



Children for children wellbeing:
strengthening National Child Care System to guarantee equal rights for all children
European Union's Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme (2014-2020)
Agreement number: 785676 – REC-RCHI-PROF-AG-2017
Capacity-building in the area of rights of the child¹

The Questionnaire of Analysis and monitoring Good Practices in Sheltered Communities 5th Area Domestic climate

5th Area – Domestic climate

One of the basic aspects in the framework of the rights to be guaranteed to the minor, even within the community, is related to the right to have a family.

In this sense, also on the basis of the Italian experience, where about 70% of minors in the community return to their families at the end of their stay, we must distinguish the right to a family in:

- The opportunity not to lose, where family conditions allow it, the contact with the family of origin and to build with it the minor's growth and maturation path. The opportunity to maintain contact with the family of origin and to build with it the child's growth and development pathway;
- The possibility of looking for a foster family or a support family, during the period spent in the community, that will allow the minor who cannot return to his/her family, or in the case of MSNs, to experience and enjoy the family climate and its dynamics;

This aspect channels itself extremely well into the child's growth process and its support towards a path of self-sufficiency.

So, it was considered useful to explore the presence of internal procedures within the community that support this view and to verify, based on the way they are implemented, the attention and commitment to best practices.

The first aspect to be examined concerns the participation of the family of origin in the interviews with the minor and with the team of reference. In this case, it is worth remembering that in some cases, it is not possible to interact with the family of origin, especially when the minor arrives without a family (UFM) or when the minor is removed from the family of origin because the minimum conditions of protection and care are not respected. In this case, it is clear that the family of origin cannot be involved in the interviews, and this is the case on which the answers linked to the no mode are channeled.

Another aspect concerns the search for a foster family. In this case, too, the modalities concerned the lack of research, the will to practice this activity but not always being able to make it explicit, or the will to always try, at least for each minor. The purpose of this question is to understand the predisposition of the communities to structure a family path for the minor that can give him/her back a dimension closer to the family one.

Another useful element in recomposing the family atmosphere is the use of representatives such as the support family. As in the case of the search for a foster family, also for the support family, the methods of response vary from the non-use of the service to the carrying out of an attempt for each minor.



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In order to concretely support these actions, the interaction with other institutions, such as the foster care center, represents an added value to the action of the communities. In this case, the analysis aims at verifying if this relationship is limited to the activation of simple structured and formal relationships, or if there are closer collaboration relationships up to the development of real periodical meetings aimed at concretely supporting the community action.

In conclusion, within the scope of the best practices selected, the participation of the minor in the household management represents an added value for the development of competences linked to autonomy. In this case, too, the survey aims at identifying the level at which the action of the communities aims at involving the minor in the activities. Also in this case, the range goes from a low level of involvement, to a higher level of involvement through specific activities, up to a full involvement in all activities, which represents, in this case, the best methodology to prepare the minor for full autonomy outside the community.

First evidences

In relation to the data that emerged and the responses provided by the Residential Communities involved in the screening process for the emergence of best practices in relation to the fifth area, that of the family environment, this is the information that emerges from an initial analysis:

1. In 55% of cases, interviews are conducted with the family of origin. The survey also registers 35% negative responses. As specified previously, this method includes all those situations in which it is impossible to involve the family. We are talking about minors removed from their homes as a result of guardianship or in the case of UFM's. Only in 10% of cases, the interviews take place between the family and the team without the minor;
2. Almost 45% of the interviewed communities declare that they make an effort to find a foster family at least once for each minor present. Almost 35% state that even though this procedure was foreseen, it was not always possible to reach this type of support, while, finally, 20% state that they do not foresee this type of activity;
3. In terms of seeking a supportive family, the dynamic is more complex and jagged. In fact, all modes of response are populated to the same extent, and therefore the communities interviewed are equally divided between not using the support family, wanting to access this type of support but not being able to do it all the time, and trying, at least once, for each minor, such an approach. Normally, the distribution of the answers in this way shows a movement in "random order" that suggests a situation of substantial differences among the communities, both in their approach to the topic and in the organization of the operational structure;
4. No facility makes substantial use of the support of the Foster Care Center. In fact, 55% of the facilities state that they do not have a structured and formal relationship with the Foster Care Center, while the remaining 45% have a formal collaboration relationship;
5. More significant is the action taken by communities in managing the minor in relation to his/her involvement in the activities of home care. All communities state that they fully



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involve the minor in the tasks of home care , transferring to him/her skills and attitudes useful for life outside the community.



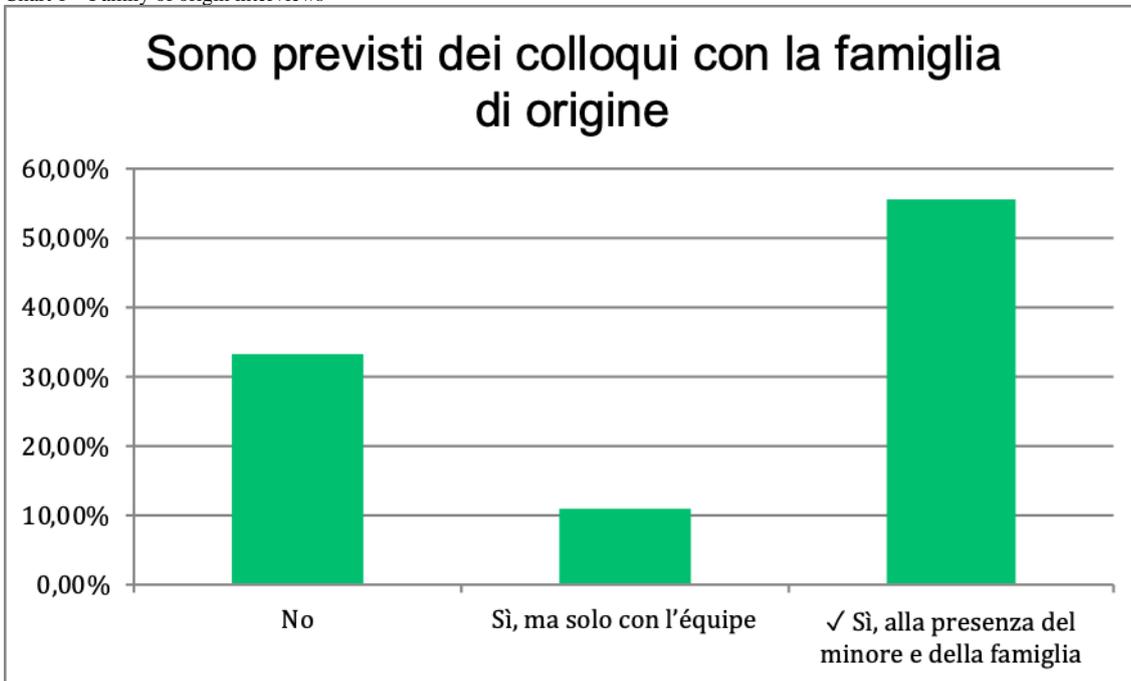
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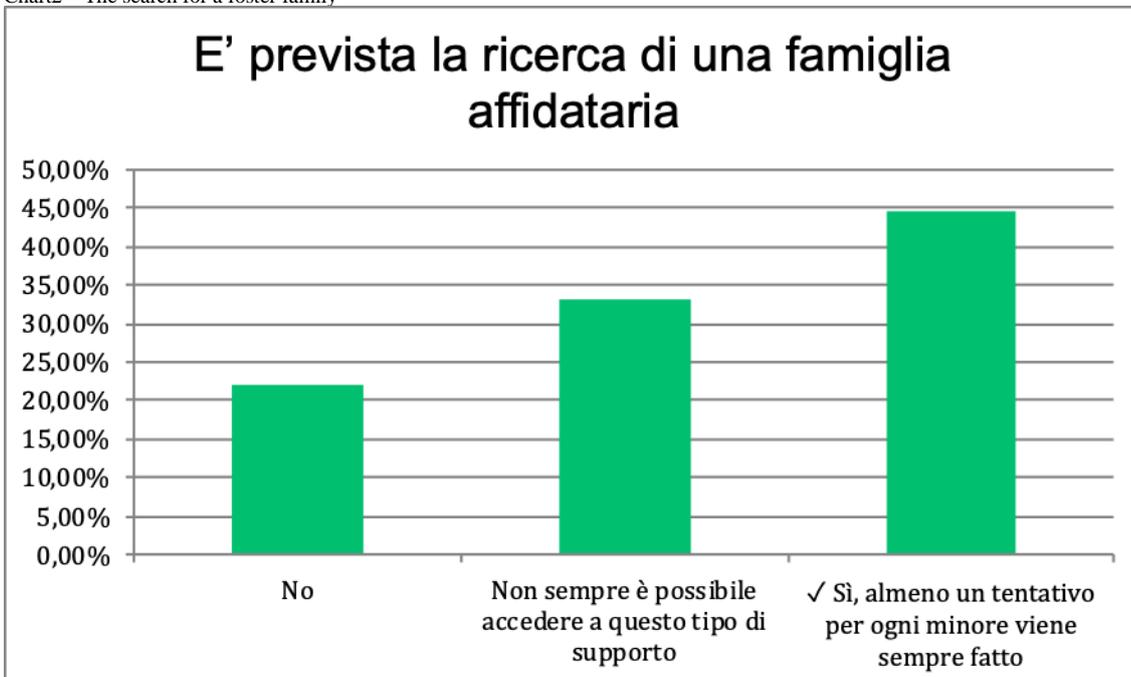
Chart 1 – Family of origin interviews



Q: Are interviews with the family of origin scheduled?

Source: Elaboration on data from the questionnaire on good practices

Chart2 – The search for a foster family



Q: Is the search for a foster family planned?

Source: Elaboration on data from the questionnaire on good practices



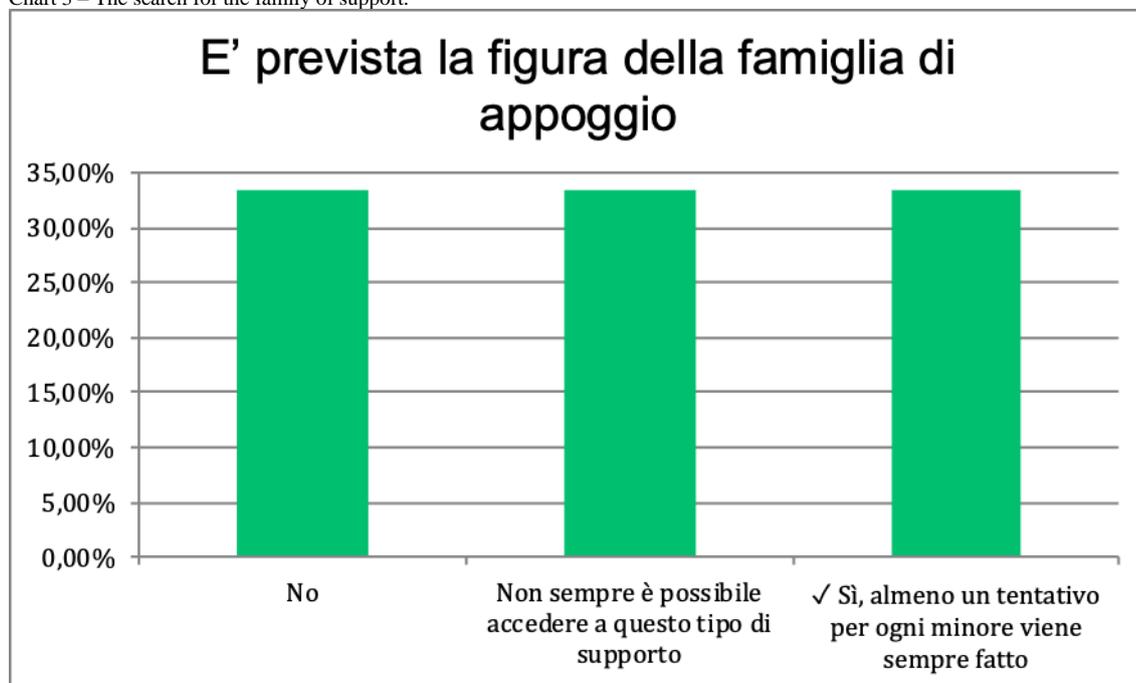
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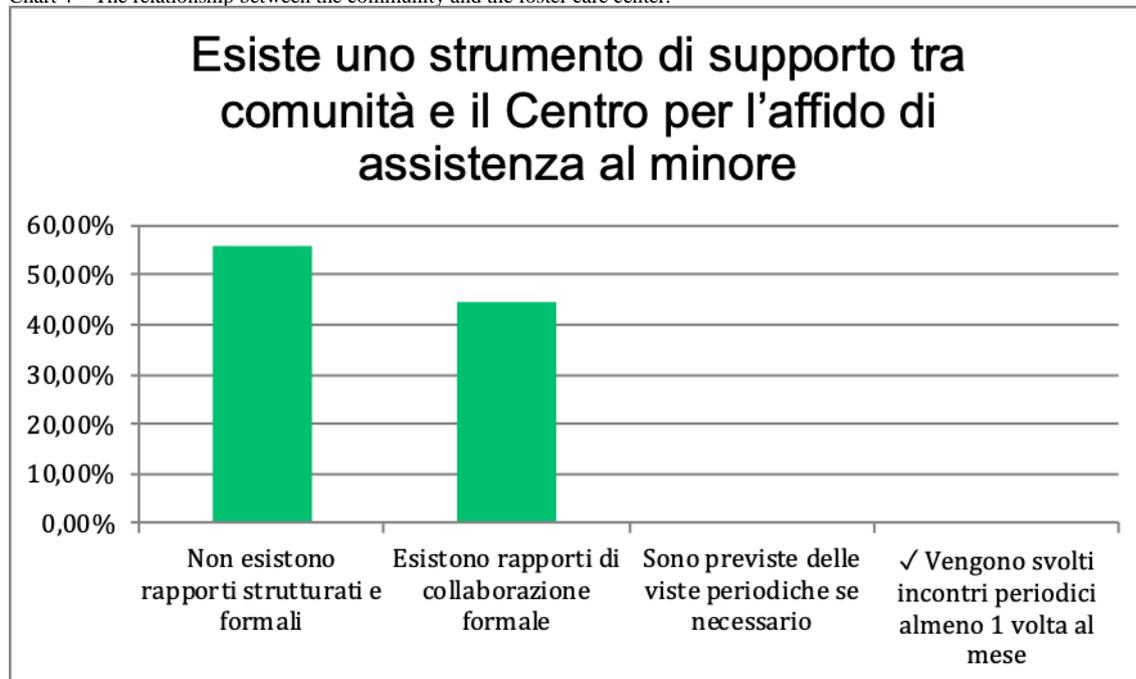
Chart 3 – The search for the family of support.



Q: Is there a support family?

Source: Elaboration on data from the questionnaire on good practices

Chart 4 – The relationship between the community and the foster care center.



Q: Is there a support facility between the community and the foster care center?

Source: Elaboration on data from the questionnaire on good practices



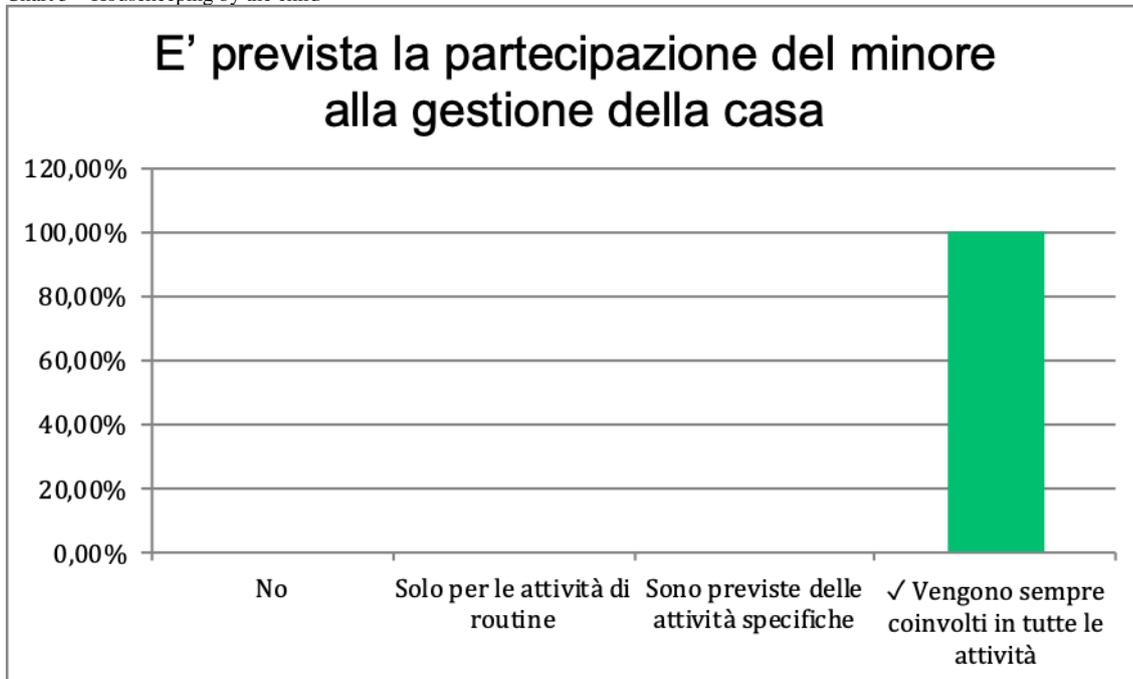
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Chart 5 – Housekeeping by the child



Q: Is the child expected to participate in the housekeeping?

Source: Elaboration on data from the questionnaire on good practices



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