to recommend practices that will enhance the best interest of the child at each turning point, regarding new trends in Greece or long-term gaps.

3) Please Identify gaps of your project and/or in the field context.

The project may be lacking in systematic recreational activities for the population, due to the profile of the beneficiaries who are usually on the move and due to the many child protection emergencies that do come up.

What is more, a more systematic staff support is needed –beyond the monthly external supervision that takes place. Because of the cruelty of the situations that our professionals are dealt with, emotional burnout is an endangering factor.

Of course, the ability of the project to influence policy making may be considered a gap. Despite the fact that there is great experience and insight from the field, this is not at all times utilized by respective authorities.

4) Which actors you contact or you are in contact with for these specific cases? Please clarify the reasons why.

For the first one, of course we are in close collaboration with the youth support and the day care centers in order that the UASC are referred there for activities.

For the second, we try to make use of ARSIS internal resources in terms of further capacity building, staff meetings and counselling from other ARSIS experts in the field. This is because the supervision already takes place by an experienced external actor.

Last, but not least, we try to remain systematic in our recommendations for policy change and try to put emphasis on important issues and gaps through letters or meetings to actors such as the Ombudsman for Civil Rights, the Ombudswoman for Child Rights, the Prosecutor for Minors, the Prosecutor of the Supreme Court, Hellenic Police, the Healthcare Prefecture Department, respective Ministries, international organizations and others.