

**Odisee**  
UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES

# Final Conference: FORM

**Erasmus+ project:** Therapeutic foster care for unaccompanied minors

Policy recommendations



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28/11/2024



FORM



# Bringing it all together

Therapeutic care for foster families  
with unaccompanied minors

**Practical Guide for  
foster care workers**  
A 10-point programme



Therapeutic care for foster families  
with unaccompanied minors

**C o n c e p t u a l  
f r a m e w o r k**



Therapeutic care for foster families  
with unaccompanied minors

**Policy  
recommendations**



# Policies should be the *safety in the background* of foster care workers and foster parents and unaccompanied minors

- ▣ We discussed how not to underestimate the realities of being an unaccompanied minor
  - And we probably do...
- ▣ We should not underestimate the complexities of being a foster parent
  - And we probably do...
- ▣ Strong (therapeutic) foster care can not exist without strong policies and a strong network.
- ▣ Resist the tendency to make an individual responsible for the cracks and gaps in the system
- ▣ De-institutionalisation
  - Yes, but how to effectively ensure well-being and development possibilities of the child and the durability of a sense of connection and meaning within foster care?



## A robust, multilevel and holistic approach is crucial

- ▣ Needed for the support of foster families themselves
- ▣ Also true for the foster care department
- ▣ And any service in het sector
  
- ▣ But in a sector that is highly
  - Fragmented
  - In survival mode



## A global and holistic, rights-based approach

- ▣ Spreading awareness
- ▣ Spreading information about rights of Unaccompanied minors
- ▣ Reinforcing access to rights and promote best practices



## Promotion of inclusion and integration

- ▣ Flexible Civic Integration Programs and strengthened support for Civic Integration
- ▣ Increased Funding for Social Integration Initiatives
- ▣ Promotion of Empowerment and Social and Cultural Integration



## Guardianship

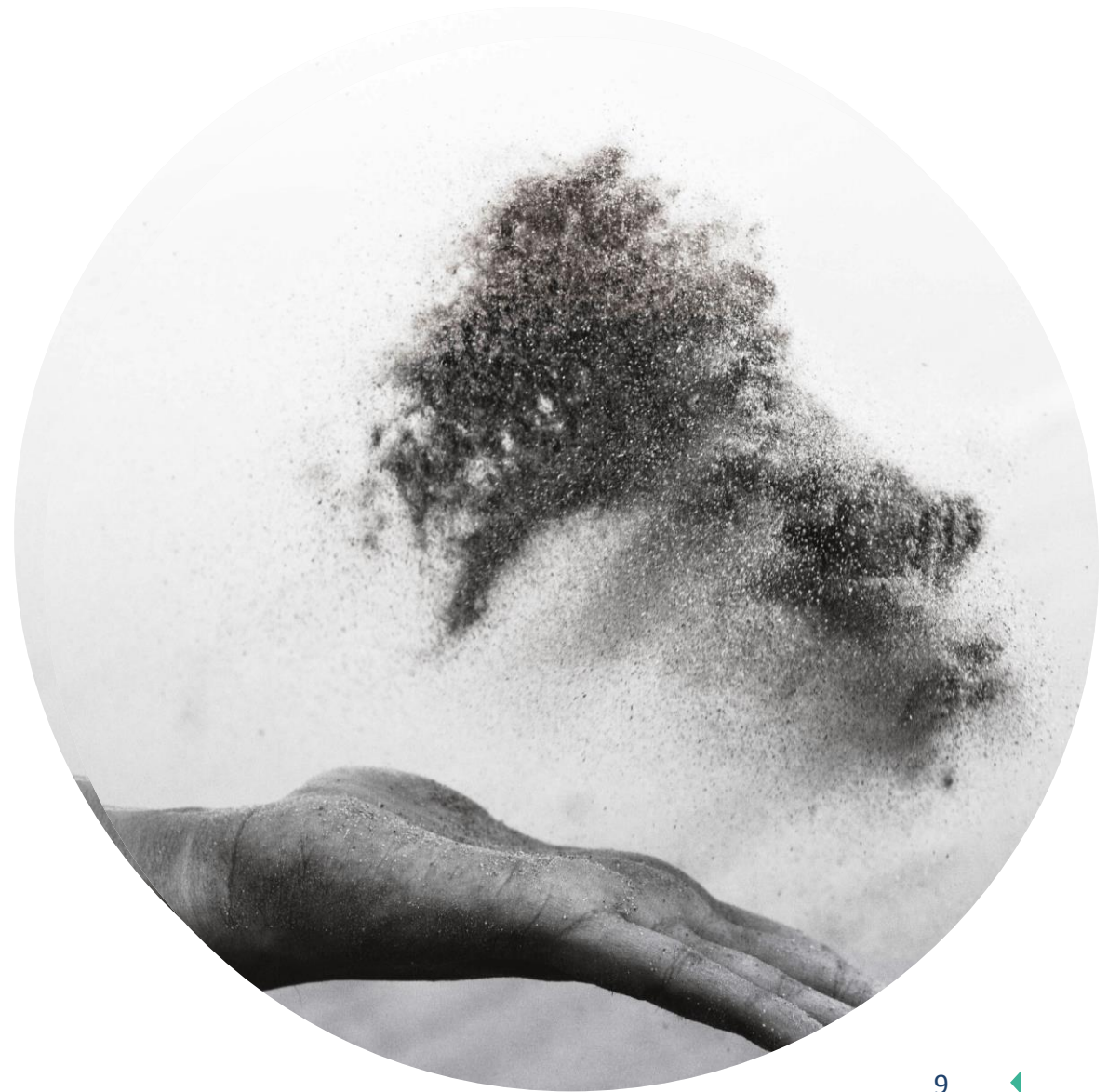
- ▣ Increase in guardianship supply
- ▣ Improve the quality of the training for guardians





## Training

- ▣ Mandatory training for social/foster care workers
- ▣ Continuous Professional Development
- ▣ Accessible training for foster parents



## Education

- ▣ Improved school registration and education pathways
- ▣ Educational background assessments
- ▣ Enhanced reception education and Follow-Up



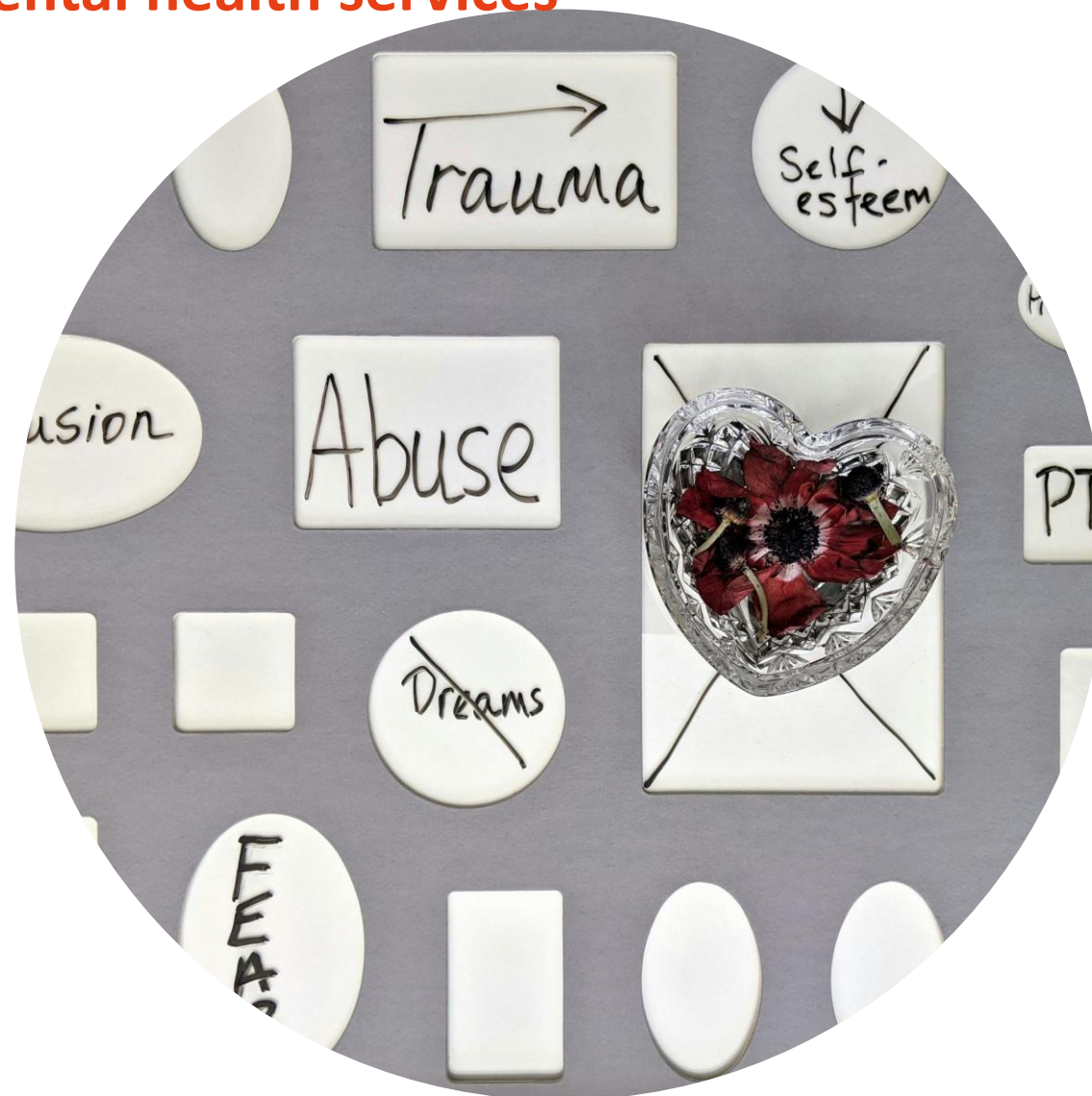
## An efficient and child-friendly asylum system

- ▣ Simplification of asylum procedures
- ▣ Comprehensive Screening and Assessment
- ▣ Alternative reception options



## Trauma-sensitive and culture-sensitive mental health services

- ▣ Expansion of specialized psychological care
- ▣ Monitoring of minors well-being
- ▣ Effective mourning and grief support



## Building a community

- ▣ Networking and Community Building
- ▣ Mentorship Programs
- ▣ Cultural and Language Mediation  
1



## Evidence-based therapeutic foster care

- ▣ Collaborative Research and Development
- ▣ Effective Monitoring and Evaluation
- ▣ Feedback Mechanisms



# Long-term Support and Transition Planning

- ▣ Independent Living Plan
- ▣ Post-care Support





## An urgency to act

*Without coordinated action, UMRs may continue to face significant barriers to successful integration, limiting their potential to heal, thrive, and contribute to society.*



## Dreaming about the future (project)

- ▣ How to make foster placements more resilient, more liveable, less vulnerable?
- ▣ How to place and space where the well-being of the minor is paramount?
- ▣ How to reinforce the different formats of foster parents so that we reinforce the children?
- ▣ How to avoid breakdown of placement and connection as much as possible?
- ▣ Knowledge, skills, tools for those concerned
  - In co-creation
  - With strong network (formal and informal)
- ▣ Please contact us for any suggestions

## And now we meet and/or dance

- ▣ 2 groups (40-45 min each):

- ▣ “First drink and think”

Or

- ▣ “First dance to let it all go (or get it over with )”

- ▣ *Or” you won’t see me dance but I can cheer people on”*

- ▣ Can we raise our hands as to know if we have a group balance or if we need to choreograph participation

**Thank you!**  
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