



## **European Return Fund-Community Actions 2011- (Emergency Assistance) “Addressing the needs of unaccompanied minors (UAMs) in Greece”**

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is an International Intergovernmental Organization based in Geneva, Switzerland with 149 member states, 12 states holding observer status and offices in over 100 countries. It was founded in 1951 and is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society. Greece is a founding member of IOM. The Office in Greece operates on the basis of an Agreement of 17 April 1952, between the Greek Government and IOM (ICEM). This Agreement defines the scope of IOM activities and sets out in detail its responsibilities. The IOM Office in Greece cooperates with the Government, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) and other International Organizations and has acquired experience in the implementation of Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) programmes. The IOM concept of Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration is based on a decision freely taken by the individual. IOM Office in Greece is currently implementing the project “Addressing the needs of unaccompanied minors (UAMs) in Greece” with co-funding from European Union, Sweden, the Netherlands, Denmark and the United Kingdom.

The programme “Addressing the needs of unaccompanied minors (UAMs) in Greece” aims to assist and protect the rights of all the unaccompanied minors in Greece who wish to voluntarily return to their countries of origin.

The IOM Office in Greece within the auspices of the programme:

- Works, both within and outside formal protection structures, closely with NGOs that provide services to UAMs in order to identify UAMs not already registered and channel them to relevant authorities for protection and for the BID process
- Contributes with operational support to the governmental authorities responsible for the BID process in the element of family-tracing; with the aim to speed up the BID process
- Once family or guardian has been located, cooperates with IOM missions in the origin countries in order to assist in conducting family assessments that will play a significant role during the BID process, as well as in the preparation of the AVRR process



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- Provides AVRR assistance, if the prosecutor for minors determines, that “it is in the best interest of the child” and the minor wants to return to his country,
- Works with the minor, prior the return, to formulate personal reintegration plans to be implemented in the origin countries in cooperation with IOM missions there. Reintegration assistance can include psychological and medical support, scholarships to UAM and income-generation projects with UAMs and families.

The programme provides the following services to unaccompanied minors:

- Informative sessions regarding the nature of the programme.
- Collaboration with a social worker who will assist the unaccompanied minor in identifying and covering any arising issues for the period before his/her departure.
- Communication with IOM in the country of origin in order to locate the minor’s family and determine his/her best interest.
- Conduct of family assessment in the country of origin
- Specific information on the reintegration possibilities in the countries of origin will be provided.
- Counselling and support in order to identify and make use of the minor’s potential, capabilities and personalised skills will be provided.
- Provision of reintegration assistance including education, vocational training, the chance to start-up a small business, additional financial assistance in independent employment.
- Coverage of costs for the issue of travel documents.
- Coverage of costs for the travel ticket to return to the home country.
- Assistance upon pre-departure from the host country and upon departure from the country of origin will be provided.

For more information contact:

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