

Undocumented children ageing out

- A comparison of policies and practices across countries

(forthcoming publication)

EMN webinar on transition to adulthood

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Scope and aim of the research

- Analysis of 5 - 8 countries
 - UK, IR, BE, SE, DE (+ FR, PR, IT)
- Policies and practices
 - Desk research
 - Survey among PICUM members
- Accompanied and unaccompanied children
 - Without a residence permit

Scope and aim of the research

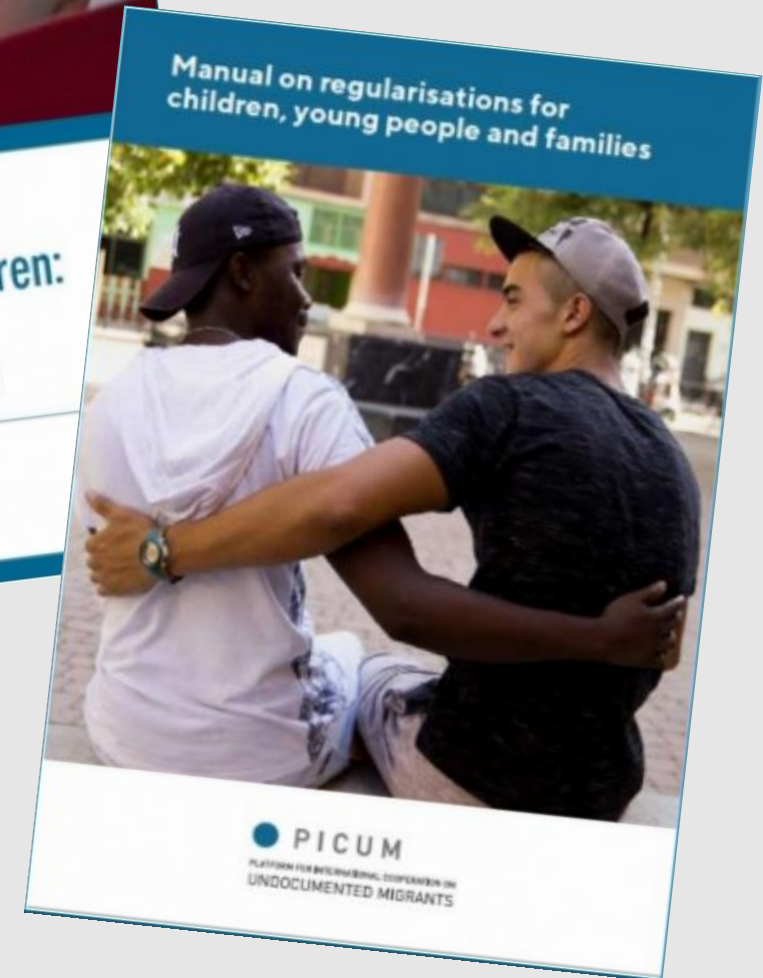
- Are there **national/local measures** that support undocumented children in their transition to adulthood?
- Are undocumented children **prepared** for the changes when they turn 18?
- Are there **residence statuses** available to undocumented children that reach the age of 18?
- Are undocumented children **returned**, either before or after turning 18?
- Relevant **data/statistics**

PICUM resources

[Protecting undocumented children:
promising policies and practices from
governments \(2018\)](#)

Forthcoming publication (February 2021):
Navigating irregularity: the impact of
growing up undocumented in Europe

[Manual on regularisations for children,
young people and families \(2018\)](#)



Data

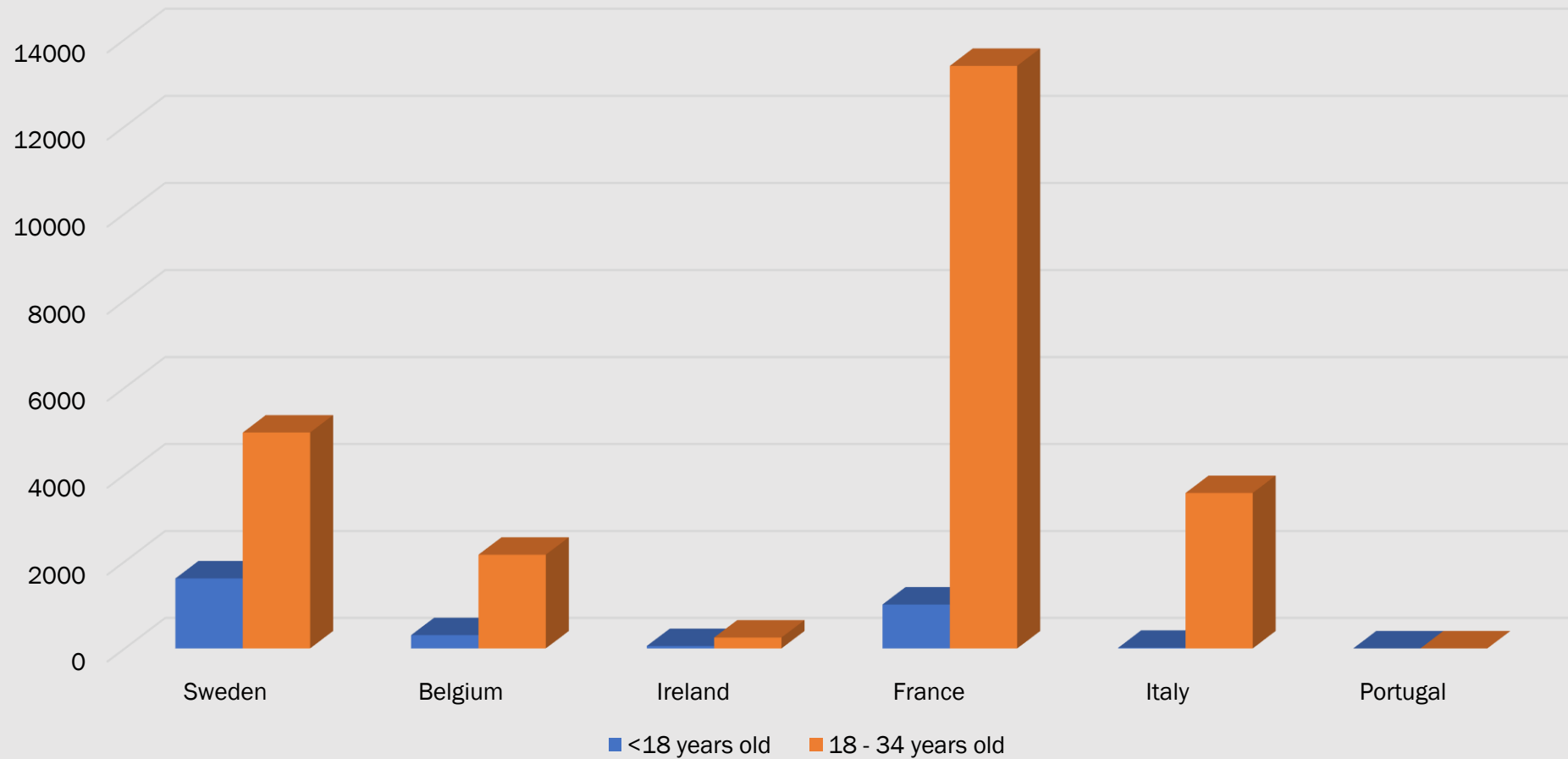
- In Germany, 5,187 children in the age of 16-17 years old had a ‘Duldung’ status (by 30.06.2020).
- In Belgium, on average 1353 unaccompanied minors in the age of 16-18 arrived to Belgium yearly, in the period from 2005-2012. Furthermore, an estimated 359 and 314 unaccompanied children were enrolled in a special status determination procedure, in 2018 and 2019.
- In the United Kingdom, it was estimated that around 215,000 undocumented children (<18) live in the UK, as well as 117,000 undocumented young people in the age of 18-25 (by April 2017).

Preparing children for their ageing out

- Belgium
 - My Future
- Germany
 - Hilfeplangespräch
 - Youth Migration Services
- United Kingdom
 - Leaving Care Support programme

Return

Third country nationals returned following an order to leave in 2019



Preliminary observations

- **Lack of data** on the number of children ageing out yearly (especially accompanied children)
- Care for undocumented children mostly arranged at the local level, implying a **great variety in practices**
- Ageing out **accompanied children often overlooked** in policy and research
- Unaccompanied children are put in **limbo until their 18th birthday**, when deportation is legally possible (without the requirement to ensure proper reception facilities in the country of origin).
 - A durable solution, that is considered in the best interest of the child, needs to be determined before the age of 18 (if the best interest cannot be determined before 18, the procedure not be halted)
 - ECJ C-441/19 confirms this



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For more information:
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**PICUM - Platform for International
Cooperation on Undocumented
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