



OPENING DOORS FOR EUROPE'S CHILDREN

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STRENGTHENING FAMILIES. ENDING INSTITUTIONAL CARE.

MOLDOVA



THE GOVERNMENT OF MOLDOVA HAS ALREADY EVALUATED ITS FIRST FIVE-YEAR STRATEGY ON DEINSTITUTIONALISATION (DI). 18 INSTITUTIONS HAVE BEEN CLOSED IN THE PERIOD 2009-2012. DURING THAT PERIOD, THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN INSTITUTIONS FELL BY 62% (EXCEEDING THE ORIGINAL TARGET OF A 50% REDUCTION). THIS CAN BE ATTRIBUTED IN LARGE PART TO THE HIGH NUMBER OF CARE LEAVERS, AS WELL AS TO NGOS EFFORTS TO REINTEGRATE CHILDREN INTO THEIR BIRTH FAMILIES AND PREVENT FURTHER CASES OF INSTITUTIONALISATION. CIVIL SOCIETY HAS BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN IMPLEMENTING THE REFORMS SINCE EXPERTISE IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR IS STILL LACKING.

The Strategy for Child Protection (2014-2020) was approved in June 2014. The three main objectives of the strategy are: 1) to ensure the necessary conditions for children to grow up in a family environment; 2) prevention, combating violence, neglect and exploitation of children, and promoting non-violent education; 3) conciliation of the family and professional life to ensure harmonious child growth and education.

The first objective will include actions to reduce the number of children in institutions, to prevent separation of children from their parents, and a gradual ban on placing children under the age of 3 in residential care. Two workshops took place (August 2014 & May 2015) in order to develop an action plan for the strategy with representatives from ministries, local public authorities and NGOs. The Government has committed to closing 22 more institutions by the end of 2015. From January 2014 a new law on Special protection of children in situations of risk and of children separated from their parents entered into force and introduced new mechanisms in the child protection system.

Despite this progress, there is a general lack of action on institutional

care for babies and young children, which falls under the remit of the Ministry of Health. More inter-sectoral coordination is needed.

Another challenge is the financing of existing and the development of new social services, due to amendments to the Law on Local Public Finances. In less developed counties, with a larger group of the population in situations of vulnerability, there is a risk that social services are not developed, or that they do not meet quality standards. Leading NGOs have called upon the Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family to establish a wide platform, including National and Local Authorities, as well as NGOs, to discuss the challenges and propose solutions to the situation.

Access to early intervention and community-based services remains a problem, particularly for children with disabilities. Services for young care leavers are unequally distributed throughout the country and they must often rely on help from NGOs. Successful implementation of the reforms requires more investment in services and re-training of staff. EU funds for the neighbourhood region can make an important contribution to the DI process in Moldova.



Hope & Homes
for Children



Eurochild

Putting children at
the heart of Europe

NATIONAL CAMPAIGN COORDINATOR



CCF MOLDOVA – CHILDREN, COMMUNITIES, FAMILIES HAS REPRESENTED HHC UK IN MOLDOVA SINCE 2005. DURING THIS TIME, THEY HAVE SUCCEEDED IN CLOSING FOUR RESIDENTIAL INSTITUTIONS – INCLUDING THE FIRST COMPLETE CLOSURE IN MOLDOVA – AS WELL AS DEVELOPED OVER 80 FAMILY TYPE SERVICES, REINTEGRATING OR PREVENTING THE INSTITUTIONALISATION OF HUNDREDS OF CHILDREN. PREVENTION, FAMILY SUPPORT, DAY CARE – ARE OTHER TYPES OF SERVICES DEVELOPED BY CCF/ HHC IN MOLDOVA TO ADVANCE THE REFORM.

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NATIONAL PARTNERS

Keystone Human Services International Moldova Association, APSCF – The Alliance of active NGOs in the field of child and family social protection, The Association for Child and Family Empowerment “AVE COPIII”, Partnership for Every Child, Speranta Resource Centre, AiBi (Moldovan branch)

FACTS & FIGURES

- **AT LEAST 3909 CHILDREN LIVE IN 43 RESIDENTIAL INSTITUTIONS**
- **AT LEAST 409 CHILDREN IN INSTITUTIONS AROUND MOLDOVA ARE YOUNGER THAN 7 YEARS OLD**

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

- **THE GOVERNMENT COMMITTED TO CLOSING 22 INSTITUTIONS IN THE PERIOD 2012-2015**
- **THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN INSTITUTIONS FELL BY 62% IN THE PERIOD 2009-2012, BEATING THE 50% TARGET**
- **THE STRATEGY FOR CHILD PROTECTION (2014-2020) WAS APPROVED IN JUNE 2014 AND INCLUDES A GRADUAL BAN ON PLACING CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 3 IN RESIDENTIAL CARE**

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.

