

# **The Model for Better Transition of Unaccompanied Minor Migrants to Adulthood – Model CiSoTRA**

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## **Abstract**

*Unaccompanied minor migrants are a significant group among refugees therefore they enter the distinct systems of youth protection, which exist in all of Europe's countries, they often live in protected communities, and are accompanied by professional staff. Once these young people come to adult age will grow out of protection aimed at unaccompanied minors. They enter into the system of adults (generally when they are eighteen years old, or depending on the country and its administrative practices). Often, they have to abruptly leave these protected communities and move into a regular shelter for asylum seekers, where there is considerably less social-pedagogic support. Overall, this is an enormous challenge for them (Krauss, 2019a).*

*Integration into host societies, even in those, which are more and more aware of themselves as "migration societies", however, requires a much more complex process of mutual negotiation of the terms of acceptance. On the level of social integration, there is a wide consensus among experts about the risk factors for refugee youth to drop out of host society permanently out of frustration, denied opportunities, lack of building social relations and mental illness. Many actors see the danger of the formation of an alienated "parallel society" of individuals who are not deported, but also not an integrated part of the society (Bräu, 2021, Krauss, 2019a).*

*To support the better transition of Unaccompanied minor migrants to adulthood, a Model for better transition was prepared in cooperation of project partners (project Erasmus +, K3, CiSoTRA) from Slovenia, Italy Greece, Germany, and Turkey. A research study from those five countries shows that systems concerning social inclusion of unaccompanied*

*minor migrants and young refugee adults are not working well enough. There is a gap in the support of unaccompanied minors in transition to young adulthood. The model has been developed to a sufficient level of abstraction so it can be used for this purpose also in other EU countries, as far as these have an overall positive attitude towards their obligations to protect and support young refugees, considering their national context and specifics (Krauss, 2019b).*

*The model presents an approach of coordination of existing singular measures and practices. It is an inclusive approach to support young migrants and to strengthen the links between different organizations that are involved in such support for young migrants, creating appropriate interfaces, which can be used for coordinating the activities and creating “learning communities” among different actors. This could lead to a more holistic approach for the transition of individual young refugees, while at the same time contributing to a more integrated competent community, which leads to a more cohesive society.*

*The model is based on four levels of social integration of unaccompanied minor migrants into adulthood a.) level of processes, b.) level of activities, c.) level of stakeholders, d.) level of training and competency. Each level includes four main elements of social inclusion of migrants into the host society, the concept based on ‘chains of education’: Engaging, Orienting, Stabilizing, Inserting (Fialho et. al). Specifics of Slovenia, Italy Greece, Germany, and Turkey are considered and described in the model.*

**Keywords:** project CiSoTRA, unaccompanied minor migrants, social inclusion, coordination of actors