

"Promoting Foster Care for Unaccompanied Children in Italy and in Europe"

Experiences, good practises, perspectives

Florence, 21 October 2019

Istituto degli Innocenti, Piazza SS. Annunziata 12

Not everyone knows who are the unaccompanied foreign minors, nor do they understand the difficult situation they land into. Who are these children? What moves them to leave their families for an unknown country? How are they protected and to what extent are their rights really recognised? What is the distance between legislative theory and daily practice? How much has been done and how much is to be done? Understanding the reality of the child is the starting point, around which all the problems arise concerning the functioning and development of the legal, organisational and relational system of care and integration.

This working-day – which is organized by the ISTITUTO DEGLI INNOCENTI in the context of the European project "*PROFUCE - Promoting Foster Care for Unaccompanied Children in Europe*" - is intended to reflect and take stock of foster care for unaccompanied foreign minors, in Italy and also in a European dimension.

The work will be divided into four sessions:

- **Facts and context of the foster care for unaccompanied minor in Italy**, with introductory and technical communications by experts.
- **Exchange of good practices**, with presentation of recent projects in Italy.
- **The international dimension**, opening to the policies and practices of EU institutions and Countries.
- **Developing foster care techniques and policies**, with exercises and final discussion on problems and perspectives.



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10,00-10,30

Introduction an greetings

Maria Grazia Giuffrida, President Istituto degli Innocenti
Camilla Bianchi, Tuscan Ombudsman for Children and Adolescents

10,30-11,45

SESSION I: Facts and context of family foster care for unaccompanied minors in Italy

Chairperson: *Toni Compagno*, Istituto degli Innocenti

The floor to facts: what we are talking about

Paola Sozzi, Foster care-giver, Educator

The daily enforcement of the law: protection, education, inclusion

Mariella De Santis, Italian Ombudman for Children and Adolescents

Migrations, reception, and integration policy: the situation in Italy

Stefania Congia, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, DG Immigration

Identity, integration, multi-ethnic society

Milena Santerini, Università del Sacro Cuore, Milan

11,45-12,00

Coffee Break

12,00-13,00

SESSION II: exchange of good practises and network of local projects

Chairperson: *Luca Bicocchi*, Istituto degli Innocenti

Alfaca II: The experience of the association of foster care-giver families

Valentina Tenedini, Ai.Bi. Associazione Amici dei bambini

Elfo: active citizenship in the guardianship and foster placements

Julia Pamiás, *Martina Finelli*, Defence for Children - Italia

The project "Forum" and the elaboration of minimum standards in Italy and in Europe

Claudia Cui, L'Albero della vita

"Terreferme": experiences of foster care and reception of unaccompanied minors

Liviana Marelli, *La Grande Casa Cooperativa sociale Onlus*,

Ivan Mei, UNICEF

Concluding remarks

Daniele Maltoni, Municipality of Florence, DG Social service

13,00-14,00

Lunch



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14,00-14,30

"Tucataliamma", documentary by Alberto Castiglione

14,30-15,30

SESSION III: the european and international dimension

Introduction and Chair: Alvaro Vaitsis, Metadrasí (GR)

The European policy between migration and protection of the rights of the children

Joseph Moyersoén, expert in child rights, Commission for the International Adoption

The role of relationship in the integration of unaccompanied children :lessons from three research studies in Ireland

Muireann Ní Raghallaig, University College, Dublin (IE)

Role and contents of trans-national training

Peter Van de Pol, NIDOS (NL)

Strengthening the family foster care: lessons to be learnt, room for improvement

Evgeniya Toneva, New Bulgarian University (BG)

15,30-17,00

SESSION IV: developing the techniques and the policies

Chairperson: Rebecca Tommasi, Istituto degli Innocenti

WORKING GROUP 1: WORKING WITH THE FAMILIES

Facilitator: Municipality of Florence, Centre for Foster Placement

WORKING GROUP 2: PROMOTION AND AWARENESS-RAISING

Facilitator: Rosa Russo, Honorary Judge, Juvenile Court of Florence

WORKING GROUP 3: WORKING WITH THE CHILDREN

Facilitator: Marta Morigato, Villaggio SOS Vicenza

Concluding remarks

Luciano Trovato, President of the Juvenile Court of Florence

Discussion and conclusions of the day

Raffaella Pregliasco, Istituto degli Innocenti (IT)

Marjolein Groen, NIDOS (NL)

Alexander Milanov, National Association of Foster Parents (BG)

Alvaro Vaitsis, Metadrasí (GR)

