



OPENING DOORS FOR EUROPE'S CHILDREN

WWW.OPENINGDOORS.EU

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES. ENDING INSTITUTIONAL CARE.

GREECE

ALARMINGLY, THERE IS NO DATA AVAILABLE ON THE EXACT NUMBER OF CHILDREN LIVING IN GREEK INSTITUTIONS. ACCORDING TO THE ROOTS RESEARCH CENTER IN 2005 THERE WERE ABOUT 3,200 CHILDREN (INCLUDING 200 CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES) PLACED IN INSTITUTIONAL CARE. THERE ARE NO REAL ALTERNATIVES TO INSTITUTIONS AVAILABLE FOR CHILDREN OR FAMILIES WHICH LACK SERVICES AND SUPPORT TO PREVENT THEIR BREAKDOWN.

Foster care programmes are very limited and as a result the number of children and babies who end up in institutional care is growing. Adoption is an option for some, but this means permanently severing the relationship with their biological families which might be inappropriate or unnecessary. In Greece there is no data on the existence of Small Group Homes and there are no DI reforms planned.

Children and young people can stay in segregating care facilities until they turn 18, after that age they are left on their own. No additional services to support care

leavers are provided: no financial aid, nor employment or accommodation.

Despite the damage that institutions are known to inflict on children's development, public and private institutions are still financed with EU funds through national ministries.

The demand for alternative care services is increasing due to the financial crisis but neither the Government nor the few NGOs working on the issue are in a position to meet these demands.



Hope & Homes
for Children

eurochild

NATIONAL CAMPAIGN COORDINATOR



ROOTS RESEARCH CENTER IS WORKING WITH ADULT ADOPTEES WHO AIM TO FIND THEIR BIOLOGICAL PARENTS, ALSO THEY ARE SUPPORTING/CONSULTING ADOPTED FAMILIES TO WORK WITH THEIR ADOPTED CHILDREN.

SINCE 2004 THEY PROMOTE FOSTER CARE, GIVE SPEECHES AROUND THE COUNTRY, RAISING PUBLIC AWARENESS ON THE BENEFITS OF FOSTER CARE AND WHY COMMUNITY BASED CARE IS BETTER FOR CHILDREN. THEY HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN PRIVATE FOSTER CARE CASES OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES, SUPPORTING AND CONSULTING THE FOSTER PARENTS. THEY RUN TRAINING SEMINARS FOR SOCIAL WORKERS AND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS PROMOTING FOSTER CARE AND COMMUNITY BASED CARE. OTHER NGOS HAVE SHOWED INTEREST, COOPERATING WITH THEM, IN TRAINING THEIR PEOPLE ON THE DI DIRECTION, BY SUPPORTING VULNERABLE FAMILIES.

JUSTICE EXPERTS ARE THEIR SUPPORTERS ON CHILD PROTECTION AFFAIRS, WALKING WITH THEM SLOWLY ON THE WAY TO CHANGE THE RESIDENTIAL CULTURE IN GREECE.

WWW.ROOTS-RESEARCH-CENTER.GR

FACT FILE



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.

