OPENING DOORS
FOR EUROPE'S CHILDREN

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES. ENDING INSTITUTIONAL CARE.

ESTONIA

THE ESTONIAN GOVERNMENT HAS INTRODUCED REFORMS AIMED AT TRANSFORMING LARGER INSTITUTIONS INTO SMALL GROUP HOMES. THE PROCESS SHOULD BE COMPLETED BY 2017.

The existing Small Group Homes are set up to offer an appropriate alternative to institutions. However, the quality of these services differs from region to region, as local authorities have very different levels of resources available to support this work. This difference is particularly notable between well-resourced services in the capital Tallinn and those in more rural areas.

New and professionally-trained carers are also needed, together with much better social and psychological support for children.

National NGOs have voiced concern at the lack of funding and support from policy makers, especially in the provision of services to prevent family breakdown and alternative care services for children. One of the most urgent issues concerns a lack of support for care leavers.
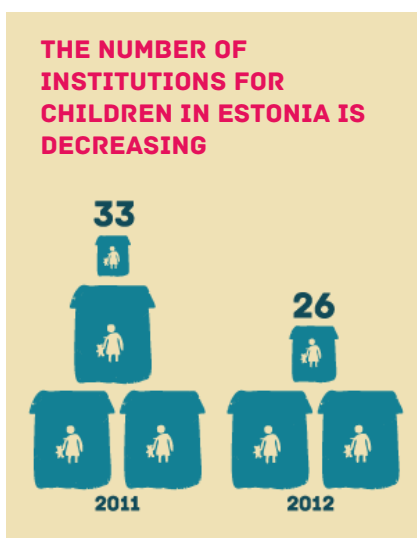
Hope & Homes
for Children

eurochild

NATIONAL CAMPAIGN COORDINATOR

GALE LAPSELE PERE HAS A VISION TO CREATE POSITIVE AND LASTING DIFFERENCE IN THE SYSTEM OF ALTERNATIVE CARE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE AND UNITE FOSTER CARERS ACROSS THE COUNTRY.

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FACT FILE

THE NUMBER OF INSTITUTIONS FOR CHILDREN IN ESTONIA IS DECREASING

33

26

2011   2012

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.