



# ALTERNATIVE FAMILY CARE IN GREECE

**ALFACA**

Country specific separate annex to the ALFACA  
Manual

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ALFACA Manual



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Published by: Nidos, Maliebaan 99, 3581 CH Utrecht, The Netherlands

Developed under the Profuce (**P**romoting **F**oster Care for **U**naccompanied **C**hildren in **E**urope) project  
[www.profuce.eu](http://www.profuce.eu)

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Co-funded by the  
REC programme of  
the European Union



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# 1. GENERAL CONTEXT

## 1.1 Facts and figures

Facts and figures	
Numbers of UASC	3.708 93,8% boys & 6,2 % girls with the 7.4% being < 14 years 31% Pakistan, 35% Afghanistan, Syria 10%, Other 24%
Reception in families	Provided in the city of Athens.
Is reception in families implemented by regular youth care?	Reception in families is provided by the same rules and legislation that applies for native children and young people. However, state social services do not have specialist teams targeting in third country nationals unaccompanied children.
Challenges	Recruitment, Foster Parents' expectations, Coordination mechanisms
Key Actors in working with Foster Care for UASCs in Greece	Juvenile Public Prosecutors, National Center of Social Solidarity (EKKA), Departments of Social Solidarity of the Public Health's and Social Care's Directorates part of Regional Departments, Municipalities Social Services' departments, Children Hospitals, METAdrasi, Centers of Social Welfare of Regional Departments

According to the most updated data<sup>1</sup> (issued on the 15<sup>th</sup> of February 2019) provided by the National Center of Social Solidarity (EKKA) the estimated number of unaccompanied children currently located in Greece is 3.708. Regarding age and gender indicators, it is estimated that the 93,8% are boys & 6,2 % are girls with the 7.4% being under the age of 14. As their country of origin is concerned, the vast majority of UASCs originate from Pakistan, Afghanistan and a minor figure from Syria (31%, 34% and 10% respectively).

Drawing on the data presented at the last updated dashboard of the National Center of Social Solidarity, interesting conclusions can be made regarding the current situation on the receptions of UASCs in Greece.

Out of the 3.708 UASCs estimated to be residing currently in Greece, only 1.728 reside in typically dedicated shelter facilities, with 943 being placed in long – term facilities and 785 in transitional shelters (safe zones or hotels). As for the rest of the children, it is to highlight that

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<sup>1</sup> <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/68044>

a significant number of them (705) are in Reception and Identification Centers and hotspots, mainly at entry points and 142 in open reception centers while 82 are under protective custody in detention centers. Lastly, the fact that 607 children are reported to be homeless and 270 to be hosted in an unofficial type of accommodation demonstrates a great challenge for child protection services in terms of resources and facilities.

## 1.2 Legislative context on UASC reception

The current situation for UASCs in Greece can be considered as challenging. The lack of proper and suitable age and gender accommodation shelters for unaccompanied children has become an enduring issue in the provision of child protection services. As a matter of fact, despite the decrease on the number of migratory and refugee influxes, after the refugee crisis in 2015 & 2016, the total capacity in beds and places is incompatible with the actual number of children leaving a significant number of them outside of the child protection umbrella. The fact that the number of beds cannot meet the needs of current number of UASC in the Greek territory has resulted to a relatively high number of referrals placed in the waiting list for long – term and transitional accommodation. Additionally, it should be addressed that significant progress has been made in terms of the total capacity in beds available compared to the first years after the refugee crisis in 2015, but there is still way for figures to be adapted to the actual needs of the target population.

## 1.3 Reception for Unaccompanied Minors

Initially, it is essential to mention that in Greece there is not a specially designed state infrastructure to receive third country national unaccompanied children, therefore their case management is not substantially differentiated in terms of treatment compared to irregular migrants and asylum seekers. Under these circumstances, there is only a limited space for the provision of adequate and safe accommodation. Upon their arrival in the Greek territory and their apprehension by border police or coastguard authorities, unaccompanied children are subject to the Reception and Identification procedures. According to the law, First Reception procedures concern to the registration of personal data, medical and psychosocial screening and the provision of legal information for international protection. In the case of UASCs, as a vulnerable group, Reception and Identification Center authorities should refer them to the competent institutions for social support and protection. Due to the lack of adequate reception places at entry points and the limited number of accommodation facilities, UASCs often remain in heavily congested facilities and camps. Once being registered, the competent authorities are under the legal obligation to inform the Juvenile Public Prosecutors, who according to the Greek legal framework, act as provisional guardians while referrals are made to the EKKA<sup>2</sup> for the allocation of accommodation places.

According to the Greek and European laws, detention for unaccompanied children should be avoided and be considered only as a last resort option. However, in practice, UASCs are often deprived of their liberty of movement and are required to stay in detention for a prolonged

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<sup>2</sup> EKKA is the only state authority with a referral network for the placement of the applicants in specialised children accommodation facilities.

period of time, ranging from few weeks to several months either in RICs or in protective custody in detention centers. It has to be highlighted, that said facilities have limited capacity in proper infrastructure, designated spaces for vulnerable groups and psychosocial services. It is only when free space is available that unaccompanied children can be transferred from detention centers to safe zones, other reception facilities or shelters.

It has to be noted that compared to the period RLF report was published the situation in reference to the number of available shelters has been improved. Currently, there are 46 shelters for unaccompanied minors in Greece with a total capacity of 1.107 places. The publication of “Guidelines for the Establishment and Operation of Accommodation Centers” in May 2017 as part of a national plan was a crucial step towards a concrete operational framework of shelters. The Guidelines were put into force in January 2018 setting specific regulations about the required operation criteria in terms of infrastructure, facilities, staffing, services and activities provided. According to the Guidelines, all accommodation actors were asked to submit their proposals together with an integrated project implementation plan in order to apply for funding. As stipulated, funding for all accommodation facilities for unaccompanied minors is provided by the Asylum, Integration and Migration Fund, supervised and monitored by the Greek State (Special Coordination Service for the Implementation of Asylum, Integration and Migration Fund). However, disbursement of installments on behalf of Greek authorities to accommodation actors faces considerable delays putting into risk the operation of shelters.

## 1.4 Foster Care in General

Generally, Foster Care is an ongoing concept in the Greek context. Child protection state policies have been mainly focusing on institutional care rather than family care. Traditionally, institutional care has been preferred instead of family - based care, despite the fact that there is a stable legislative framework to support its implementation and even though it is recognized as a generally beneficial and suitable environment for children. However, in practice foster care is not essentially reflected in social policies

In Greece, Foster Care is related to the undertaking of the actual care of a minor by a third party in such way that the legal relationships between the minor and its biological family are not altered. The placement of a child in foster family occurs either by a contract between foster and biological parents or the child’s legal guardian, or by court decision or prosecutorial provision.

The provision of Foster care was, until recently legislatively regulated by the Law 2447/1996 and Presidential Decree 86/2009. According to the Greek Legislation, the main public actors involved for the implementation of foster care are: Juvenile Public Prosecutors and Public Social Services. Juvenile Prosecutors, as the responsible authority for the protection of minors, can issue an order regarding children’s removal from their biological environment or about the placement to a supportive and safe environment (institutional or family care). More concretely, for the issuance of a legal decision on foster care placements, public Social Services (Departments of Social Solidarity of the Public Health’s and Social Care’s Directorates and Municipality Social Services, Public Law Centers of Social Welfare for the children they have in their accommodation facilities) are required to conduct a social research and investigate the environment and the capacity of a potential family on providing fostering. Upon their screening and evaluation, potential foster families receive a “Certificate of Suitability” which is a key prerequisite for the continuation of the procedure. Public Social Services play a crucial role in the procedures and are accountable for the supervision of fostering with house visits, writing of reports to the legal authorities.

Other public actors and services related with Foster Care are:

- National Center of Social Solidarity which is responsible for the National Registry of Foster Families.
- Children hospitals, Public Nursery homes and the Departments of Social Care of Prefectures and Municipalities.

On the 16<sup>th</sup> of May 2018, the new legislation for the promotion of Foster Care and Adoption<sup>3</sup> ('Measures on the promotion of Foster Care and Adoption Institutions plus other provisions', 4538/2018 ) in Greece was voted by the Hellenic Parliament. The new law introduces essential developments regarding foster care such as the provision of National Registries for children candidate and approved families kept by EKKA. More concretely, the children that are accommodated in Child Protection Foundations and are expected to be placed in Foster families should be obligatorily registered in the said registry while registries of potential and approved foster parents will be maintained as well. Generally, the new legislation is considered as an opportunity for the further development of foster care as its main target is to provide access to all children in need. However, at the moment legislation is only partially implemented in some aspects of Foster Care while the arrangements for its overall implementations are yet to be defined.

## 1.5 Foster Care for unaccompanied children

Currently, there is neither a specific legislative provision nor a concrete national strategy for the implementation of a foster care plan to third country national unaccompanied children cases, therefore placements are regulated through the current legislation which applies for Greek national children. Up to 2015, there were only limited cases of placements of UASCs in foster families. However, there were cases of children living atypically with their relatives or family acquaintances but without being registered through the national procedures. In September 2015, a pilot foster care scheme was introduced by METAdrasi NGO for the temporary accommodation of unaccompanied children in foster families. The project is currently carried out in close collaboration with state social services and METAdrasi's Guardianship Network and implemented at the basis of the current legal framework and regulations. METAdrasi has developed a registry of families interested in housing unaccompanied children, offering 4 types of fostering while all placements are authorized by the Juvenile Public Prosecutor. It has to be highlighted that for the design and implementation of the project METAdrasi was based on the exchange of know – how with other EU Member – States (The Netherlands, Belgium and France) with long tradition and culture on Foster Care. So far, this project is the only specialised Foster Care provision for unaccompanied children in Greece.

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<sup>3</sup> Law 4538/2018, Government Gazette, 85/A/16-5-2018, available in Greek at <https://www.e-nomothesia.gr/oikogeneia/nomos-4538-2018-phek-85a-16-5-2018.html>

## 1.6 Good practices

The good practices in the Greek context are linked with METAdrasi's scope of action. Initially, the target was set mainly to the placements of children in families of similar ethnic background but since 2016 the recruitment plan was oriented in approaching Greek native families.

The members and the social workers of the program have managed to establish effective coordination protocols with all competent Public services in order to both promote the concept of Foster Care and facilitate the relating procedures.

It has to be stressed that the program has been specifically designed and adjusted to the needs of third country nationals unaccompanied children (asylum applicants in Greece or family reunification applicants) offering 4 types of fostering, starting from short – term placements for legal cases concerning Family Reunification while during 2018 long – term fostering was adopted for asylum seeking children in Greece. The two other types of fostering concern emergency placements for medical reasons and kinship foster care placements of children in families of relatives.

## 1.7 Challenges

Two major issues can be discussed as significant challenges regarding the operation of Foster Care in the Greek context.

First of all, it has to be highlighted that generally, public awareness on the topic of Foster Care is limited. There is a gap of knowledge leading to frequent misunderstandings about the concept of family care services regarding foster parents' role, obligations and legal rights. This is mainly attributed to the fact that Greece has a longstanding culture in institutional care and therefore there is not deinstitutionalization model yet. Moreover, the fact that the process of adoption is challenging, influences the implementation of Foster Care as families consider fostering as an alternative form of adopting children which may result to confusions, frustration and disappointment. Therefore, potential foster families tend to apply for long – term fostering which leads to complications for a great number of children that are about to be reunified with their relatives and thus, their needs apply to short – term placements.

Under these circumstances, it is observed that the lack of families' interest to apply for fostering combined with the high number of unaccompanied children, leads to a limited variety of matching options and pressure for social workers.

Potential Foster families' expectations regarding the composition of the target population pose an additional challenge. It is observed that a considerable majority of candidate foster parents set specific age, gender and origin criteria, expressing their interest for hosting minors of a younger age originating from countries whose culture is not so much differentiated compared to Greece (Syria, Iraq). On the contrary, as described in the dashboard, currently the unaccompanied children's profile mostly comprises teenage boys stemming from Afghanistan, Pakistan and African countries. Taking into consideration, both the limited expression of interest and specific expectations, it is understandable that recruitment of potential foster parents is deemed quite challenging.

In addition, a system of clear coordination mechanisms between Public and private stakeholders is considered to be essential for the further improvement and facilitation of procedures.

## 2. Recruiting families

The approach and recruitment of candidate foster families is an issue that has multiple aspects as generally there is limited knowledge of the concept of Foster care in Greece.

The recruitment approach of appropriate foster families followed by METAdrasi is matched at a large extent with the methodology provided at ALFACA manual, however there are points of differentiation which concern practices that cannot be applied in the current Greek context. In general, recruitment methods are connected with the fundamental parameters that are taken into consideration for each candidate foster family (motivation, family dynamics, knowledge of foster care) and the particularities and cultural diversity of unaccompanied minors (sensitivity, physical and mental health etc.).

### 2.1 How to recruit

The practice which is currently applied for the recruitment of Greek potential foster families is the call for attendance at the information and orientation sessions which are organized at METAdrasi's premises. During the sessions the main target is to bring the system of foster care into participants' attention and provide them with a clearer insight about the legislative context, the procedural steps and children's needs in order for them to decide at a later stage on whether they wish or not to apply. These sessions take place at a regular basis, scheduled twice per month at fixed days and timetables so as for the interested families to have the opportunity of participation.

#### 2.1.1 Ways of Recruitment

##### *Flyers/Leaflets*

Recruitment leaflets are not widely distributed to other collaborating actors but at the time being are only provided to individuals that have initially expressed their interest in knowing more about fostering.

##### *Advertisements*

Advertising as a method of recruitment has not been used as it is regarded as a less focused way of attracting specific families. The reasoning for this choice is that by using advertisements there is a risk of sensitization of a large number of a non-targeted audience which has been initially attracted mostly due to emotional motives rather than by a deliberate decision. Additionally, it is considered that the use of advertising to a wide audience may lead to an increased but more superficial interest which can gradually weaken and therefore may result to the waste of significant time invested by the social workers.

##### *Information meeting*

Efforts have been made for the arrangement of information meetings in schools, by approaching school directors and parents' communities.

##### *Social Media*

Recruitment via social media is considered as a perfect match with ALFACA manual as the message can be transmitted to more targeted audiences that belong to a specific environment. With the use of digital campaigns and by selecting specific parameters, the range and the possible reach of the message is precisely defined to groups of people that have a digital profile that would possibly react positively in express their interests for knowing more

about foster care program. Moreover, is essential to add that, as suggested in the manual, the digital campaign refers to the organization's website and a specific application form.

*Contact meetings for sharing information on taking care of unaccompanied children:*

As described in the manual, all families that foster or have fostered a child are asked by the professionals to exercise the snowball methodology in order to spread the program to their family or friend networks in order to recruit and refer other potential families.

Suggestion for Good practice

A suggestion would be the invitation of families that have concluded fostering into the initial information sessions, so as to share their experiences and views with other participants. This mixed participation could be of significant assistance for the families who wish to submit their application for hosting a child as they would become acquainted with first-hand experience.

## 2.2 Which families to recruit

### 2.2.1 Recruiting relatives

As described at ALFACA manual, the recruitment of relatives for kinship foster care is considered by professionals as the first option to recruit. If a family of relatives is located in Greece, professionals proceed to the investigation and assessment of their capacity and determination to undertake the child's care. In practice, there are examples of recruitment of relatives which eventually led to kinship foster care, however there are plenty cases that candidate kinship foster families are not preferred as an option due to the fact that they do not meet specific safety requirements for the child (housing, living conditions, employment or commitment). In such cases, the possibility of placement to non – kinship family is examined simultaneously with the upholding and promotion of the relationship between the child and relatives. In most of cases in Greece, children's relatives are asylum seekers or refugees themselves with very limited own resources to rely on. Their resources and conditions of living are based on the provisions of civil society actors or NGOs pending on funding, therefore their economic autonomy is questionable.

### 2.2.2 Recruiting families of a common ethnic or migratory background

The recruitment of ethnic reception families or families with migratory background has proven to be quite challenging in the Greek context. More concretely, established communities of the country of children's origin, face significant obstacles in terms of labor market opportunities, access to social care, legal status or housing. Therefore, their current status may be considered as a deterring factor for recruitment as it is not deemed that they fulfill basic criteria of a secure child environment.

### 2.2.3 Using Greek native families

In Greece, the main focus of placement concerns Greek native families. This strategy was preferred as after the refugee crisis in 2015, Greek people were heavily sensitized and expressed their interest to assist by any means. Additionally, it is believed that placements in native families apart from being the only viable option would add more to children's integration into the Greek society and could be beneficial for their development in terms of education, safety, integration and standard of living.

#### 2.2.4 Recruiting for a specific match

In reference to the matching of children to suitable families for a concrete match, our approach coincides with the instructions of ALFACA manual, as indeed, children's needs and profile determine the choice of the family. For instance, a family living in the countryside or to a non – urban area would have never been recruited if it was to foster a child with serious health issue due to the limited proximity to a hospital.

## 3. Screening Families

### 3.1 Who and when to screen

As mentioned in the manual, in all European countries, the law requires foster parents to go through a procedure of investigation in order to receive a “certificate of good conduct”.

In the Greek context, the procedure of investigation of foster families does not differ from the European practice, as every family that submits an application for fostering is evaluated by professionals of state social services of the prefecture they reside (kindly refer to section 1.4). Upon their evaluation, a “certificate of suitability” is issued from the abovementioned public institution. The steps taken until the screening procedure is completed, include individual sessions with each person and sessions as a couple with a public social worker and at a later stage a house visit is arranged in order for their living conditions to be assessed. In accordance with the manual, during the evaluation procedure families are investigated on conditions of safety, level of parenthood, commitment and family situation. Furthermore, the possibility of other risk factors such as the exposure of the child in domestic violence and child abuse circumstances is also investigated. It is noteworthy, that for the submission of foster application to METAdrasi, candidate foster parents are required to present the “certificate of suitability” by a public institution.

It is to highlight, that once the “certificate of suitability” is issued and an application to METAdrasi is submitted, a number of sessions are initiated with METAdrasi's professionals (social worker and psychologist) in order for their capability to take care of an unaccompanied child to be ascertained. The procedure is based both on their suitability and their skills to meet the needs of a child of different culture.

#### *Suggestion/adaptation point*

According to the Greek legislation the abovementioned procedure of screening could not be processed in a different way, however it could be considered that the collaboration and case management of each family should be handled by a single actor/institution in order to avoid overlapping. Experience has shown that candidate foster families often express a sense of confusion and anxiety due to the different authorized bodies involved (public and private) in the screening and evaluation procedures. As an outcome, roles and persons of reference could be misinterpreted.

#### 3.1.1 Screening related families

The application of the manual is implemented at a large extent for the screening procedure of related families. During investigation sessions, special attention is given to the possibility of continuity of parenting situation, the level of sensitivity and the quality of bond between the child and the carer and the responsiveness of the child in this relationship. A common

observation with that of the manual is that in the majority of cases, relatives neither have recovered from their own expatriation nor are being sufficiently incorporated into the Greek context or even express a willingness to do so as they may consider Greece as transit – country. Taking into consideration the current situation of refugees and asylum seekers in Greece, in terms of their status, level of autonomy and integration it is understandable that kinship placements can be quite demanding (lack of housing, accommodation in camps, financial resources etc.)

A good practice, before the commencement of the screening, which is not mentioned in the manual but in Greece is implemented in cases of kinship foster care, is the gathering of documents from both the child and its relatives so that the existence of bond to be certified. If the latter is not confirmed through official documentation, then a DNA testing could be conducted. Such practices are done as a safety net, provided that there have been many cases of candidates that did not belong to children’s environment. Moreover, it is to mention that the approval of the biological environment of the child is a basic prerequisite for proceeding into kinship foster placements.

### 3.1.2 Screening non – related families

Concerning the screening of non – related families, the procedures followed are in accordance with the Greek law on Foster Care. The screening of families includes, as in the manual, meetings with basic questions in order to assess families’ attitude towards fostering. During the meetings, professionals fill the form of assessment.

In reference to the final procedural steps before placement, the Greek legal framework stipulates the submission of the certificate of suitability together with the advisory report of a Private law body (in this case METAdrasi) to the Juvenile Public Prosecutor’ office, which is the state authority to decide on the placement or not of a child to a family.

## 3.2 How to screen

The Dutch screening tool applies almost in total in the context of Greek families. All the questions are considered useful in the sense that significant information is extracted and used for the assessment. However, there are few differentiation points below in comparison with the Dutch screening progress:

- *Application:*

Contrary to the manual, applications are processed only once all the required documentation is submitted. Candidate foster parents are meticulously informed for all the necessary documents, procedural steps and foster care in person, during the orientation and information meetings.

- *First Intake:*

The first meeting of the family with METAdrasi’s social worker has a lot in common with the practices in the manual, with the only differentiation that during the first intake is conducted only with candidate foster parents and not all the family members. Further meetings with members of the family environment (biological children, relatives) that will be parts of foster care, are scheduled at a later stage.

- *Second meeting: Screening*

During these meetings, similarly to manual’s practices, issues and questions emerging from previous meetings are discussed. Focus is given on issues regarding cultural sensitivity

and ethnic diversity, attitude towards the biological environment of the child, stance on future separation with the child and family members' role distribution.

- *Third meeting:*

On the contrary with the manual, the report is neither discussed nor revealed to the family.

## 4. Matching and Placement

Similarly, to the ALFACA manual, the child's profile characteristics (religious background, family factors and family composition, absence of biological parents) as also other factors that may play a key role are taken into account during the matching procedure. In addition, a stable objective person (social worker) who is an expert in fostering is also involved.

Commitment:

During the procedure before placement, as described in the manual, efforts are made to ensure the commitment of the child, of the foster parents and of the biological parents irrespective their place of residence. Their expectations are assessed and processed in a way that become realistic. It has been observed that the expectations of foster parents mainly regard:

- The child's level of integration into their family schedule and its cooperation according to house rules.
- The gender and age of the child. So far, experience has shown that families tend to express their preference towards girls of a minor age.
- The nationality of the child. There is a clear expectation on children from Syria.
- Duration of placement. Long - term placements of children are expected instead of short – term placements.
- Expectations regarding the skills of the child to learn the language and integrate into the Greek context.

Social workers work closely on smoothing these expectations, through discussion and explanation providing significant information about the target group's age and gender composition, cultural background and legal status.

### 4.1 Matching

During the stage of matching, the child's profile is considered the compass in order to ascertain how and which family would respond adequately to its needs and practical matters respecting at the same time the child's personality.

It is noteworthy, that in the Greek context, matching is a procedure in which all the professionals of METAdrasi's foster care program are involved (social workers, psychologist, lawyer) while it is based on the guardian's comprehensive report on the child's social record. METAdrasi has developed a method based on the ALFACA Model of matching on variables.

The variables examined are similar to the ones described at the manual:

- History record and social and emotional development of the child.
- Level of acceptance and nurturing skills of foster parents.
- Future plans of the child and its biological family.
- Sufficient knowledge regarding child's daily schedule and needs compared to foster parents' daily schedule.

### 4.1.1 Child Factors in General

The information provided in the manual is considered as perfect match with what is followed in the Greek context. All the factors should coincide with the foster family's capabilities in providing actual care to the child.

### 4.1.2 Foster family factors in general

The information provided in the manual is considered as perfect match with what is followed in the Greek context.

### 4.1.3 Kinship foster care

During the matching procedure, professionals focus on the level relatives can undertake the role of parent, set limits and offer a secure environment in terms of living conditions and sustainability.

### 4.1.4 Presenting the child to the foster family

The procedures followed are based on the manual and therefore they are much alike.

### 4.1.5 Try out process

In the Greek context, the try – out process varies depending on the case of each child but is similar to the ALFACA manual. A practice that is followed by METAdrasi in Greece, when feasible, is the gradual contact and acquaintance of the child with the family. Initially, the meeting takes place in a more casual environment having the character of a short walk with the discrete presence of the social worker. Whenever, the involved parties feel comfortable regarding the relationship that is being created, the placement can proceed.

Of course, for the above-mentioned procedure to take place and the duration of this stage, the factor of the current residence of the child should be taken into consideration. For example, if a child resides in a camp, the steps may be briefer. If the child lives at a shelter then, there is much greater flexibility and time available for the gradual placement of the child into the family.

## 4.2 Placement

The placement is always prepared in a child centered way.

A good practice described in the ALFACA manual and could be quite helpful during this stage is the undertaking of specific roles by the child and the family to arrange all the practical matters in a way that would facilitate the smooth adaptation of the child into the new environment.

### 4.2.1 Evaluation

Once fostering starts, the professionals contact the family at a regular basis in order for potential/arising issues to be handled and addressed properly at an early stage. During the first days, METAdrasi's professionals are available by phone or physical presence for any matter might occur. The use of interpretation services when needed is guaranteed.

The stage of evaluation is differentiated from the ALFACA manual, as the social workers are in everyday contact with the foster parents and several house visits might be arranged during the first months of placement.

#### 4.2.2 Guidance for the child and the reception family

In the Greek context, the supervision of the foster family is not done by the same professional. Both METAdrasi's social worker and a social worker of the prefecture social service are responsible for guiding and supervising with a differentiated point of focus. The first concentrates on the supervision of foster parents to respond to the needs of a child from a different culture while the latter focuses mainly towards their capacity to perform their parental role.