



OPENING DOORS FOR EUROPE'S CHILDREN

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STRENGTHENING FAMILIES. ENDING INSTITUTIONAL CARE.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

CURRENTLY THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY 1500 CHILDREN IN INSTITUTIONAL CARE IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA (BiH). AROUND 900 CHILDREN ARE LIVING IN 15 PUBLIC AND PRIVATELY RUN INSTITUTIONS FOR CHILDREN WITHOUT PARENTAL CARE. MEANWHILE, THERE ARE AN ADDITIONAL 600 CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES IN SPECIALISED INSTITUTIONAL CARE FACILITIES. ALARMINGLY, MANY OF THESE CHILDREN ARE HOUSED ALONGSIDE ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES. SOME PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS ARE HOME TO MORE THAN 50 CHILDREN AT ANY ONE TIME. IT IS ESTIMATED THAT OVER 70% OF INSTITUTIONALISED CHILDREN HAVE ONE OR BOTH LIVING PARENTS.

Nearly 10% of children in institutional care are under three. Although legal provisions exist to prevent children under three being placed in institutions in some parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina, this is not the case nationwide and the practice continues to prevail due to lack of alternative care options.

Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (FBiH) and Republika Srpska (RS) (entities in BiH) have adopted relevant policies to reform the institutional care system in the past. Most recently, in 2014, FBiH adopted the Strategy for Deinstitutionalisation and Transformation of Institutions, and RS drafted the second Strategy on enhancement of social welfare for children without parental care for the period 2015-2020.

A system of foster care for children exists but it does not function effectively. There is a need to promote the service more widely and to improve the recruitment, training and support of foster carers. About 500 children are currently placed into foster care. In 2014 FBiH drafted the first ever Law on Foster Care which

was submitted for adoption, and RS passed the Book of Rules on Foster Care.

The country's alternative care system does not yet work in compliance with international standards nor with the national reforms approved. There are positive signs of change though. The NGO sector has developed models of good practice, particularly on prevention of separation, support to young adults leaving care, and improvement of fostering. Furthermore, in the past seven years two institutions in Zenica and in Zvornik have been closed and further closure projects are underway in Tuzla, Sarajevo, and Mostar.

Significantly, the Opening Doors for Europe's Children Campaign in Bosnia and Herzegovina was successful during 2014 in advocating for Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) II funds for BiH to include priority projects related to deinstitutionalisation (DI). As a direct result of our efforts, this now includes a specific priority and action plan on DI and a commitment to invest €1 500 000 to be spent on DI in the country over the period 2014- 2017.



Hope & Homes
for Children



Eurochild
Putting children at
the heart of Europe

NATIONAL CAMPAIGN COORDINATOR



Bosnia & Herzegovina

Hope & Homes for Children

HOPE AND HOMES FOR CHILDREN (HHC) HAS BEEN ACTIVE IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA (BIH) SINCE 1994. ALL HHC BIH PROGRAMMES ARE FOCUSED ON REPLACING INSTITUTIONAL CARE WITH FAMILY BASED SOLUTIONS FOR CHILDREN WITHOUT PARENTAL CARE, SUCH AS REINTEGRATION OF CHILDREN WITH THEIR BIOLOGICAL FAMILIES, LOCAL ADOPTION, FOSTERING, SUPPORTING YOUNG ADULTS LEAVING THE CARE SYSTEM AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF HIGH QUALITY RESIDENTIAL CARE IN SMALL FAMILY HOMES.

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NATIONAL PARTNERS

UNICEF BiH, Save the Children BiH, SOS Children's Village BiH, SUMERO Alliance, World Vision BiH

FACTS & FIGURES

- **NEARLY 10% OF CHILDREN IN INSTITUTIONAL CARE ARE UNDER 3**
- **OVER 50 CHILDREN PER INSTITUTION ON AVERAGE**
- **AN ESTIMATED 70% OF INSTITUTIONALISED CHILDREN HAVE ONE OR BOTH LIVING PARENTS**

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

- **€1 500 000 MORE FUNDS TO BE SPENT ON DI IN THE COUNTRY OVER THE NEXT 3 YEARS**
- **500 FEWER CHILDREN IN INSTITUTIONAL CARE**
- **400 FEWER CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES IN SPECIALISED INSTITUTIONAL CARE FACILITIES**

The Opening Doors campaign operates at EU level and in 12 countries across Europe.

Working with a network of national partners in each participating country, we are building civil society capacity to advocate at national level.

We are calling on the EU and national governments to prioritise the transition from institutional to family-based care and deliver quality care for children across Member States, pre-accession countries and within the EU neighbourhood.

We believe that the end of institutional care for children in Europe is possible and within our reach – putting the best interests of children back at the heart of Europe's child protection systems.



Bosnia & Herzegovina
Hope & Homes for Children



National Network for Children



IGALÉ LAPSELE PERE



Kétfoldo Egyesület PÉCS



Család, Gyermek, Ifjúság
Kiemelkedően Közhatalmi Egyesület
FAMILY CHILD YOUTH ASSOCIATION



SOS CHILDREN'S
VILLAGES
LATVIA



Gelbėkit vaikus
Save the Children Lithuania



SOS CHILDREN'S
VILLAGES
LITHUANIA



CCF
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DZIECIAK



HHC
România
O casă și o familie
pentru fiecare copil



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