

Chapter Fifteen

Policy Recommendations

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Based on the evidence presented in the national reports, studying the good practices which have been selected by the partners and the initial analysis, the project partners have agreed on the policy recommendations to follow. The recommendations have been reviewed and discussed by the partners during the partner meeting in Bari (Oct. 2018, the general and specialised training in Naples, Nov. 2018 and 2019) as well as in written communication.

The recommendations are grouped regarding various levels of decision making in a country.

National Level (General)

Follow a holistic model of transition of UAMS to adulthood. The transition of UAMS to adulthood is a complex process. It includes adolescence, migration and often a change of the cultural environment. The following elements of a holistic model of inclusion need to be organised: Protection of UAMS and young refugees along with all international obligations, but also taking account of the reality of the existence of large populations of displaced young persons with no perspective of returning to a home. Outreach to young refugees to include them in the support systems. Stabilisation of the social and psychological situation to prepare them for the following steps. Orientation on conditions of success in the host society and potential educational and professional pathways to education and employment. Immersion into the regular social fabric of society.

Support and fund NGOs in the field. In all CiSOTRA partner countries, NGOs are at the forefront of care and organising transitions. All policymaking must include the expertise of these actors and leave space for them to develop and exchange expertise and best practices, while at the same time creating a legal and financial framework that assures their independence and viability.

Develop and expand training for professionals. Migration created trans-cultural spaces in all partner countries. Transculturality therefore needs to be the leading paradigm of training, which must focus on cooperation and coordination competences, competences in understanding the psycho-social dynamics of refugees and working techniques helpful for stabilisation and orientation, including encouraging overcoming traditional perceptions of gender roles, self-organisation, and digital participation. Actors in the system need to act according to the needs of a trans-cultural society. More overarching competencies in fields like social support in an inter- to the trans-cultural environment, operating the mechanisms of the complex educational and employment system for migrants, institutional cooperation etc. An understanding of the mechanisms of discrimination according to gender, class and background is required. Methodologies of creativity, culture, and arts, such as theatre, creative writing, media production, are proven elements of the orientation of young refugees. Each actor needs to understand phenomena like traumatisation, cultural and biographical re-orientation. For all professionals, an in-depth knowledge of the immediate cooperation partner's logic of action, responsibilities, resources, and policies is essential. Also, face-to-face relationships must be built locally to form a capable network of actors which is also effective in addressing emergencies.

Local Level

In many partner countries, the local level of government and civic participation (like municipalities) have proven themselves as places of practical problem solving even in a context of split up responsibilities and contradictory policies on the state level. Therefore, transition of minors must be managed on a local and regional level, using funds from state, federal and local sources. A dedicated effort for coordination of various actors must therefore be made. Ideally, an overall regional integration strategy for refugees is formulated, of which the integration of unaccompanied minors is a part. The various actors must consult each other regularly. Common policy goals and overarching case management are to be implemented. Spaces and opportunities for exchanging practices and sharing insights and experiences among all NGO and state institutions actors are required. These should be independent of temporary changes of party politics and focus on civic participation, including that of migrant populations.

Municipalities need to ensure that young refugees understand the local institutional, economic, and social environment. The host country presents itself in the shape of the local community. It is critical for young refugees to know the actors and their expectations, responsibilities, and opportunities in very concrete terms.

International/European Level

All international and European obligations for the protection of UAMS must be fully observed. A clear migration policy, which takes into account the realities of international migration and the reality of a high number of displaced young refugees needs to be developed in full solidarity within Europe. The right of women to safe migration must be strengthened. The current indecision and disorganisation of the political framework in all partner countries put all actors in an unfortunate situation: perspectives for youth are unclear, political aims in various fields of policy are contradictory. No clear perspectives and consequently educational and vocational pathways for youth can be developed consequently. Frustration and societal disintegration, in some cases aggression and psychological health problems (as depression) follow. Work with the member states to assure safe and legal travel from third countries and between the member states and respect for the right to apply for protection at the EU borders. This is particularly relevant for women. Support for and obligations of EU border states to protect the rights of refugees must be strengthened.

Enforce the full protection of legal and safe work for all youth, independent of their legal status. The phenomenon of work migration of the third-country national youth needs to be dealt with in more constructive ways. Pathways into legal and safe work must be a priority also for displaced young refugees, i.e., those without the chance of a safe return to a home country. While youth do mostly flee from unbearable local situations and are often affected by violence and prosecution, withholding opportunities for education and work provokes illegality and exploitation.

Transfer of good practices: Good practices must be exchanged and mainstreamed, backed up by adequate funding, including training and international exchange of staff. On the operational level, many good practices of language learning, socialisation, individualised social work, and educational support have been developed in all the partner coun-

tries. Transferring such initiatives requires an extensive effort to describe such practices in English and to exchange the experiences of professionals. International programmes of qualification for staff in the field and field visits must complement theoretical learning. The educational program, which has been developed by the CISO TRA project, therefore will be continuously updated, expanded, and disseminated. Individual elements should be detailed and further piloted. A comprehensive system of monitoring good practices in Europe should be set up and adequately funded.

Final Words

CISO TRA Partners commit to supporting project results and their sustainability through a series of activities:

- Discussing the Model of better social inclusion at the national/regional level to find a coordinator in a specific environment.
- Promotion of E-platform with on-line ECTS courses and short on-line training units, particularly among stakeholders, and providers of training for professionals, to contribute to an increased level of knowledge, awareness-raising, and networking.
- Partners will organise training and discussions on the topic of UAMS in transition to adulthood also in the future (dissemination events).
- HE education institutions will use courses and training materials developed in the project within courses at their institutions – courses will be run internationally.
- Through project outputs and sustainability strategy, partners of CISO TRA (institutions and experts) remain available to support the professionals working with UAMS in transition to adulthood in home countries. With those approaches, we also aim to contribute to the EU Action Plan on Integration and Inclusion (2021–2027).