



My Coming of Age Story (CO.A.ST)

My Coming of Age Story (CO.A.ST) is a project that supports guardians as they assist unaccompanied refugee and separated children transition into adulthood.

My Coming of Age Story (CO.A.ST) strives to promote collaboration between lawyers and guardians and will develop training and resources to empower guardians, so that they can respond to the specific needs of these children and provide legal and psychosocial support in this delicate phase of their life.

This two-year project is co-funded by the European Commission until March 2026, and implemented by five organisations in six Member States: Alliance des Avocats pour les Droits de l'Homme (AADH, France), European Lawyers in Lesvos (ELIL, Greece and Poland), PIC - Pravni Center za Varstvo človekovih Pravic in Okolja (Legal Center for the Protection of Human Rights and the Environment, Slovenia), and Kids in Need of Defense (KIND, Belgium and Slovakia). The Italian Council for Refugees (CIR) leads the project.

A Scientific Advisory Board guides the project; the Board is comprised of national and regional experts on children's rights, guardianship, and the transition to adulthood. The Board includes members of the European Network on Guardianship, the Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants, United Nations' national offices, and representatives of platforms for young refugees with lived experience.

The goals of this project are to:

- **Improve the training and qualifications of guardians** with a specific focus on the legal and integration issues that arise during the transition to adulthood;
- **Develop concrete solutions to support guardians** in the daily performance of their role; and
- **Stimulate the exchange of good practices** and promote the sharing of knowledge among guardians.

If you have any questions about this project, please reach out to InfoEurope@supportkind.org

Key Activities

- 1 Understand Needs and Good Practices**

Researchers in France, Greece, Italy, Poland, Slovenia, and Slovakia are working to understand the needs of children and guardians in the transition to adulthood and the gaps in meeting them, as well as good practices. Researchers held interviews with key stakeholders, such as social workers and guardians and organised focus groups with children and young adults, to give them the opportunity to voice their thoughts and concerns.
- 2 Support Guardians**

CO.A.ST is developing training courses for guardians and lawyers at the national and regional levels throughout 2025. The project is also developing a regional toolkit, which will be a practical resource for guardians as the children they support transition to adulthood.
- 3 Pilot Good Practices**

CO.A.ST partners will pilot good practices in their own countries, including the role of pro bono legal assistance programs in supporting guardianship systems.
- 4 Develop Recommendations**

The project is developing recommendations around how guardians can be better supported to assist unaccompanied and separated refugee and migrant children and youth in the transition to adulthood.

Key takeaways and highlights of the project will be shared on our website and social media at **#MyComingOfAgeStory**