

Research project:

Integration paths and adolescent development of unaccompanied refugee minors in institutional youth care facilities (AUF)

Funded by the Heidehof Foundation (**Heidehof-Stiftung**)

The primary objective of the project is to explore the adolescent spaces of opportunity, integration paths and developmental processes of unaccompanied refugee minors in promotion of their integration.

Germany has seen an influx in the number of unaccompanied refugee minors arriving in recent years. Correspondingly, challenges have increased, especially for the institutional youth care facilities in which they are housed, in meeting needs for age and situation appropriate assistance and support of the adolescents with oftentimes troubled pasts.

This project will analyze and reconstruct the interplay of biographically acquired internal resources and external pressures in the context of flight, asylum seeking, and/or orientation into the new society with a focus on the developmental processes, resources, barriers, and integration paths of these adolescents. The aim is to define structural and personal factors which act in support of or in obstruction to their integration process and productive psychosocial development. The results will lead to recommendations for the practical work with unaccompanied refugee minors.

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