

# 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: 6358 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:** Etienne'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.