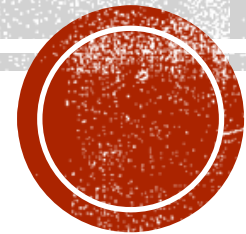


**DROP IN CENTER
PRAKSIS PATRA**



PRAKSIS



1. DROP IN CENTER – PRAKSIS PATRA

- PRAKSIS, in Patras has been carrying out streetwork interventions since 2011, maintaining a systematic presence in the areas (squares, parks, abandoned factories near the port), where homeless unaccompanied minors are found living under precarious and dangerous conditions.
- The main objectives of streetwork interventions are the identification of unaccompanied minors, the assessment – taking care of their needs, the management of their cases according to the best interest of the child, referral to protection services.
- PRAKSIS streetwork team consists of social workers, psychologist and social mediator. Interventions are performed on a weekly basis at specific locations.
- As the population in areas of interest shows variations (presence of large numbers of adults, population fluctuations from time to time, systematic or irregular presence of the police and port authorities), interventions through observation and mapping are tailored to the needs, conditions and accessibility.

However, the ultimate goal of the interventions is the approach of the target group, its supportive framework at the locations where they reside and then its referral to the Drop In Center of PRAKSIS to receive personalized services such as social service, psychological support, hygiene services, hygiene services and provision of basic necessities, internet access, recreational activities, educational activities.

2.

- Stable and systematic presence in the field in response to the needs and peculiarities of this population.
- The constant presence of the organization in the field enables the streetwork team to function as reference persons for the target group.
- Formulation of a specific methodology in approaching vulnerable cases based on their particular characteristics and the risks they face.



- Implementation of child friendly approach based on trust and understanding in both streetwork interventions as well as in the day center, providing the minor with the opportunity to express himself in the place and time he feel most familiar with.
- The cases are referred for management and support to the Drop In Center of Praksis.
- Implementation of educational interventions through Mobile School (positive educational environment, emotional expression, empowerment activities).
- Ability to provide basic necessities to homeless unaccompanied minors (clothes, hygiene kits).
- Networking with services and organizations.

3.

- Due to the systematic presence of the police, locating the target group is difficult. Furthermore, the fear of being arrested and detained acts as an inhibitory factor to the approach of minors. It also restricts their movement to the day center.
- The goal of most unaccompanied minors in the area is to continue their journey illegally through Italy. In many cases, there are minors who have lived in shelters or minors who do not have any legal documents and simply want to continue in another European country. Their approach presents peculiarities and difficulties (continuous movement, police pursuit).
- The presence of traffickers in the places where unaccompanied minors are located creates a feeling of intimidation, resulting in the restriction of the approach of minors.
- Difficulties to build a relationship of trust, unaccompanied minors exhibit avoidance behaviors towards the streetwork team due to the gaps in the system of services of the state (housing, registration procedures).
- Lack of presence of a lawyer and nursing staff in the field.
- Lack of temporary accommodation structures to deal with emergencies and particularly vulnerable cases.

4.

- EKKA, Asylum Service, Juvenile Prosecutor's Office, Police and Port Authorities (interventions in cases of minor detention), hospitals and medical services (state, municipal), other NGO's which are active in the field and volunteer groups.

