



Helping
Youth Build
A Sure
Future

Care Leavers` Integration Programme

Sure Start

(2010-2013)

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PROJECT GOAL:

To develop a model of social adaptation and professional integration for independent living for children in out-of-home care in Ukraine.

TARGET GROUPS:

During 3 years the project will reach 800 orphans and children deprived of parental care, including:

- care leavers from residential institutions;
- youth from foster families, family-based children's homes and children under guardianship.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES WILL ALSO REACH:

- social sphere professionals working with care leavers;
- representatives of local communities, including mentors for care leavers and employers.

BUDGET:

The overall project budget is:
8,07 mln. UAH



CONTEXT:

Anya, 18, is a care leaver of a residential institution; she likes playing in a brass band and drawing. Together with her friend Alla they share a tiny room equipped with a wardrobe and a table, where they take turns to do their homework. Anya is uncertain about her future: her choice of profession is limited; it depends on the agreements that the internat has with educational institutions based on the availability of free places in existing student dormitories.

Every year youth leaving care face numerous problems trying to step into independent life. Children who spent their entire lives in orphanages, without outside contact experience great difficulties in finding work, accommodation and protecting their legal rights on their own. Low levels of education, intellectual and social underdevelopment and professions which they did not choose themselves push care-leavers towards a cycle of unemployment, crime, drugs, alcohol and yet more orphans.

Let down by the system and without the protection of family, care leavers like Anya are expected to cope with independence too early and with too little support.

Developing a model of social adaptation and professional integration for independent life for children out-of-home care - **Sure Start** in Ukraine

OBJECTIVES:

- Children and young people are more self-confident and have the social, communication and vocational skills necessary to make their first steps towards independence;
- Professionals from leaving care services and other social support agencies are qualified enough to prepare and accompany young people from residential care to independence;
- Leaving care services are set up in pilot sites and integrated into existing structures of local authorities and providing support to young people in transition.

PROJECT INNOVATIONS:

Development of mentoring system for care-leavers.



By mentoring care-leavers, adults become a positive role model and someone on whom a young person can rely. They help youth to integrate effectively into the local community. Together they can build meaningful relationships, practice life skills and enjoy free time.

Creation of living space for care leavers.



Ordinary flats will be used as the living space to prepare care leavers for independent life. These facilities will be organized to address the needs of the young people, in areas that are close to a family, work, studies and community.



Meeting at "How to Become Successful" youth club in Pereyaslav-Khmelnitskyi

180 young people deprived of parental care will benefit directly from the project implementation

EXPECTED RESULTS:

Young people leaving care are expected to:

- Become more independent and acquire self-esteem;
- Develop personal and professional competencies;
- Find a place to study, to work and to live;
- Build a personal social network outside the institutions and integrate into the local community.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES:



Training of personnel working with care leavers

The programme will improve the potential of local authorities, people working in residential care and social services to address the needs of care-leavers and provide necessary services.



Development of alternative social services

Leaving care services will provide support and follow-up for young people deprived of parental care in local community settings. Every care-leaver will have an individual plan to prepare adequately for future independent life.



Working with communities involved

We will work to increase interagency co-operation in the best interests of each care leaver, we will promote local mentoring to support social and professional integration of targeted youth into the community. In addition, employers from local communities in pilot sites will be involved in professional orientation of care-leavers.

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PILOT SITES:

Bila Tserkva, Pereyaslav-Khmelnyskyi; Fastiv cities
Vyshgorodskyi, Tarashchanskyi rayons of Kyiv Oblast

IMPLEMENTATION:

- Swiss Foundation of the International Social Service
- Partnership for Every Child

PARTNERS:

- Kyiv Oblast State Administration
- Ministry of Family, Youth and Sports

DONORS:

- SDC -Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
- Republic and Canton of Geneva

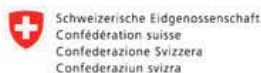


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Partnership for Every Child

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DE GENEVE

1000 TERNIERA SUR



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Kyiv
Oblast State
Administration



CONTACT:

Swiss Foundation
of the International Social Service
10, Rue A.-Vincent
Case postal 1469
CH -1211 Geneve 1 Mont-Blanc
t + 41 22 731 67 00
f + 41 22 731 67 65
ssi@ssiss.ch
www.ssiss.ch

Partnership for Every Child
28, Kominterna St., 6th floor,
01032 Kyiv
t + 38 044 359 02 10
f +38 044 359 02 11
info@p4ec.org.ua;
www.everychild.org.ua