

OPENING DOORS FOR EUROPE'S CHILDREN

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STRENGTHENING FAMILIES. ENDING INSTITUTIONAL CARE.

HUNGARY



OFFICIAL STATISTICS FROM 2011 INDICATE THAT 8,254 CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE (0-24) ARE LIVING IN INSTITUTIONAL CARE IN HUNGARY. MATERIAL DEPRIVATION AND POVERTY ARE AMONG THE MOST COMMON CAUSES OF CHILDREN ENTERING PUBLIC CARE, DESPITE A LAW PROHIBITING THE REMOVAL OF CHILDREN FROM THEIR FAMILIES ON THE BASIS OF LOW FAMILY INCOME, HOUSING PROBLEMS AND OTHER FINANCIAL PROBLEMS.

No comprehensive national strategy for deinstitutionalisation of children currently exists. Some institutions have been closed but not within the framework of a national plan of action. The Hungarian Government has introduced a new measure to end the placement of children under 12 into institutions and direct them into foster care which is due to come into force from 1 January 2014. However, it is unclear how the measure will be implemented since there is no accompanying investment in services to prevent family separation or allow reunification and there is a shortage of suitable foster carers, particularly for children under three, those with chronic illness or disability, teenagers, and children with behavioural problems.

Local social and child welfare services that could support families, foster carers and children are severely under-resourced. Local authorities tend to refer clients to institutional care – under the financial authority of national Government – rather than invest in community-based services. This is due to a lack of resources

but it also reflects broad public opinion which favours placing children, particularly Roma children and those with disabilities and mental health problems, away from the community.

Effective system reform requires a comprehensive framework of planning, monitoring and evaluation. Professionals working in the social, health and education sectors need to be better trained and better paid. For example, although foster care is widespread – 60.4% of children in alternative care were living in foster families in 2011 – only 5.8% of foster carers are formally employed and therefore professionally recruited, trained and supported to provide a high standard of care for children. Furthermore, the support and services provided to foster families is very limited, supervision inadequate, and there is no clear accountability even in cases of severe breakdown or suspected abuse and neglect.

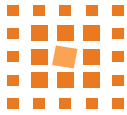
A comprehensive strategy for deinstitutionalisation of children would also require a widespread public awareness campaign.



Hope & Homes
for Children

eurochild

NATIONAL CAMPAIGN COORDINATOR



CSALÁD, GYERMEK, IFJÚSÁG
KIEMELKEDŐEN KÖZHASZNÚ EGYESÜLET
FAMILY CHILD YOUTH ASSOCIATION

THE ASSOCIATION SINCE ITS FOUNDATION IN 1993 HAS BEEN SUPPORTING THE RIGHTS, WELFARE, AND PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY STRENGTHENING, HELPING PROFESSIONALS, RAISING AWARENESS, CONDUCTING RESEARCH AND PUBLISHING MATERIALS ACCORDINGLY. PARTICIPATING IN SEVERAL EU AND DOMESTIC PROJECTS, PROVIDING TRAINING, ADAPTING GOOD PRACTICES, TRANSLATING AND PUBLISHING MATERIALS IN DIFFERENT RELATED AREAS.

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FACT FILE

THERE ARE 474 CHILDREN 0-3 IN INSTITUTIONAL CARE IN HUNGARY.



ONLY 5.8% OF FOSTER FAMILIES IN HUNGARY ARE PROFESSIONALLY EMPLOYED.



THERE ARE 8254 CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN INSTITUTIONAL CARE IN HUNGARY.



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.



Bosnia & Herzegovina



National Network for Children



IGALĒ LAPSELE PĒRĒ



Magyar Remények PNC



CSALÁD, GYERMEK, IFJÚSÁG
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FAMILY CHILD YOUTH ASSOCIATION



SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES
LATVIA



2 MOČAUS TEISIŲ STERĖJIMO INSTITUTAS
HUMAN RIGHTS MONITORING INSTITUTE



CCF
MOLDOVA
CENTRE FOR CHILD PROTECTION



DELTA



HHC
România
12 CALĂ ÎN A ROMÂNIA
pentru FAMILIE BUNE



MDRI-S



Ukrainian
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