

# OPENING DOORS FOR EUROPE'S CHILDREN

[WWW.OPENINGDOORS.EU](http://WWW.OPENINGDOORS.EU)

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES. ENDING INSTITUTIONAL CARE.

**LATVIA**



**CURRENTLY IN LATVIA 1,800 CHILDREN LIVE IN INSTITUTIONS AND 340 OF THEM ARE UNDER THREE YEARS OLD. NGOS WORKING IN THE FIELD WITNESS THE ABSENCE OF SERVICES THAT SUPPORT FAMILIES AND PREVENT THEIR BREAKDOWN AT A LOCAL LEVEL. THE "STATE FAMILY POLICY 2011-2017 AIMS TO DEVELOP FOSTER CARE AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO INSTITUTIONAL CARE AND TO PROMOTE ADOPTION.**

However, after two years, the policy has not been implemented. The Latvian Government has recently announced its intention to develop a Deinstitutionalisation programme.

A comprehensive reform of the childcare system is long overdue: 40% of Latvian families are at risk of poverty. This, coupled with

a lack of services to support them, puts them at increased risk of separation. Meanwhile, a new institution was opened in 2010.

Furthermore, services that support young care leavers are woefully lacking across many municipalities.



Hope & Homes  
for Children

eurochild

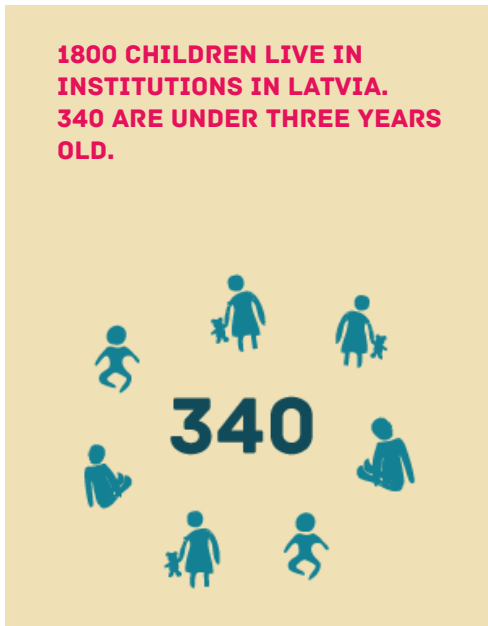
# NATIONAL CAMPAIGN COORDINATOR



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)

## 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.

