

# Unaccompanied Minors in Germany

## Evidence from a Study of the European Migration Network

Presentation for the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons, Parliamentary Assembly, Council of Europe, 11 April 2019

Paula Hoffmeyer-Zlotnik, University of Geneva

## Unaccompanied Minors in Germany

Challenges and Measures  
after the Clarification of Residence Status

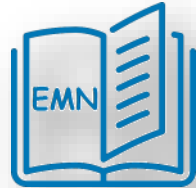
Focussed Study by the German National Contact Point  
for the European Migration Network (EMN)

Working Paper 80

Julian Tangermann  
Paula Hoffmeyer-Zlotnik



# Structure



Overview of the EMN study



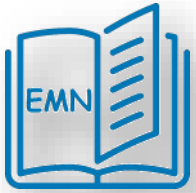
Statistical overview on unaccompanied minors in the EU and Germany



Taking into care of unaccompanied minors



Disappearance of unaccompanied minors



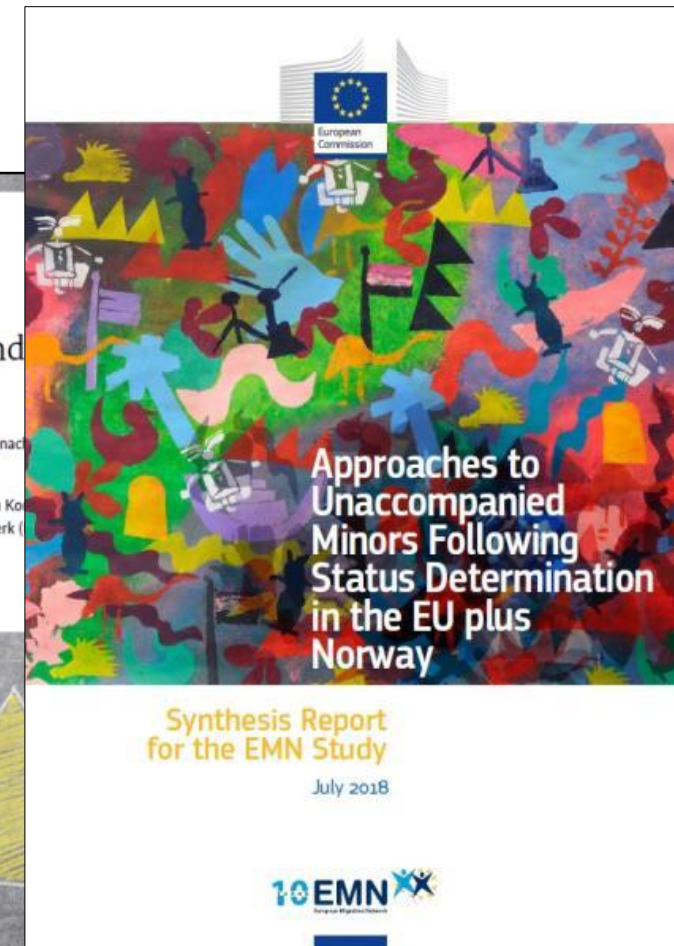
# The EMN study

## A comparative study of 25 EU Member States + Norway

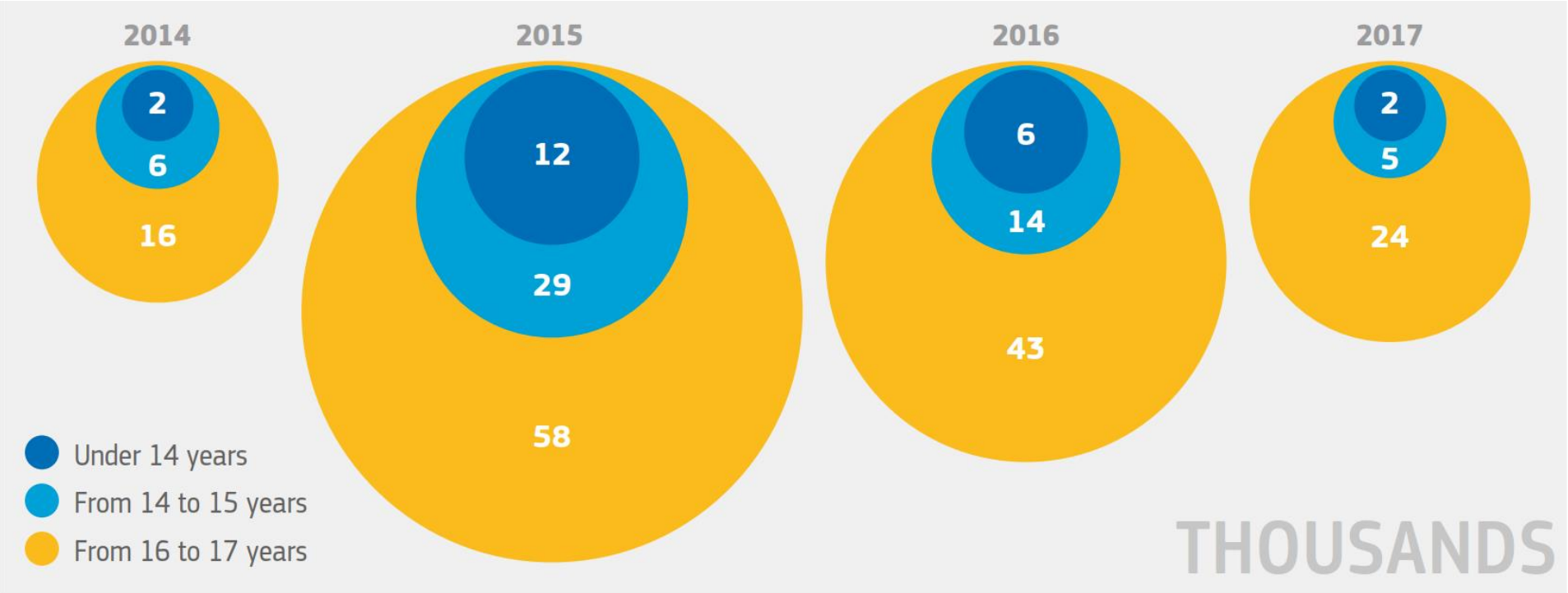
Focus: challenges and measures after status clarification

### Topics covered:

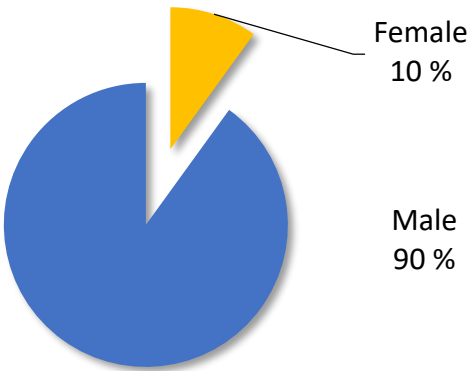
- Statistics
- Care arrangements, incl. family reunification
- Integration measures and policies
- Return
- Disappearance
- Transition to adulthood



# Asylum applications of UAM in the EU + Norway by age and gender 2014 - 2017



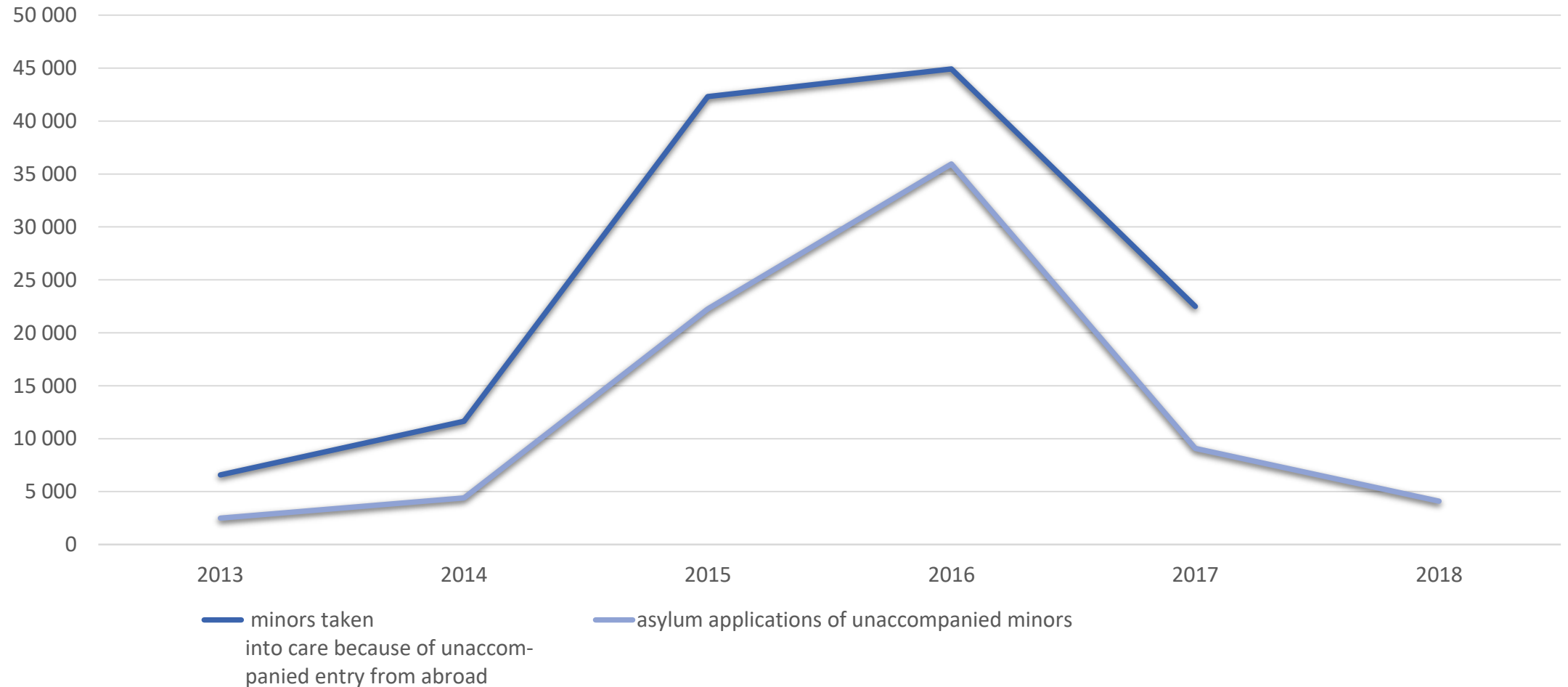
Source: Eurostat, 2014-2017\*



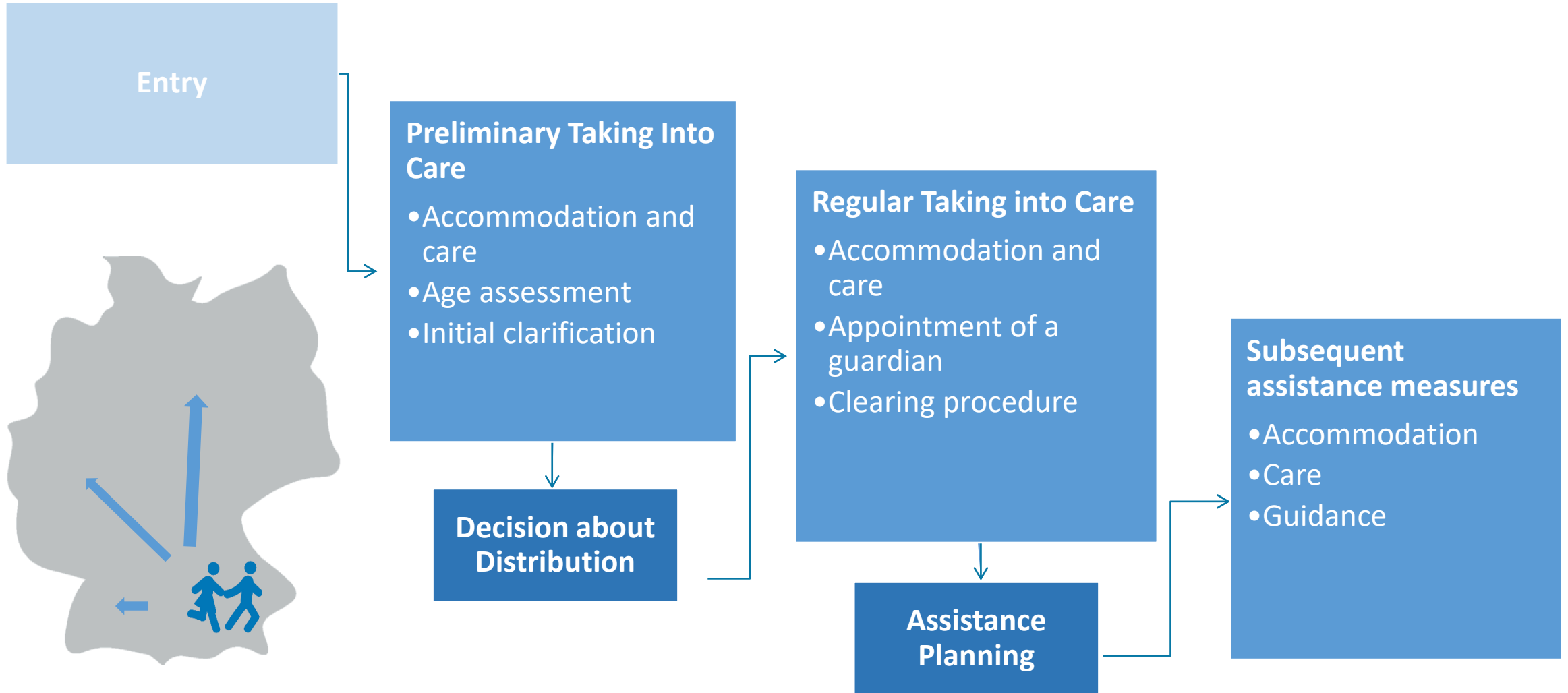
\* Eurostat indicator "Asylum applicants considered to be unaccompanied minors by citizenship, age and sex Annual data (rounded) [migr\_asyunaa]" 2014-2017 (extracted on 25 April 2018).



# Asylum applications and taking into care of UAM in Germany 2013 - 2018



# The care system for UAM in Germany





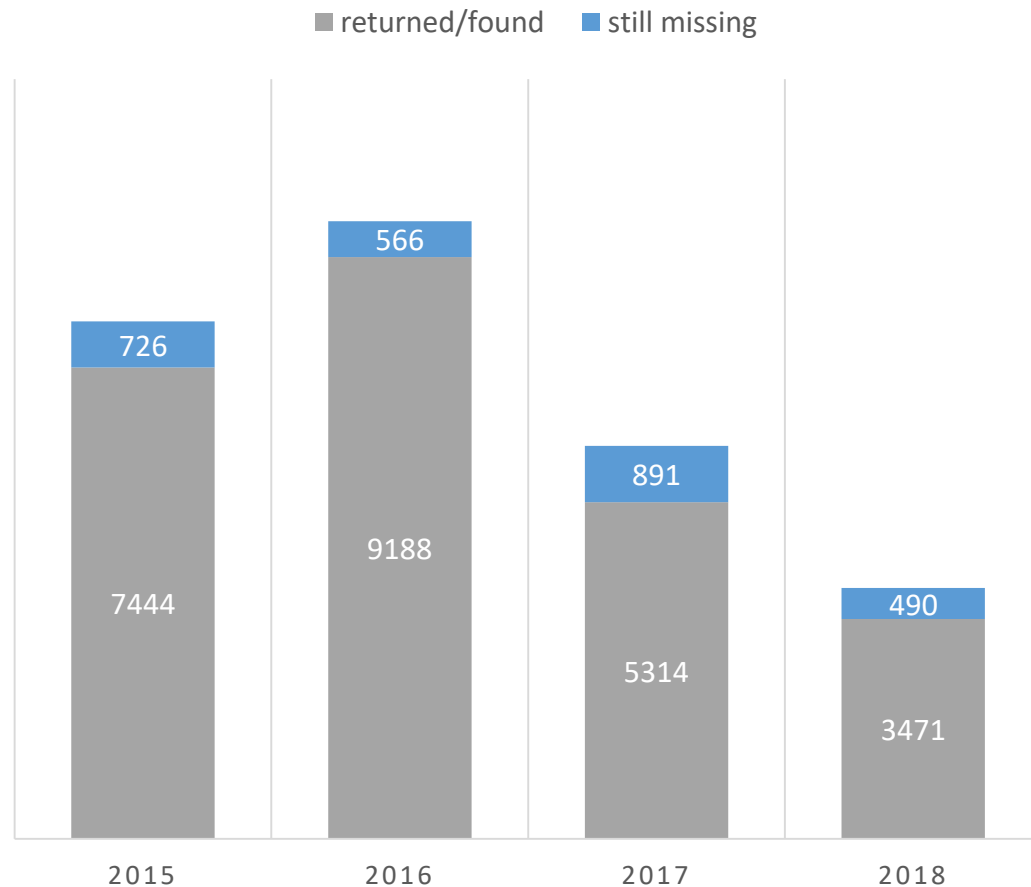
# Disappearance of unaccompanied minors from care facilities



- Available data
- Procedure followed when UAM go missing
- Reasons for disappearance
- Situation in other EU Member States
- Conclusion: Remaining challenges



# Disappearance of unaccompanied minors – available data



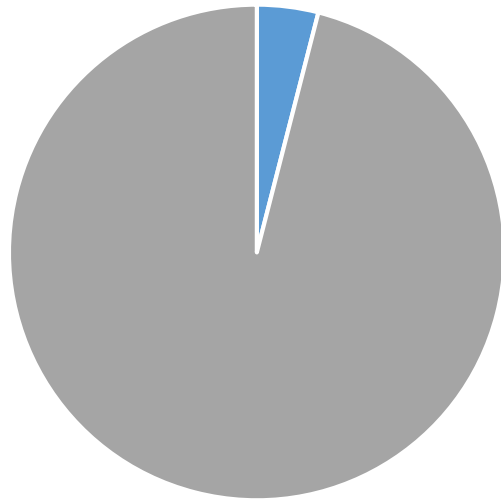
- Database on missing persons by the Federal Criminal Police Office (BKA)
- Data subject to constant change
- Data not reliable: under-reporting of cases and of "reappearances", multiple counts possible





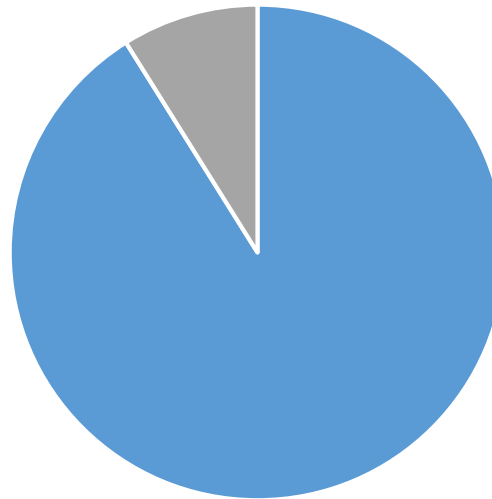
# Disappearance of unaccompanied minors – available data

Age (2018)



■ under 14 ■ 14 and older

Gender (2018)



■ male ■ female

- 2018: 3,4 % of all persons reported as missing
- Main countries of origin: Afghanistan, Syria, Somalia

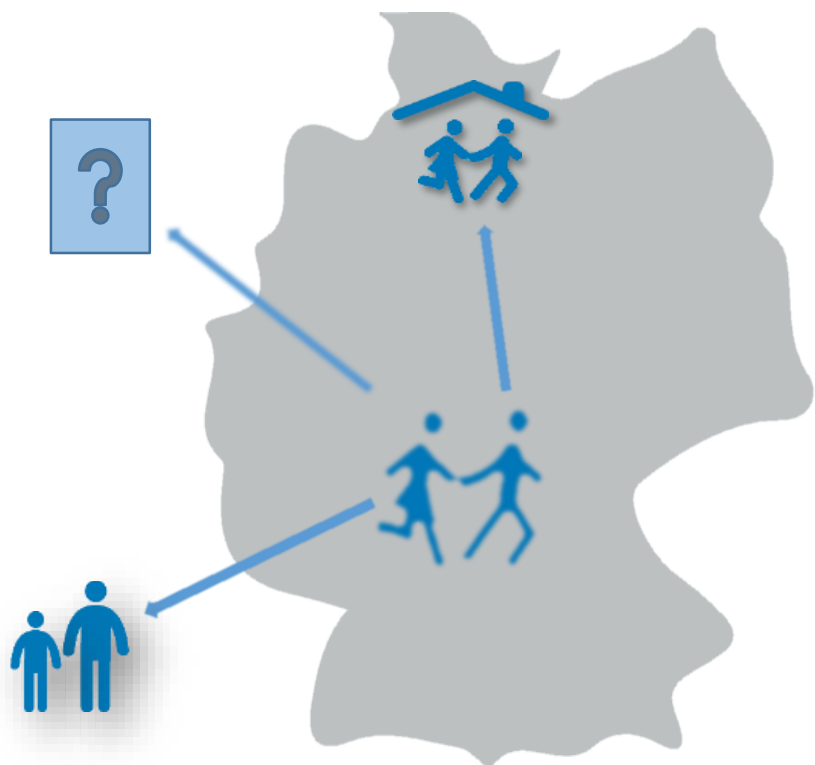


# Disappearance of unaccompanied minors – procedure

1. First search
2. Youth welfare office is informed
3. Missing person report with local police
  - ➡ police search system (INPOL)
  - ➡ Schengen Information System (SIS)
  - ➡ Database on 'missing persons and unknown dead' (VermiUTot)
4. Entry in Central Register of Foreigners (AZR) and population register
5. Termination of care
6. Person found again: taking into care starts anew



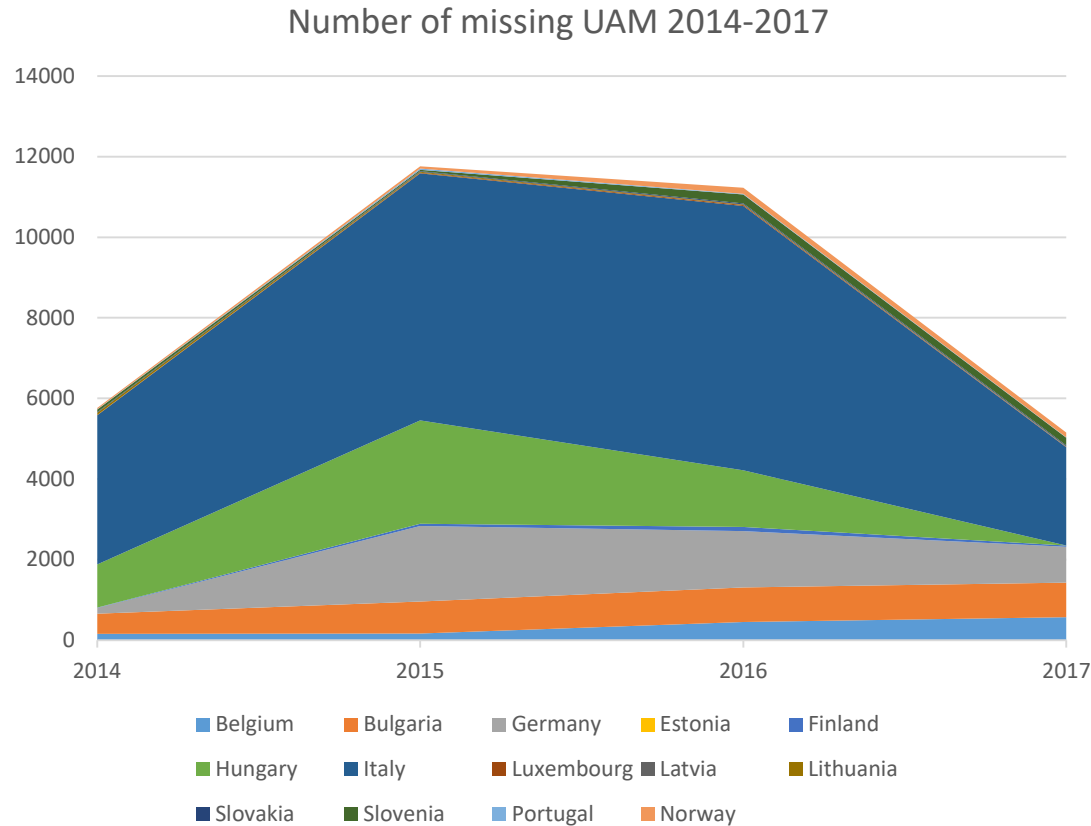
# Disappearance of unaccompanied minors – possible reasons



- Join family members
- Not satisfied with (allocation of) accommodation
- No chance to remain legally
- Length of asylum procedure
- Exploitation



# The situation in other EU Member States



- No reliable data for all Member States
- Most UAM go missing before or during the asylum procedure
- Long and complicated family reunification processes as additional reason for disappearing
- Specific management and prevention strategies in some MS

# Conclusion – Remaining challenges



- Collection of reliable data
- Cooperation between authorities – at the national and the international level
- Speed of family reunification
- Effective prevention measures
- Support in transition to adulthood

# Thank you for your attention!

## Links:

German EMN study:

<http://www.bamf.de/SharedDocs/Anlagen/EN/Publikationen/EMN/Studien/wp80-unbegleitete-minderjaehrige.html?nn=1450236>

Synthesis Report:

<http://www.bamf.de/SharedDocs/Anlagen/EN/Publikationen/EMN/SyntheseberichteInform/ZuStudien/emn-wp80-synthese-unbegleitete-minderjaehrige.html?nn=1450236>

Annual Report on Migration, Integration and Asylum, including Unaccompanied Minors:

<http://www.bamf.de/SharedDocs/Anlagen/EN/Publikationen/EMN/Politikberichte/emn-politikbericht-2017-germany.html?nn=1450238>

