



THE NET FOR U PRACTITIONERS' TOOLKIT FOR WORKING WITH UNACCOMPANIED MINORS

The toolkit is composed by some practical exercises that are intended to facilitate the daily work with UAMs as well as instruments to help collect and assess information in order to improve the possibility of developing a realistic life project that could help ensure the minor's independence and success in the transition to adulthood.

The Net For U Toolkit is designed to go hand in hand with the Net For U Practitioners' Manual.

The Toolkit offers practitioners some practical instruments and exercises intended to help them in assessing the needs and potentialities of UAMs in order to develop and implement life project that can effectively help them transition into an independent and stable adulthood. The Annexes that compose it are not intended to be exhaustive, but represent a starting point for developing life projects and other interventions that make the most of family resources, while operating in the best interests of the child. These also provide exercises and suggestions to support practitioners in re-assessing their own positions and views in order to further enhance their skills.





Divided into three parts, the Toolkit begins with exercises to address the myth-reality balance discussed in the Manual, both in regards to the minor and his/her family and the practitioner (Annex 1 “Balancing myth and reality”). This section includes two exercises that can be used to better understand and address the myth-reality balance:

- Exercise A “Understanding Transit Country and Dream Country Myths in a Group” is intended as a group discussion exercise with multiple children, and;
- Exercise B is an information matrix that can be used in conjunction with Exercise A or separately, meaning that the information can be collected in other ways.

These matrices represent a starting point for understanding not only where each individual is now (and hence potential sources of misunderstanding and conflict), but also where, and how to intervene in order to ensure a beneficial myth-reality balance.

The second part is dedicated to the collection and use of information about the minors and their families and for these objectives we can refer mainly to Annex 2 “Case study report and family involvement plan”* & Annex 5 “Creating a family profile”. Among them, Annexes 3 “Identifying and assessing family” and 4 “Family focus questions” should be used to help collect information for previous ones.

As previously mentioned, all of these instruments are intended to be used to guide the practitioner’s work: profiles and data should be reassessed on an as-needed basis when new information becomes available.





Deserved attention is put particularly on Annex 3 on the exercise “Mapping Geographical and Emotional Distance” that can be employed to map both the geographical and emotional distance between the minor and his/her family members as well as to help identify the relationships where practitioners should intervene. The mapping exercises represent the starting point for exploring the nature of existing relationships including, but not limited to, the identification of: sources of stable support; cases of abuse, neglect or violence; emotionally significant but troubled relationships; individuals that are harmful to the minor and where distance should be maintained and/or increased, etc.

Taken together, these exercises provide information that can be useful in determining how to best work with the UAMs and the family by providing the practitioner with a basis for understanding the current situation and an ideal future situation - both from the minor’s point of view.

Finally, the third part of the Toolkit (Annex 6 “Group processes for practitioners”) focuses on the practitioner, as an individual and as part of a team. This series of questions and considerations represents a starting point for increasing awareness within the individual practitioner and stimulating discussion and exchanges between practitioners who work with this specific target group at different levels.

** It should be noted that Annex 2 is provided in two versions: Annex 2a comprises a complete case study report and assessment (Case Study Report prepared and used by the Diagrama Foundation); Annex 2b only covers the family assessment and can be used in conjunction with other needs assessments that you are already using.*

