

Swedish EMN-Conference 2014

## **Unaccompanied minors – Swedish and European perspectives**

Stockholm, 8 October 2014

### **Background**

For 2014, the Swedish Migration Board envisages that the number of asylum seeking unaccompanied minors (UAM) coming to Sweden will reach the highest level ever, 6 500. The Swedish model for reception of unaccompanied minors was introduced in 2006 and is based on a division of responsibility between local municipalities offering accommodation and care for UAMs and the Swedish Migration Board, which processes their asylum applications. At the time of developing this model, the number of UAMs coming to Sweden had been around only 400 per year. Since then, their number has increased strongly and the amount of available places in municipalities has been insufficient. Recently, new legislation entered into force, enabling the Migration Board to assign UAMs to municipalities even when they have not agreed to receive UAMs. Aiming to provide good reception conditions to all UAMs seeking protection in Sweden, all responsible actors are facing challenges. The purpose of this conference is to share experiences and identify challenges and good practices both from a national and an international perspective.

This conference, which is organised in the framework of the European Migration Network (EMN) and related to one of the EMN study topics for 2014, will look into the state of play of the Swedish reception system for unaccompanied minors and discuss its strengths and weaknesses in from a variety of perspectives. In a second step, the Swedish system will also be analyzed in a European context by studying examples from three other EU Member States and Norway.

The Conference will be held on **8 October 2014** at Stockholm City Conference Centre, 'Music Hall' (*Musiksalen*) at *Norra Latin*, Drottninggatan 71b, Stockholm.

### **Contacts**

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## Programme, 8 October 2014

<b>09:00 - 09:30</b>	<b>Arrival and registration</b>	
	<b>Welcome and opening remarks</b>	<i>Christer Zettergren, Swedish Migration Board</i>
	Introduction to the Swedish reception system for unaccompanied minors	<i>Kjell-Terje Torvik, Swedish Migration Board</i>
<b>09:30 - 10:30</b>	Asylum procedure and age assessment	<i>Barbro Bolinder, Swedish Migration Board</i>
	EMN-Study on policies, practices and trends regarding unaccompanied minors	<i>Nataliya Nikolova, EMN Service Provider</i>
	<i>Questions and discussion</i>	
<b>10:30 - 11:00</b>	<b>Coffee Break</b>	
	Role and experiences of local authorities in the unaccompanied minor process	<i>Elisabeth Melin, Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions</i>
<b>11:00 - 12:30</b>	Experiences of local authorities with reception and care for unaccompanied minors	<i>Gunilla Andersson, Rinkeby-Kista city district administration</i>
	Study on unaccompanied girls from Somalia 15 years later	<i>Magdalena Bjerneld, Researcher, International Dep. of Women's and Children's Health, Uppsala University</i>
	<i>Questions and discussion</i>	
<b>12:30 - 13:30</b>	<b>Lunch</b>	
	<b>Experiences from other European countries</b>	
<b>13:30 - 14:30</b>	Norway	<i>Katarzyna Maria Piesla, Norwegian Directorate of Immigration</i>
	Ireland	<i>Thomas Dunning, Child and Family Agency, Ireland</i>
	Austria	<i>Saskia Koppenberg, IOM Austria</i>
<b>14:30 - 15:00</b>	<b>Coffee Break</b>	



Italy

*Mattia Vitiello, Italian National  
Research Council*

**15:00 - 15:40**

“Safe and Sound: What States can do to respect the best Interests of unaccompanied and separated children in Europe”

*Samarie Wijekoon Löfvendahl  
Associate Legal Officer  
UNHCR Regional Representation  
for Northern Europe*

Questions and discussion

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**16:00**

**Conclusions and Goodbye**

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**Conference moderation:** Swedish National EMN Contact Point

#### **About the EMN**

The European Migration Network (EMN) is an EU funded network, set up with the aim of providing up-to-date, objective, reliable and comparable information on migration and asylum for Institutions of the European Union, plus authorities and institutions of the Member States of the EU, in order to inform policymaking. The EMN also serves to provide the wider public with such information. The EMN was established by the European Council Decision 2008/381/EC adopted on 14 May 2008.

*For further information:*

EMN Sweden: [www.emnsweden.se](http://www.emnsweden.se)

EMN Europe: [http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-we-do/networks/european\\_migration\\_network/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-we-do/networks/european_migration_network/index_en.htm)

