

Date: 23/09/2024

Send the quotation to the following email address: [procedurenegoziate@savethechildren.org](mailto:procedurenegoziate@savethechildren.org)

Department: Centre for Research, Analysis & Training in Child Rights

Reference: Head of Research, Analysis & Training

**Date for submission of quotation: 15/10/2024**

**Object: Search for an Evaluating Body or a professional to evaluate the Project “N.E.A.R to Guardians.”**

**LDI\_31\_2024**

#### **A. Introduction**

Save the Children is the world's leading independent organisation for children. OUR VISION is a world in which every child attains the right to survival, protection, development, and participation. **OUR MISSION** is to inspire breakthroughs in the way the world treats children and to achieve immediate and lasting change in their lives. Save the Children Italia (SC IT) was created as an ONLUS in 1998 and is now a prominent member of Save the Children International.

For more information on the work of Save the Children Italia Onlus in Italy, please refer to our 2024 Report: <https://www.savethechildren.it/cosa-facciamo/pubblicazioni/bilancio-sociale-2023>

#### **SAVE THE CHILDREN'S VALUES ACCOUNTABILITY:**

We take personal responsibility for using our resources efficiently, achieving measurable results, and being accountable to supporters, partners and, most of all, children. **AMBITION:** We are demanding of ourselves and our colleagues, set high goals and are committed to improving the quality of everything we do for children. **COLLABORATION:** We respect and value each other, thrive on our diversity, and work with partners to leverage our global strength in making a difference for children. **CREATIVITY:** We are open to new ideas, embrace change, and take disciplined risks to develop sustainable solutions for and with children. **INTEGRITY:** We aspire to live to the highest standards of personal honesty and behaviour; we never compromise our reputation and always act in the best interests of children. To finance our work, we depend on the support of the public, volunteers, the corporate sector, governments, and international donor agencies.

## Child Safeguarding Policy

At Save the Children Italy we are committed to the safeguarding and protection of beneficiaries – children and adults - in our work. Save the Children believes that beneficiaries – children and adults - should never experience any kind of abuse. We have a responsibility to work in a way that promotes the welfare of beneficiaries and protects them from any kind of harm. Our organisation has a zero-tolerance approach to any harm or exploitation of beneficiaries by any of our staff, representatives, or partners. Save the Children expects the highest standards of behaviour from all its staff when dealing with beneficiaries. Those who are representing Save the Children must adhere to the Child Safeguarding Policy and the Policy for protection against sexual exploitation, abuse, harassment, intimidation, discrimination, and abuse of authority, both in their private and professional lives (<http://www.savethechildren.it/policies>).

### B. Service description.

We are seeking an **Evaluating Body** or a **qualified professional** to assess the ‘**N.E.A.R to Guardians’ Project**

Duration of the assignment: from 15/11/2024 to 31/08/2026

We are interested in understanding:

1. Referring to guardians and children involved in the project, whether and to what extent the project positively affects UASCs transition into adulthood, thanks to their guardians’ better practices
2. What factors help (or hinder) the achievement of the intended outcomes?
3. To what extent is the project sustainable over time.

We expect that the Evaluation Design addresses at least the following aspects:

- Response to Evaluation Questions: Provide well-reasoned answers to the evaluation questions.
- Logic of the Proposed Method: Clearly articulate the underlying reasoning and rationale behind the proposed method.
- Appropriate Implementation Techniques: Select and justify the techniques that are most suitable for implementation.

Save the Children requests, at this stage, to provide an evaluation design of the project described here. This proposal should be attached to the quotation and submitted by the expiration date of the announcement. Please note that the proposed evaluation design will be subject to selection.

The most interesting applications will be shortlisted and may receive an invitation to participate in a call. During this call, an internal panel, consisting of representatives from project staff, will pose clarification questions. Afterwards, additional information may be requested and should be provided within a week.

## PROJECT: “N.E.A.R TO GUARDIANS”

### 1. PROJECT SUMMARY

Since the beginning of the migratory crisis in 2015, growing numbers of unaccompanied children have been seeking protection in Europe. In the first 4 months of 2023, 61.236 refugees and migrants arrived in Europe by sea or by land (Source: IOM, Displacement Tracking Matrix). Among the 881.220 asylum applicants in the EU27 registered in 2021, 23.255 were unaccompanied minors, up by 72% compared with 2020 (Source: Eurostat, Asylum applicants considered to be unaccompanied minors by citizenship, age, and sex). Guardians are key in promoting and guaranteeing a strong protection chain for UASC. National guardianship systems vary greatly between Member States and between the countries involved in the project; moreover, in recent years, there have been legislative changes that have modified the guardianship systems. This will pose a significant challenge for the NEAR project as it endeavours to explore diverse solutions and approaches to common issues across participating countries.

To better define the current condition and determine the main needs to address in reinforcing guardianship, we based on the following:

- the main evidence contained in the document Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) (2022): Guardianship systems for unaccompanied children in the European Union: developments since 2014);
- the results of the 9th Meeting of the HOME Expert Group on the Protection of Children in Migration on 17 February 2022;
- the evidence that emerges from the partners' experience.

The main needs and challenges identified are:

1. Supporting Transition into Adulthood: It is crucial to identify ways to assist a child's transition into adulthood after turning 18, even if the guardian's official mandate has concluded. This could involve maintaining a mentoring relationship or allocating resources to provide ongoing support.
2. Enhancing Networking Among Guardians: It is crucial to foster networking among guardians at local, national, and EU levels. Guardians should be able to exchange information with their peers, discussing common challenges and effective strategies. Additionally, they need to be informed about the responsibilities of relevant institutions in carrying out their tasks.
3. Training Needs for Guardians: The importance of training for guardians, particularly regarding EU asylum law. Special attention should be given to understanding Dublin procedures and the Family Reunification Directive. Guardians working with children facing deportation risk also require support to prevent emotional burnout.
4. Cross-Border Information Exchange: Guardians must have the means to share information about children undergoing cross-border procedures. This includes cases related to relocation, Dublin procedures, or potential returns to their country of origin.
5. Supporting Guardians with Cultural Mediators and Multi-Professional Teams: Collaborating with cultural mediators, psychologists, social workers, and lawyers is essential. These professionals can enhance the effectiveness of guardianship.

6. Child Participation: Consulting the children themselves is crucial for improving the guardianship system. Their insights and perspectives are valuable takeaways.
7. Guardian Independence: To maintain independence, we recommend avoiding the appointment of reception facility staff as guardians. Conflicting interests may arise in such cases.
8. Adequate Resources for Guardians: Ensuring that guardians have sufficient resources is vital. This includes addressing the unique needs of voluntary (non-remunerated) guardians.
9. To address critical concerns and provide assistance to guardians, with the goal of maximizing the integration prospects of Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASCs) during their transition to adulthood:
  - **Housing Challenges**: As Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASCs) approach adulthood, housing becomes a critical issue. They may no longer be entitled to housing assistance and might face relocation to unfamiliar contexts, larger urban centres, and different living conditions. Reduced support from social services can compound their challenges. Renting a decent house in the private market can be difficult due to discrimination, low and unstable income, and complexities in contractual agreements. Consequently, there is an increased risk of UASCs ending up homeless, exposed to exploitation, illegal work, and trafficking. These adverse circumstances can hinder their individual inclusion pathway that began during their minor years. Across EU member states, various housing arrangements exist, ranging from accommodation centres to alternative options like foster care, private homes, flats, or specially adapted premises for housing children. These solutions strike a balance between complete autonomy and reliance on social welfare. They aim to promote guest autonomy, enhance personal skills, and support young residents in pursuing their life goals while sharing communal spaces.
  - **Education and Labor Market Entry Challenges**: UASCs face significant barriers when it comes to accessing higher education as they transition to adulthood. Several factors contribute to this situation, including limited economic resources, lack of information, and non-recognition of qualifications obtained in their countries of origin. Additionally, the need to work and send money back to their families in their home countries further limits their educational opportunities. Consequently, UASCs often find themselves in low-skilled jobs or, worse, not in employment, education, or training. To address this, analysing successful practices among EU member states, such as programs that integrate language learning and civic orientation, vocational training, and support services, as well as providing scholarships for higher education, is essential for shaping effective policies and programs.

According to some of the above-mentioned needs, the project aims to prioritize relevant stakeholders in matters related to the guardianship of unaccompanied migrant children. Specifically, it focuses on their ability to advocate for and implement practices that align with the unique needs of these children and adhere to the legal frameworks specific to each country. These stakeholders encompass a diverse group – within the countries involved in the project: Italy, Spain, Greece, Slovenia, and Belgium – including public administrations, institutions, ministries or authorities responsible for children and social affairs, international organizations, and social services overseeing housing, labour market integration, and education.

## 2. THE PROJECT IN DETAIL

### General Objectives

1. To contribute to increase the inclusion and the protection of young migrants in host EU society.
2. To contribute to improve the dialogue among different groups of society, institutions, and local authorities on effective guardianship.
3. To contribute to reinforce the capacity of institutions - involved in reception, protection, and guardianship -, of guardians and, more in general, of civil society and cultural and education communities, dealing with protection of UASCs and their transition to adulthood.
4. To contribute to increase visibility of guardianship across all Member States.

### Outcome

Strengthened the capacity of relevant actors, involved in the project, to ensure effective guardianship of unaccompanied migrant children (that is, following their specific needs and countries' specific legal frameworks).

### Intermediate Outcomes

1. Improved skills of the relevant actors involved in the project on how to implement effective guardianship of unaccompanied migrant children at local, national and EU levels.
2. Strengthened decision-makers' capacity to promote standard policies and measures to foster effective guardianship of migrant children in the contexts involved.

### Methodology

The partnership led by Save the Children Italy adopts the Theory of Change approach. The NEAR project aims to promote social change through the active participation and involvement of unaccompanied children. For each planned activity, a specific methodology guides the actions to achieve the corresponding objective. In the context of exchanging best practices (WP2), the chosen method is best practice capitalization. This approach involves analysing different practices by breaking them down into various components or segments that constitute their activities. During good practice presentation meetings, clear identification of the segment or theme to which a good practice belongs facilitates the development of exchange activities, specifically practice capitalization.

The design of tools, guidelines, and training sessions will be informed by mutual learning activities. Actors from institutional and professional sectors will share their experiences, needs, and perspectives to create more coherent and effective tools. The mutual learning approach is considered the best methodology to achieve project goals. It provides an opportunity to identify and learn from successful practices, addressing concrete issues where stakeholders and young people can learn from each other. This approach, developed in WP2 through study visits and the collection of good practices, will be integrated with capacity-building and training activities from WP3.

The development of training modules (WP3) involves a thorough desk review of secondary data and an assessment of existing training materials and tools. The ultimate goal is to create a cohesive and shared training curriculum. Notably, the methodology for designing these training modules will be based on constructive alignment. This approach ensures that all elements of the learning process align

seamlessly, from defining learning outcomes to selecting appropriate teaching methods and assessment criteria.

In parallel, the methodology adopted for the Local Working Tables (WP4) takes a rising approach. It begins with the results derived from the exchange of good practices. Based on these insights, the training modules are crafted. At the metropolitan level, the Local Working Tables will then adopt common strategic plans.

Lastly, in WP5, the dissemination activities and networking efforts at the EU level—specifically the initiative called “Sister Cities for Inclusion”—will facilitate scaling up both nationally and across the European Union.

### **Composition of the Consortium**

**Save the Children Italia (STC IT), COO.** Its mission is to protect children's rights, delivering immediate and lasting improvements to their lives worldwide, applying a child-rights-based approach.

**ZRS Koper (ZRS-ISS), BEN,** is an independent public research institution founded by the Government of the Republic of Slovenia.

**METAdrasi (MD), BEN.** METAdrasi's mission is to facilitate the reception and integration of refugees and migrants in Greece.

**Sant Joan de Déu (SJD), BEN,** is a private non-profit research organization founded in 2002.

**Sant Joan de Déu Terres de Lleida (SJD TL), AE,** is a centre that, among its services, provides institutional foster care for unaccompanied minors aimed at their social, community, and labour integration.

**European Social Network (ESN), BEN** is a network of Public social services across the EU.

### **Main Activities**

#### **Work package WP1 – Project management, monitoring, and evaluation.**

##### **Lead Beneficiary: STC IT**

To promote ongoing monitoring and coordination of the activities. To guarantee the methodological coordination of the activities and the evaluation of the activities implemented.

Main tasks include:

- Management and coordination activities.
- Technical and financial reporting.
- Unaccompanied children/young adults Reference Group setting-up and management.
- Support and implement Monitoring & evaluation activities.

#### **Work package WP2 – Collection and exchange of good practices on effective guardianship to UASCs in the key areas (housing, labour market integration, education).**

##### **Lead Beneficiary: ZRS KOPER.**

The objective of this WP is to increase the exchange of good practices and 'know-how' for supporting relevant actors, in particular: public administrations and institutions, international organisations, and private organisations – on the types of support to be given to guardians of unaccompanied migrant children, in function of their specific needs, at national and transnational level. Capitalizing on good practices aims to improve the impact of public policies and interventions in the private social sector through the identification, systematization and dissemination of experiences, methodologies, knowledge, and skills. Best practices at the national level related to the



key areas most significant which is focused N.E.A.R. to Guardians (as mentioned, housing, labour market integration, education) will be identified and exchanged nationally and transnationally. The WP outcome will be an increased exchange of good practices and 'know-how' for supporting the guardians of UASCs, in function of their specific needs and country-specific legal frameworks on guardianship.

Main tasks include:

- Good practices assessment and desk research on effective guardianship
- Good practices field analysis (interviews and surveys)
- Study visits to exchange good practices.

### **Work package WP3 – Online training to enhance skills and effectiveness of guardians and actors who provide support to guardians.**

**Lead Beneficiary: METADRASI.**

This WP aims to produce online training materials on the various areas related to the transition to adulthood for the different actors involved (e.g., local authorities, guardians, and private sector actors). A set of specific online training modules (one per MS) will be developed. The modules will be focused on all the main aspects related to the transition of unaccompanied migrant children to adulthood (e.g. housing, education, employment, financial education, psychosocial support, case management, access to cultural activities etc.). Thanks to the training modules produced and their distribution among the actors involved - first those involved in the exchange of good practices (WP2) and the local working table (WP4) - as well as all those reached by the dissemination activities (WP5), the community of actors taking care of UASC in their transition to adulthood will be strengthened. Outcome: Reinforced offer of training on supporting the transition of unaccompanied migrant children to adulthood to the benefit of the relevant public and private actors; improved competencies and skills of professionals to tackle issues related to the transition to adulthood for UASC.

Main tasks include:

- Training needs assessment.
- Development of the e-learning platform and a digital library.
- Online training for guardians and relevant stakeholders on guardianship: development of training materials.
- Online training for guardians and relevant stakeholders on guardianship: fine-tuning of training materials.
- Translation of the online course and all the training materials and delivery

### **Work package WP4 – Local working tables to reinforce effectiveness of guardianship towards UASCs with specific focus on housing, labour market integration, education.**

**Lead Beneficiary: FSJD-CERCA.**

Through Local working tables, the project wants to promote the shaping and implementation of joint working practice between the different actors to ensure more effective and comprehensive support for guardianship to unaccompanied children. The WP outcome will be the reinforcement of the local networks of the relevant actors - institutional and from the civil society - providing support to guardians of unaccompanied migrant children with specific focus on housing, labour market integration and education and the creation of a **Sister Cities Network** and a shared **Manifesto for Inclusion**.

Main tasks include:



- The creation of working tables at the local level (institutions and local authorities, civil society, guardians).
- The implementation of local working table meetings implementation
- The production of local working plan documents and guidelines to support effective guardianship.

## **Work package WP5 – Communication, dissemination, and follow-up.**

### **Lead Beneficiary: STC IT**

To ensure that project results and deliverables are disseminated and further exploited. The outcome will be increased awareness and better practice for public institutions and guardians. Thanks to the contacts established in the local working tables (WP4), a network of “Sister Cities for Inclusion” in Europe with other Municipalities interested in setting up a network of cities dedicated to the inclusion of unaccompanied migrant children and youngsters will be set up. To develop an effective communication, dissemination and advocacy program aimed to share the project results and to scale it up to regional and national stakeholders.

Main tasks include:

- Communication, awareness raising materials and campaign.
- International meeting online to share the Manifesto for Inclusion and the Sister Cities network.
- Policy recommendations.
- Advocacy activities and final international event.

### **Main Outputs include**

- 30.000 contacts reached through Communication, awareness raising, materials and campaign.
- Policy Recommendations report.
- 25 Cities join the network and sign the Manifesto for Inclusion.

### **Target Group**

Public administrations and institutions, ministries/authorities for children or social affairs; international organisations, private organisations, social services responsible for housing, labour market integration, higher education, and vocational training; civil society organisations, citizens – on the types of support to be given to guardians of unaccompanied migrant children, in function of their specific needs of specific country legal frameworks.

**Project duration: 30 months, from 1 March 2024 to 31 August 2026.**



### C. Evaluation Criteria.

The consultancy will be assigned to a single Evaluating Body, or a professional based on the following criteria in decreasing order of importance:

- Quality of the proposed evaluation design.
- Consistency between the economic offer and the proposed design.
- Professional profile and significant experience in the field of project evaluation.

### D. Useful notes for drawing up the quotation.

Please clarify the VAT rate applied, which is not deductible for our organisation and is a cost that impacts the available budget.

- The budget available for this consultancy is **9.000 euros** including VAT.
- You are asked to include a presentation/CV of the organisation or professional (in the case of individuals) with the experiences that are considered most significant concerning the project for which the evaluation is requested.
- Please indicate the payment conditions, considering that our policy applicable to suppliers of goods and services provides 60 days FM for legal entities and 30 days DF for natural persons.

### E. Privacy

This document and all the information that the Participants will become aware of during this negotiated procedure constitute "Confidential Information" between the Parties. All data (including personal) and all information regarding the client's activity are considered "Confidential Information". Each participant in the procedure undertakes for themselves and their staff to maintain the utmost confidentiality for the data and any other information provided by the Client or of which they have become aware during the period of the procedure.

Each Participant in the procedure will not be able to communicate to third parties or dispose of such information in any way without the prior written consent of the Client. This confidentiality obligation is assumed by the Participants even after the conclusion of this procedure for an indefinite period.