

# European Crime Prevention Network

## Good practice template

The European Crime Prevention Network (EUCPN) serves as a conduit for good practices in crime prevention. These good practices rely on current evidence and other quality criteria that assist the target groups in selecting effective preventive action to address their own crime problem in their own context. It simultaneously facilitates efforts at knowledge synthesis across projects.

This template serves as a formal framework for extracting information on the nature of potential good practices. All questions are to be completed in English.

**With this completed template, the applicant aims to**

- Share good practice for inclusion on the EUCPN's channels (Knowledge centre, newsletter, publications, etc.)
- Participate at the European Crime Prevention Award (ECPA)<sup>1</sup>
  
- The applicant gives permission to publish this information and her/his contact details on the EUCPN's website.**

## **General information**

1. What is the name of the intervention?

National Emergency Response Mechanism (NERM)

2. Country of application

Greece

3. Who is responsible for completing this template?

*Organisation responsible for this application: General Secretariat for Vulnerable Persons and Institutional Protection (SGVPIP) of the Ministry of Migration and Asylum (MoMA)*

*Contact person: General Secretary Mr. Heracles Moskoff*

*Address: Agios Ioannis Renti, Thivon 196-196*

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*If different, please provide contact details to ask for additional information:*

4. Timing

*Start date of the intervention: 5/04/2021*

*Is the intervention still running:  Yes  No*

*If not, please provide the end date of the intervention: Click or tap to enter a date.*

5. Where can we find more information about the intervention? Please provide links to the intervention's website or online reports or publications (preferably in English).

<https://migration.gov.gr/en/grammateies/geniki-grammateia-evaloton-politon-kai-thesmikis-prostasias/>

[https://ec.europa.eu/migrant-integration/library-document/national-emergency-response-mechanism-protection-unaccompanied-children-needs\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/migrant-integration/library-document/national-emergency-response-mechanism-protection-unaccompanied-children-needs_en)

[https://www.unhcr.org/gr/wp-content/uploads/sites/10/2023/03/NERM-Procedural-Handbook\\_final-2.pdf](https://www.unhcr.org/gr/wp-content/uploads/sites/10/2023/03/NERM-Procedural-Handbook_final-2.pdf)

6. Please give a **short summary** of the intervention (**Max. 600 words**).

NERM was established in 2021 with the aim of creating a safety net and offering protection to the most vulnerable of Unaccompanied Children (UAC), those who are homeless or in precarious accommodation conditions. These children are at grave risk of falling victim to trafficking networks and being subject to abuse, violence, or exploitation and are often trapped in forced labour, criminality, or sexual work. The emergency mechanism stands as a preventive measure against trafficking by offering protection to this, often undetected, population, who remain unregistered and unable to access any services. NERM ensures the set of protection interventions for children in need via the operation of its following key components:

- A 24/7 Tracing Line that lies at the core of the Mechanism, accessible via a landline number and What's App and Viber applications, that is operated by specially trained staff and serves the identification and tracing of children in need. The hotline provides guidance to children, citizens, civil society organizations, local and public authorities on actions to be taken from the moment of tracing a UAC until its timely transfer, *within the same day*, to an emergency accommodation facility.
- Two Info Desks, operated by NERM's implementing partners, the NGOs "Network for Children's Rights – NCR" in Attica and "ARSIS" in Central Macedonia, respectively. The Info Desks are directly accessible to UAC but are also receiving referrals from NERM. The teams of the Info Desks are responsible to register UAC approaching the offices, provide legal and psychosocial support, cover other basic needs with the provision of NFIs, inform UAC on their rights, conduct best interest assessments (BIA) and refer all the cases to NERM in order to proceed with their urgent placement. Regular communication is established with children who refuse to be accommodated in NERM'S facilities in order to supervise their living conditions and give them access to child protection services.
- Three Mobile Units, operated by the same Partners as above. Under the supervision of NERM, the mobile units conduct street-work activities and trace homeless children or children living in precarious conditions. Upon tracing a minor or receiving a referral by NERM, the Mobile Units carry out an initial assessment and provide psychosocial support, escort the unregistered children to Police Departments of reference in order to go through the identification procedure and transfer them to emergency accommodation facilities.
- Five Emergency Accommodation Facilities – three located in Attica and two in Central Macedonia – where homeless UAC or UAC living in precarious conditions are accommodated until their placement in long-term accommodation facilities. During their stay, children undergo a best interest assessment, are provided with psychosocial, legal and medical support, with hygiene and other essential items, and are accompanied in Regional Asylum Offices in order to submit their asylum request.

Since the beginning of the Ukrainian refugee outcrisis, NERM has been designated as the competent authority to undertake protection-related actions regarding separated and unaccompanied children arriving in Greece from Ukraine. Upon filling out a registration form distributed to the Police authorities by NERM, all cases arriving at the Greek entry points are referred to NERM. NERM then ensures the immediate housing of unaccompanied children, while children accompanied by a relative are referred either to Arsis or to the Municipalities' social services for immediate follow-up. Moreover, a team with child protection specialists is mobilized to conduct Best Interest Assessments of all cases traced at Promachonas Border Station. Currently, NERM constitutes Greece's core protection mechanism against child trafficking and stands as a shield between unaccompanied children and the various and diverse risks they face due to

## **Description of the crime problem(s) the activity wishes to address**

7. What problem does the intervention wish to address? Please elaborate on its nature, scale, context, involved actors (offenders, victims, other involved parties), causes, risk and protective factors, etc. **(Max. 200 words)**

NERM aimed to address the lack of coordinated action between stakeholders engaged in the protection of UAC residing in Greece and respond to the challenge that emerged in 2015 with unaccompanied children arriving in Greece and remaining either homeless or in precarious conditions due to the lack of UAC appropriate care facilities, unidentified by competent authorities and, thus, exposed to the danger of falling victims of trafficking networks. It is important to note that during the first semester of 2023, half of the children affected by trafficking in Greece were unaccompanied minors (30 cases).

By establishing shared procedures and coordinated action between actors involved in the protection of unaccompanied children living in Greece, NERM stands as a centralized operational mechanism that aims to ensure that (i) homeless children or children living in precarious conditions are accommodated through fast-track procedures, (ii) all UAC residing in Greece are going through official identification procedures and are, thus, visible to the state, (iii) UAC who do not wish to be accommodated in official accommodation schemes are not left unattended and are provided with care and protection related services and (iv) victims of trafficking are traced and provided with necessary care and support.

8. Was the problem and its context analysed before the intervention was initiated and in what way (How, and by whom? Which data were used?)? If so, in what way did this analysis inform the set-up and implementation of the intervention? **(Max. 150 words)**

The foundation of NERM constitutes a tangible response to issues raised in the report “Study on homeless unaccompanied children in Greece”<sup>1</sup>, conducted by Panteion University with the support of UNHCR, whose preliminary findings were disseminated to relevant state stakeholders in November 2020. Based on large-scale field research that relies on UAC and child protection professionals’ interviews, the report identifies the lack of accommodation facilities, the limited referral mechanisms, the inadequate information to children on their rights, and the prolonged waiting periods for placement in child-friendly accommodation facilities as the most important causes of homelessness. The report leads to the conclusion that many UAC residing in Greece essentially survive outside the protection system that exists for them and are exposed to risks and suggests a number of policy recommendations in order to tackle the existing challenges. NERM’s interventions constitute the actual implementation of a number of these recommendations.

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.unhcr.org/gr/wp-content/uploads/sites/10/2023/03/Panteion-Research-Study-on-Homeless-UAC\\_FINAL\\_published-Oct-2022.pdf](https://www.unhcr.org/gr/wp-content/uploads/sites/10/2023/03/Panteion-Research-Study-on-Homeless-UAC_FINAL_published-Oct-2022.pdf)

9. What is/are the objective(s) of the intervention? Please, if applicable, distinguish between main and sub-objectives.<sup>2</sup> (**Max. 150 words**)

The main objective of the set of interventions applied by NERM and its implementing partners is to act proactively to prevent UAC from being trafficked for sexual exploitation, labor exploitation, or criminal exploitation as well as to provide support and protection to children victims of trafficking. In order to achieve this main objective, the following sub-objectives have been set: (i) trace homeless UAC or UAC living in precarious conditions and assess their needs, (ii) accompany “invisible” UAC to designated Police Departments of reference for registration and identification in order to ensure that no child is left off the State’s radar, (iii) place them in Emergency Accommodation Facilities until they are transferred to Long-term Accommodation Facilities, (iv) monitor the living conditions and provide access to services to UAC who refuse to be accommodated and (v) enhance interagency response, partnership building and sharing of expertise in order to ensure efficient action.

**Description of the way in which the intervention addresses the identified problem(s) and why it is expected to be effective**

10. What is the target of the intervention? Please motivate your answer (**Max. 150 words**)

- Universal prevention: the intervention targets potential offenders and victims in the general population, or general places or systems.
- Selective prevention: the intervention targets groups whose members have a higher risk of committing deviant behaviour or being victimised, or specific places or systems that are at an increased risk of becoming the scene of a crime.
- Indicated prevention: the intervention targets individuals who are already exhibiting problem behaviour, with the aim of preventing re-offending, or those systems or places that are the scene of crime.

*Motivation:*

The intervention targets UAC who reside in Greece regardless their legal status, meaning children who have arrived on the Greek territory unaccompanied by an adult responsible for them or who were left unaccompanied after they entered the country – this group having been recognized by the relevant legislation as a *per se* vulnerable group. The intervention seeks specifically to create a safety net and provide protection to the most vulnerable of UAC, meaning those who have not yet been identified by the Greek authorities, who are homeless, or living in

<sup>2</sup> **Main objectives** define what changes you desire with respect to the previously defined problem and/or within the target group. In other words, if you achieve these strategic goals, then the project achieves its purpose of preventing and/or reducing crime or fear of crime.

**Sub-objectives** are more short-term and establish the objectives of specific actions. Achieving these goals is necessary to achieve the main objectives.

precarious conditions. Due to the lack of supporting network, access to protection and care services, documentation, and information on their rights, these children are at increased risk of falling victims to trafficking networks that exploit their vulnerability. Moreover, given the vulnerable situation of these children, they are very likely to be involved in forced criminality or forced labor and debt bondage.

11. How is the intervention expected to achieve its goals on a practical level? In other words, what are the activities of the intervention, its outputs and its outcomes? If possible, you can describe the **Logic Model**<sup>3</sup> of the intervention here. (**Max. 200 words**)

On a practical level, NERM's action relies on the operation of a 24/7 Tracing Line, two Info Desks that receive children's referrals and proceed with best interest assessment and provision of support on the spot, three Mobile Units that conduct street work activities and accompany UAC during their identification procedure and placement in Accommodation Facilities, as well as the operation of five Emergency Accommodation Facilities (*Project's activities*). Through these activities and by being established as a point of reference amongst all actors involved in the protection of UAC in Greece, NERM aims to trace the highest possible number of UAC that survive outside the protection system, protect them and empower them through the provision of psychosocial and legal support services, minimize the number of "invisible" UAC by supporting their identification in Police Departments of Reference, inform them on their rights, provide them a safe accommodation until they are transferred in Long-Term Accommodation Facilities, and monitor the living conditions of those UAC who refuse to be placed (*Project's outputs*). It is expected that the more these goals are achieved, the fewer UAC will be exposed to the risk of falling victims of trafficking or other forms of exploitation (*Project's outcome*).

12. How is the intervention expected to have an effect on the identified problem? In other words, is the intervention based on any particular **crime prevention/reduction mechanism(s)**<sup>4</sup> or **principle(s)**? Please, also explain if and how the activation of this/these crime prevention mechanisms is dependent on the particular context of the intervention (**Max. 200 words**)

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<sup>3</sup> A **Logic Model** represents the relationship between the project's key activities and the intended outcomes in a way that shows the underlying logic behind the project. It usually presents this relationship in a diagram that plots the resources that the intervention employs (i.e. inputs), the action designed to achieve the outcomes (i.e., activities), the expected and unexpected changes produced by the activities (i.e., outcomes), and the units of service or products (e.g., the number of workshops with young people to prevent juvenile delinquency, the number of talks with elderly people to prevent victimisation through fraud and theft, etc.) that the activities generate (i.e., outputs).

<sup>4</sup> **Mechanisms** are how the intervention has its effects on a particular problem, within a specific context. For a list of potential mechanisms, see final page of this document.

NERM's intervention principle relies on the prevention mechanisms of raising awareness on and protecting vulnerable targets in order to reduce the opportunities and make it more demanding for criminals to carry out criminal acts. Raising awareness activities include the dissemination to migrant communities of information material on services UAC are entitled to, as well as providing the general population with information on steps to follow in case of tracing a UAC. As regards protecting vulnerable targets, this means putting UAC residing in Greece under the State's radar by tracing them and supporting the issuance of legal documents, strengthening the existing referral mechanisms and collaboration amongst implicated actors, ensuring the accommodation of UAC in appropriate facilities, monitoring the living conditions of those in precarious conditions, supporting those involved in criminal activities to disengage. Furthermore, training professionals who deal with children's cases constitutes another preventive measure in order to increase their capacity to identify, refer and support potential victims or victims of trafficking. Towards this direction, with the contribution of NERM, police staff in Police Departments of reference was trained on these aspects of child protection practices.

### **Description of outcome evaluation results or indications of theoretical plausibility**

13. Has there been an outcome<sup>5</sup> or impact<sup>6</sup> evaluation? and what were the main results? Please, also describe which indicators were used to measure the effects of your intervention. (**Max. 300 words**)

In November 2021 an outcome evaluation was conducted as part of the review process of the pilot phase of NERM for UAC in living precarious conditions. It covered the period from January to October 2021. It analyzed quantitative and qualitative data gathered by SSPUAM, the challenges/barriers, lessons learned, good practices, and suggestions for improvement presented by NERM partners (UNHCR, IOM, METAdrasi, Network for Children's Rights, and ARSIS) to optimize the project's future implementation. The exercise lasted for three days. It included bilateral meetings between SSPUAM and UNHCR and tripartite meetings with the other partners. The evaluation resulted in horizontal action points as well as partner-specific points (measuring the performance of each partner and providing recommendations). The first points included: changes in the legal framework, in NERM's collaboration with the authorities, proposed amendments in the MoC signed between actors, and the SOPs developed. The second part of the actions included a proposed operational plan for the next phase of the project and a performance assessment of the partners. This exercise set the ground for the institutionalization of NERM, while it was used as the kick-off for the second phase of the project.

- In 2021 two field visits to the partners' premises were also conducted by the donor focusing on the following

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<sup>5</sup> **Outcome evaluation:** Measures the **direct effect** (i.e., extent of the changes) **of the intervention on the target group, population, or geographic area**. The information produced by the outcome evaluation determines at what level the **objectives were achieved**.

<sup>6</sup> **Impact evaluation:** Measures **long-term effects** of the intervention on the target group, as well as **indirect effects** on the broader community. The information produced by the impact evaluation determines at what level the **ultimate goals** of the intervention were achieved.

pillars: facilities' structure, overall performance, following SOPs and guidelines set by SSPUAM/GSVPIP. The results were considered in the outcome evaluation followed in the same year.

- In 2022 and 2023 the outcome evaluation included multiple field visits of SSPUAM/GSVPIP that aimed at assessing partners' performance, facilities' structure, etc. Our reporting is comprised of the process of documenting what has been achieved, based primarily on data gathered from monitoring and verification. Reporting documents whether the expected performance and impact targets have been met and explain the challenges faced during implementation.

14. If applicable, please provide more information on the quality of the evaluation(s). For example: who conducted the evaluation (internally or externally?), what evaluation approach (pre-post-test design, randomised controlled trial, theory-based evaluation,...) was selected, what data and data collection method(s) were used, etc. **(Max. 150 words)**

Internal pre-test evaluation: Extensive Exercise conducted by UNHCR and SSPUAM. The scope covers all the activities conducted under the project's pilot phase, with a focus on the preliminary results and impact. The evaluation reviewed the project benefits accruing to the various stakeholders, together with the effects and sustainability of the interventions.

External pro-test evaluation: Project Monitoring Committee established by the decision of Minister of MoMA for the supervision of the services provided and finances, the evaluation of the implementation of the action as well as the approval of the results produced.

The following data-collection methods are used:

- Semi-structured interviews were used to validate and confirm information and findings from the desk reviews, organized with stakeholders.
- Field visits. SSPUAM/SGVPIP with donors' delegations conducted multiple field visits to assess the facilities' structure and overall performance.
- Secondary analysis of the project's data collection, project documents, and annual progress reports.

15. If no outcome or impact evaluation has been conducted, are there any theoretical indications that the intervention might be successful? If applicable, please motivate these indications. **(Max. 150 words)**

Not applicable



16. Has a cost-benefit analysis<sup>7</sup> been carried out? If so, describe the results of this analysis, including how and by whom it was carried out. (**Max. 150 words**)

The cost-benefit analysis conducted by the national authorities of Greece and historical data collected from the previous pilot phase of NERM revealed that the total cost for the operation of NERM is approximately 545,000 € per month. Furthermore, it is estimated that the absence of operation of NERM would burden the limited state budget with a higher cost due to the fact the fragmentary provision of support services and accommodation, provided by various state authorities, would have resulted in higher costs and lower quality of provided services towards the vulnerable population of unaccompanied minors. As a result, a holistic and centralized approach was promoted to address the protection of UAC in Greece. The centralized approach led to the conservation of public resources due to the drastic shortening of time that UAC have to remain to other state agencies under the scheme of protective custody in Police Stations and Hospitals.

**Description of the nature of the intervention, its original context, and its implementation**

17. What are the costs of the intervention in terms of finances, material and human resources? If needed, please provide an adequate timeframe to contextualise the costs (e.g. cost per participant, cost per month of keeping the project running, cost including/excluding personnel costs) (**Max. 150 words**)

It is estimated that the total cost of the operation of NERM is 6,550,000.00 € per year, depending on the number of unaccompanied minors serviced during this period. The major cost of the project is related to personnel costs, around 4,660,000.00 € per year, while the remaining 1,890,000.00 € depicts the actual project running costs. The running costs can be separated into fixed costs, such as rents and salaries, and variable costs, such as food, non-food items, and pocket money for UAC. Another type of classification of costs can be done between costs linked directly to the UAC (food, non-food items and pocket money for UAC, protection, educational, recreational costs, medical, and transportation costs) and costs not directly linked to the UAC, but deemed necessary, such as rental, utilities and facility costs for the Emergency Accommodation Facilities, communication costs, equipment costs, vehicle rental costs, and running costs etc.

18. Were external reviewers, evaluators or researchers involved in the evaluation, and if so, what was their role in the evaluation? (**Max. 150 words**)

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<sup>7</sup> **Cost-benefit analysis:** A type of economic evaluation that compares the direct and indirect cost of the resources employed in the intervention, with the equivalent economic value of the benefits. If no outcome evaluation has been conducted, a cost-benefit analysis is simply not possible.

For the supervision of the services provided, the evaluation of the implementation of the action, the supervision of the partnership arrangement between GSVPIP and its Partners as well as the approval of the results produced by the project implementing bodies, a special Project Monitoring Committee, consisted by *independent* public servants, is established upon the recommendation of the competent department of the Ministry of Migration and Asylum. The Monitoring Committee shall be governed by the provisions of Articles 13-15 of Law 2690/1999 and shall meet at regular intervals in order to approve the submitted quarterly reports and Annual reviews (which is a pre-condition for project closure) or take any other initiative. After the end of each meeting, a special record is drafted and signed by the Members and submitted to the competent financial department of the Ministry as a necessary document for further control and final payment of the installments.

19. Which partners or stakeholders are involved in the intervention and why? What is the level of their involvement? What was their role in the evaluation? How well does this partnership function in practice? (**Max. 200 words**)

The partners involved in the project implementation are IOM, responsible for the operation of the Emergency Accommodation Facilities, NCR and Arsis NGOs, responsible for the operation of the above-mentioned Info Desks and Mobile Units, as well as METADRASI NGO, responsible for the provision of tele-interpretation services and the escort of UAC traced outside Attica and Central Macedonia prefectures in Accommodation Facilities. During the review process of the pilot phase of NERM's interventions, implementing partners have contributed by participating in the evaluation exercise organized by the SSPUAM and UNHCR, providing valuable feedback. Smooth collaboration with partners is ensured by establishing biweekly meetings under NERM's supervision as a standardized practice that supports the monitoring of the Project's development, ensures that targets are met and that any issue raised is timely addressed. Partner's activities and the quality of services provided are monitored through field visits performed by the GSVPIP as well as through the partner's commitment to submit implementation and financial reports to the competent Monitoring Committees of the Project.

20. Describe the implementation of the intervention's activities and its outputs<sup>8</sup>. (**Max.200 words**)

Since its establishment and up until 31/8/2023, NERM has received a total of 9.713 incoming communications, 7.157 out of which took place with the purpose of referring a UAC. 3.992 unaccompanied children have been accommodated either in Emergency Accommodation Facilities or, in emergency cases, in Long-term Accommodation Facilities and a total of 4.880 placements have been completed, given that some UAC have been accommodated more than once. Currently, the cases of 156 UAC in precarious conditions are monitored by NERM's partners or the local Public Prosecution Offices.  
Under NERM's supervision, until 31/8/2023, 1.119 UAC have been accompanied by the Mobile Units to Police

<sup>8</sup> **Outputs** refer to the units of service or products (e.g., the number of workshops with young people to prevent juvenile delinquency, the number of talks with elderly people to prevent victimisation through fraud and theft, etc.)

Departments to be identified, given that a great number of UAC are referred directly by police authorities or the Asylum Service and have already undergone the identification process.

62 UAC have been traced living homeless during street work activities, while 40 have been traced by the Mobile Units upon NERM's referral. 2.007 BIA for UAC have been conducted within the Accommodation Facilities while 2.447 BIA have been conducted for UAC approaching the Info Desks. 2.900 separated children from Ukraine have received support (BIA, referrals, contact with family members) by the designated team set up in Promachonas border.

21. Has there been a process evaluation<sup>9</sup> and what were the main results?

Please, also describe what indicators were used to measure the implementation of your intervention? **(Max. 300 words)**

The process evaluation is both internal and external, the first refers to the evaluation conducted by the Minister, and the second to the one conducted by the Presidency of the Government. In the first case, NERM is obliged to share its planning every 15 days with the Minister and report at the end of its month on the performance of its initial planning. In the second case, every two months NERM will report its main achievements/milestones to the Presidency of the Government as well as its indicator of performance which will be estimated accordingly. Several meetings are conducted to closely monitor the performance, to avoid any deviations from the original planning. In case the results of the intervention are not as expected the feedback and assessment are shared directly with the General Secretary, which is then obliged to respond within 24 hours to any clarification or concerns raised to the indicator of performance. At the same time, NERM operation team reports on a monthly basis on its performance to EUAA and shares a factsheet on the data achieved for the reporting period comparatively to any previous periods.

Taking all the above criteria and evaluation procedures, NERM not only did not record any deviations from the original planning and goals but also developed further action covering urgent and emergency needs that were not initially foreseen, such as the design and establishment of a standard procedure for urgent protection to children shipwreck survivors and the design and establishment of the reception procedure for separated children arriving in Greece from Ukraine. This comprehensive system included registration upon entry, follow-up of every case, provision of psychosocial and legal support, and facilitated access to temporary protection and was highlighted by the EU as a best practice that focuses on the best interest of the child.

22. If applicable, please provide more information on the quality of the evaluation(s). E.g., what data and data collection method(s) were used, what research methodology, etc. **(Max. 150 words)**

Our key indicators for measuring the project's performance are (a) the progress towards planned results that will describe the progress in achieving the outputs, and associated targets as set out in the Project Description, according to the benchmarks/baselines, milestones, or indicators that were established and (b) any reported changes, amendments or deviations from the original plan, and the examination of circumstances or factors that prompted. This might include changes resulting from the needs of the beneficiaries, operational challenges or other

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<sup>9</sup> **Process evaluation:** A process evaluation documents **how the activities were implemented** in order to determine any deviations from the original planning. It facilitates finding explanations for when the results of the intervention are not as expected.

constraints/opportunities. Our research methodology analyses the level of achievement of both expected and unexpected results using appropriate criteria such as relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact, and sustainability. Our methodology for data collection is based on Secondary data review Baseline data (pre-crisis), crisis data (periods of high flows), data from Partners, and Primary data collection by GSVPIP to ensure harmonized data collection.

23. What, if any, contextual factors/circumstances may have caused this project succeed in your own country/region/locality that won't necessarily exist when practitioners in other places try to replicate it? If applicable, mention organisational, institutional, and socioeconomic contextual factors. **(Max. 150 words)**

NERM's success is not so much based on a specific organizational, institutional, or socioeconomic contextual factor but the critical factors that have contributed to its success are the strong synergy between the public sector and civil society organizations, the Telephone Line which is accessible and easy to use by the children themselves, and the centralized case management by NERM's experts which has allowed for the coordination of every stakeholder and the optimisation of the procedure. It is, thus, a Project that can be implemented, either on a large scale or on a small scale, by any country/region/locality that wishes to replicate it or adapt it to its existing child protection strategy. Proof of the above is the already expressed interest of European and International Agencies in strengthening and spreading the NERM, as well as the targeted interest of states in the development of relevant action.

### **Additional ECPA questions**

24. How is the intervention innovative in its methods and/or approaches? **(Max. 150 words)**

NERM constitutes an example of proactive action, interagency response, interconnectedness with stakeholders, partnership building, and sharing of expertise. Following the abolishment of the protective police custody practice and since NERM's establishment, all UAC are placed in Emergency Accommodation Facilities within the same day of tracing. Moreover, for the first time, all traced UAC lacking documentation from a Greek authority go through an identification procedure by the Police. The BIA is part of the SOPs and is conducted for every case of UAC traced by NERM, while part of the SOPs is also the submission of Asylum application within the 3-week period of stay in the Emergency Accommodation Facilities. The cases of UAC who refuse to be accommodated are closely monitored by teams of experts who are always alerted to identify signs that a child may be a victim of trafficking and who act as point of reference for these children.

25. How is the intervention relevant for other Member States? **(Max. 150 words).**

Interventions implemented by NERM have been widely acclaimed as best practices in the reception, accommodation and protection of UAC arriving in Greece, both by EU and International Organizations and Agencies, such as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA). Prominent recognition constitutes NERM's presentation at the Global Refugee Forum in December 2023 as a pledge to its continuation, strengthening, and dissemination<sup>10</sup>.

Though since 2015 Greece has witnessed a sharp influx in the arrival of UACs, other European countries are also faced with the need to implement a national integrated action plan with the purpose of providing effective protection for UAC arriving or residing at their country. In this context, NERM's expertise and interventions implemented can set an example based on which other Member States could develop their own unique and tailor-made child protection strategy.

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<sup>10</sup> [Pledges & Contributions | The Global Compact on Refugees | UNHCR \(globalcompactrefugees.org\)](#)

## List of potential crime prevention mechanisms<sup>11</sup>

- **Establishing and maintaining normative barriers to committing criminal acts**
  - e.g. 'Offenders, we are watching you' campaigns
- **Reducing recruitment** to criminal social environments and activities by eliminating or reducing the social and individual causes and processes that lead to criminality
  - e.g. social and financial support for disadvantaged families
- **Deterring** potential perpetrators from committing crimes through the threat of punishment
  - e.g. decreasing the time between arrest and punishment
- **Disrupting** criminal acts by stopping them before they are carried out
  - e.g. increasing police patrols in vulnerable areas
- **Protecting vulnerable targets** by reducing opportunities and make it more demanding to carry out criminal acts
  - e.g. placing locks and cameras
- **Reducing the harmful consequences** of criminal acts
  - e.g. initiatives to recover stolen goods
- **Reducing the rewards** from criminal acts
  - e.g. restorative justice programmes
- **Incapacitating** (or neutralising) perpetrators by denying them the ability (capacity) to carry out new criminal acts
  - e.g. imprisonment of key gang members
- **Encouraging** desistance from crime and rehabilitating former offenders so they are able to settle back into a normal life
  - e.g. prison rehabilitation programs



This tool was funded by the European Union's Internal Security Fund — Police.

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<sup>11</sup> T. Bjørngo, *Preventing Crime: A Holistic Approach*, Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2016.