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# The rearing environment and well-being of returned asylum-seeking adolescents in Kosovo and Albania

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# The cycle of migration

- Pre-flight
  - Flight
  - Host country
- 
- How about after return to the country of origin?

(Bronstein & Montgomery, 2011; Fazel, Reed, Panter-Brick & Stein, 2012)

# Research questions

1. How are children faring after return in Kosovo and Albania?
2. Which factors predict their rearing environment and social-emotional well-being?

# Predictor variables

## *Procedural characteristics host country*

Stable residence permit

Return procedure

## *Child and contextual characteristics*

Age

Gender

Ethnicity and country

Living area after return

Length of stay and length since return

(Carr, 2014; Davids & Van Houte, 2008; Gladwell & Elwyn, 2012; Knaus et al., 2012; Vathi & Duci, 2015)

# Dependent variables

Social-emotional well-being:

*Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire* (SDQ; Goodman, 1997)

- Emotional problems
- Peer problems

Quality of the childrearing environment:

*Best Interests of the Child Questionnaire* (BIC-Q; Zijlstra et al., 2012; Zijlstra et al., 2013)

# Best Interests of the Child (BIC) Model

## Family: current situation

1. Adequate physical care
2. Safe direct physical environment
3. Affective atmosphere
4. Supporting, flexible childrearing structure
5. Adequate examples by parents
6. Interest

## Family: future and past

7. Continuity in upbringing conditions, future perspective

## Society: current situation

8. Safe wider physical environment
9. Respect
10. Social network
11. Education
12. Contact with peers
13. Adequate examples in society

## Society: future and past

14. Stability in life circumstances, future perspective

# Research sample

106 children in families returned from EU host countries

59 boys, 47 girls

55 Albanian, 30 Roma in Kosovo

21 Albanian in Albania

11 – 18 years old (M = 14.4 years)

Lived 2 months – 18 years in host country

On average 2.1 years returned in Kosovo or Albania



# How are children faring after return?

SDQ:

Emotional problems: 32%

Peer problems: 30%

BIC-Q:

Quality of the childrearing environment: on average 9  
conditions of sufficient quality

# Which factors predict the social-emotional well-being and living situation?

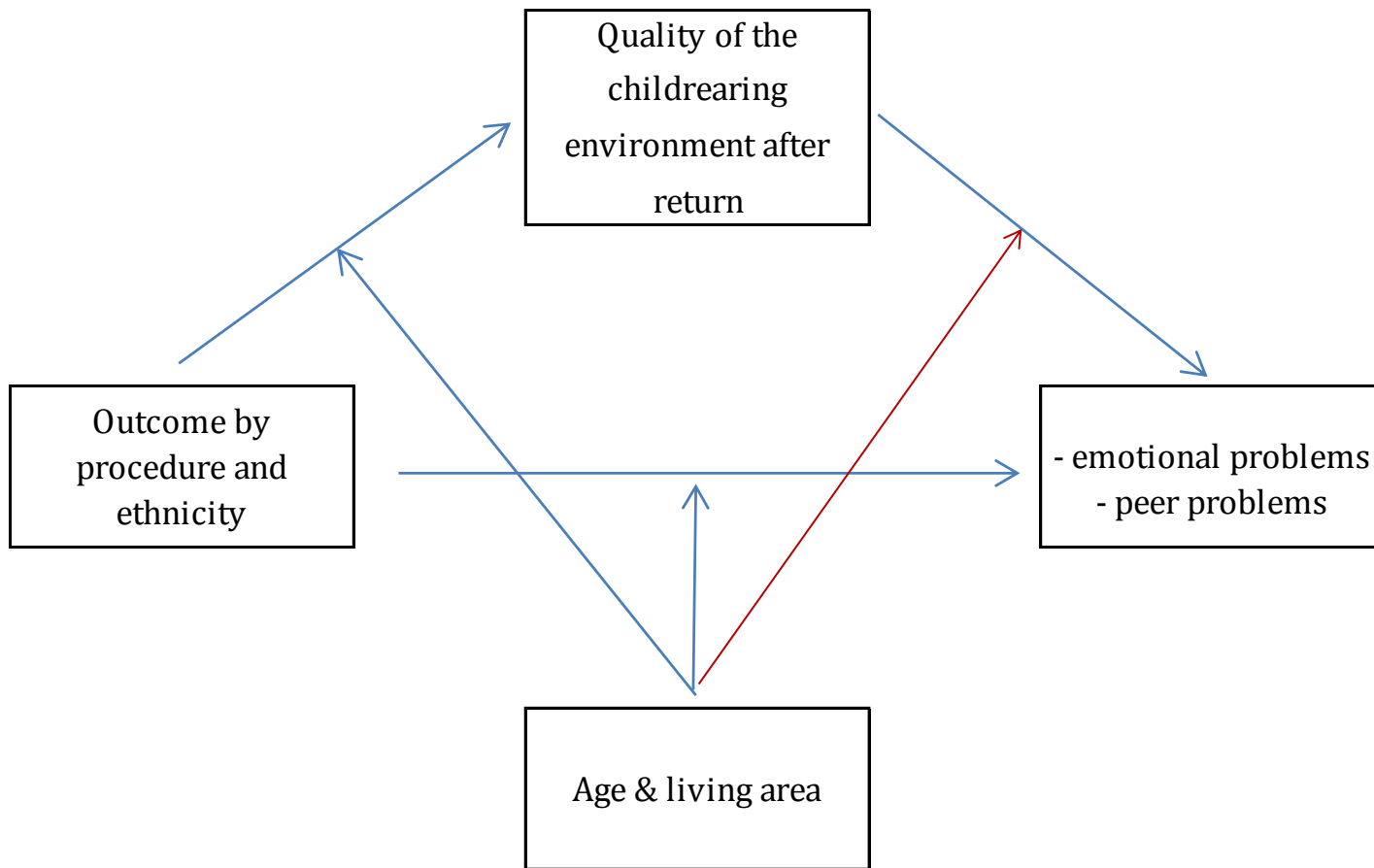
Residence permit in host country

For children without a permit: no difference regarding forced or voluntary return

Belonging to a majority or minority ethnic group

*Emotional problems:* rural living area

*Peer problems:* older adolescents



**Figure 1.** Conceptual model with mediator and moderators

# Conclusion

Procedural factors and situation of families during the stay in host countries

Child- and contextual characteristics

Need of knowledge on situation of returned asylum-seeking children

- better-informed decisions asylum procedure
- support in line with child's needs

Thank you for your attention!

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