



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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2. PROFUCE'S ACTIVITIES

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

On the 7th of September, in the park of SOS Children's Villages Vicenza, was held the final event with the participation of families who took part at the uam's foster care training.

The afternoon had the purpose to make a point on the strong and weak points of the training. At the meeting took part 15 people.

The Florentine local dissemination event of Profuce will be held October 10, at 5 p.m. at the Tepidarium del Roster at the Giardino dell'Orticultura where there will be the Open Day of the foster care center, which will open the doors to families and individuals interested in finding information on the experience of foster care and to learn about the protagonists of foster care through direct testimonies.

BULGARIA

The National Foster Care Association (NFCA) realized three events in support of the PROFUCE project. The regional events in Sofia (20.09.2019), Haskovo (03.09.2019), and Sliven (12.09.2019) were aimed at presenting the project activities as well as the opportunities in Bulgaria to develop foster care for unaccompanied migrant children. More than 100 participants - local experts, social workers, foster parents, and specialists from the organization participated in the events. During the meeting, NFCA Program Manager Ginka Ilieva presented the basic provisions for foster care for unaccompanied children. Association President Miroslav Dolapchiev presented the progress of the project and its activities. Within the framework of the events, discussions were held in each city to discuss the applicability of the ALFACA model to the Bulgarian context. The key conclusions that can be drawn from the three events relate to the lack of resources (interpreters, supportive environment) for children, as well as the lack of readiness of foster parents to work with young children as teenagers. 'I believe the project has given us the opportunity to talk about real achievements, beyond the difficulties we face. We need to give clear messages to the child protection system that the rights of unaccompanied migrant children should not be only on paper, and should be practically enforced. Unaccompanied migrant children are not doing well. We need to give them a chance, not imprison them. So we do not give them their childhood, but on the contrary - we rob them,' said NFCA President Miroslav Dolapchiev.

GREECE

The Local event for the Profuce project will be held on the 4th of October with the participation of professionals that have been collaborating throughout the project's implementation. Furthermore, the National Event of the project will be held at the end of October, with the presence of stakeholders, professionals, public actors and foster carers. It will be an opportunity to discuss further the implementation of the Foster Care services in the Greek context.

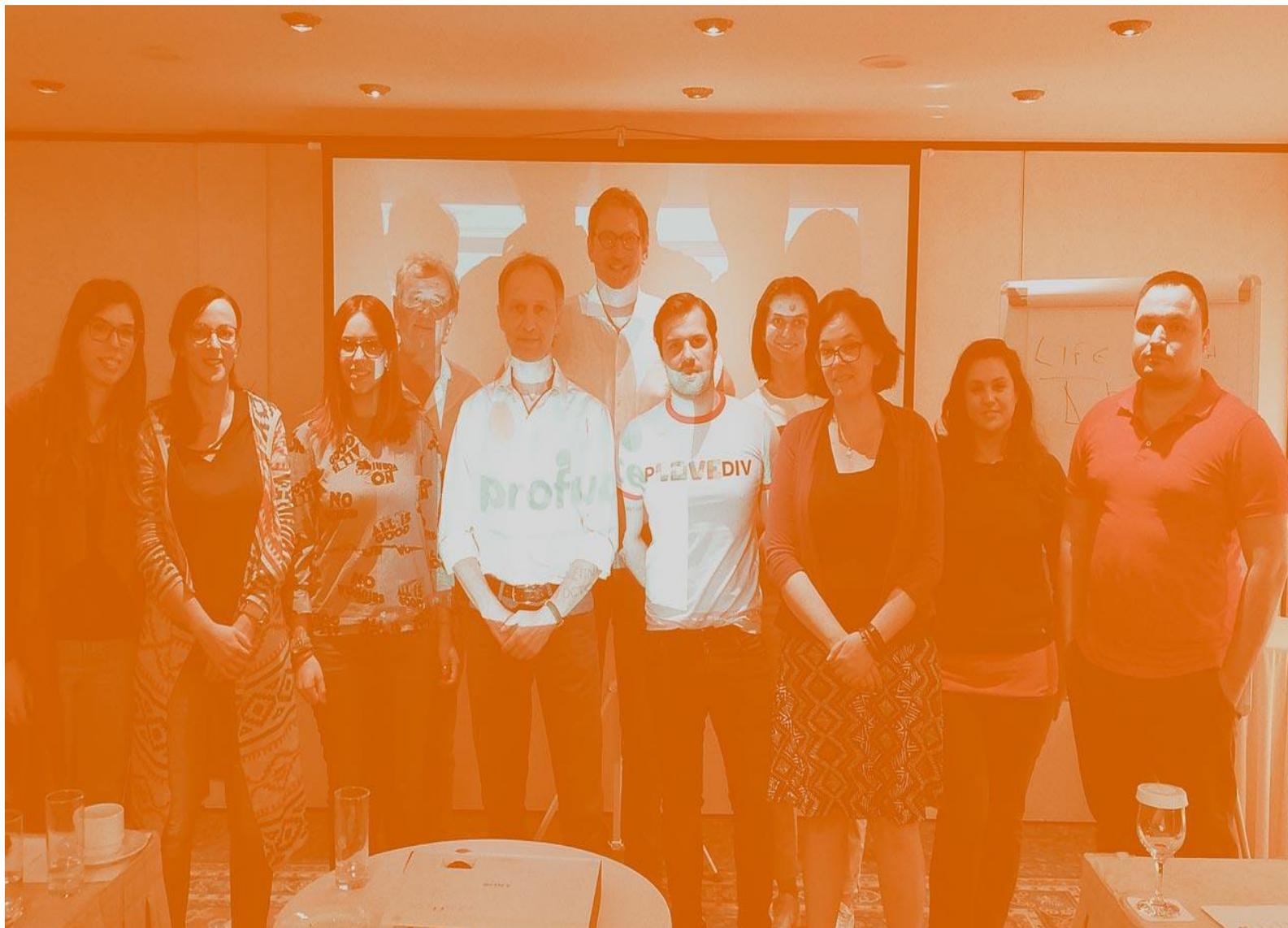


3. UAM'S AND FOSTER CARE IN THE COUNTRIES OF THE PROJECT

ITALY

According to the Ministry of Interior at June 30, 2019 there were 7,272 unaccompanied foreign minors in Italy. There was a 44.7% decrease compared to the same period of the previous year; compared to 2017, however, the decrease in attendance was 59.3%. Among these, the most numerous citizenships are represented by Tunisia (13.8%), Eritrea (11.9%), Afghanistan (11.9%) and Somalia (8.1%). <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/documenti-e-norme/studi-e-statistiche/Documents/Report%20di%20monitoraggio%20I%20semestre%202019%20-%20I%20Minori%20Stranieri%20Non%20Accompagnati%20MSNA%20in%20Italia/Report-di-monitoraggio-MSNA-I-semestre-2019-30062019.pdf>

While sea arrivals through the Central Mediterranean continue to decrease, a spike in secondary movement towards France and Austria, as well as from Slovenia has been reported over the past months. Over 7,500 unaccompanied boys and girls are currently registered in the Italian reception system, yet the capacity of the second-level reception system remains limited with only 3,500 places. This means most children are still hosted in first-level reception centres or in centres managed directly by municipalities, with inadequate standards <https://www.unicef.org/eca/media/7676/file>



THE NETHERLANDS

At the moment 1356 unaccompanied children are living in family care in the Netherlands. The spare capacity in the foster families is 350 places.

In a previous newsletter we informed you that due to a change in the law on foster care, minors would have the right to live in a family until they are 21. If youngsters choose to prolong their placement in the family after reaching the age of 18 years, both youngster and foster family continue to receive guidance from a social worker. This new legislation was initiated to provide longer care for children in the regular foster care system. In the spring of 2019 it became clear that this would not be applicable on our youngsters. This is why Nidos has developed a new project in order to provide youngsters with the required after care. This project accommodates prolonged stay within the family, paid by the local community instead of ministry (regular foster care). The social worker from Nidos that was involved as a guardian before, will guide the youngster until he becomes 21 or moves out of the foster family. This guidance focusses on issues like: further integration, building a network, further education and employability.

GREECE

According to the most recent data issued by the National Center of Social Solidarity on the 15th of September (<https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/71286>), the estimated number of Unaccompanied Children currently being in Greece is 4.501 out of which 1.720 are placed in long – term or transitional accommodation facilities while 1.290 remain in Reception and Identification Centres. The total number of places in long – term or transitional accommodation facilities is of 1833. The estimated unaccompanied minors' figures are disaggregated by nationality as following: 41 % Afghanistan, 8% Syria, 26% Pakistan and 25% concerns other nationalities.



4. UPCOMING EVENTS

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

On 21st of October 2019, the final international conference of the "Profuce" project will be held in Florence, at the Istituto degli Innocenti. The training day aims to deepen the theme of foster care for unaccompanied foreign minors in Italy and Europe and share experiences, good practices and prospects for development.

Speakers at the conference will include representatives from the National Authority for Children and Adolescents, Stefania Congia, from the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies, Milena Santerini, professor at the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart in Milan, representatives from the EU Commission, Mujreann Ni Raghallaig, professor at Univesity College in Dublin and many other international guests.

The full programme of the conference is available at the following link:

ITALY

On 22nd of October 2019, the partner meeting of "Profuce" project will be held in Florence, at the Istituto degli Innocenti. The meeting will give the partners the opportunity to discuss the results of the project, also in the light of the contributions offered in the context of the international conference of 21st of October, and to discuss on possible follow up of the project.

GREECE

Profuce Project Local Event will be held on the 4th of October in Athens and it will give the opportunity to all those who have participated in various ways in the development of the project to meet and to exchange views and experiences.



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