



## **EMN Ad-Hoc Query on Rules on family reunification of unaccompanied minors granted refugee status or subsidiary protection**

Requested by BE EMN NCP on 27th May 2016

Summary prepared by NO EMN NCP on the basis of responses from

Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Sweden, United Kingdom and Norway

*Disclaimer: The responses were provided primarily for the purpose of information exchange among EMN NCPs in the framework of the EMN. The contributing EMN NCPs provided, to the best of their knowledge, information that was up-to-date, objective and reliable. Note, however, that the information provided did not necessarily represent the official policy of an EMN NCPs' Member State.*

### **Background information:**

In 2015 almost 90 000 asylum seekers applying for international protection in the Member States of the European Union (EU) were considered to be unaccompanied minors. While their number always stood between 11 000 and 13 000 in the EU over the period 2008-2013, it almost doubled in 2014 to reach slightly more than 23 000 persons, then nearly quadrupled in 2015 (source: Eurostat). Unaccompanied minors who are granted refugee status or subsidiary protection may ask for family reunification with their parent(s) later on.

### **Questions asked were:**

When considering the application for family reunification, do the authorities of your country require that:

- The parents have a health insurance? Yes/ No
- The family will have reasonable accommodation? Yes/ No
- The parents (will) have sufficient resources, at the moment of the application or in the near future (regular income; an employment contract or a job offer; ...)?

The latter may be the case if the application is done in the (EU-) country itself, so when the parents are already residing in the territory (for example the minor arrived in 2015, while the parents arrived in 2016). Yes/ No

**Summary of responses:** In the replies from 4 countries it was stated that a health insurance, reasonable accommodations and sufficient resources would be required for family reunification to be granted to the parents of an unaccompanied minor who has been granted protection. In the replies from another 4 countries it was stated that depending on the specific circumstances, including whether the application was made within 3 or 6 months of the decision to grant protection and the precise status of the minor, such requirements might apply. The replies from all the other countries were that these requirements would not apply.