



 Taula d'entitats
del Tercer Sector Social
de Catalunya

EL MODEL D'ATENCIÓ COMUNITÀRIA CENTRADA EN LA PERSONA

SITUACIÓ I PERSPECTIVES AL TERCER SECTOR SOCIAL DE CATALUNYA

European Expert Group Seminar on the Transition from Institution to Community based care

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Katerina Nanou,

Policy and Advocacy Officer, Eurochild



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About Eurochild

A European network for children

Advocating for children's rights and well-being to be at the heart of policymaking.

A network of organisations working with and for children throughout Europe, striving for a society that respects the rights of children.

Influencing policies, building internal capacities, facilitating mutual learning and exchanging practice and research.

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child is the foundation of all our work.



Eurochild

Putting children at
the heart of Europe

www.eurochild.org



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Child welfare & protection systems should be promoting the best interest of children

– but across Europe we are failing children



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Institutional care is a pan European problem

Estimates show that at **least 500.000 children are in institutional care across Europe**



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What are the reasons for children's institutionalization in Europe ?

- Lack of prevention services and social services in the community
- Lack of quality alternative care options
- Poverty is often a compounding factor leading to family separation
- Recent years: migration

There is often an over-representation of Children in institutions because of:

- Disability
- Ethnic Origin



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What do we define as institutional care?

An institution for children is understood to be any residential setting where an 'institutional culture' prevails.

- Children are isolated from the broader community and compelled to live together;
- Children and their parents do not have sufficient control over their lives and over decisions which affect them;
- The requirements of the organisation itself take precedence over children's individual needs.
- As a result, children cannot form attachments crucial to healthy physical and emotional development.



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What do we mean by deinstitutionalisation?

- Deinstitutionalisation IS NOT closing institutions
- Deinstitutionalisation IS a paradigm shift, a change in mentalities to transform the care system with a focus on children's rights and quality of care



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Deinstitutionalisation **is** the complex process of reforming social, healthcare and child protection services in order to:

- Reduce reliance on institutional and residential care services
- Simultaneously increase provision of family-support and community-based services which prevent placement of children outside the home, and strengthen families
- Ensure high quality family-based or family-like alternatives for children whom separation from their biological family is in their best interest
- Support the transition of young people from out-of-home care to independent living



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What is the EU doing? EU commitments towards Deinstitutionalisation reforms for children

- 2013 Recommendation “Investing in Children – Breaking the Cycle of Disadvantage”
- 2013 Structural Funds Regulations – include ex-ante conditionality prohibiting ESIF to be used for building of institutions
- 2015 10 principles for integrated child protections systems (on prevention, role of families, adequate care)
- 2017 EC Communication on children in migration - calling for family based care for unaccompanied children
- 2017 European Pillar of Social Rights



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But are EU regulations and commitments enough?

- Delays in spending money allocated to DI reforms
- Reforms not always aligned with UN Guidelines

Did you know?

In the past, in many countries across Europe EU funds were used to restructure old – type institutions – this is why the 2013 Regulations specifically mention that SF should promote DI reforms



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What is needed?

A committed Civil Society that will monitor use of funds, provide expertise, support transformative processes - and that will work together with EU and Governments to realise deinstitutionalisation reforms



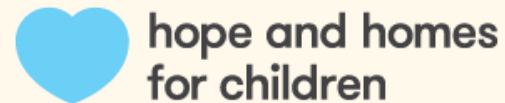
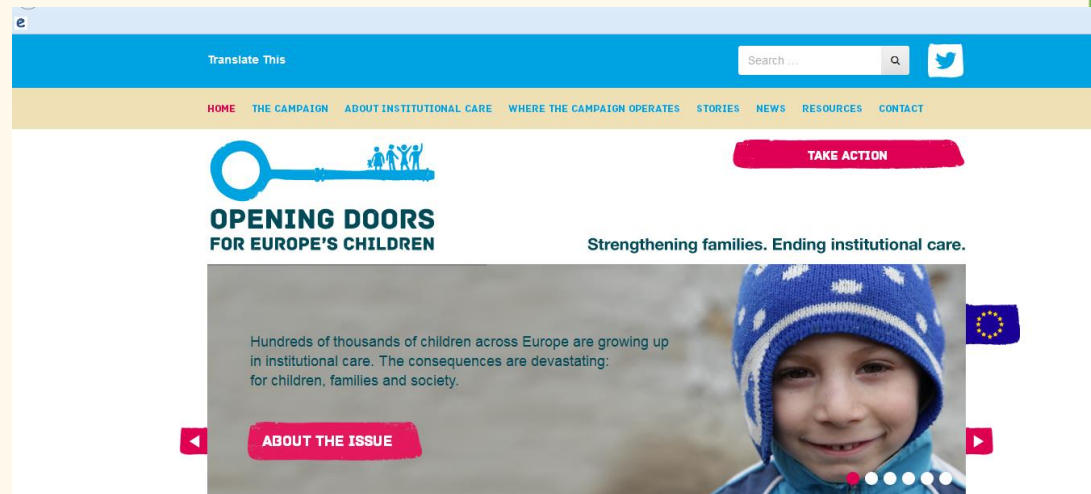
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The Opening Doors for Europe's Children Campaign

Strengthening Families.
Ending Institutional Care.





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Where the Campaign Operates



THE COUNTRIES

AUSTRIA

BELGIUM

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

BULGARIA

ESTONIA

GREECE

HUNGARY

LATVIA

LITHUANIA

MOLDOVA

POLAND

ROMANIA

SERBIA

SPAIN

UKRAINE



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What we want to achieve?

- Keep deinstitutionalisation high on the political agenda at EU and national level
- Ensure that EU funds and policies are used to strengthen child protection systems, in particular quality family and community based care
- Ensure that deinstitutionalisation is retained as a priority also in the next 10 years



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Learn more:

Thank you!

WWW.OPENINGDOORS.EU



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Opening Doors Video

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QK330_o7EUE&t=13s