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3. Allocation

Introductory remarks

Without prejudice to the existence of national dispersal systems regulating the equal distribution of unaccompanied children across the territory of MS, the standards and indicators included in this chapter should be read and implemented fully in line with the principle of the best interests of the child and family unity as well as respect for the special reception needs unaccompanied children might have.

Compliance with these principles is not only relevant upon entry into the reception system but also at the moment of reallocating or transferring unaccompanied children to different housing. Therefore, in line with Article 24(3) RCD, transferring unaccompanied children should be limited to a minimum and should only occur when in the child's best interests.

In addition to collective, small-scale and mainstream housing, foster care and individual housing should also be an option when allocating accommodation for unaccompanied children, if considered to be in line with the best interests of the child and individual special needs.

Initial and comprehensive assessments (at any time of housing) should be made in the best interests of the child (e.g. accommodation with spouse or family member). An initial assessment should take place on arrival in order to find the best possible housing for unaccompanied children. Comprehensive assessments are ongoing, multidisciplinary and should be regularly attended.

Allocation and re-allocation of unaccompanied children	
Initial assessment on arrival	**Regular, comprehensive and multidisciplinary assessment at all times of reception**
Legal references – Allocation	
• Article 18 RCD: Modalities for material reception conditions • Article 24 RCD: Unaccompanied minors	

