



## **EMN Ad-Hoc Query on Return of unaccompanied minors**

Requested by Jutta SAASTAMOINEN on 3rd March 2017

### **Return**

Responses from Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Slovak Republic, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, Norway (23 in total)

#### Disclaimer:

*The following responses have been provided primarily for the purpose of information exchange among EMN NCPs in the framework of the EMN. The contributing EMN NCPs have provided, to the best of their knowledge, information that is up-to-date, objective and reliable.*

*Note, however, that the information provided does not necessarily represent the official policy of an EMN NCPs' Member State.*

### **Background information:**



The National Police Board of Finland and the Finnish Immigration Service have received funding from the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) for a joint-project “Repatriation”. The key objective of the project is to improve the efficiency of returns of asylum seekers. The project also looks at the situation of unaccompanied minors.


In this regard, we would like to request information from the Member States in order to understand the volume of returning unaccompanied minors and for identifying best practises.



### **Questions**


1. How many unaccompanied minors did your Member State return during 2016? Please separate between voluntary and forced returns.
2. Does your country remove unaccompanied minors to any of these countries: Iraq, Afghanistan and/or Somalia?
3. Has your Member State developed and implemented any specific measures in order to gather information on applicants’ family ties in order to ensure a safe return to the country of origin? If yes, please describe (shortly) the undertaken measures.
4. We are planning to visit some Member States based on the answers for this questionnaire. In order to enable us to plan possible visits, please provide contact details for an official in your ad-ministration to whom any supplementary queries in relation to this questionnaire can be addressed.




### **Responses**


	<b>Country</b>	<b>Wider Dissemination</b>	<b>Response</b>
	Austria	No	
	Belgium	Yes	<p><b>1.</b> No forced return of unaccompanied minors. Their return is always on a voluntary basis. In 2016 17 unaccompanied minors returned.</p> <p><b>2.</b> As mentioned above, no forced return for unaccompanied minors, only voluntary. If an unaccompanied minor wishes to return, he or she can use the voluntary return and reintegration</p>



			<p>program. A voluntary return of an unaccompanied minor to Iraq, Afghanistan or Somalia is in principle possible. In 2016 2 unaccompanied minors returned to Afghanistan, and 6 to Iraq. But such a return can only happen within the existing rules regarding the return of unaccompanied minors (for example formal consent of the guardian in Belgium, and formal consent of both parents in the country of origin or the guardian in country of origin).</p> <p><b>3.</b> When an unaccompanied minor arrives in Belgium, a guardian is appointed. This guardian can start a specific procedure. This procedure determines the most durable solution in the best interest of the unaccompanied minor (which can be both return as well as a residence permit). To this end, the authorities conduct a ‘family assessment’ for each individual case. In this regard, the Belgian Immigration Office can contact the Belgian diplomatic post in the country of origin to collect the necessary information. In this regard the family of the unaccompanied minor is consulted. This does not mean that the unaccompanied minor will return to his or her country of origin, but it makes it possible to determine whether or not adequate and safe reception and care are available, and whether or not a return is in the best interest of the unaccompanied minor. If the unaccompanied minor wishes to return, the Belgian Federal Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers (Fedasil) will prepare his or her return in collaboration with the service providers (IOM and if applicable Caritas International Belgium). In consultation with the guardian in Belgium, the service providers will try to get the necessary formal consent of the parents or guardian in the country of origin for the return of the unaccompanied minor. The service provider will also prepare the reintegration of the unaccompanied minor if applicable.</p> <p><b>4.</b> Assisted Voluntary Return Project Officer of Fedasil Ms Anke Mertens (anke.mertens@fedasil.be). Sources: • Belgian Immigration Office (Minteh Unit) • Federal Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers / Fedasil (International Platform) • AHQ on Returning Albanian Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (requested by United Kingdom on 24th January 2017)</p>
	Croatia	Yes	<p><b>1.</b> 1. During 2016 the Republic of Croatia had registered 331 unaccompanied minors. 70 unaccompanied minors were forced returns (removal), mostly from Kosovo and Turkey.</p> <p><b>2.</b> 2. No.</p>

			<p><b>3. 3. Yes.</b> During interviews in the presence of a guardian, information about the members of his / her family are collected. The data collection continues after juveniles are accommodated in the home for juveniles.</p> <p><b>4. 4. Jadranka Vitas,</b> Directorate for Irregular Migration, Ministry of Interior, tel. +385 1 3788 559, <a href="mailto:jvitas@mup.hr">jvitas@mup.hr</a></p>
	Cyprus	Yes	<p><b>1.</b> During 2016, there were 2 cases of voluntary returns of unaccompanied minors in their home countries and 39 to other European countries for the purpose of family reunification (Dublin Regulation).</p> <p><b>2.</b> No</p> <p><b>3.</b> The Social Welfare Services have developed cooperation with the International Organization for Migration (Cyprus Office) in Cyprus, which undertakes all necessary measures for the safe return of the unaccompanied minor, i.e. gather information on applicant's family ties, home study on the family and living conditions, etc.</p> <p><b>4.</b> Marina Efthymiadou Social Welfare Services, Ministry of Labour, Welfare and Social Insurance Tel. +357 22 406652 / +357 22 406602 e-mail: <a href="mailto:central.sws@sws.mlsi.gov.cy">central.sws@sws.mlsi.gov.cy</a> / <a href="mailto:mefthymiadou@sws.mlsi.gov.cy">mefthymiadou@sws.mlsi.gov.cy</a></p>
	Czech Republic	Yes	<p><b>1.</b> Voluntary return – 0. Forced return – 0. Returns of minors from the CR can take place only on a voluntary basis. Generally, the Czech Republic does not return UAMS. As a rule, UAMs are not returned to third countries unless they ask for it and at the time it is clearly demonstrated that the return is in their best interest - i.e. the level of care in the country of origin is at the same level as is the case in the CR.</p> <p><b>2.</b> No. See the answer above.</p> <p><b>3.</b> While looking for their relatives, the information shared by the child him/herself is used in the first place since, especially for children from third countries, those items of information are frequently the</p>

			<p>only ones available. For minors who do not seek international protection, the competent social and legal child protection authority must inform the country of origin. As a rule, the authority also informs the embassy of the country of origin in the CR and the Office for International Legal Protection of Children. These institutions then look for the parents or survey other relevant information on the child. After the situation is surveyed, the children are either consigned directly to their parents or to an educational institution in the country of origin. On being returned, the children are either accompanied by one of their parent or a court-appointed person who is mandated to take over the child and arrange for him/her to be returned - in practice, it is usually an employee of the embassy, a representative of the locally competent child care authority or a representative of the IOM. They also cooperate with non-governmental organisations in the country of origin. Where the children are taken over by their parents who come for them to the Czech Republic, their returns are no longer monitored by the CR. However, there is a risk of the children being (repeatedly) exploited as part of trafficking of children or committing crime. In this respect, it was observed that both state administration and non-public organisations found it difficult to identify potential children victims. This applies where the parents or statutory representatives arrive at a police station, or at a social and legal child protection authority annexed to the municipal authorities in order to take the child over hastily, with the preliminary order yet to be issued, and before the child is placed at the Facility; if that is the case, the mere suspicion on the part of a staff member of the social and legal child protection authority regarding the child being in a potential trafficked situation may not warrant a refusal to consign the child to the parents or a statutory representative. Even if the preliminary measure has already been issued, it may be difficult to prevent the child from being trafficked if they are picked up by a parent who is involved in the trafficking.</p> <p><b>4.</b> If you are planning to visit the Czech Republic, contact the EMN NCP directly and we will then provide you with the contact.</p>
	Estonia	Yes	<p><b>1.</b> There have been no such cases during 2016.</p> <p><b>2.</b> There have been no such cases.</p> <p><b>3.</b> Unaccompanied minors are accommodated in the home for juveniles. The interviews are conducted in the presence of a guardian and relevant information is collected, including information about the</p>

			<p>members of the family.</p> <p><b>4.</b> Ellen Lebedeva, Police and Border Guard Board, International Cooperation Bureau, +372 612 3092; ellen.lebedeva@politsei.ee</p>
	Finland	Yes	<p><b>1.</b> According to the IOM, which organises voluntary returns in Finland, 20 unaccompanied minors returned voluntarily from Finland in 2016. Apart from the voluntary returns organised by the IOM, the Finnish police reports having removed less than ten unaccompanied minors annually, on the basis of case-by-case discretion. Finland does not have official statistics on minors' involuntary removals. A total of 401 unaccompanied minors applied asylum from Finland during year 2016.</p> <p><b>2.</b> Finland hasn't carried out forced removals of unaccompanied minors to Iraq, Afghanistan or Somalia. Minors have, however, returned to these countries through voluntary return.</p> <p><b>3.</b> Finland has made some efforts in order to gather information on the family situations. For instance, each unaccompanied minor is encouraged to provide a full list of their family members and to describe their relationship with them in detail. In addition to close family members, also relatives such as aunts and uncles are taken into account. However, this is an issue which Finland would like to see improving and, hence, we are currently investigating the issue.</p> <p><b>4.</b> Name and position of contact person... Telephone number... Email address...</p>
	France	No	
	Germany	Yes	<p><b>1.</b> Forced returns There have been no forced returns of unaccompanied minors in the year 2016. In 649 cases, unaccompanied minors have been denied entry at the border or have been brought to other member states of the EU in the course of the Dublin procedure. Unaccompanied minors enjoy a high standard of protection in Germany, making forced returns very difficult to realize. In order to forcibly remove an unaccompanied minor the German authorities have to ensure that the minor in question is given into the care of his parents or a legal guardian in his country of origin. Since the task of identifying the parents or legal guardians, getting into contact with them and getting their consent to</p>



			<p>the forced removal of the minor is very difficult. There are virtually no cases in which an unaccompanied minor can be forcibly removed on a legal basis. Voluntary returns In the year 2016, 170 unaccompanied minors returned to their countries of origin voluntarily within the frame of the German AVR programme REAG/GARP, which is implemented by IOM Germany on behalf of the Federal Republic and the Bundesländer.</p> <p><b>2.</b> Because of the difficulties of forcibly returning unaccompanied minors described in question 1, there have been no forced removals to the described countries. However, voluntary returns to these countries are possible if all requirements set by the IOM (See Question 3) are met.</p> <p><b>3.</b> In case of a voluntary return of an unaccompanied minor via the REAG/GARP programme the personnel of the IOM mission in the respective country of origin tries to identify the par-ents or legal guardians of the minor on the basis of legal documents or addresses provided by the legal guardian of the minor in Germany. When the parents or legal guardians are found, they have provide a written confirmation that the minor in question will be received at airport and taken into care until he or she reaches legal age. Minors under the age of 16 will receive an escort during the flight. The arrival of the minor at the airport in the country of origin and the reunification with the parents or legal guardian is documented via a “handover certificate”. IOM Germany recently provided the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (Bundesamt für Migration und Flüchtlinge) with a draft of guidelines for cases concerning unaccompanied minors, based on the SOPs of IOM Geneva.</p> <p><b>4.</b> Supplementary queries can be addressed to Section 212 (International Cooperation Projects, Return) of the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (Bundesamt für Migration und Flüchtlinge). The contact address for Section 212 is Ref212Posteingang@bamf.bund.de. The contact address for the German representation of IOM is iom-germany@iom.int.</p>
	Hungary	Yes	<p><b>1.</b> No unaccompanied minors were returned during 2016.</p> <p><b>2.</b> HU does not remove unaccompanied minors to any of these countries.</p> <p><b>3.</b> According to Act II of 2007 on the Admission and Right of Residence of Third-Country Nationals Section 45 (5) an unaccompanied minor may be expelled only if adequate protection is ensured in his</p>




			<p>country of origin or in a third country by means of reuniting him with other members of his family or by state or other institutional care.</p> <p><b>4.</b> Contact details: Immigration and Asylum Office Aliens Policing Directorate 1117 Budapest, Budafoki str. 60. HUNGARY Tel.: +36 (1) 463-9137 Fax: +36 (1) 463-9139 e-mail: idegenrend@bah.b-m.hu</p>
	Ireland	Yes	<p><b>1.</b> Ireland does not return unaccompanied minors and does not remove unaccompanied minors to Iraq, Afghanistan and/or Somalia.</p> <p><b>2.</b> .</p> <p><b>3.</b> .</p> <p><b>4.</b> .</p>
	Italy	Yes	<p><b>1.</b> According to the Italian law, unaccompanied minor is a foreigner under the age of 18 who is for any reason within the territory of the State without assistance or legal representation (Legislative Decree 142/2015). The forced return of a foreigner under the age of eighteen is forbidden (Consolidated Law on Immigration). During 2016, assisted voluntary return (RVA) was stated for 9 minors by the Directorate-General for Immigration and Integration policies of the ministry of Labor and Social Policies (5 Albanians, 4 Egyptians).</p> <p><b>2.</b> No</p> <p><b>3.</b> According to the national legislation, the Directorate-General for Immigration and Integration Policies of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies is responsible for Family Tracing &amp; Assessment of UAMs present in Italy, in order to trace family members, also in the Country of Origin. After a public procedure, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) has been recognised as the body through which Family Tracing &amp; Assessment is developed by the Ministry of Labour and Social Polices. Family Tracing consists of a deep analysis of the context of origin of the child and provides fundamental information to find durable solutions in the best interest of the child. In general, moving</p>





from the request of the Directorate for Immigration and Integration policies, IOM activates field staff that contacts the child's family in order to realise an interview, based on a semi-structured questionnaire. Such interview is usually conducted at the family's house and it is accompanied by a deep observation of the socio-economical context. On this regard, it is important to highlight that family members are always informed by IOM staff about the aims of the interviews and about the relevant Italian legislation. Then, family tracing's results are transmitted by IOM to the Directorate-General for Immigration and Integration Policies, which forwards it to the responsible Municipality and/or to the Guardian. The development of family tracing provides detailed information about the child's background, useful in order to identify durable solutions for the child (both in Italy or in a third Country). According to the national legislation, the Directorate-General for Immigration and Integration Policies is also responsible for supporting family reunification when this is ascertained as the best, durable solution upholding UAM best interests. In order to state the Assisted Voluntary Return of the child, several pre-conditions are essential. First, it is evaluated the result of the Family Tracing, that should provide information on both the possibility and the conditions for the return, in the best interest of the child. Therefore, if the possibility of a positive re-integration is assessed, if the child expresses the will to return and if all competent authorities agree, an individual project of return in the Country of Origin is defined together with the child and according to his/her needs and desires. Such re-integration programmes address the whole family and social context of the child in the Country of Origin, in the best interest of the child. Thus, the decision on assisted voluntary return is taken by the Directorate-General for Immigration and integration Polices based on what emerges from family tracing, and considered the opinions of all involved actors (among which the agreement of the Judicial authority and the child's opinion are essential). A new Act concerning Unaccompanied Minors has been approved on March 29th 2017 by the Italian Parliament (the so-called "Legge Zampa"). Art. 8 of this Act provides for the adoption of the assisted voluntary return measures by the competent Juvenile Courts after hearing the minor concerned and his/her guardian, and taking into consideration the results of the family tracing in the country of origin or in a third country, as well as the reports of the competent social services.

**4.** Stefania Congia, Head of the Division II – Directorate-General for Immigration and Integration Policies – Ministry of Labor and Social Policies, +39 0646832235 / scongia@lavoro.gov.it

	Latvia	Yes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. There were 22 unaccompanied minors removed from the territory of Latvia to their country of origin in 2016. Unaccompanied minors removed were citizens of Vietnam. There were no voluntary returns of UAM in Latvia in 2016.</li> <li>2. Latvia doesn't have practice in forced removals of unaccompanied minors to Iraq, Afghanistan or Somalia.</li> <li>3. Latvia mostly use the contacts of the unaccompanied minor with his/her family members or relatives to ensure a safe return of the minor to the country of origin. Latvia also use readmission agreements in cases of return of vulnerable group of migrants with the aim to provide the hand-over of the returnees to the family members, relatives or competent institutions providing proper care (child care institutions, health care etc.).</li> <li>4. Name and position of contact person in Forced return – State Border Guard Central Board officer Anzelika Alika, telephone number: 00371 67075641, email address: Return.Latvia@rs.gov.lv.</li> </ol>
	Lithuania	Yes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. One unaccompanied minor was returned to Belarus.</li> <li>2. In the previous years there were no cases of returning unaccompanied minors to the countries mentioned above.</li> <li>3. IOM and diplomatic missions or consular offices of the foreign country are requested to assist (mediated by Lithuanian diplomatic missions or consular offices) while finding family members of an unaccompanied minor. In case responsible persons are not found, a diplomatic mission, a consular office or an institution of a foreign country responsible for child care are contacted for the possibility to return an unaccompanied minor to parents, legal guardians or for a transmission of an unaccompanied minor to an institution which is responsible for child care and protection.</li> <li>4. Loreta Leimontaitė, Head of the Control Division, Migration Department under the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Lithuania. loreta.leimontaite@vrm.lt.</li> </ol>

	Luxembourg	Yes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. In 2016, one unaccompanied minor returned voluntarily to Albania with the parents' permission. Another Albanian unaccompanied minor was returned by force.</li> <li>2. No.</li> <li>3. No.</li> <li>4. Jean-Marc Kirsch Head of the Returns Department Directorate of Immigration E-mail: jean-Marc.kirsch@mae.etat.lu</li> </ol>
	Malta	Yes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. There were no voluntary/forced returns of unaccompanied minors in 2016.</li> <li>2. No.</li> <li>3. N/A. In Malta, IOM is working on Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR).</li> <li>4. Ms Anne Marie Pisani: ann-marie.pisani@gov.mt</li> </ol>
	Netherlands	Yes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Approximately 60 UAM have left the Netherlands (including Dublin returns), approx. 60 voluntary and approx. 10 forced.</li> <li>2. We have not removed UAM to Iraq, Afghanistan and/or Somalia in 2016. Voluntary returns have taken place to Iraq (less than 5) and Afghanistan (less than 5).</li> <li>3. The UAM will be asked to give information about his family in his country of origin. With this information the Repatriation and Departure Service (R&amp;DS) can contact the family about the return. Unaccompanied minors require extra supervision during the repatriation process. In situations such as these the R&amp;DS organises adequate shelter for the unaccompanied minors. The primary goal is to reunite the UAM with parents or family (with information from the UAM and if possible through family tracing). If this is not possible, the R&amp;DS will try to arrange adequate shelter in a general reception facility. A reception facility is found to be adequate if there is shelter available till the age of 18, availability of food, clothing and hygiene, access to education facilities and the presence of</li> </ol>




			<p>medical care.</p> <p><b>4.</b> You can reach us through EMN@ind.minvenj.nl and we can, if needed, get you in touch with the relevant officials.</p>
	Slovak Republic	Yes	<p><b>1.</b> Slovak Republic does not carry out administrative expulsions of unaccompanied minors, their return can be only voluntary. However, there were no voluntary returns of unaccompanied minors in 2016. There was one case of a judicial expulsion (expulsion imposed by a court) of an unaccompanied minor, a Ukrainian national who was almost 18 at the time of expulsion and it was carried out through a readmission agreement.</p> <p><b>2.</b> There were no such cases.</p> <p><b>3.</b> No.</p> <p><b>4.</b> Katarína Bennárová, Bureau of Border and Alien Police of the Police Force Presidium: katarina.bennarova@minv.sk (NOT TO BE DISSEMINATED)</p>
	Spain	Yes	<p><b>1.</b> In 2016, the total number of unaccompanied minors returned was 5 (4 to Albania; 1 to Algeria), none of them asylum seekers.</p> <p><b>2.</b> Spain has never returned unaccompanied minors to Afghanistan, Iraq or Somalia.</p> <p><b>3.</b> In Spain, the basic step is that the Spanish Embassy/Consulate in the country of origin issues “the socio-family report” with the known information on relatives of the minor or, lacking this, information on the social protection services for minors.</p> <p><b>4.</b> EMN NCP.</p>
	Sweden	Yes	<p><b>1.</b> The Swedish Migration Agency has been involved in arranging family reunification or orderly reception for: 103 UAM to country of origin in 2016 (returns in accordance with Dublin Regulation is</p>

excluded). 64 UAM returned voluntary to Afghanistan 10 UAM returned voluntary to Iraq. No UAM returned to Somalia. The Swedish Police has returned 21 UAM, and none of the children have returned to Afghanistan, Somalia or Iraq.

**2.** In 2016 no unaccompanied minor was returned with force to Somalia and to Iraq and Afghanistan - all the returns of UAMs to these countries were voluntary, please see question 1. For more information please see the attached document. The Swedish Migration agency is in charge of voluntary return and the Police Authority in charge of forced return. However, cases are not sent to the police before an orderly reception/family reunification has been investigated/arranged by the Swedish Migration Agency.

**3.** Please see the attached document! Orderly reception via the authorities/other stakeholders in Iraq, Afghanistan and Somalia is not currently possible. The Swedish Migration Agency does not currently engage with any stakeholders in relation to family tracing for unaccompanied minors in Afghanistan and Somalia either. It is hoped that in future the ERIN service providers in these countries may be able to provide assistance in relation to family tracing. In relation to Iraq, the Iraqi embassy in Stockholm can assist with family tracing for unaccompanied minors. When it comes to the practical arrangements for those minors who return to Afghanistan to reunite with their families, we do co-operate with the Afghani authorities. There are stringent security arrangements in place at Kabul airport which means that the Swedish escorts who escort minors to Afghanistan cannot leave the transit area in the airport. The Afghan authorities therefore assist by ensuring that the child is safely transported from the transit area and reunited with their family members outside the security-controlled area at the airport (see answer to the question below for further details). When unaccompanied minors return to Iraq from Sweden, the authorities are not involved in the handover process: the Swedish escorts are able to hand over the child directly to the receiving family member. Sweden has not returned any unaccompanied minors to Somalia.

**4.** It would be best to contact the Swedish Migration Agency's International Unit in this regard. The International Unit have overall responsibility for contact with other countries and can identify the unit(s) within the Migration Agency who are best placed to answer specific questions. The International Unit can be contacted via the following email address:

			internationella@migrationsverket.se
	Switzerland	Yes	<p><b>1.</b> Voluntary returns: 22 Forced returns: 2</p> <p><b>2.</b> No</p> <p><b>3.</b> Switzerland cooperates with IOM regarding voluntary returns. Thus, reintegration of unaccompanied minors takes only place with the support of IOM. The procedure foresees that the Swiss Guardian for the unaccompanied minor does agree with voluntary return. The same has to be guaranteed by the guardian in the CoO. Once both agree, reintegration can be confirmed by the State Secretariat for Migration and organized by the specific return counselling office. The SEM usually confirms projects in line with education for unaccompanied minors. Every exception has to be well-founded.</p> <p><b>4.</b> State Secretariat for Migration Petra Steiner / Roger Steiner <a href="mailto:petra.steiner@sem.admin.ch">petra.steiner@sem.admin.ch</a>; <a href="mailto:roger.steiner@sem.admin.ch">roger.steiner@sem.admin.ch</a></p>
	United Kingdom	No	
	Norway	Yes	<p><b>1.</b> 14 UNAMs returned assisted from NO in 2016. They returned to Iraq 3, Afghanistan 6, Albania 4 and Iran 1.</p> <p><b>2.</b> Of the above mentioned countries, Norway can only offer assisted voluntary return for UNAMs to Iraq per se. Currently we lack service providers for assisted return of UNAMs to Somalia and Afghanistan.</p> <p><b>3.</b> When the UDI receives a request for return from an unaccompanied minor, then usually IOM uses their resources and routines to see if they can facilitate a safe return. IOM checks into an unaccompanied minor's family background based on information from the asylum applicant who often has telephone contact with their family.* Questions about whether a return to a given area/ country would be safe are considered by the Norwegian Directorate of Immigration's (UDI) Asylum</p>

		<p>Department. They consider whether it is safe to return an UAM to his/ her country of origin. First and foremost we consider whether the UAM will be in need of international protection. An UAM will only be considered for return if we are sure that the applicant will receive proper care upon return to his/ her country of origin (the minor's contact with family/ minor's possibility of establishing contact with his/ her family is part of our assessment concerning proper care). Our assessment will mainly be based on information we receive from the applicant. We will also consider verification of information concerning the applicant's identity in countries where this is possible. However, there are only a few countries where this is at all possible. All applicants receiving a rejection of their application of asylum have the right to appeal to an independent appeals board. If the Appeals Board (UNE) upholds UDI's decision of return we encourage the applicant to voluntarily return to his/her country of origin.</p> <p>*When the IOM organizes assisted return for an unaccompanied minor, they contact the minor's care persons/guardian in the CO in order to obtain agreement about the return. This is then a confirmation to the IOM that the guardian has agreed to take over responsibility for the minor after the minor has returned. *IOM contacts the minor directly with the persons that the minor identifies as their care persons, but does not do any further tracing of family members. IOM does require verification which proves the relationship to the minor, but no other evaluation or consideration is made about the identified care persons.</p>
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**4. Contact information:** UDI Ms. Bente Scott Amundsen; bsa@udi.no and Mr. Ulrike Berg ourb@udi.no