



# SEPARATED CHILDREN

AN ORAC OVERVIEW

EMN Ireland-UNHCR Ireland Conference

“Protection of Unaccompanied Minors and Separated Children in  
Ireland and Europe”

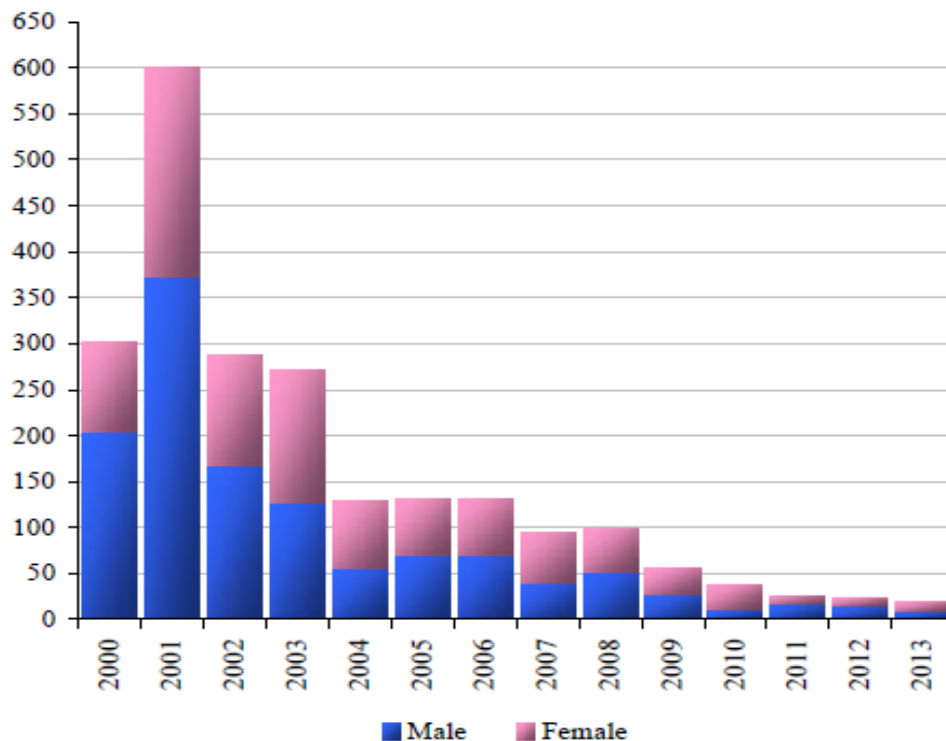
27 November 2014

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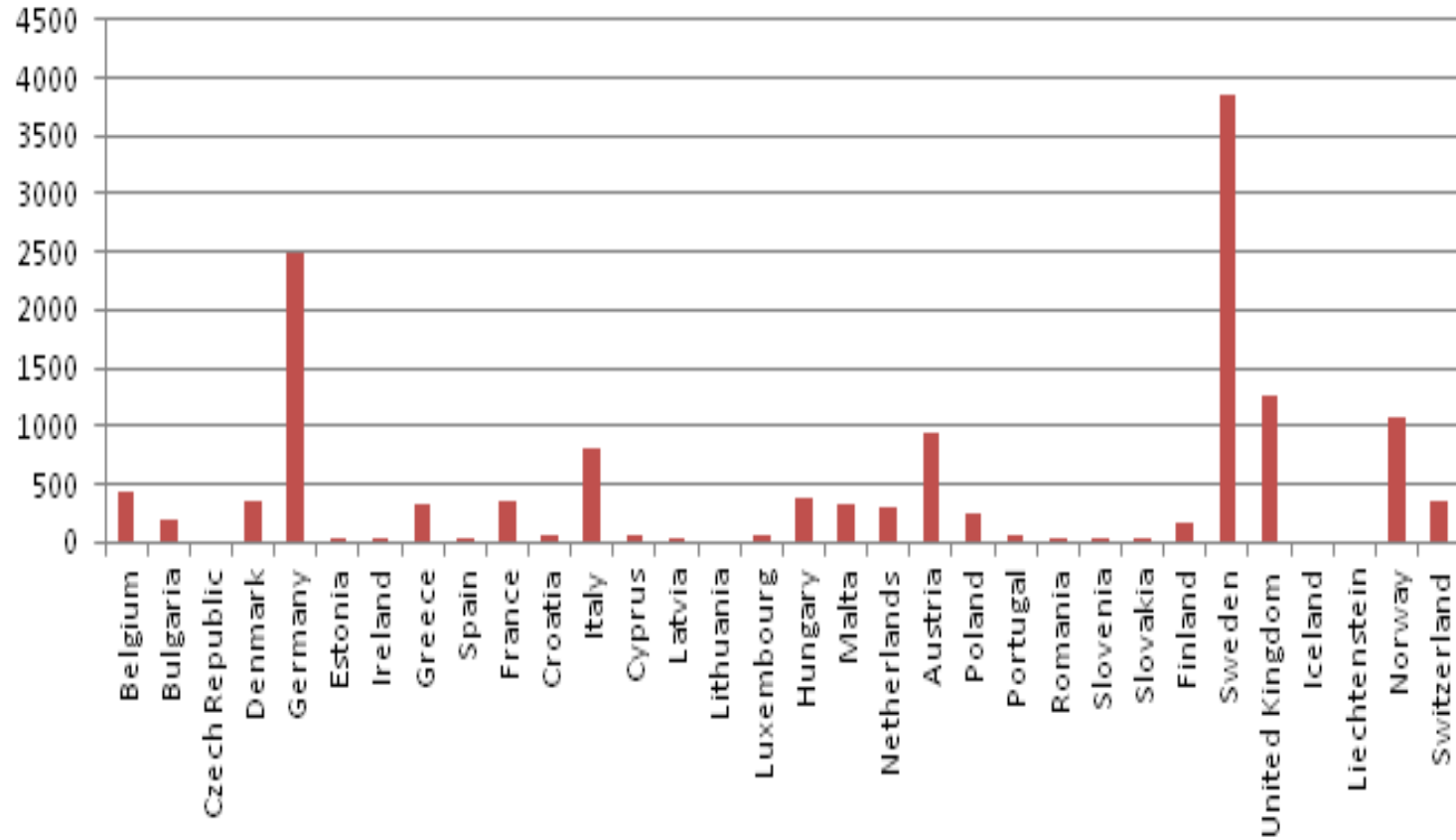
# SEPARATED CHILDREN SOME STATISTICS

Table 9. Applications from unaccompanied minors, 2000 to 2013 by gender

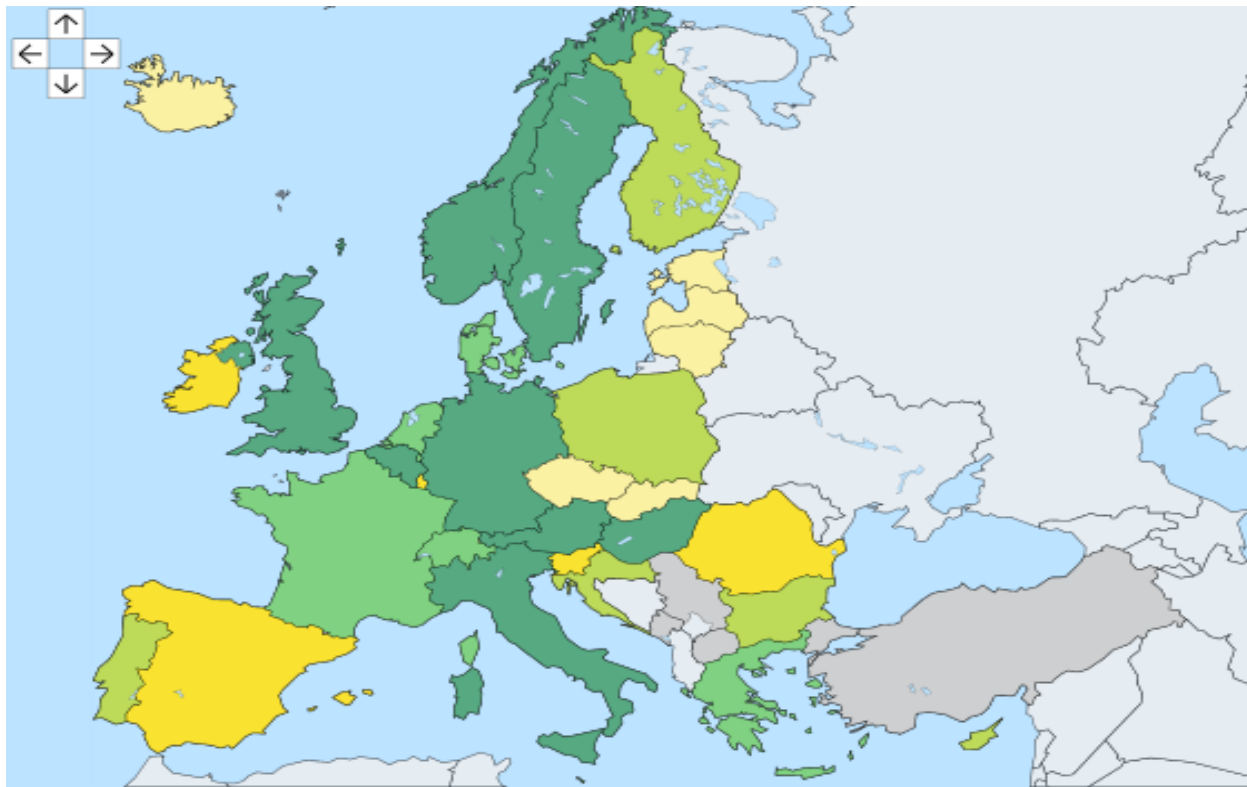


Year	Male	Female	Total	Male to Female ratio
2000	205	97	302	2.1
2001	373	227	600	1.6
2002	167	121	288	1.4
2003	127	144	271	0.9
2004	56	72	128	0.8
2005	71	60	131	1.2
2006	70	61	131	1.1
2007	39	55	94	0.7
2008	51	47	98	1.1
2009	28	28	56	1.0
2010	12	25	37	0.5
2011	17	9	26	1.9
2012	16	7	23	2.3
2013	10	10	20	1.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,242</b>	<b>963</b>	<b>2,205</b>	<b>1.3</b>

# EUROSTAT UNACCOMPANIED MINORS 2013



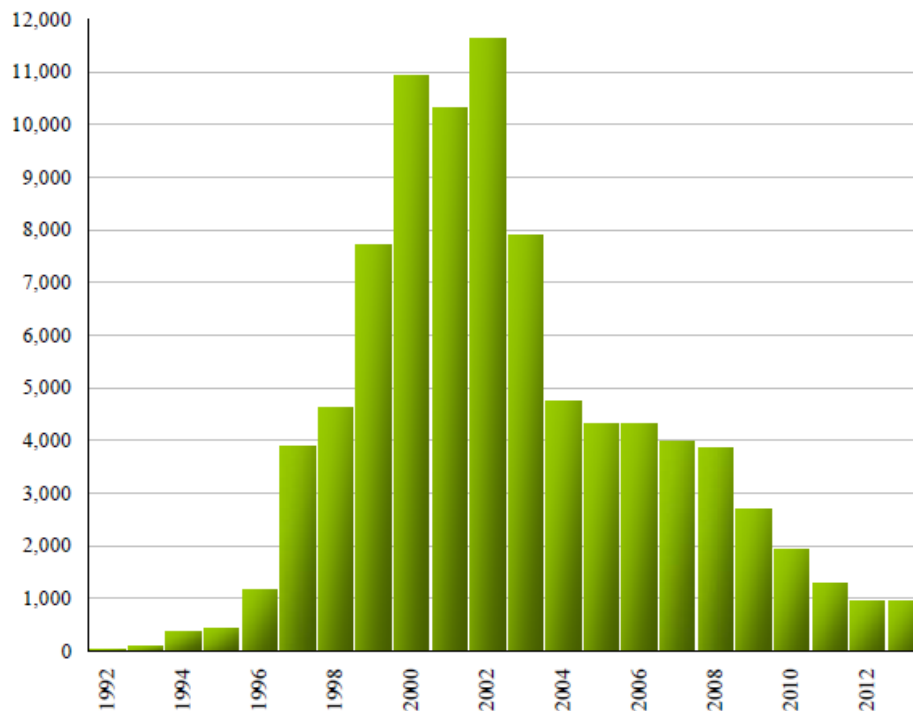
# EUROSTAT UNACCOMPANIED MINORS 2013



0 to 5	7
5 to 45	5
45 to 255	6
255 to 365	6
365 to 3,850	8

# ADDITIONAL STATISTICS

Number of applications per year from 1992 to 2013



Year	Applications	Change on previous year (%)
1992	39	-
1993	91	133.3
1994	362	297.8
1995	424	17.1
1996	1,179	178.1
1997	3,883	229.3
1998	4,626	19.1
1999	7,724	67.0
2000	10,938	41.6
2001	10,325	-5.6
2002	11,634	12.7
2003	7,900	-32.1
2004	4,766	-39.7
2005	4,323	-9.3
2006	4,314	-0.2
2007	3,985	-7.6
2008	3,866	-3.0
2009	2,689	-30.4
2010	1,939	-27.9
2011	1,290	-33.5
2012	956	-25.9
2013	946	-1.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>88,199</b>	



# FIRST CONTACT ORAC



Section 8(5) (a) of the Refugee Act provides that, where it appears to an authorised officer of the Commissioner or to an Immigration Officer that a person who has arrived in the State is under the age of 18 years, that child must be referred to the Child & Family Agency (TUSLA) which will then decide whether or not it is in the best interest of the child to make an application for asylum on their behalf.



# WHAT NEXT

In the event that an application is made by TUSLA, on behalf of the child, a TUSLA representative plus a legal representative from the Refugee Legal Service (RLS) then assists the minor throughout the asylum process.





# ORAC CORE PRINCIPLES

- Best Interest of Child.
- Non-Discrimination.
- Right to Participate.
- Interpretation.
- Confidentiality.
- Inter-organisational Co-operation.
- Staff Training.

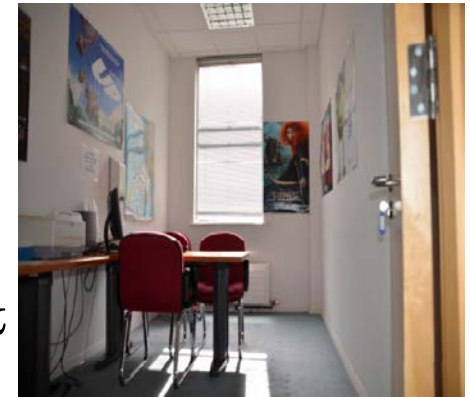






## SEPARATED CHILDREN PROCEDURES ORAC

- Initial Section 8 interview by appointment.
- Accompanied by TUSLA representative and an RLS legal representative where possible.
- Child friendly environment away from main Reception area.
- Interpreter if required.
- Extra time to get Questionnaire back & Statement of claim.





# SEPARATED CHILDREN PROCEDURES ORAC

- Substantive Section 11 interview.
- Child friendly language.
- Provision of additional breaks.
- Child friendly interview rooms.
- The number of persons allowed to attend the interview with a child will also be considered and be determined by the ORAC.
- The overall approach taken is designed to put the child at ease and to facilitate their comfortable participation in the interview process.





# SEPARATED CHILDREN BEST PRACTICE

- Reduce anxiety
- Warm up comments (establishing contact)
- Use calm and friendly voice
- Simple, non jargon, language
- Remind the child of the purpose of the interview
- Remind the child to tell their story in their own time
- Begin with easy questions, leave issues of potential credibility to the end.





# SEPARATED CHILDREN TRAINING

- Inter Agency approach
  - ORAC
  - RLS
  - TUSLA
  - RAT
- UNHCR facilitated.
- International Experts.
- EASO module in house training.





## SEPARATED CHILDREN CHALLENGES

- Age determinations or age assessments.
- Child Protection issues.





## SEPARATED CHILDREN SOME STATISTICS

- Applications from unaccompanied minors, amounting to 20 represented 2.1% of the total in 2013 – High 600+ in 2002.
- Recommendations were issued within an average processing time of 24.9 weeks except for those delayed for medical or other compelling reasons.
- So far in 2014 number is 18 (end September).
- SP process. Prioritisation.





**THANK YOU**