



HELLENIC REPUBLIC

Ministry of Migration & Asylum

Special Secretariat for the Protection of Unaccompanied Minors

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*Building Futures, Sharing Good Practices: Migrant
Children's Transition to Adulthood UAC Futures*
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Co-funded
by the European Union



Co-funded and implemented
by the Council of Europe

UAC Futures

Building Futures, Sharing Good Practices: Migrant Children's Transition to Adulthood

Goal: Fostering long-term improvements on migrant children's transition to adulthood

Focus areas: Europe, with a particular focus on Greece, Spain and the Netherlands

Key areas of work:

- (1) psychological impact and support,
- (2) legal support and access to basic rights,
- (3) access to education and the labour market, and
- (4) access to accommodation.

Activities: exchange of know-how, compendium of good practices, specific training materials, sustained dialogue across Europe

UAC Futures

Building Futures, Sharing Good Practices: Migrant Children's Transition to Adulthood

Funding: AMIF-2020-AG-CALL-06: Migrant children's transition to adulthood

Duration: 18 months

Budget: 600,000 € (90% EU)

Partners:

- COUNCIL OF EUROPE (France), lead
- Special Secretariat for the Protection of Unaccompanied Minors (Greece),
- ALLILEGGIE SOLIDARITYNOW (Greece),
- FUNDACION CEPAIM ACCION INTEGRAL CON MIGRANTES (Spain),
- STICHTING NIDOS (Netherlands)

UAC Futures

Building Futures, Sharing Good Practices: Migrant Children's Transition to Adulthood

Work packages:

- WP1 – Management and Coordination of the Action (coordinator CoE)
- WP2 – Exchange of Good Practices (coordinator: Solidarity Now & SSPUAM)
- WP3 - Training Development and Implementation (coordinator: SSPUAM)
- WP4 - Dissemination and Knowledge Sharing at the European Level (coordinator CoE)

UAC Futures

Building Futures, Sharing Good Practices: Migrant Children's Transition to Adulthood

Important deliverables

WP2 – Exchange of Good Practices

- Study visits (3)
- Compendium of good practices on transition to adulthood in EU MS
- Transnational Workshops (3)
- Videos with young refugees – experiences & solutions

WP3 - Training Development and Implementation

- Roadmap to Adulthood
- Toolkit on Transition
- HELP online course on Migrant Children's Transition to Adulthood
- National training sessions (3)

Ministry of Migration and Asylum (MoMA)

The MoMA is the competent national authority for the protection of UAC in Greece through the establishment of the Special Secretariat for the Protection of Unaccompanied Minors in November 2020.

SSPUAMS' unique mission to *develop, implement and supervise the National Strategy for the Protection of Unaccompanied Minors*, is aligned with the context of the specific action.

NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR THE PROTECTION OF UNACCOMPANIED MINORS

To build a comprehensive protection framework for unaccompanied minors with respect to their rights and best interest and in response to the multiple challenges that unaccompanied minors may encounter, four strategic **pillars of action** have been identified:

1. Ensuring that all individuals identified as unaccompanied minors shall enjoy enforced protection and a treatment suitable for their age, needs and best interests
2. Identifying and implementing durable solutions for every unaccompanied minor
3. Ensuring effective protection from all forms of violence, exploitation and abuse
4. Improving data collection on unaccompanied minors and facilities for unaccompanied minors

Our role in the project/reasons MoMA joined the project

According to the latest Eurostat estimates, almost 14,000 of asylum seekers in the EU in 2019 were UAMs. ***Greece was the main receiving country*** (almost 24% of the EU total UAM's asylum applications in 2019).

In line with our international commitments, Greece, like Spain and the Netherlands has made important efforts to adequately protect and respond to the specific needs of this particularly vulnerable group. However, considering that the majority of UAMs is between 16 to 18 years old, ***the transition to adulthood remains one of the most challenging and least addressed issues.***



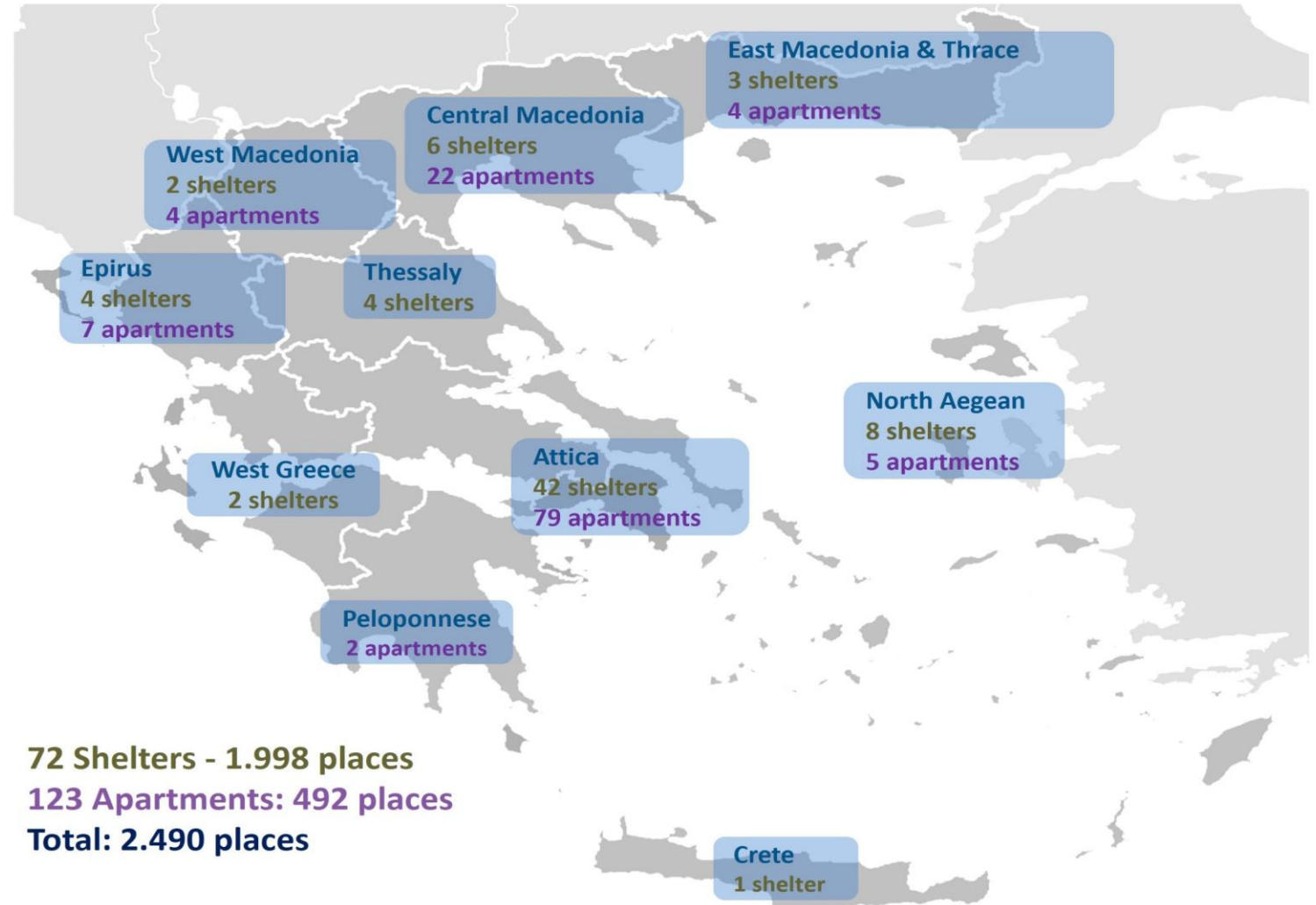
January 2022

In 2021 the Special Secretariat for the Protection of Unaccompanied Minors accommodated **4.695** children in 71 shelters and 121 SILs.

There are currently **1.993 UAMs** from **40** countries with **36%** coming from Afghanistan.

65% are boys aged 15-17 years old.

Among them **733** are **17 years old**.



National Emergency Response Mechanism

In December 2020, with the entry into force of art. 43 of L. 4760/2020, the long-term practice of subjecting unaccompanied minors *to protective custody*, on the sole ground that they are deprived of safe or known accommodation *was abolished*. According to the new law, upon identification of unaccompanied minors the competent Public Prosecutor and the SSPUAM are informed, and the minors are promptly referred to emergency accommodation.

In order to implement operationally the above institutional abolition, the Special Secretary for the Protection of Unaccompanied Minors (SSPUAM) of MoMA and UNHCR developed and established the ***National Emergency Response Mechanism for unaccompanied minors in precarious living conditions***.

Emergency Accommodation Facilities (situation in a constant flow):

- Lesvos island (North Aegean)
- Doliana camp (Epirus)
- Polygyros Halkidikis (Central Macedonia)
- Shelters in Attica

Realities in Greece/key challenges that need to be addressed

Upon turning 18 many UAMs experience a discontinuation of social support and services and are exposed to significant risks i.e., homelessness, exploitation, etc. Therefore, our involvement is crucial ***to ensure the continuity of support and services as well as the sustainability of results*** in Greece.

At the same time, our involvement is critical ***for the fulfilment of the Secretariat's mandate***. The work of the MoMA will be complemented by Solidarity Now which has long-standing field experience in the Greek context and is actively involved in assisting UAMs in their transition to adulthood.

WP2 _ Exchange of Good Practices

SSPUAM will organize one of the 3 study visits with presentations by the receiving MS, discussions, and peer-to-peer learning with national and international experts on each of the four cross-cutting themes of the project.

SSPUAM will create a country report to provide an accurate and up-to-date picture of the phenomenon's reality in Greece as part of the project's Compendium of Good Practices.

SSPUAM will organize one of the 3 transnational workshops to be held with consortium partners, representatives from other EU MS, international experts as well as UAMs and young refugees on challenges in particular national contexts, involving presentations and collective brainstorming sessions.

WP3_Training Development and Implementation

SSPUAM will prepare a Roadmap to Adulthood highlighting a series of significant milestones facilitating transition to adulthood and how to achieve each milestone.

SSPUAM will develop a thematic training module for professionals on the key area of *Access to Education (vocational education and training) and the labour market for the project's Toolkit on Transition* .

SSPUAM will organize one of the 3 Training sessions addressed to local professionals in Greece on the above thematic module.



“Reaching the age of majority means freedom and independence, but not for migrant children, for whom it signals the beginning of a nightmare”.

***We need to change this by shifting our approach from
Migration management to
Rights Protection***