



## OPENING DOORS FOR EUROPE'S CHILDREN

WWW.OPENINGDOORS.EU

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES. ENDING INSTITUTIONAL CARE.

LATVIA



**IN LATVIA, 1551 CHILDREN CURRENTLY LIVE IN CHILD CARE INSTITUTIONS, AND 244 OF THEM ARE UNDER 3 YEARS OLD. NGOS WORKING IN THE FIELD WITNESS THE ABSENCE OF SERVICES THAT SUPPORT FAMILIES AND PREVENT THEIR BREAKDOWN AT THE LOCAL LEVEL. THE STATE FAMILY POLICY GUIDELINES 2011 – 2017 AIM TO DEVELOP FAMILY BASED CARE (FOSTER FAMILIES AND GUARDIANS) AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO INSTITUTIONAL CARE, TO BUILD THE CAPACITY OF CARE PROFESSIONALS AND TO IMPROVE THE SUPPORT FOR YOUNG CARE LEAVERS.**

The Latvian Government has recently announced its intention to develop a Deinstitutionalisation (DI) plan. The aim is to increase the availability of high-quality services at community and family level, and the availability of services for children and people with disabilities. Furthermore, it aims to develop community and family based social services for children in institutional care, and for adults and children with psychosocial and intellectual disabilities living in families.

A positive trend in the child care system reform is the development of foster care families. There has been an annual increase in the number of foster families. However, quality of care within foster families as well as quality of services to support foster care families, are essential aspects that need more attention.

One challenge and planned action for the near future, is the development of professional foster care.

Poverty is still one of the main underlying reasons why children are taken out of their families and placed into alternative care. 32% of Latvian families are at risk of poverty, and 21% of families are living under the poverty threshold. This, together with a lack of services to support them, puts them at high risk of separation.

The main aspects that need strengthening within the Latvian child care system are the development of high quality alternatives to institutional care, prevention services and equal access for all children to social services.



Hope & Homes  
for Children



Eurochild

Putting children at  
the heart of Europe

## NATIONAL CAMPAIGN COORDINATOR



SOS CHILDREN'S  
VILLAGES  
LATVIA

SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES LATVIA IS A SOCIAL CHARITY NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION PROVIDING LONG-TERM FAMILY BASED CARE FOR AROUND 150 CHILDREN WHO HAVE LOST THEIR PARENTS AND CARRIES OUT FAMILY STRENGTHENING PROGRAMS SUPPORTING MORE THAN 700 CHILDREN IN 350 FAMILIES EACH YEAR. SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES LATVIA STARTED ITS WORK IN JULY 1997. THEY ARE A MEMBER OF SOS – KINDERDORF INTERNATIONAL, OPERATIONAL IN 133 COUNTRIES WORLDWIDE.

[WWW.SOSBERNUCIEMATI.LV](http://WWW.SOSBERNUCIEMATI.LV)

## NATIONAL PARTNERS

NGO Azote, Foundation Grasu Children's Village, NGO Zvannieku mājas, Latvian Foster Care Union, Foundation Association Dzīvesprieks, NGO Drošā ligzda, Alliance Latvia without orphans, Zīļevu Family children's home

## FACTS & FIGURES

- **1551 CHILDREN ARE PLACED IN INSTITUTIONAL CARE**
- **244 CHILDREN IN INSTITUTIONAL CARE ARE UNDER 3 YEARS OLD**
- **32% OF FAMILIES ARE AT RISK OF POVERTY. THIS, TOGETHER WITH A LACK OF SERVICES TO SUPPORT THEM, PUTS THEM AT INCREASED RISK OF SEPARATION**

## LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

- **249 FEWER CHILDREN LIVING IN INSTITUTIONS SINCE 2013**
- **96 FEWER CHILDREN UNDER THREE LIVING IN INSTITUTIONS SINCE 2013**

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



IGALĒ LAPSELE PERE



CSALÁD, GYERMEK, IFJÚSÁG  
KIEMLÉKEDŐEN KÖZMŰVELÉSI EGYESÜLET  
FAMILY CHILD YOUTH ASSOCIATION



SOS CHILDREN'S  
VILLAGES  
LATVIA



Gelbėkit vaikus  
Save the Children Lithuania



SOS CHILDREN'S  
VILLAGES  
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DZI/CIAK



HHC  
România  
O casă și o familie  
pentru fiecare copil



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