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Separated migrant children

European Migration
Network Summary

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Explanatory note

This summary was prepared on the basis of national contributions from 24 EMN NCPs (AT, BE, BG, CY, CZ, DE, EE, EL, ES, FI, FR, HR, HU, IE, IT, LV, LT, LU, NL, PL, PT, SE, SI, SK) collected via an AHQ developed by the EMN NCPs to ensure, to the extent possible, comparability. The information contained in this inform refers to the situation in the abovementioned EMN Member Countries up to September 2025.

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1. KEY POINTS TO NOTE

- Out of the 24 EMN Member Countries that responded,¹ France, Greece and Spain indicated that their legislation makes special provisions for children who qualify as 'separated', meaning not accompanied by either adult parents or legal guardians.
- Twelve countries, including the three who specifically regulate the situation of separated children, indicated that their legislation *de facto* provides possibilities for accompanying adults to be formally recognised as responsible for an accompanied separated child. The form of responsibility may take the form of (relatively informal and temporary) caretaking/custody or more formal and long-term guardianship. Twelve countries do not provide for such possibility.
- Eighteen countries, including the three who specifically regulate the situation of separated children, indicated that their legislation *de facto* provides possibilities for accompanying adults to be formally recognised as representatives for an accompanied separated child.
- Of these, 16 countries indicated that the national legislation allows accompanying adults to either apply for long-term guardianship or for temporary guardianship / legal representation, for example to support the minor in asylum proceedings. Six countries do not provide for such possibility.
- Fifteen EMN Member Countries described the use of ad hoc and informal arrangements to ensure separated children and accompanying adults can maintain a close relationship in the context of the asylum procedure.
- Only Greece indicated that it collects and/or holds specific data about the number of separated children who have arrived in their territory to apply for asylum over the last five years. Countries specifying the reasons for their lack of data stated that they collect information on unaccompanied minors, but do not distinguish between separated children and other categories of unaccompanied minors.



2. BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

In the EU migration and asylum context, 'separated children' are those migrant children who arrive on EU territory accompanied by adults other than their parents or legal guardians – for example, relatives, or other non-related but known adults – who do not have established rights to care for and represent them.

EU asylum law does not define 'separated children', but relies on the definition in Article 8 of General Comment No. 6 of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (2005)² on the Treatment of unaccompanied and separated children outside their country of origin: 'Separated children are children, as defined in article 1 of the Convention, who have been separated from both parents, or from their previous legal or customary primary caregiver, but not necessarily from other relatives. These may, therefore, include children accompanied by other adult family members.' Although this definition does not include non-related adults that the child may have met and formed a bond with during the migratory route, in the EU asylum context this is a relevant type of situation that should be acknowledged and assimilated to the notion of 'separated children.'

'Separated children' are clearly in a different situation from 'classic' unaccompanied minors, who arrive on EU territory not accompanied by any adult to care for them. However, when the adults accompanying and caring for the children arriving do not have recognised representation powers under the law of the EU Member State or its practice, the children are legally considered 'unaccompanied minors' for

the purposes of EU asylum law. According to Article 2(l) of the Qualifications Directive (2011/95/EU),³ an 'unaccompanied minor' means '[...] a minor who arrives on the territory of the Member States unaccompanied by an adult responsible for him or her whether by law or by the practice of the Member State concerned, and for as long as he or she is not effectively taken into the care of such a person; it includes a minor who is left unaccompanied after he or she has entered the territory of the Member States.' The same definition was laid down in Directive (2013/32/EU) (the current Asylum Procedures Directive)⁴ and Directive (2013/33/EU) (the Reception Conditions Directive)⁵ and is maintained across the legislation that makes up the Pact on Migration and Asylum (the Pact).⁶

Both current Common European Asylum System (CEAS) legislation and Pact legislation differentiate between the notion of 'representative' and the notion of the adult person who is 'responsible' for the care of the child. In the context of the Pact legislation, the 'responsible' adult is considered a 'family member', whereas the 'representative' must be qualified (have the necessary level of skills and expertise to represent the child in the context of the asylum procedure), be vetted, receive continuous relevant training, etc. Note that the mandatory requirements for the appointment of a 'representative' in the Pact legislation (qualifications, vetting, training) constitute a change in comparison to the current CEAS legislation, which includes no such requirements, except for representatives who

1 Note for the reader: key points provide a summary of the main information contained in the inform. For ease of reading, key points do not contain footnotes. Please note that EMN Member Countries referred to in the key points are thoroughly listed in the relevant sections.

2 UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC), General comment No. 6 (2005): Treatment of Unaccompanied and Separated Children Outside their Country of Origin, <https://www.refworld.org/legal/general/crc/2005/en/38046>, accessed 7 October 2025.

3 Directive 2011/95/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2011 on standards for the qualification of third-country nationals or stateless persons as beneficiaries of international protection, for a uniform status for refugees or for persons eligible for subsidiary protection, and for the content of the protection granted (recast), <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2011/95/oj/eng>, accessed 9 October 2025.

4 Directive 2013/32/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 June 2013 on common procedures for granting and withdrawing international protection (recast), <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2013/32/oj/eng>, accessed 9 October 2025.

5 Directive 2013/33/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 June 2013 laying down standards for the reception of applicants for international protection (recast), <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2013/33/oj/eng>, accessed 8 October 2025.

6 European Commission, 'legislative files in a nutshell', https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies/migration-and-asylum/pact-migration-and-asylum/legislative-files-nutshell_en, accessed 7 October 2025.

assist unaccompanied minors in the context of Dublin procedures.

The adults who accompany ‘separated children’ are migrants themselves and are usually an important positive point of reference and support for the children throughout the otherwise traumatic experience of migration or forced displacement. There may also be situations, however, in which the child may be drawn into illegal activities carried out by the accompanying adults (trafficking, smuggling). Whether the relationship is beneficial or detrimental to the child can only be established with an assessment of the best interests of the child. In some Member States, legislative or ad hoc solutions have been developed to ensure adequate protection for the children while enabling a continuation of the relationship with the accompanying adults where this is in line with the best interests of the child.

In the context of preparations for the entry into force of Pact legislation, it is important to obtain updated and comparable information about this specific category of

unaccompanied children, namely ‘separated children’, and the way their protection needs are currently addressed in EMN Member Countries. How the relationship between separated children and the accompanying adults is treated has important implications in terms of the reception conditions, procedural guarantees and assistance that they will receive in the context of the different types of asylum procedure (normal, accelerated, border procedures) in the Pact.

This ad hoc query (AHQ) summary provides an overview of the situation of separated children across EMN Member and Observer Countries, including an assessment of their protection needs. The summary covers ‘separated children’ only, not unaccompanied minors in general. Moreover, it does not cover Ukrainian children, or groups of children, who arrived in the EU accompanied by a representative designated under Ukrainian law, and whose representation mandate must be recognised in the EU Member States.



3. MAIN FINDINGS

3.1. Special provisions for separated children

Out of 24 responding EMN Member Countries,⁷ three countries⁸ indicated that their legislation makes special provisions for children who qualify as ‘separated’ in the terms described in the previous section (not accompanied by either adult parents or legal guardians).

In Greece, national legislation defines a ‘minor separated from his/her family’ or ‘separated minor’ as a minor who arrives in Greece without being accompanied by a person exercising his or her parental responsibility, or by another person to whom it has been entrusted in accordance with the law, but who is accompanied by an adult relative who effectively cares for him/her.⁹ Like unaccompanied minors, separated children receive guardianship services, in accordance with the National Guardianship System in Greece.¹⁰ Spanish legislation¹¹ likewise foresees the possibility that a minor may enter Spain irregularly with a family member other than their parent or a non-related adult.

In France, legislation stipulates that separated children for whom the accompanying adult has not expressed a willingness to take responsibility and has not been granted responsibility are in principle to be considered unaccompanied minors under French law.¹² In principle, unaccompanied minors (including separated children) are typically placed under the responsibility and protection of the public

authorities, namely the president of the departmental council.¹³ However, in the case of a separated minor accompanied by a responsible adult, the president of the departmental council must assess the situation of danger or risk of danger for the child¹⁴ and, depending on the circumstances, either let the minor remain under the care of the adult or refer the matter to the public prosecutor’s office for a temporary placement order in a shelter.

Amongst the countries with no specific provisions,¹⁵ all those who provided additional information¹⁶ explicitly indicated that separated children are generally subsumed under the more general category of unaccompanied minors. Cyprus reported it has no legal framework for the recognition of adult relationships formed during migration, while four countries¹⁷ treat all children arriving without a legal guardian as unaccompanied minors.

3.2. Provisions regulating the role of accompanying adults as responsible persons

Twelve countries,¹⁸ including the three who specifically regulate the situation of separated children,¹⁹ indicated that their legislation de facto provides possibilities for accompanying adults to be formally recognised as responsible for an accompanied separated child. The form of responsibility may take the form of (relatively informal and temporary) caretaking/custody²⁰ or more formal

7 AT, BE, BG, CY, CZ, DE, EE, EL, ES, FI, FR, HR, HU, IE, IT, LT, LU, LV, NL, PL, PT, SI, SE, SK, EL, ES, FR.

9 Article 1, Law 4939/2022.

10 Article 66(A), Law 4939/2022.

11 *Resolución de 13 de octubre de 2014, de la Subsecretaría*, which publishes the Agreement for the approval of the Framework Protocol on certain actions in relation to unaccompanied foreign minors (PMMENA).

12 Article R. 221-11 of the Social Action and Families Code (CASF).

13 Article L.227-1 of the Social Action and Families Code.

14 Article L.226-3 of the Social Action and Families Code.

15 AT, BE, BG, CY, CZ, DE, EE, FI, FR, HU, IE, IT, LT, LU, LV, NL, PL, PT, SE, SI, SK.

16 BE, CY, EE, FI, HR, HU, IE, IT, NL, PL, SE, SK.

17 EE, FI, HR, NL.

18 CZ, DE, EL, EE, ES, FR, LU, LV, NL, PL, PT, SK.

19 EL, ES, FR.

20 CZ, EL, ES, FR, PT.

and long-term guardianship.²¹ Three countries²² explicitly referred to the requirement of accompanying adults being (closer or distant) family relatives (see also box 1). Four countries²³ instead stated that being a family relative was not a necessary requirement, while five other countries²⁴ did not elaborate on the characteristics of the representative.

In twelve countries,²⁵ legislation does not provide possibilities for accompanying adults to be formally recognised as responsible for the accompanied separated child. In Finland, children accompanied by a sibling (older than 18) may be placed in the same reception centre pending verification of their relationship. In Cyprus, only the state is allowed to assume guardianship over an unaccompanied minor, hence separated children as well, and no other provisions exist to regulate accompanying adults. In Croatia, where social welfare authorities consider any migrant children accompanied by adults who are not their parents as unaccompanied minors, they appoint a special guardian who is trained to work with children and has no conflict of interest with the child.

Responsible persons in care-taking roles

Five EMN Countries²⁶ stated the possibility for accompanying adults to be formally recognised as responsible for an accompanied separated child in a caretaking/custody role.

In Spain, competent authorities (either the Court or the Service for the Protection of Minors of the Autonomous Communities) may provide accompanying adults with such recognition as caretakers. The Framework Protocol on certain actions in relation to unaccompanied foreign minors (PMMENA) establishes that, whenever the accompanying person is unable to prove the relation with the minor by documentation or other means, they will be interviewed privately by qualified staff from the National Police in order to clarify their situation, migratory decision, bond and relations with the minor. Depending on the type of representation processed, the adult may have certain obligations and duties towards the minor.

Box 1: Appointment of responsible persons in Greece

Following a suitability assessment, and in the light of the best interests of the child, the prosecutor in charge of assigning guardianship may assign the daily care of an unaccompanied minor to an adult relative up to the third degree (e.g., great-grandparents, great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, uncles, aunts, etc.) or to another suitable unrelated adult.²⁷ This person differs from the legal guardian, which is responsible for the legal representation of the minor and is likewise appointed by the prosecutor. When appointing a responsible person, the opinion of the minor shall be taken into account, the relationship between the minor and the adult person shall be assessed and inquiries

made as to whether the person is in possession of a permanent or temporary residence permit, consents to and is capable of taking care of the minor. The best interest assessment or social report prepared by the guardian, the Reception and Identification Service, or another competent authority or child protection agency shall be taken into account. Should the person be designated responsible for the separated child, the child's guardian monitors the well-being of the minor and the quality of care they receive. Care should include adequate accommodation, healthy nutrition, adequate and decent clothing, personal and daily hygiene, preparation for schooling, and the promotion of positive behaviour.

France has provisions regulating that accompanying adults may be entrusted with the care of separated children if they express this wish to the juvenile court judge. Responsibilities may encompass educational assistance only or broader long-term voluntary foster care, which may only be approved when in the child's best interests and following a thorough assessment of their situation. In Poland, legislation allows for the appointment of an adult relative (e.g., grandparents, adult siblings, uncles or aunts) as responsible.

Although Portuguese legislation does not contain specific provisions applicable to separated children, it does have rules that allow the formal recognition of accompanying adults as responsible for the former. A child or young person may be placed in the care of a person who, although not a member of their family, has established a relationship of mutual affection with them. This is always subject to the principle of the best interests of the child. This measure may be accompanied by psycho-social support and, where necessary, financial assistance; however, it is generally only temporary in nature and mainly aims to remove the child from any potentially dangerous situation.

Responsible persons in formal guardianship roles

Eight EMN Countries²⁸ stated the possibility for accompanying adults to be formally recognised as responsible for an accompanied separated child in a more formal and long-term guardianship. As guardianship also entails legal representation, some of these examples are also discussed in section 3.3.

In the Netherlands, according to the Dutch Civil Code, any adult person can request a juvenile judge to appoint them as a legal guardian of a separated child. The juvenile judge is responsible to review this request. In practice, however, such requests are limited, with the result that most children are placed under independent guardianship, often of the Nidos foundation, a non-governmental organisation.²⁹ In Germany, the family court is responsible for ordering guardianship, selecting the guardian and formally

21 CZ, DE, EE, IT, LU, LV, NL, PT, SK.

22 EL, LU, PL.

23 EE, IE, NL, SK.

24 CZ, DE, ES, FR, PT.

25 AT, BE, BG, CY, FI, HR, HU, IE, IT, LT, SE, SI.

26 CZ, EL, ES, FR, PT.

27 Art. 66IA of law 4939/2022.

28 CZ, DE, EE, IT, LU, NL, PT, SK.

29 Nidos, <https://www.nidos.nl/>, accessed 3 October 2025.

appointing them.³⁰ Accompanying adults may also be appointed as legal guardians or custodians. As they were not legal guardians upon entry, this does not however change the child's status of 'unaccompanied.'

In Luxembourg, the Family Court Judge is always consulted when a child is accompanied by a family member who is not their father or mother, in order to determine whether a child accompanied by a family member who is not their father or mother, should be considered an unaccompanied minor or accompanied. If the child is considered accompanied, then the accompanying adult is appointed as guardian by the Family Court Judge, in accordance with the best interests of the child, and fulfils both roles of caretaker and legal representative.

In the Slovak Republic, subject to a case-by-case assessment by the court, a minor may be entrusted to the personal care of a relative or other natural person with whom they have a close relationship, who is appointed as guardian. Such person may either already reside in the country or be an accompanying adult entering the country with a separated child. Likewise, in the Czech Republic, if a child enters the country accompanied by an adult (especially a relative – even if not closely related), the latter may be formally recognised as a guardian.

3.3. Provisions regulating the role of accompanying adults as legal representatives

Eighteen countries,³¹ including the three who specifically regulate the situation of separated children,³² indicated that their legislation *de facto* provides possibilities for accompanying adults to be formally recognised as representatives for an accompanied separated child. Of these, 17 countries³³ reported that their national legislation allows accompanying adults to either apply for formal guardianship (or to be directly appointed as guardians) – which entails broad legal authority over the children³⁴ (see also section 3.2.2.) – or for temporary guardianship or legal representation, for example to support the minor in asylum proceedings.

In Poland, accompanying adults may be appointed as guardians of separated children specifically for the asylum procedure as long as the person has the legal capacity to properly perform such duties. In France, legal representation of unaccompanied minors, including separated children, is generally established either via a guardianship system, a delegation of parental authority or through a preliminary measure of educational assistance (see also section 3.2.1.). The delegate of parental authority can be

regarded as the legal representative of the separated child in the context of his or her asylum application only when the delegation of parental authority is either total or, if partial, expressly includes the assistance and legal representation of the minor in the context of the administrative and judicial proceedings relating to his or her asylum application.

Box 2: Barriers to legal representation in Croatia and Greece

In Croatia, to protect certain property and personal rights as well as the interests of the child, the Croatian Institute for Social Work may in principle appoint an accompanying adult as special guardian of the child. A special guardian may represent the child in legal proceedings, but only in relation to those for which they were specifically appointed. However, since guardians are required to meet the conditions laid down by the Family Act of the Republic of Croatia, it is extremely rare for an accompanying adult to fulfil such requirements.³⁵ In most cases, a special guardian for separated children is selected from within the professional staff of the Croatian Institute for Social Work.

In Greece, legal representation (including in asylum procedures) is one of the three main responsibilities unaccompanied minors' guardians are generally entrusted with – the other two including care and assistance over property matters. While accompanying adults are allowed to apply for guardianship, they are often unable to meet the requirements of sufficient living conditions demanded by the Court for such appointment. As a result, accompanying adults are in practice predominantly assigned only the daily care of separated children, and may not represent them in legal proceedings.

In the Slovak Republic, the person entrusted with the care of the minor (see section 3.2.2.) is also his or her legal representative. This person may therefore submit an application for asylum on the minor's behalf (i.e. signing the written declaration), be present during the proceedings, submit evidence and statements, be granted access to the documents of the proceedings (including the final decision) and, in the event of a negative decision, lodge an appeal. In Italy, besides being responsible for the care of the unaccompanied minor, the guardian represents the minor in all civil acts and administers their property and is moreover responsible for ensuring that the minor has access to their rights without discrimination.³⁶

30 See section 1773, 1774, 1779 and 1789 German Civil Code.

31 AT, BE, CZ, DE, EL, ES, EE, FR, HR, IT, LT, LV (subject to conditions), LU, NL, PL, PT, SE, SK.

32 EL, ES, FR.

33 AT, BE, CZ, DE, EE, EL, FR (among other options), HR, IT, LT (temporary), LU, LV, NL, PL (temporary), PT, SE, SK.

34 According to the European Union Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA), 'a guardian is an independent person who safeguards the child's best interests and general well-being, and to this effect complements the limited legal capacity of the child, when necessary, in the same way that parents do.' For more information, please see Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA), Report on guardianship systems for children deprived of parental care in the European Union, October 2015, <https://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2015/guardianship-systems-children-deprived-parental-care-european-union>, accessed 6 October 2025.

35 To be appointed special guardian, a person must have legal capacity, must not have previously been deprived of the right to parental care, their interests must not conflict with the interests of the child, and, based on their behaviour, characteristics and relationship with the child, should be expected to properly perform the duty of a special guardian.

36 Article 357 of the Civil Code.

Box 3: Guardianship in Belgium

In Belgium, national legislation distinguishes between civil guardianship, which is governed by the Civil Code and applies to all minors in Belgium, and the specific guardianship of unaccompanied minors upon their arrival, governed by the Programme Law of 24/12/2002. Both confer legal responsibility upon the person appointed; however, only the latter guardian, appointed by the Guardianship Service, is responsible (among other things) for supporting and assisting the minor through the asylum or regularisation process. Another important difference is that unaccompanied minors are not allowed to live at the same address as their appointed guardian, whereas this is possible with their civil guardian. An accompanying adult may not apply for the role of appointed guardian and legally represent separated children in asylum proceedings. However, once the separated child has been authorised to reside in Belgium, the accompanying adult may ask the Justice of Peace to be recognized as the civil guardian of the minor. This allows them to acquire their legal representation and live together. The Justice of Peace will then investigate whether the minor's parents are permanently unable to exercise parental authority. If this is the case, it may appoint the accompanying adult as civil guardian if the latter is willing to take on this role and understands the implications of the role.

Sweden reported that no national law automatically recognises an accompanying adult as the legal representative (guardian) of a separated child, but exceptions may be made when they are in the best interest of the child, the person is deemed suitable and there are no conflicts of interest. This assessment is conducted by the municipality and the chief guardian (*Överförmyndaren*), not by the Swedish Migration Agency. Latvia's Civil Law explicitly excludes the possibility of appointing guardians of foreign nationality, except in cases when the guardianship passes to the next of kin or to a person who is part of the same household as the minor.

In six countries,³⁷ national legislation does not formally allow for accompanying adult to be appointed as legal representatives and/or guardians. In Bulgaria, an unaccompanied minor (including a separated child) seeking international protection may only be represented by a lawyer registered at the National Legal Aid Bureau and designated by the Chairman of the bureau or by a delegated official. Cyprus likewise reported that their legislation only allows legal representation by the state.³⁸ In Ireland, where a child presents in the company of an adult family member such as an older sibling who is supporting the child, the International Protection Office (IPO) will first assess the relationship. If satisfied that the child is well cared for, the older sibling will be allowed to make an asylum application on behalf of the child and represent their best interests throughout the process. Where a child presents with an adult who is not a family member, the IPO always conducts further checks to establish bona fides. If the International Protection Office (IPO) feels there is a child

protection risk because they are concerned about the bona fides of the relationship, the IPO refer to Tusla (the Irish the Child and Family Agency). However, these processes are not based upon or regulated by any legal provisions and is only allowed in practice on a case-by-case basis.

3.4. Ad hoc, practical or informal arrangements

Fifteen EMN Member Countries³⁹ described the use of ad hoc and informal arrangements to ensure separated children and accompanying adults can maintain a close relationship in the context of the asylum procedure. Four EMN Member Countries⁴⁰ reported having no such practical arrangements.

In Austria, during the admission procedure, applicants for international protection are normally accommodated in federal reception facilities. In practice the District Commission Baden can issue so-called 'powers of attorney for care' for separated children accommodated in the federal reception facility in Traiskirchen to accompanying adults. These are, however, not legally binding and do not establish any form of legal representation for the child.

The Belgian system offers several options outside of legal representation: the joint placement of the UAM and the accompanying adult in the same family setting, where the adult supports the separated child; placement in the same reception structure, but in different units, or in nearby facilities; if the accompanying adult is staying at a private address, placement of the minor at the address of the accompanying adult. In the latter case, the accompanying adult may also be recognised as foster parent.

In Cyprus, the Social Welfare Services (SWS) may place both the minor and the accompanying adult in the same reception facility or rely on foster care procedures or semi-independent living schemes to maintain the bond, still under the legal responsibility of the SWS. Croatia allows separated children over 16 years of age to be placed in the same reception centre as the accompanying adult.

In Spain, a separated child and the accompanying adult may be referred to as a family unit. The family unit will remain in the humanitarian reception centre for applicants for international protection where they are housed, provided the authorities have observed attachment, there has been no negative report from the entity managing the centre, and no particular risks have emerged from interviews with the adult and/or the child. Currently in the Canary Islands, the Child Protection Service of the Canary Government usually authorises (through an administrative resolution) that the child remains with the adult, as long as the accommodation facility where they are placed is informed of the situation. Similar provisions exist in Slovenia, where asylum applicants who are minor may be allowed to be accommodated with accompanying adults if (among other things) the relation existed before arriving in Slovenia and can be substantiated. Legal authority would however remain with a statutory representative appointed by the state.

37 BG, CY, FI, HU, IE, SI.

38 CY, HR.

39 AT, BE, BG (mixed), CY, DE, EE, ES, FI, HR, LT, LV, NL, PL, SE, SI.

40 CZ, HU, IT, PT.

In Poland, in the context of asylum procedures, unaccompanied minors may be interviewed in the presence of an (accompanying) adult designated by the minor, provided it does not hinder proceedings. Arrangements can be made for the adult and the minor to be placed in the same reception centre and participate in the same educational and integration activities, as long as they are in the child's best interests.

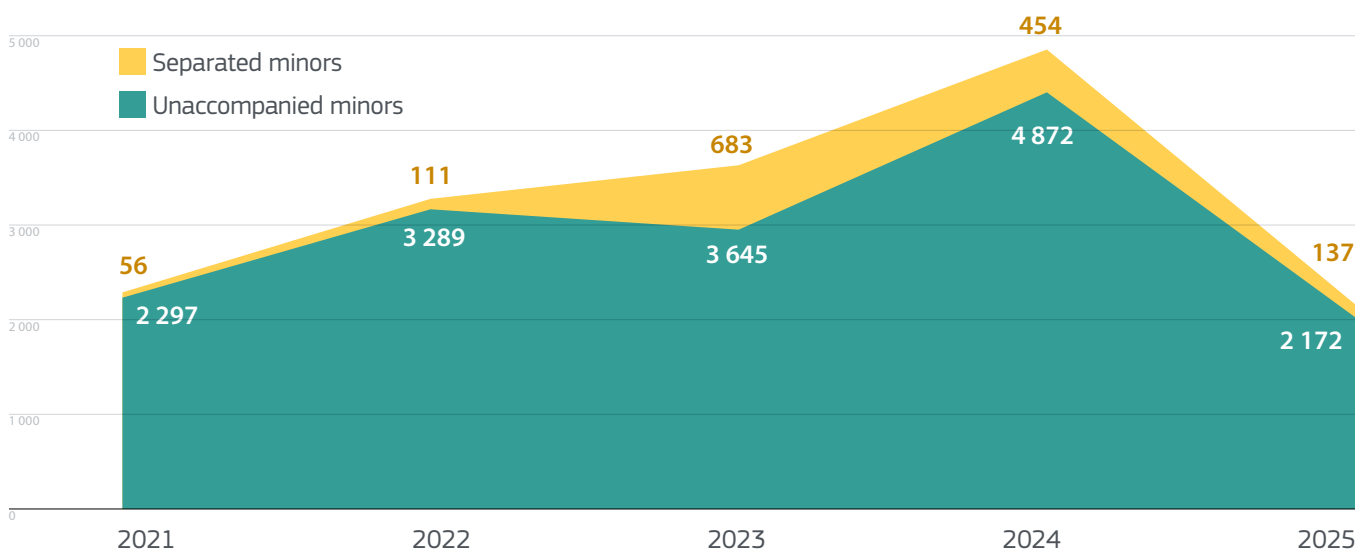
In Sweden, social services may allow a minor to live with the accompanying adult if the arrangement is considered safe. In such cases, the adult may be designated as

providing a foster home (*familjehem*), but does not have any legal authority, which still lies with the appointed legal guardian (*god man*).

3.5. Statistics about separated children

Only Greece indicated that it collects and/or holds specific data about the number of separated children who have arrived on their territory to apply for asylum over the last five years (see figure 1).

Figure 1. Number of separated children and unaccompanied minors who arrived in Greece to apply for asylum, 2021-2025



Category	Year of asylum application				
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Unaccompanied minors	2 241	3 178	2 962	4 418	2 035
Separated minors	56	111	683	454	137
Total	2 297	3 289	3 645	4 872	2 172

All remaining countries⁴¹ reported not collecting or holding such information. The majority of them⁴² specified that they collect information on unaccompanied minors, but do not distinguish between separated children and other categories of unaccompanied minors. In Belgium, Fedasil

(the national asylum agency) keeps track of whether an unaccompanied minor is staying with a family member, but it does so manually within each individual file making it difficult to know the total count.

41 AT, BE, BG, CY, CZ, EE, ES, FI, FR, HR, HU, IE, IT, LT, LU, LV, NL, PL, PT, SI, SE, SK.

42 BE, BG, CY, CZ, DE, EE, FR, HR, IE, IT, LT, LU, NL, PL, SE.



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The Czech Republic www.emncz.eu/

Estonia www.emn.ee/

Finland emn.fi/en/

France www.immigration.interieur.gouv.fr/Europe-et-International/Le-reseau-europeen-des-migrations-REM3/Le-reseau-europeen-des-migrations-REM2

Germany www.bamf.de/EN/Themen/EMN/emn-node.html

Greece <https://migration.gov.gr/emn/>

Hungary www.emnhungary.hu/en

Ireland www.emn.ie/

Italy www.emnitalyncp.it/

Latvia www.emn.lv

Lithuania www.emn.lt/

Luxembourg emnluxembourg.uni.lu/

Malta emn.gov.mt/

The Netherlands www.emnnetherlands.nl/

Poland www.gov.pl/web/european-migration-network

Portugal rem.sef.pt/en/

Romania www.mai.gov.ro/

Spain www.emnspain.gob.es/en/home

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Georgia migration.commission.ge/

The Republic of Moldova bma.gov.md/en

Ukraine dmsu.gov.ua/en-home.html

Montenegro www.gov.me/mup

Armenia migration.am/?lang=en

Serbia kirs.gov.rs/eng

The Republic of North Macedonia <https://mvr.gov.mk/>

Albania