

Conclusions for the webinar

“Young migrants in transition to adulthood”

Jointly organised by EMN Cyprus, EMN Greece, EMN Italy,

EMN Luxembourg

28 January 2021, 10.00 – 13.00 (CEST)

The following conclusions have been drawn from the event:

- * Transition to adulthood is not a new subject for policy makers, but the recommendations on the topic have not much advanced over the last 20 years.
- * There is no legal framework (neither in the EU law, nor international law) covering the specific situation of unaccompanied minors turning 18 years of age.
- * Once minors turn 18 years of age, if they are still in the asylum procedure, they are treated like adults. If there is no legal grounds for them to stay in the Member State they can be returned.
- * Needs assessment should be put in place, that would allow to look for alternatives when it is not clear if the young person will receive a status or not
- * Discontinuation of the support when reaching 18 years is a great challenge. The type of support is not regulated and obliged by the EU law. It is an area where MSs have full responsibility and freedom to decide.
- * Lack of opportunities and uncertainty that awaits young migrants after they will turn 18 is one of the reasons why minors go missing in the European Union¹
- * At the same time, lack of opportunities as well as uncertainty can lead to exploitation of these young people and they can become victims of trafficking in human beings.
- * Challenge and responsibility that Member States have is not to stop the child’s development because of the formalities and procedures.
- * Development of aftercare plan for all children that receive state care could be one of the solutions to ensure smooth transition.
- * Integration is very important.
- * Cooperation, involvement of the local/host society is important. As in many cases, municipalities are responsible for providing on the ground support to young migrants.
- * Important question to ask **“What should be the Europe’s future citizen?”** Decisions made today will not only have impact on the young migrants, but also on the society in general.

¹ The recording of the joint webinar “Missing unaccompanied minors in the European Union” organized by EMN Cyprus, EMN Greece, EMN Italy and EMN Luxembourg can be accessed here <https://youtu.be/0uxQLViHMp0>

- * Transition has to be planned and clearly communicated in advance in order that the minors can integrate in society and they are aware of the future that is ahead of them.
- * Employability of young migrants is a tool to help young people to become and remain independent.
- * Individual approach is important in order to develop action plan, improve skills and abilities as well as to raise self-confidence.
- * Target group is very limited, mainly focused on young refugees, but not on young migrants in general.
- * Ageing out of accompanied minors is overlooked as the support and skills that they receive from parents are considered to be sufficient.
- * Lack of data is one of the challenges, the available data is not comparable between the countries.
- * To learn experiences outside Europe's borders (to share the knowledge).

Legal solution

- * Legal status (residence prolongation) when children turn 18.

Recording of the event is available [here](#).