

## Case study- Guardianship of UASC

A high number of unaccompanied and separated children were in need of care and protection during the refugee and migrant crisis in Greece. Under Greek legislation and practice until 2016, the Public Prosecutor for Minors or, in the absence of the latter, the territorially competent First Instance Public Prosecutor, acted as temporary guardian for each unaccompanied or separated child identified. While the Public Prosecutor was the temporary guardian for UASC according to Greek law, the substantial role of a guardian was mostly not assigned to any appropriate person(s) as it is intended under the international standards and the EU legislation. Thus, both UNHCR and child protection actors (international and national) advocated for a specialized legislative framework that would describe the requirements, skills and expertise needed for guardians to be drafted and adopted to regulate the guardianship for unaccompanied as well as separated children. The relevant L. 4554 was voted in 2018 and UNHCR comments were taken into consideration thus also leading to the inclusion of the article 19 specifically on the implementation of Best Interest Procedures in Greece. In 2019, and in view of the application of the new legal and institutional framework as of March 2020, UNHCR established a tripartite agreement with the Ministry of Labour and a local partner implementing the law only for the most vulnerable UAC in the RICs and the urban areas until its transition to the national funding program (AMIF) in March 2020. 45 guardians and 14 coordination staff were recruited by the local partner METAdrasi to pilot the law 4554/2018. During the implementation of the program in 2019, 2,200 UASC received guardianship services.