



Promoting Foster Care for Unaccompanied Children in Europe

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1. WELCOME

Welcome to the third issue of "PROFUCE" newsletter!

This newsletter is an important information tool for dissemination and exchange of news and ideas around the European project "PROFUCE" and the promotion of foster care for Unaccompanied Minors in Europe.

Each issue will propose updates on the project, news from partners, results of studies and initiatives, dates of events, training courses and much more.

Contact us for ideas, comments and questions.

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National Association for Foster

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2. PROFUCE'S ACTIVITIES

On the 18th and 19th February 2019, the third partners meeting was held at Sofia, in Bulgaria. The partners presented their activities, discussed about forthcoming deadlines, financial and administrative issues and planned national and international events. You can find photo of the meeting on PROFUCE website www.profuce.eu

The adaptation of Alfaca manual has been done according to Nidos' suggestions. The appendixes of the Italian, Bulgarian and Greek manuals are available on PROFUCE website www.profuce.eu

ITALY

The training and information of families on foster care for UAMs was held in Florence on the 23th April 2019.

Five families participated; the legislative framework on unaccompanied children and the Alfaca methodology on foster care for unaccompanied children was presented and discussed.

Agenda of the days and the main presentation can be found at: <https://profuce.eu/training/>

BULGARIA

More than 100 social workers and other specialists who work with foster parents participated in three 2-day training courses in Bulgaria. The trainings took place on 21-22 February 2019 in Haskovo and 28 February – 1 March 2019 in Sofia and Sliven. Alongside with presenting the AFACA model and enhancing social workers' capacity to support foster parents in providing family care for unaccompanied minors, the training also opened space for valuable discussions about the functioning of the existing procedures and mechanisms as well as the roles and responsibilities of the people that are professionally engaged in supporting refugee and migrant children.

To build on social workers' practical skills to manage cases of unaccompanied minors, social work experts were invited from the Know-how Centre for Alternative Care for Children to present a methodology for developing individual plan for working with children for their better adaptation in new social environment which steps on the child's strengths, personal values and attitudes and the context of her/his staying in Bulgaria.

Agenda, training materials and photos from the trainings are available at:

<https://profuce.eu/training/> and

<https://www.napg.eu/blizo+100+specialisti+preminaha+obuchenie+za+priemn-novini/1/MNKjIVKrcZOHMdiJxeDYxenc5eYpafYJebYReLI9evIJOPMKPMZKTdeDIBKL>

GREECE

The second training for professionals in foster care was held in Athens on the 27th of March with the participation of social workers in the field of foster care and child protection from state authorities . The scope of the training was to familiarize, promote and present all aspects of Alfaca model and methodology and discuss current good practices and procedural issues.

On the 2nd and 20th of April 2019, two trainings for foster parents were conducted in Athens with more that 50 participants. During the trainings, significant subjects related with institutional framework, interculturality and information on UASCs profile were presented and discussed.

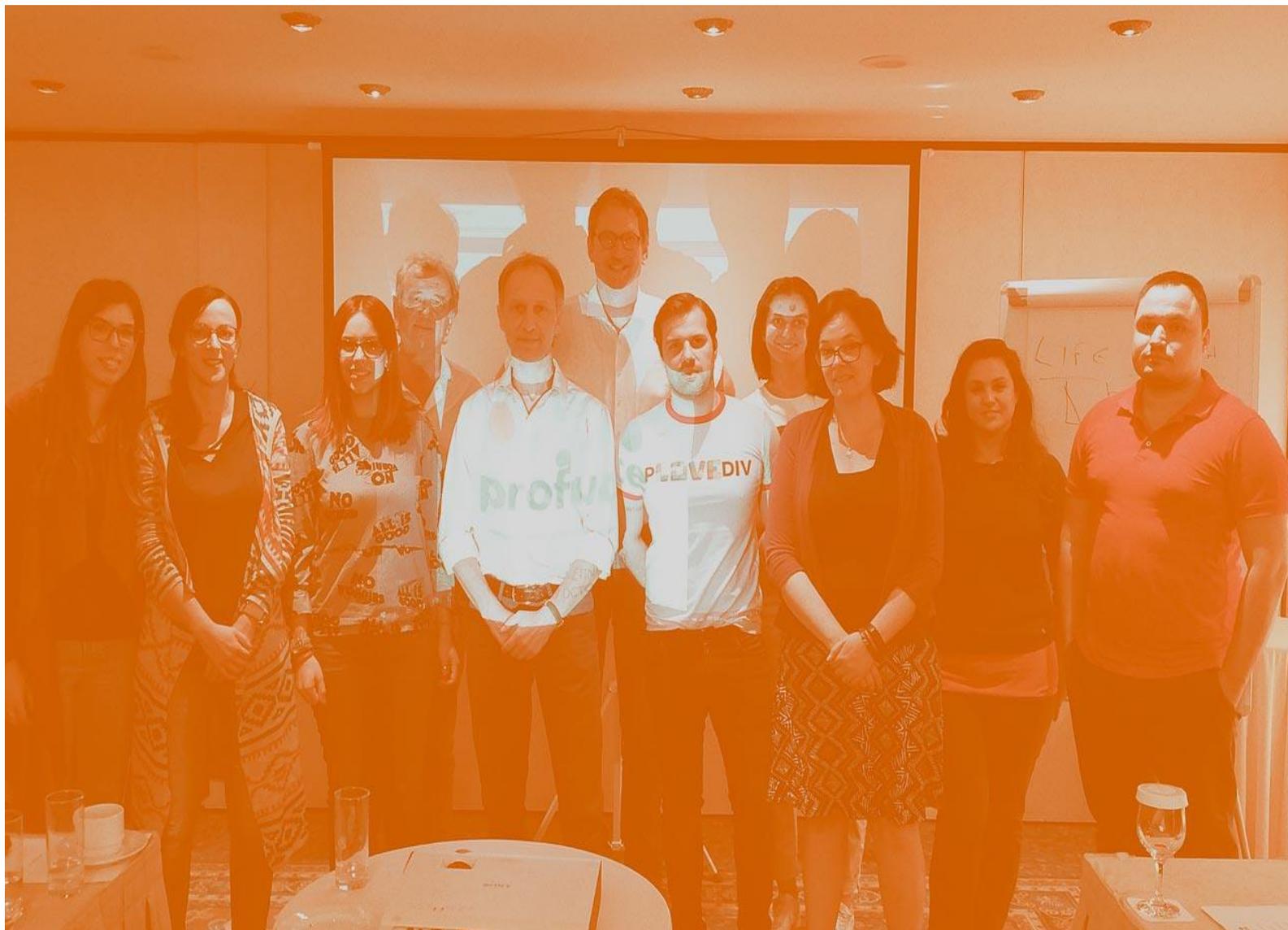


3. UAM'S AND FOSTER CARE IN THE COUNTRIES OF THE PROJECT

ITALY

The Italian Parliament organized a conference, held on April, to assess the situation two years later the approval of the Law 47/2017, on the protection of foreign minors. The conference showed the need to draw up more resources to foster care and adoption of children, which are considered the best solution in the interests of the child (<https://www.vaticannews.va/it/mondo/news/2019-04/minori-stranieri-non-accompagnati.html>).

The diocese of Rome also organized an observatory on the fragility of young Italians and migrants living in the suburbs. The observatory has about fifteen people engaged in various professional fields, both in health care, in social services, legal and educational, that should monitor the conditions of minors, particularly in urban suburbs. This observatory works with the "Institute of supportive Medicine" and the "Source Centre of Ismaele", which receives minors and tries to provide them in every need (<https://www.vaticannews.va/it/mondo/news/2019-04/minori-stranieri-non-accompagnati.html>).



THE NETHERLANDS

In the previous newsletter we informed you on the changing influx of unaccompanied children in the Netherlands. Most of them came from the Maghreb countries, after a (long) period of travelling through several European countries. These children weren't used to living in families and had severe difficulties in adapting to daily life situations. We now see that the influx from these countries has changed. The children that arrive today, have a clear goal which sends them on their way to North-West Europe. They seem to focus on proper living conditions and education. In addition, Nidos manages to find more and more suitable reception families with the same cultural background. The fact that these children have clear goals, combined with a larger pool of suitable reception families, seems to result in less breakdowns of placements.

BULGARIA

According to the statistics provided in UN Refugee Agency's annual Global Trends paper, 41% - or about 300 - of all the people that have been granted a refugee status in Bulgaria in 2018 are children. These are approximately 1/3 part of all the children who has applied for humanitarian status in the country.

The statistics also shows that about 60% of all the migrant children in Bulgaria attend school in 2018. This is regarded as significant improvement since in 2016 the share was just 8%. This progress towards ensuring every child's right for access to education granted by the UN CRC is mainly due to a new legislative act adopted by the Ministry of Education which officially settles the matters concerning it. (<https://news.bg/society/33-ot-detsata-bezhantsi-tarseshti-zakrila-v-balgariya-sa-poluchili-takiva.html>)

38 children altogether have applied for refugee status in the first four months of 2019. Among them just one is a girl and under the age of 13. Over 90% of the children are coming to Bulgaria from Afghanistan. (<https://aref.government.bg/index.php/bg/node/238>)

GREECE

According to the most recent data issued by the National Center of Social Solidarity (<https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/69055>), the estimated number of Unaccompanied Children currently being in Greece is 3.774 out of which 959 and 883 are placed in long - term and transitional accommodation facilities respectively while 1932 remain outside of long - term or transitional accommodation, being placed in reception and identification centers or protective custody. The estimated unaccompanied minors' figures are disaggregated by nationality as following:

37 % Afghanistan, 30% Syria, 9% Pakistan and 24% concerns other nationalities.



4. UPCOMING EVENTS

ITALY

A conference about unaccompanied foreign minors will be held on the 29^h May in Milan.

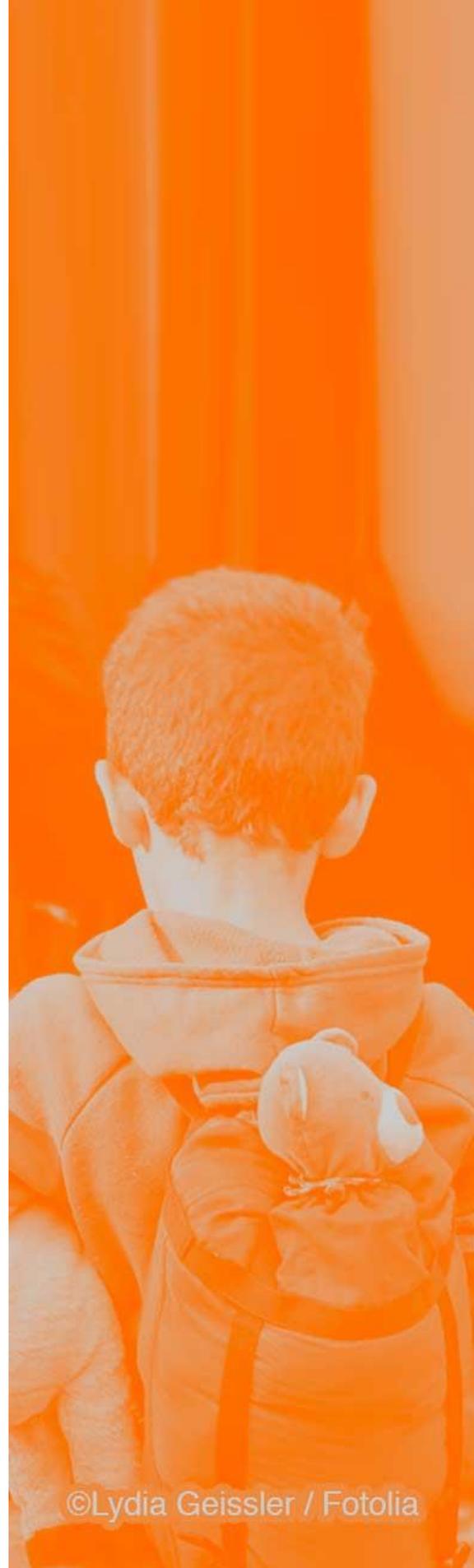
The Conference aims to be an opportunity for discussion and exchange between experts to share expertise, experiences and proposals to extend the application of the foster care for unaccompanied minors arriving in our country.

METAdrasi (Greek) will be one of the speakers at this conference and Istituto degliInnocenti (Florence, Italy) will be sitting in on.

BULGARIA

Three trainings for foster parents that have expressed interested in becoming reception parents for unaccompanied minors are to be held in May and June in Bulgaria in the cities of Haskovo, Sliven and Sofia. Out more than 300 professional foster parents who expressed their interest to care for unaccompanied minors 130 were selected to take part in the trainings. More details about the events will be provided at the official website of the National Foster Care Association:

<https://www.napg.eu/>



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