Unaccompanied Minors in Belgium
Best Practices and Challenges

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Peter Van Costenoble – BE EMN NCP
Peter.vancostenoble@ibz.fgov.be
www.emnbelgium.be
(Self-declared) UAMs in Belgium (asylum and non-asylum)
Asylum seeking UAMs in Belgium
Profile and Migration motives

- **Asylum seeking UAMs**
  - Countries of Origin: Afghanistan, Guinea, DR Congo
  - Boys (+/- 75%), 16-17 years old (+/- 60%)
  - Need for protection, education, economic reasons, decisions made by the family,...

- **Non-asylum seeking UAMs**
  - Inconclusive statistics
  - Countries of origin: Morocco, Algeria, WB-countries
  - Education, economic reasons, diaspora,...
  - Higher risk on disappearing
Best Practices

- Adequate **Reception places** for all UAMs <-> Reception Crisis
  - Observation and orientation Centre (2 weeks)
  - Collective Reception Centre - Specific Reception Facilities
  - Individual Reception (minimum 16 years old)

- Proper functioning of the **Guardianship Service**
  - Identification and Age Assessment Test: careful interpretation
  - Appointing a guardian (employee-guardian or self-employed)
  - Structural Improvements (training, guidelines)
Best Practices

- Special safeguards for asylum seeking UAMs
- **Specific residence procedure** for UAMs besides the asylum procedure and other procedures to obtain a residence permit
- No **detention**, but secured facilities can be a good practice (for example for victims of human trafficking)
- No returns of UAMs unless in the best interest of the child
- Ongoing progression in **limiting protection gaps for UAMs**
Ongoing challenges

- **UAMs who disappear**
  - Worrying disappearances and voluntary leavers
  - Out of reception facilities, before appointment of a guardian

- **Many different stakeholders** involved (UAM, Immigration Office, Police, Guardianship service, guardian, Commissioner-general for Refugees and Stateless Persons, Reception Agency,...)

- No centralised database, **limited statistical data** on some important aspects (disappearances, non-asylum seeking UAMs, UAMs who turned 18, etc...)
Age assessment

- Decision Majority
- Decision Minority
Appointment of a guardian

![Graph showing the number of UAMs to whom a guardian was appointed from 2010 to 2014. The trend shows a decrease from 2010 to 2014.]

- **2010**: 1200
- **2011**: 1400
- **2012**: 1600
- **2013**: 1000
- **2014**: 700

**Legend:** UAMs to who a guardian was appointed.
Thanks for your attention

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