

Brussels, 18 May 2015

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

No longer Alone: Advancing Reception Standards for Unaccompanied Minors

SAVE THE DATE

Dear Sir/Madam

The European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE) is currently carrying out the “No longer alone: Advancing Reception Standards for Unaccompanied Minors” project, which aims to contribute to the improvement of reception standards for unaccompanied children and to ensure that accommodation and reception are adequate to their needs. In order to help Member States develop and implement good reception practices, it is important to provide them with tools and fora to exchange experiences and information on the application of existing practices and concrete ways to replicate (and adapt) them in their national contexts.

The exchange of knowledge and the maintenance of the contacts amongst stakeholders would be deepened through the study visits in the **5 selected countries** providing an opportunity to learn more about their type of reception arrangement/facilities. In addition, the study visits will also be an opportunity for participants to visit specific sites and directly interact with the national actors involved and initiate discussion amongst state officials from various EU Member States.

The study visits are an important output of this project as they aim to reach the main target beneficiaries of the project such as **EU Member States authorities working on reception of unaccompanied children, both at a national and local level**. The project, which will run for eighteen months, should directly involve about 65 Member States representatives through the study visits.

Hereby, we would like **to invite you or one of your colleagues** to the study visits as per the list below. In order to know more about each study visit please click in each link.

- 1) **Scotland, 15 – 16 June 2015, [Study visit to learn about the role of guardians to ensure appropriate reception conditions for unaccompanied children and young people in Scotland.](#)**
Kindly RSVP your intended participation to graham.o'neill@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk.
- 2) **France, 7-8 September 2015, [Study visit of the reception centre “AMIE Miguel Angel Estrella”](#)**
Kindly RSVP your intended participation to apierard@france-terre-asile.org.
- 3) **Hungary, 26 – 28 October 2015, [Study visit of a Reception facility with Integrated Child Care Services for Unaccompanied Minors in Hungary.](#)**
Kindly RSVP your intended participation to julia.ivan@helsinki.hu.

- 4) **Sweden, 25 – 26 November 2015, [Study visit to Sweden to be introduced to the system by which Swedish authorities work to improve unaccompanied children's participation in the decision-making processes that concerns them and to share best practice within this area.](#)**

Kindly RSVP your intended participation to mikaela.hagan@rb.se.

- 5) **The Netherlands, 11 – 12 January 2016, [Study visit Protected Reception UAMs in the Netherlands.](#)**

Kindly RSVP your intended participation to l.deruijterdewildt@nidos.nl.

We very much hope that an official representative from your country will participate in one or more study visits in order to promote the use of the selected models/ practices in your country.

Please confirm your attendance by email to the relevant contact point(s) above. Please kindly note that the study visits are addressed only to the EU member states national authorities and that the number of participants for each visit is limited to 13.

Flight expenses, dinner and overnight accommodation will be covered.

Should you have any questions regarding the project, please do not hesitate to contact my colleague, Elona Bokshi, Project Officer at ECRE and project coordinator, at ebokshi@ecre.org, +32 2 234 38 08.

Yours faithfully,



Michael Diedring

ECRE Secretary General