

**YOUTH CARE PLATFORM  
 27TH OF JUNE 2016 IN ROTTERDAM (NL)  
 REQUEST FOR YOUR INPUT**

*During the meetings of the Youth Care Platform (YCP) on 23th of October 2014 (in Offenbach) and 28<sup>th</sup> of April 2015 (in Brussels) we discussed already the topic of the **unaccompanied Minors (UAMs)**. Given the actual context we want to relaunch this topic! To feed the discussion we will propose some (short) presentations by experts and we want to ask all delegations to prepare a small presentation on local policies, cases, experiences on the asylum crisis and the position of UAMs in it. To prepare this exchange you can find next a short context note and some concrete questions.*

**CONTEXT NOTE**

*In summer and fall of 2015 continental Europe was confronted with a sharp increase in the number of Asylum seekers. Mainly families and adults, but unaccompanied minors (UAM) as well.*

*In Belgium the Federal government is responsible for the reception of asylum seekers. The French and Flemish community governments are responsible for the organization of youth care in their respective region. Unaccompanied minors are at the intersection of both competences. Therefor the Flemish community reserves a part of its youth care capacity for the most vulnerable UAMs (victims of THB, youngest, special needs, ...)*

*Within the group of UAM who arrived in the last months of 2015 the number of younger children was strongly increased. Before 12-14yo UAM were rather exceptional, now there were 50 UAM younger than 12 in 5 months.*

	08/15	09/15	10/15	11/15	12/15	Total
<b>Age &lt;12</b>	2	5	20	14	9	50
<b>Age 12-14</b>	30	47	39	132	120	368
<b>Age 15-17</b>	241	320	390	493	597	2041
<b>Total</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>372</b>	<b>449</b>	<b>639</b>	<b>726</b>	<b>2459</b>

*(Figures from the Belgian Federal agency for sheltering of asylum seekers)*

Contact:



*The Flemish Youth Care authorities decided to invest in family care for providing appropriate care to young UAMs. But this requires a long term investment, it's not suitable for immediate and urgent solutions.*

*On the short term the number of places in residential units was there for increased from 100 to 150 and to 300 places this summer; with priority for UAMs younger ten 15yo. But even in small groups it's not easy to make young children with a traumatic back ground living together with each other.*

We assume that the context of Asylum seekers and UAMs is comparable in most European regions and that all authorities and service providers involved are struggling with similar challenges. In order to learn from each other's experiences and practices we want to address the topic in this Youth Care Platform's meeting.

Issues:

- Are Youth Care providers in other regions involved in the reception of young UAMs? What kind of services are in place?
- Are there any good practices to share in the sheltering, social , psychological care ... for young UAMs? What works and what doesn't?
- Should the Youth Care Platform consider to bring key players from regional and local actors together to exchange practices and experiences?

We propose not to focus our exchange on institutional aspects ('how do member states organize reception and care for UAM'), but rather invite you to share inspiration, know-how and good practices.

## **REQUEST TO THE PARTICIPATING DELEGATIONS**

### **KEY NOTE PRESENTATIONS**

To add some 'content' to the debate we would like to invite 3 of 4 experts who can highlight a specific aspect on the UAMs and their situation. They can be based on local practices, research, policy views, ... **Please let us know if you want to propose a speaker or a topic!**

### **INPUT FROM THE REGIONAL PARTNERS**

We invite all delegations to prepare a 5 minute presentation on local policies, cases, experiences on the asylum crisis and the position of UAMs in it:

- What's the outlook of the asylum crisis and the population of the UAMs in your area? What about the public opinion?
- What's the regional strategy on UAMs?
- Are there specific services (organized by private or private bodies)? What forms of guidance, aid and mediation for the youngsters are put in place? Role of foster care and home care? Do you have good practices to share?
- What is the biggest pitfall, problem, risk, ...?

You're free to choose these aspects which are relevant to your situation and knowledge.

**Please keep your presentation short (max 5 – 8 min).** A supportive powerpoint presentation of no more than 10 slides can be used.

*We hope that all these presentations together will lead to an inspiring exchange of ideas.*

## **CONTACT**

All proposals and questions can be addressed to Jos Sterckx  
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