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IN WHOSE BEST INTERESTS?

Exploring Unaccompanied Minors' Rights Through the Lens of Migration and Asylum Processes (MinAs)

Questionnaire for the interviews with UAMs

(To interviewer: Please tell the bellow mentioned information for the UAM with your own words and in as simple and clear language as possible.)

Dear informant! A group of experts researching how different states take care of the unaccompanied minors that come into their country. Because of your experience we would appreciate if you would be willing to talk to us about your living in Slovenia / Austria / France / Great Britain. We have prepared some questions which will help us to better understand the situation you and other minors are in. If you don't feel comfortable with any of the questions you don't have to answer. With the help of the information we will get from you and other minors we will write a report about the situation of unaccompanied minors and suggest the needed changes to improve the situation in the countries. We assure you of anonymity (in the reports we won't use your name, surname or any other information which could reveal your identity). None of this information will affect your immigration case in any way. Your view and opinion are very important to us so we hope you will join the research and help us to understand the situation you and other minors are living in.

Research Theme	Sub-theme	Questions
1. BACKGROUND/ WARM-UP QUESTION	Warm-up question	Please tell me a bit about yourself. (If possible get basis information about the UAM such as age, country of origin etc.)
		Please, tell me, what is your day like?
2. PERCEPTIONS OF DAILY LIFE	Spending time, living conditions	How do you spend your time and who do you spend it with? Where do you live currently?
		Where have you lived before? (Living arrangements over the whole period in the host country)
		What do you think of your living conditions in France/UK/SI/AU?
	Fulfilment of basic needs/access to basic social rights	Since you are here, have you already been ill? Did you visit the doctor? How would you describe this experience(s)? Did you have any specific health related need since you have been here? (mental health related need etc.)
		Do you get any financial help from the state?
		Is it high enough for your basic needs?
		If not, who is helping you in this situation?
	Education / Work	Do you go to school?
		Why yes / not? If yes: Please tell me a bit about school. Why have you included in the school?
		Since you are here, have you been working?

	If not: Would you like to work? Why?
	If yes: Please tell me a bit about your work. Why have you decided to work?
Perception of institutions and actors of the child protection /	Have you found any colleagues in your school/working environment?
Perception of the administration and the State	What happened when you came to Slovenia / Austria/ France / GB?
	Was somebody expecting you?
	Could you describe how did you feel when you arrived?
	Who received you?
	What were crucial institutions you had contacts with?
	Did they help you? How?
	Were you given the information about the possibilities you have? (to claim for the asylum, to get some help, etc)
	Have you ever been in the situation when your age was being put under the question? If yes: Please describe what happened.
Support network	
	Who is helping you at the present time?
	Who do you go to for information or advice?
Subjective well- being	How do you feel in general at the moment?
	Which part of your current living situation you find positive? Which negative? Why?

	What do you miss most in current situation?
	Do you witness boys and girls facing different
	difficulties? What are these?

3. ISSUES RELATING TO CHILDHOOD/ YOUTH. PERCEPTION OF WELL-BEING AS YOUNG PERSONS.	Friends, family and social links	Please tell me more about your friends here? Was it easy to meet people? Do you have any French/UK/Slovenian/Austrian friends? Do you have any friends with similar experiences as yours? Do you keep in touch with your friends in your home country? How do you communicate with them? Is it easy to get internet access? What about your family? Can you communicate with them? Have you managed to learn the language of the host country? Do you ever have a chance to speak your original language? (Can you read and write your original language?) Are you satisfied with your social life and social contacts? Why yes/no?
	Leisure activities	What do you do in your spare time? Do you practice any sport or any cultural activity and how do you like it? Did you try any new activities since you arrived here? Do you have any place where you can chill out or stay by yourself? Where do you meet your friends? How would you describe yourself?
	Identity questions	According to your style, which would be the group you belong to? Are you interested in music, cinema, TV, fashion, videogames?

		If so, do you have possibility to practice those activities?
		Do you have a feeling to be a same person as at home country? Why not?
	Acting upon his convictions, values	Do you have easy access to information and news?
		What do you think about politics? (In general)
		Do you practice any religion? If so, can you easily access places of worship?
		Do you think practicing your religion is being accepted in France/Slovenia/United Kingdom/Austria?
4. ISSUES RELATED TO CONDITION AND TREATMENT		If you look into your past, what was your life like, before you decided to leave your country?
AS UNACCOMPANIED		In which country did you live?
MIGRANT/ ASYLUM SEEKER		Who did you live with?
Migration /asylum seeking status		What was the breaking point you decided to leave? Please describe it.
		What were your planning activities to leave your country like? Did anyone advised you how and where to go?
		How long did you travel? In which countries di you stay before coming to Slovenia /Austria France / Great Britain? Were you travellin alone? Is the country in which you live now you desired destination? Why yes / not? Wher have you heard about the country you woul like to live in?
	seeking status	
		Did you apply for residence status/asylum/etc.? Please describe the whole process.

		Did you have any interviews for the status that you applied for? (Were you able to tell your story fully? Were you prepared for the interview / know what to expect?) In the case that you have to go to the court, do you have a lawyer? Do you understand the process at the court? Did you feel respected in court process? What was the outcome of your application for the status you applied for? Did you understand it? Were you happy with it? Did you feel that in the whole process was someone on your side?
		Were you given an interpreter when you needed one? Ask only if UAM is still in the process of getting the status he/she applied for: What would you do if you get residence / are granted asylum? And if not? Do you feel that you are in control of what is happening to you?
		If you look back and think about the whole procedure of getting the status you applied for, since your arrival here (Austria, Slovenia, France, U.K., Austria), what do you think is the most urgent drawback you want to see improved?
5. FUTURE	Desires, expectations and aspirations	If you think about your future, where you think you will live in 10 years, what would you like to be doing? Do you feel that you are supported at I'd like to ask you what is your biggest dream /wish related to your future?
6. FINAL QUESTIONS		If you could give advice to yourself before you came, or to another child in your home country

before they leave, what would you say?
If you could tell the [country] authorities how to make things better for children in your position, what would you tell them? Would you like to add anything we haven't been talking about?

Thank you for sharing your experience with me.