

Reception in families for unaccompanied children

Presentation
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Facts and figures Nidos

- * Dutch national guardianship institution for unaccompanied minor asylum seekers
- * Existing in its current form since 2001 (predecessors since the 80's)
- * 2015 regional offices and 600 employees (250 in 2015)
- * Approximately 6000 children under guardianship (3000 in 2014)
- * Responsible for reception of approximately 75% of them



Facts and figures Nidos

- * Professional guardians
- * Specialized youth care
- * Legal responsibility (court decision, attributed by national law)
- * Mandated: central role engaging with other actors surrounding the child
- * Responsible for mental and physical wellbeing of the child and on-going development of their personality
- * State funded, no state agency
- * In-house certified training



Dutch Reception model

- * First arrival centre Ter Apel
- * Short procedure-specific reception (15-18, 3 months)
- * Reception and Living in Families (under 15)
- * Small-scale reception (1900 places, 600 in 2015)
 - Living group (24/7, 12-15 children)
 - Small living unit (28,5 hours counseling a week to 4 children)
- * Protected reception for (possible) victims of trafficking

Since 01/16:
Nidos responsible for reception of all children with a residence permit



Challenges

- * Child-friendliness of larger reception
- * Youth care vs. specialized care (f.e. rules, food)
- * Capacity management
- * Transit to 18 and connection to municipality



Reception and Living in Families (RLF)

- * Nidos in-house developed
- * Dedicated team for recruitment, screening, matching and support of the families
- * Use of ethnic families : relatives as well as reception families
- * Challenges: new nationalities, older children
- * Long run before operational; afterwards better and cheaper



Reception and Living in Families
RLF-project (2013-2015)
(co-funded by EC)

- * General consensus:
RLF is better for most unaccompanied minors
- * However, most of them live in institutional care
- * Scattered practice on RLF in 12 countries
- * Structured system on RLF in place in 4 countries
- * RLF not available in 14 countries
- * Final report: www.engi.eu

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Reception and Living in Families
RLF-project (2013-2015)
(co-funded by EC)

Outcomes:

- * Insufficient knowledge on how to increase quality and quantity of family care for this target group
- * Good practices often not reaching beyond the local level where they are developed
- * Financial and organizational structures that do not support development of alternative family care explicitly
- * Need to develop training

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Alternative Family Care
ALFACA-project (2015-2017)
(co-funded by EC)

- * Development of a training for professionals working with reception families that take care of unaccompanied children
- * Nidos with partners from Belgium, Germany, Czech Republic, Denmark and Austria
- * Contents: general knowledge on working with this target group, recruitment, screening, matching and guidance of the host families
- * More info: www.engi.eu

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Thank you for your attention!

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