

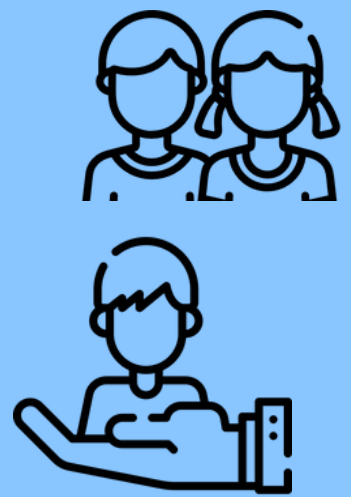


IMPROVING ALTERNATIVE CARE

Key recommendations to ensure high quality care and reception for unaccompanied children over Europe

INCLUDE CHILDRENS VIEWS

Respecting UAC's views on alternative care is crucial. It is taking their rights seriously, respecting their best interest and ensuring them to develop in the best way possible, giving them agency and supporting them in their process of integration. Furthermore by including their perspectives training programmes and provided care will be more in line with their needs



CAPACITY BUILDING ON DIFFERENT LEVELS



Knowledge building is important for all professional levels involved with UAC. Exchange between member states can broaden alternative care systems' horizons. First expertise is transferred bottom up, by including experiences of families, children, and social workers when developing trainings. Sharing experiences during training can then lead to crossloading: broadening knowledge. Finally implementing knowledge gained in the national and local contexts is bringing knowledge back

CAPITALIZE KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE

Benefit from social workers experience in working with UAC and families. Use a bottom-up strategy when developing methodologies and tools and provide easy access for them to be used. This way the gathered knowledge and experience is brought back to the front line and capitalization & training results will be more sustainable.



MORE INFO ON THE IMPACT PROJECT AND ITS TRAINING MATERIALS ?

[NIDOSINEUROPE.EU](https://nidosineurope.eu)

THE VALUE OF TAKING DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES



Stepping into the shoes of the UAC, the family/network home and social worker is a strong intervention, helping to understand & bridge differences. It can help to clarify and create support for the specific needs of all involved: children, family, and social workers. When social workers have the capacity to take in these different perspectives, it improves the quality of guidance and reception.

TAKING GOOD CARE OF FRONT-LINE WORKERS

Working in alternative care systems requires relevant and up-to-date expertise, skills, and competences. Working with UAC can be asking a lot from front line workers. Therefore focus on mental well-being (selfcare) as well as knowledge building. For most social workers, mental healthcare is lacking, but nevertheless essential. Being aware of one's own needs is important for social workers when taking care of the others. It can prevent burnout of frontline workers, thus improving the quality of care.



ACTIVE ENGAGEMENT OF MINORS-A FUTURE CHALLENGE



Regard UAC as future adults, supporting them in becoming resilient and independent. Give them agency and enhance their integration eg. through child participation. Care should be organised in a way it strengthens UAC's agency, creating relations with both their own communities and the rest of society, thus creating a broad supportive network. This reduces the risk of marginalization and exclusion. Good practices focusing on agency, integration and supportive networks are scarce. Therefore, significant improvement of this type of care is needed.

The AMIF funded IMPACT-project (2020-2022) further supported the operation of alternative care systems in France, Italy, the Netherlands and Sweden

By building up on previous action results (such as **ALFACA** and **FAB**), sharing knowledge & expertise and increasing the competencies of professionals working with unaccompanied children (UAC) and foster carers through training. The project contributed to protecting UAC by making alternative care not only available to them but also adequate to their needs. Thus ensuring a higher quality of care and better outcomes for children.

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