



**OPENING DOORS  
FOR EUROPE'S CHILDREN**

**WWW.OPENINGDOORS.EU**

**STRENGTHENING FAMILIES. ENDING INSTITUTIONAL CARE.**

## **BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA**

**CURRENTLY THERE ARE OVER 2,000 CHILDREN IN INSTITUTIONAL CARE IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA. AROUND 1,000 CHILDREN ARE LIVING IN 15 PUBLIC AND PRIVATELY RUN INSTITUTIONS FOR CHILDREN WITHOUT PARENTAL CARE. MEANWHILE, THERE ARE AN ADDITIONAL 1,000 CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES IN SPECIALISED INSTITUTIONAL CARE FACILITIES. ALARMINGLY, MANY OF THESE CHILDREN ARE HOUSED ALONGSIDE ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES. SOME PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS ARE HOME TO MORE THAN 50 CHILDREN AT ANY ONE TIME.**

Nearly 10% of children in institutional care are under three. Although legal provisions exist to prevent children under three being placed in institutions in some parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina, this is not the case nationwide and the practice continues to prevail due to lack of alternative care options.

Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Republika Srpska (entities in BiH) have adopted relevant policies to reform the institutional care system: Policy for the protection of children deprived of parental care and families at risk of separation in FBiH 2006-2016, and the Strategy on Enhancement of social welfare of children without parental care, 2009-2014, with the related action plans.

A system of foster care for children exists but it does not function effectively. There is a need to promote the service more widely and to improve the recruitment, training and support of foster carers.

The country's alternative care system does not yet work in compliance with international standards nor with the national reforms approved. But there are positive signs of change. The NGO sector has developed models of good practice, particularly on prevention of separation, support to young adults leaving care, and improvement of fostering. Furthermore, in the past six years two institutions in Zenica and in Zvornik have been closed and further closure projects are underway.



**Hope & Homes  
for Children**

**eurochild**

## NATIONAL CAMPAIGN COORDINATOR



HOPE AND HOMES FOR CHILDREN (HHC) HAS BEEN ACTIVE IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA (BIH) SINCE 1994. ALL HHC BIH PROGRAMMES ARE FOCUSED ON REPLACING INSTITUTIONAL CARE WITH FAMILY BASED SOLUTIONS FOR CHILDREN WITHOUT PARENTAL CARE, SUCH AS REINTEGRATION OF CHILDREN WITH THEIR BIOLOGICAL FAMILIES, LOCAL ADOPTION, FOSTERING, SUPPORTING YOUNG ADULTS LEAVING THE CARE SYSTEM AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF HIGH QUALITY RESIDENTIAL CARE IN SMALL FAMILY HOMES.

[WWW.HHC.BA](http://WWW.HHC.BA)

## FACT FILE

**A LACK OF ALTERNATIVES MEANS CHILDREN UNDER 3 CONTINUE TO BE PLACED IN INSTITUTIONAL CARE.**



**THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF CHILDREN PER INSTITUTIONAL IS OVER 50.**



**NEARLY 10% OF ALL CHILDREN IN INSTITUTIONAL CARE ARE 0-3.**



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.

