

## Study Visit from Cyprus to The Netherlands

From October 21 to 24, the International Knowledge Platform of the COA welcomed a delegation from Cyprus. This group consisted of three employees from the organization responsible for the guardianship, reception, and support of unaccompanied minors (UAM) in Cyprus. Their goal was to study the Dutch approach in this area and gain valuable insights. The program included inspiring presentations and site visits. The Cypriot delegation explored the reception and support of unaccompanied minors (UAM) in the Netherlands. They began with discussions about the differences between Nidos and COA, followed by presentations from Léon Dozy and Alonso Juarez on support methodologies. Site visits to UAM facilities in De Meern, Den Helder, and Amsterdam provided them with insights into the structured approach used in the Netherlands, including a project in Den Helder focused on outpatient care for UAM transitioning to regular reception.



### Key Lessons and Insights

The Cypriots were impressed by the clear rules and procedures in the Dutch reception centers. They noted that the methodologies of COA and Nidos are well coordinated, resulting in consistent support for UAM. They commented, *“The mentors are well*

*trained, and everyone knows what to do. This ensures a high level of consistency. Additionally, they can receive advice from behavioral experts. There's even a whole network of professionals with various expertise supporting the mentors working with UAM. Behind all this are coaches like Léon Dozy, who support everyone in this system. The approach and system are well developed, and COA and Nidos have aligned their methodologies. COA has very capable professionals. In Cyprus, we try to follow the same principles and rules, but NGOs have different policies than we do. We have coordinators managing and supporting the mentors and guardians, but a better support structure would be beneficial, though it can be costly."*

The realization that COA's support for UAM also focuses on group processes rather than solely on individual support was an eye-opener for the Cypriots.

### **Next Steps**

The insights gained during the visit will help the Cypriots consider improvements in their own reception systems. COA and the Cypriots will remain in contact to exchange knowledge and experiences, aiming for the further development of their reception strategies.

We reflect on a successful study visit and would like to thank everyone involved, especially Léon Dozy, Alonso Juarez, Pauline Verhoeven, Marika Zervos (Nidos), Zaïna Karekezi (Nidos), and the teams from the locations in De Meern, Den Helder, and Tafelbergweg in Amsterdam.



Co-funded by  
the European Union