Unaccompanied asylum seeking/ migrant minors in Europe: a comparative research

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1-Historical evolution of the presence of UC in each country.

- **FRANCE**: Significant increase since 1999. Stable nowadays.
- **ITALY**: Increasing since late 90’s.
- **GERMANY**: Decreasing since 1995.
- **UNITED KINGDOM**: Increasing since half nineties
2-Relevant current statistics: (global number of UC, main nationalities, sex, age)

- **FRANCE**: Latest 2003 data: more than 3,000 admissions to the care system.
- **ITALY**: 2006 CME statistics: 6,358 UM registered.
- **GERMANY**: No available data at a national level.
- **UNITED KINGDOM**: STC estimation in 2005: 6,500 UM under Social services’ care.
3-Sociological profile of UC (pushing factors and migration project)

- **FRANCE**: Etiemble’s typology: 5 categories
- **ITALY**: UM migration is based on economical grounds
- **GERMANY**: Asylum seekers’ profile
- **UNITED KINGDOM**: Asylum seekers’ profile
4-Access to destination country (illegal entry, detention at international borders’ areas, refusal of entry and return)

• **FRANCE**: UM’s detention at the borders’ international area.
• **ITALY**: Frequent illegal entries.
• **GERMANY**: UM’s detention at the points of entry. Increase of illegal entries.
• **UNITED KINGDOM**: Easy access when applying asylum.
5- Admission to the care system (competent authorities, protocol or conditions for admission)

- **FRANCE**: Admission subject to a judicial control.
- **ITALY**: Minors are placed at initial care facilities.
- **GERMANY**: Different for UM under and over 16 years old.
- **UNITED KINGDOM**: 24 hours after location the minor is placed under Social Services’ protection.
6-Legal guardianship (determination process, guardian’s tasks, etc.)

- **FRANCE**: Protection measures do not withdraw parental authority. A guardian could be appointed.

- **ITALY**: Giudize tutelare appoints a guardian (local authority’s social services) or a foster family.

- **GERMANY**: Family court appoints a guardian or a legal carer for UM under 16 years of age.

- **UNITED KINGDOM**: No guardianship system exists.
7-Return (forced or voluntary returns, proceedings, monitoring of returned UC, deportations)

• FRANCE: Forced return is not considered as a valid practice.
• ITALY: Forced returns are implemented and justified as a suitable solution in the UM’s best interest.
• GERMANY: Minors can be deported if their asylum application is rejected.
• UNITED KINGDOM: There are neither forced returns nor deportations.
8- Immigration status (types of immigration status, conditions to be entitled to refugee status, other possibilities.)

- **FRANCE**: UM do not need of a residence permit. Lack of possibilities when they become adults.
- **ITALY**: UM are entitled to a residence permit but its renewal when they turn 18 is quite complicated.
- **GERMANY**: Most minors get a toleration status
- **UNITED KINGDOM**: Rejected asylum seeking minors get a leave to remain until they are 18 years old.