



OPENING DOORS FOR EUROPE'S CHILDREN

WWW.OPENINGDOORS.EU

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES. ENDING INSTITUTIONAL CARE.

UKRAINE

THE UKRAINE INTEGRATION TOWARDS THE EU PRESENTS TREMENDOUS OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPLEMENTING A NATION-WIDE CHILD PROTECTION REFORM. BUT, DESPITE HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL STATEMENTS SUPPORTING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL BEST PRACTICES, INCLUDING A MOVE TOWARDS DEINSTITUTIONALISATION (DI), UKRAINE STILL STICKS TO THE POST-SOVIET SYSTEM OF INSTITUTIONAL CARE. AT THE BEGINNING OF 2014 THERE WERE 615 INSTITUTIONS HOSTING MORE THAN 70 000 CHILDREN. WHILE THERE HAVE BEEN A NUMBER OF CLOSURES OF INSTITUTIONS AND WHILE UKRAINE HAS SEEN AN INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF ALTERNATIVE CARE SERVICES, SUCH AS FOSTER CARE AND ADOPTION, THE PROCESS IS STILL NOT COMPREHENSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE.

More should be done on the side of prevention to establish community-based services and to train professional social workers, but resources are scarce. According to NGOs, the government spends millions on institutions – resources that could instead be used for the establishment of quality community-based services to prevent family separation and the flow of children to institutions. The current system cannot keep up with the arrival of new children, while young people leaving institutions are left alone with lack of support. Local authorities are not given the funds nor the encouragement to provide services to children and families, leaving institutionalisation as the easiest option.

The complicated situation of institutionalised children grows even deeper with the large number of internally displaced people in Ukraine. Around 1.25 million people have been forced to flee conflict zones in the East, and displaced families are extremely vulnerable with no relevant social support provided. This situation

leads to an increase in the number of children in institutions. In addition, children from institutions that have been forced to move, have lost contacts with their families, severely damaging the perspective for reunification.

Despite all remaining difficulties with deinstitutionalisation, Ukraine has a window of opportunity with the implementation of the child protection reform. Examples of deinstitutionalisation projects and of implementation of family-oriented services on a local level exist, and could be disseminated nationwide. An established network of CSOs has developed capacities in public awareness raising, forming coalitions with a wide range of stakeholders to advocate for DI reform provisions both on the national and the regional level. The remaining challenges to enable child protection reform are developing a clear deinstitutionalisation strategy, building capacity for strategy implementation, and clearing funds for investment in reform.



Hope & Homes
for Children



Eurochild

Putting children at
the heart of Europe

NATIONAL CAMPAIGN COORDINATOR



Ukraine
Hope & Homes for Children

HHC UKRAINE AIMS TO REFORM THE STATE CHILDCARE SYSTEM THROUGH PILOTING MODELS AND DEVELOPING LEGISLATION IN PARTNERSHIP WITH AUTHORITIES AND NGO'S. IN 1998 THEY DEVELOPED FAMILY TYPE HOMES AND INTRODUCED WORK ON THE PREVENTION OF CHILD ABANDONMENT IN UKRAINE. NOW THEY ARE FOCUSED DEINSTITUTIONALISATION WHICH INCLUDES THE CLOSURE OF INSTITUTIONS AND THE CREATION OF A WIDE RANGE OF SUPPORTIVE AND PREVENTIVE SERVICES FOR FAMILIES AND CHILDREN.

WWW.HOPEANDHOMES.ORG.UA

NATIONAL PARTNERS

All-Ukrainian civil organisation 'Magnolia', All-Ukrainian Charity Fund "Child Well-Being Fund Ukraine", Caritas Ukraine, Charitable foundation 'Bethany Social Services', GURT Resource Center, HealthRight International Ukraine, La Strada Ukraine, Lviv Municipal Rehabilitation Centre 'Dzherelo', Partnership for Every Child, Project ONE HOPE, SOS Children's Villages Ukraine, Ukrainian, Step by Step Foundation (USSF), Foundation 'Development of Ukraine', 'Toshkin Dom' charity organization, League of social workers of Ukraine, Educational and Culture Center 'Master-class, International charitable fund 'Center for philanthropy and fundraising', Charitable organization 'Rodyna', Charitable fund 'Blagomay'

The aims and goals of the campaign in Ukraine are supported by: UNICEF Ukraine, Council of Europe, East Europe Foundation
HHC Ukraine also has 31 regional partners.

FACTS & FIGURES

- 70 000 CHILDREN IN 615 INSTITUTIONS
- 8000 CHILDREN ARE SEPARATED FROM THEIR FAMILY EACH YEAR
- 5.7 BILLION UAH (240 MILLIONS EUR) SPENT TOWARDS INSTITUTIONS PER YEAR
- 6500 CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES AND 2800 BABIES (0-3 YEARS) ARE PLACED IN INSTITUTIONS
- MOST OF THE CHILDREN IN INSTITUTIONS (AROUND 80%) HAVE FAMILIES

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

- ABOUT 10 000 CHILDREN HAVE LEFT INSTITUTIONAL CARE
- 64 INSTITUTIONS HAVE CLOSED
- 388 LESS CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES LIVING IN INSTITUTIONS

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.

