In an interview with the news site FAKTI, Ivan Ivanov, Chairman of the State Agency for Refugees, presented a pilot project for alternative social services aimed at unaccompanied refugee children.

Discussing the situation of unaccompanied minors in Bulgaria, he stated that in 2014, there were 940 such children. Since 2021, this number has risen significantly, reaching 3,827 by the end of 2023. In 2020, more than 70% of all children who applied for protection were unaccompanied and separated from their families. As of 2025, Bulgaria ranks fourth among EU countries in the number of unaccompanied minors.

Source(s)

- State Agency for Refugees at the Council of Ministers | Държавната агенция за бежанците при Министерския съвет (29 July, 2025), Фокусът върху децата бежанци е сред приоритетните за ЕС, заяви председателят на Държавната агенция за бежанците пред информационния сайт ФАКТИ [The focus on refugee children is among the priorities for the EU, said the President of the State Agency for Refugees to the information site FACTS], https://aref.government.bg/en/node/937

Date of development
29.07.2025
Country
Bulgaria
Thematic area(s)
Applicants with special needs, Unaccompanied minors
Development type
Practice

© European Union Agency for Asylum, 2026. Reproduction is authorised, provided the source is acknowledged.