

FOSTERING ACROSS BORDERS (FAB) PROJECT

SUPPORT, IMPROVE AND PROMOTE FAMILY BASED CARE FOR UNACCOMPANIED MIGRANT CHILDREN IN AUSTRIA, BELGIUM, GREECE, LUXEMBURG, POLAND AND THE UNITED KINGDOM



Funded by the European Union's Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme (2014-2020)



In partnership with



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RATIONALE

During the surge in arrivals of refugees and migrants to the European Union in 2015, more than 90,000 unaccompanied migrant children (UMC) sought asylum in Europe¹. The majority of them were and continue to be placed in large scale residential care facilities, despite the recommendation of the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) to provide them with family-based reception and accommodation, reports showing that fewer children go missing from foster care compared to reception centres and institutions².

Family-based care (FBC) has also been identified by the EU³ as better placed than residential care to provide children with a nurturing environment and for their individual needs to be successfully addressed. Concurrently, specific training for relevant professionals on the challenges faced by unaccompanied minors remains a high priority in order to provide the highest standards of care and protection to these children⁴.

The work of FAB will build on the outputs of the Alternative Family Care - ALFACA project (2015-2017), particularly its good practice manual.

Implemented by Nidos (Netherlands) in cooperation with Minor-Ndako (Belgium), Jugendhilfe Süd-Niedersachsen (Germany), OPU (Czech Republic), the Danish Red Cross and KJJA (Austria), the ALFACA project developed training for professionals working with host families looking after unaccompanied children.

The ALFACA manual and e-learning package can be found here: <https://engi.eu/projects/alfaca/>



OBJECTIVES

FAB is implemented in six EU Member States: **Austria, Belgium, Greece, Luxembourg, Poland** and the **United Kingdom**. It aims to improve and expand the quality of family-based care for unaccompanied migrant children with dedicated foster carers (FC). Foster carers will be trained on and supported to address the challenges and specific vulnerabilities UMC face. To achieve these objectives the project partners will:

- Adapt appropriate training for fostering services and foster carers in order to equip them with the knowledge to provide safe and effective family care for UMC
- Work with relevant regulated providers of fostering services to enhance their ability to recruit and support families to foster UMC
- Consult with UMC to produce informative materials raising awareness of their circumstances and needs
- Promote the FBC model to service providers, and families interested in fostering

ACTIVITIES


The project activities will include:

- Mapping and analysing existing training materials and training needs to inform the **adaptation of training for professionals and foster carers**
- Supporting regulated providers of fostering services to enhance the **recruitment and retention of foster carers**
- Delivering training to professionals and foster carers using a **training-of-trainers (ToT)** approach
- Conducting **focus group discussions with UMC** to ensure their perspectives inform the training adaption and the drafting of recruitment and informative materials; and aimed at the production of a **video on the children's views** on FBC


TIMELINE

The project will be implemented from January 2018 to September 2019.

ABOUT IOM AND FAB PARTNERS IN THE UK

 **IOM**, the UN migration agency, is the leading organisation in the field of migration. Established in 1951, the International Organization for Migration is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society. As part of its mandate IOM has been assisting governmental and civil society organizations worldwide in the development and delivery of programmes, studies and technical expertise on supporting children and youth in the context of migration.

 **CoramBAAF** is the leading membership organisation dedicated to improving outcomes for children and young people in care in the UK. Its aim is to promote and encourage the highest standards of practice in adoption, fostering and social work; to promote public and professional understanding of adoption and fostering; to act as an independent voice in the field of child care; and to influence policy makers and legislations.

 **Coram Children's Legal Centre (CCLC)**, also part of the Coram group of charities, promotes and protects the rights of children in the UK and internationally in line with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. It is composed of experts across different areas of children's rights, including immigration, child protection, education and child law, that: provide legal advice and representation; research and produce evidence informing law, policy, practice and system reform; build the capacity of professionals and practitioners through training and advice provision; and challenge laws and policies that negatively impact on children and their rights

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¹ <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/2995521/7244677/3-02052016-AP-EN.pdf/>

² http://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/fra-2016-libe_missing_children_21_april_2016_background_note.pdf

³ Article 24 2. (b) of Directive 2013/33/EU: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32013L0033&from=en>

⁴ <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+REPORT+A7-2013-0251+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN>

