



European Union Programme for Ukraine

Development of Integrated Social Services for Exposed Families And Children

PROGRESS REPORT

29th June 2006- 29th December 2006



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the EveryChild Consortium

Development of Integrated Social Services for Exposed Families and Children

Progress Report

29 June 2006 – 29 December 2006

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Development of Integrated Social Services for Exposed Children and Families. Ukraine

REPORT COVER PAGE

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| Project Title: | Development of Integrated Social Services for Exposed Families and Children | |
| Project Number: | EuropeAid/119126/C/SV/UA | |
| Country: | Ukraine | |
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1. PROJECT SYNOPSIS

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| Project Title: | Development of Integrated Social Services for Exposed Families and Children |
| Project Number: | EuropeAid/119126/C/SV/UA |
| Country: | Ukraine |

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| Wider Objectives: Reduce the number of children living in residential institutions in Kyiv oblast |
| <p>Specific Project Objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop and implement innovative models of integrated social services; 2. Assist Ministry of Family, Youth and Sport to develop recommendations for the improvement of the existing legislation which should facilitate the implementation of the basic package of social services; 3. Increase the capacity of staff in State Social Services for Family, Children and Youth in implementing new models of services through training programmes and a public awareness campaign. |
| <p>Outputs:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1 Scope, financial mechanisms and organizational structures of existing social services assessed; 1.2 Needs of target groups in pilot region defined; 1.3 List of services to be developed; 1.4 List of services for alternative forms of child care and adoption developed; 1.5 Social services for prevention of early abandonment developed; 1.6 Services to support child victims of violence developed; 1.7 Rehabilitation programmes for children in conflict with the law developed; 1.8 Methodology to define budget resources to support new services developed; 1.9 Service models tested in pilot rayon; 2.1 Existing legislation in the field of social protection rendered to families and children analysed; 2.2 Recommendation for adjusting laws, bylaws and regulations developed; 2.3 Draft of the law 'on the protection of children's rights who are under state guardianship or in prison elaborated; 2.4 Support to the State Social Services for Family, Children and Youth in improving legal provisions that regulate the creation of foster families, family type care institutions and legal status of foster parents provided; 2.5 Quality standards and control procedures for the provision of integrated social services developed and piloted 3.1 Training needs analysis related to the new function of integrated social services conducted; 3.2 Training programmes for managers and social service providers developed; training groups for different target groups executed; 3.3 Public awareness campaign launched to provide information on new services and encourage community based initiatives |
| <p>Inputs: EC Technical Assistance will include 25 months long term experts, 19 months short term senior experts and 30 days short term junior experts in a range of specializations including legal, social research, social finance, service development training. Ukrainian Technical Assistance will include 43 months long term local senior experts, 15 months long term local junior experts 28 months short term local senior experts and 20 months short term local junior experts.</p> |

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| Project starting date: | 29 March 2005 |
| Reporting period: | 29 June-29 December 2006 |
| Project duration: | 30 months / March 2005 – September 2007 |

2. SUMMARY OF PROJECT PROGRESS SINCE THE START

29 March-29 June 2005 Inception Phase completed

Project Office established in Ministry of Family Youth Affairs and Sports. Steering Committee established with membership including representatives of relevant Ministries. Meetings held 23 June 2005, 23 September 2005, 14 December 2005, 30 March 2006 and 29 June 2006. Recruitment of key support staff and long term local experts completed. Review of current programmes and initiatives in children's services and existing social work training courses completed. Current child and family legislation analysed and presented. De-institutionalisation strategy initial phase developed. Work plan for implementation phase developed.

Implementation Phase commenced 29 June 2005.

Current social services provision classified. Proposed and potential service developments identified. Analysis of current child care expenditure completed. Stock and flow analysis of children placed in child care institutions completed. Needs of target group in the region analysed and list of required service proposed. Assessment techniques for social workers in the field of child protection developed. Working methodologies for early intervention services, family support services and alternative family care services developed. Working methodology for Integrated Social Services and gatekeeping mechanism elaborated. Training manual and quality standards for alternative family care developed. Agreements on project implementation concluded with 32 rayon and city administrations in Kyiv oblast. These include the requirement for partner organisations to employ additional social workers and agree a budget for financial support for families. 142 additional social workers recruited and operational in Kyiv oblast. Social workers, employed with Family Support and Early Intervention services have assessed 3719 families (8336 children) during the first three quarters of 2006 and of these took 1475 families (3386 children) under their supervision. 522 families (1102 children) had their cases successfully closed whilst in the case of 58 families (138 children) the cases were closed with the children being placed in extended family care or under guardianship. 17 families (32 persons) were approved as foster carers or parents for family type homes. 56 cases of child abandonment were prevented. Training needs analysis completed and training programme implemented. 1049 participants attended training sessions and seminars. The Kyiv oblast Training Centre was established in February 2006 based on the additional agreement signed between EveryChild, Kyiv oblast Department for Family and Youth and State Social Services for Family, Children and Youth. This will enhance the capacity of the oblast to train new staff and will contribute to the sustainability of the Project activity. A Core Training curriculum for social workers working in children and families services has been published with a foreword by Svitlana Tolstoukhova, Director of State Social Services for Children Family and Youth. A Project Newsletter in English and Ukrainian has been published in December 2005, March, June and October 2006 and is available on a broad variety of websites including the EU delegation website, the EveryChild website and the resource centre NGO "Gurt". Existing legislation in the field of child protection analysed. A monthly legislative digest detailing changes and updates to legislation in the social sector affecting children and families' services has been produced and published in December 2005, January, February, March, April and May 2006. The EU Expert and local Legal Expert worked on the implementation of the proposed Money Follows Child mechanism for children deprived of parental care and provided an initial report to the Ministry. A full report has been developed for consideration by the Ministry of Family Youth and Sports and agreement has been reached on establishment of a working group. Two Successful Study Tours were conducted; to the UK in November 2005 for high level policy and decision makers and to Latvia in August 2006 focusing on learning in the sphere of legislative development, structural change within systems of management of services by State authorities and financial supports for vulnerable children, orphans and children deprived of parental care.

3. SUMMARY OF PROJECT PLANNING FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE PROJECT

During the period December 2006 - September 2007 the Project will focus on the following activity as anticipated in the initial work packages.

Specific Objective (SPO) 1: Develop and Implement Innovative Models of Integrated Social Services

- 1.6 services to support child victims of violence developed
- 1.7 rehabilitation programmes for children in conflict with the law developed
- 1.8 methodologies to define budget resources to support new services developed
- 1.9 service models tested in pilot region

Specific Objective (SPO) 2: Assist Ministry of Family, Youth and Sport to develop recommendations for the improvement of the existing legislation which should facilitate the implementation of the basic package of social services

- 2.2 recommendations for adjusting laws, bylaws and regulations developed
- 2.4 supports to the State Social Services for Family, Children and Youth in improving legal provisions that regulate the creation of foster families, family type care institutions and legal status of foster parents provided
- 2.5 quality standards and control procedures for the provision of integrated social services developed and piloted

Specific Objective (SPO) 3: Increase the capacity of staff in State Social Services for Family, Children and Youth in implementing new models of services through training programmes and a public awareness campaign

- 3.2 training programmes for managers and social service providers developed
- training groups for different target groups executed
- 3.3 public awareness campaign launched to provide information on new services and encourage community based initiatives

4. DETAIL OF PROJECT PROGRESS IN THE REPORTING PERIOD

29 June 2006-30 November 2006

4.1 Achievements in comparison with planned results

As a result of the developing relationships and close cooperation established with Project beneficiaries, particularly the Ministry of Family, Youth and Sport and State Social Service for Family, Children and Youth during the early stages of activity, in this reporting period the Project was able to focus its efforts on achieving practical results in service development and on developing the mechanisms and methodologies, which will allow for future consolidation and sustainability of outcomes.

SPECIFIC PROJECT OBJECTIVE 1:

Develop and implement in the pilot region a basic package of social services for exposed families and children

Result 1.1 Scope financial mechanisms and organisational structures of existing social services delivered by state to families and children at risk assessed.

Activity 1.1.3 Establish a working group of key finance managers. During this reporting period the Project has supported the Working Group on implementation of the mechanism for Money Follows Child. A full research report into the current system of financing of children who are orphans or who are deprived of parental care has been commissioned and a final report will be available at the end of December 2006. An executive summary of the report is available as an annex to this report (Annex 1).

Result 1.2 Needs of social services for the target groups in the pilot region defined.

Activity 1.2.3 Develop assessment techniques for social workers and other professionals working in the fields of child protection and family support. The assessment manual

developed in the early part of the Project has been further refined and developed following its successful piloting in Kyiv oblast. The methodology and templates tested have been developed into Good Practice Guidance (Annex 4) which is currently being prepared for publication. This publication will be available for national dissemination by State Social Service for Family Children and Youth since it has been tested to comply with existing legislation and regulation and is complete with detailed instruction for implementation. Additionally the techniques used and methodology developed has been broadened to include adult services in a co-operative initiative between this Project, USIF (Ukrainian Social Investment Fund) and EU Project Strengthening Regional Social Services.

Activity 1.2.4 Progress the implementation of the computerised information database within the State Centre of Social Services for Youth that will facilitate the coordination of client information. During this reporting period, all new services were supported by the Project to access the computerised information database. To improve its efficiency in Kyiv Oblast, the Project has undertaken an analysis of the database and identified potential problem areas.

The information was collected during June and July 2006 and indicates that:

- employees of the oblast, rayon and city Centres of Social Services for Family, Children and Youth did not have the skills to operate the data base effectively
- there was limited access to computer equipment, software and stationery rayon and city Centres of Social Services for Family, Children and Youth
- the database does not indicate the assessed needs of the client or record the stage of care plan implementation

This analysis prompted the development and implementation by State Social Services for Family, Children and Youth of a training programme to train specialists of Centres of Social Services for Family, Children and Youth in using the computerised information database. Training seminars were conducted on the 26th – 28th of July and on the 11th – 13th of October, 2006 for the representatives of Oblast Centers of Social Services for Family, Children and Youth (Annex 2).

In September 2006 the rayons and city Centres of Social Services for Family, Children and Youth in Kyiv oblast were provided with computers and equipment to the value of 400 000 euro which was purchased following an international open tender process by the European Commission's Delegation in Ukraine, supported by the EU Project Development of Integrated Social Services for Exposed Families and Children managed by the EveryChild Consortium. This has further contributed to the effective implementation of the database.

During the previous reporting period the Kyiv oblast Coordination Council on Child Protection approved by Resolution (Annex 3) the package of assessment documents including regulations and instructions on both assessment and case management methodologies. This has been further updated and is issued as Good Practice Guidance: Assessment of children and families in difficulty (Annex 4). This system runs in parallel with the computerised information database.

A second computerised database was developed by the Ministry for Family, Youth and Sport in 2004 and updated in accordance with the Order dated 29.07.2005 № 1466 "On confirming the order of keeping the database of children-orphans and children, deprived of parental care" (Annex 5). Data is gathered by Services for Minors at rayon, oblast and state levels and can be accessed via the internet.

Result 1.3 List (or range) of social services to be provided to the families at risk for the prevention of breakdown developed.

Activity 1.3.1 Establish family support services based in local CSSY

In compliance with the agreements concluded with 34 administrative units of Kviv oblast, 34 Family Support Services continue their activity in rayon and city Centres of Social Services for Family Children and Youth.

Information obtained from Kyiv oblast Centre of Social Services for Family Children and Youth (Annex 6), indicates that social workers, employed with Family Support and Early Intervention services have assessed 3719 families (8336 children) during the first three quarters of 2006 and of these took 1475 families (3386 children) under their supervision. 522 families (1102 children) had their cases successfully closed whilst in the case of 58 families (138 children) the cases were closed with the children being placed in extended family care or under guardianship.

In order to further develop the technologies of support and supervision for vulnerable families the Project is continuing to assess and monitor the implementation of the methodology.

In particular during this reporting period 53 visits were made to the rayons in order to provide supervision and methodological support for the managers and social workers of specialised social services (Annex 7). Indicators were also developed in order to analyse the effectiveness of project implementation in each specific rayon (Annex 8).

In support of the continuing development of Family Support Services further training for trainers was held on 6-8th of September 2006, "Emergency child protection, prevention of child abandonment and support of families with children" for 28 participants including part-time trainers of Kyiv oblast Training Centre, employees of the Department of Health Protection and managers of specialised social services in Vyshgorod rayon and city of Brovary (Annex 9).

These trainers consequently provided three regional trainings for social workers of specialised social services on 20-22nd and 27-29th of September 2006 (Annex 10).

In October-November, at the request of rayon Centres of Social Services for Family Children and Youth, Project employees conducted informational-educational seminars for the Heads and Secretaries of village councils, located in Pereyaslav-Khmelnysky, Makariv (Annex 11), Obuhiv, Vyshgorod, Baryshivka and Tetiyiv rayons. During these meetings, the mechanisms for early identification of families in crisis and mechanisms for cooperation in order to ensure the child's right to grow in the family were developed. This has resulted in proposals for developing village social workers which will be further developed during the next reporting period.

The EU Project also collaborated with the EveryChild Project "Establishment of family support services in villages" and established Novopetriv village Centre of Social Services for Family, Children and Youth in Vyshgorod rayon (Annexes 12, 13) and will introduce 9 additional social workers by the end of 2006. Project Experts have liaised in order to establish the normative and legal basis for introducing the position of social worker in the village, and Legal experts have prepared all the necessary recommendations (Annex 14).

As of 20th of November, 2006, 20 social workers are working in village councils in Kyiv oblast (Annex 15). It is also expected that by the end of the reporting period, additional positions will be introduced in an additional 7 villages in Kyiv Oblast.

This will not only increase the number of social workers providing services for vulnerable families and children but also increases access to social services for families and children who live in rural communities.

Result 1.4 List (or range) of services to be provided for the alternative forms of childcare and adoption elaborated.

Activity 1.4.1 Establish services which support alternative forms of childcare and adoption.

Project monitoring indicates that as of 1st of November 2006 all the 34 rayon and city Centres of Social Services for Family Children and Youth, located in Kyiv Oblast are involved in the process of development of alternative family forms of care for children-orphans and children deprived of parental care. Dedicated Alternative Family Care Services have been developed in 19 rayon and

cities and in a further 15 this role is undertaken by social workers providing generic family support and alternative family care services.

In order to publicise the new services to ensure the right of the child to be raised in the family environment, social workers distributed 6332 posters, more than 15590 leaflets and stickers, attended 117 community group meetings (parents meetings, evening classes, student groups etc.), made 64 television and radio broadcasts and placed 126 magazine and newspaper articles materials in mass media during informational activity.

As a result 120 families expressed an interest in becoming foster carers. Following initial assessment approximately 44 families completed the training, 17 families (32 persons) were approved as foster carers or parents for family type homes. At end of September 2006 23 children had been placed with 15 foster families in Kyiv Oblast and one family-type children home was established. In total in Kyiv oblast there are 21 family-type children's homes with 151 foster children and 27 foster families (Annex 16).

During the reporting period, Kyiv oblast Training Centre, established within the framework of the Project, conducted a series of training sessions to prepare potential foster parents and carers of family-type children homes. Foster families can be trained only by trainers certified by the State Institute for Families and Youth at the Ministry of Family, Youth and Sport, and thus the Project supported a training session by the State Institute (Annex 17) on the 17th-21st of July 2006 for 20 social workers of Kyiv Oblast, who having obtained certificates are able to conduct training for foster parents.

Further training for trainers was provided by the Project EU Social Care Expert on the 14th – 15th of September 2006 for 10 part-time trainers, specializing in foster care (Annex 18) and on 3rd & 4th October 2006 cascade training for social workers and trainers on 'Preparing Children to live in Foster Families' was conducted (Annex 19).

State Social Services for Family, Children and Youth has allocated costs to Kyiv oblast Centre of Social Services for Family Children and Youth to conduct training for potential foster parents and social workers. The Project will support and facilitate the Kyiv oblast Training Centre to conduct this training thus allowing an expansion of the training programme.

Result 1.5 Social services able to provide counseling and support for pregnant women to prevent child abandonment developed.

Activity 1.5.1 Establish a partnership between SSSCY, NGOs and authorities currently responsible for the regions maternity services and residential care of 0-3 year olds to provide services that will assist parents, particularly single mothers.

In accordance with Agreements concluded with rayon and city administrations 61 social workers are active in providing early intervention service in 33 rayon and city Centres of Social Services for Family Children and Youth. As of the 1st of November 101 child abandonment cases were traced in Kyiv Oblast. With joint efforts of social workers and medical staff 56 cases of child abandonment were prevented of whom 9 continue to be supported by the Fastiv Mother and Baby Unit. 14 children were placed temporarily.

The Project has established a working partnership with Kyiv oblast Health Protection Department and work is being conducted to improve the cooperation between social workers and medical staff at rayon level.

This has included working meetings with social workers and medical personnel held on 20th July, with social workers and medical staff in pilot Vyshgorod rayon and Brovary city (Annex 20). During this meeting the further professional training needs of social workers and medical personnel were

identified. Training was provided for social workers and managers of early intervention services on 10-14 July (Annex 21) and subsequently on 3-4 September 2006 training for trainers in 'Emergency Child Protection' was provided. This was cascaded by the oblast part-time trainers who conducted three 3 day training sessions for early intervention service social workers (Annex 22).

Project staff have also engaged with the management of Boyarsky baby home in order to develop cooperation mechanisms aimed at reintegrating children to family forms of care.

The benefits of this can be illustrated by the fact that the Chief Paediatrician of Oblast Department of Health Protection was able to report on 29th November to Kyiv oblast Coordination Council for Child Protection that from the two baby homes in Kyiv oblast 54 babies were this year placed in family care and 11 of these children were reunited with their birth parents.

On the 31st of October, 2006 Project representatives took part in the joint meeting of Association of Obstetricians-Gynecologists, Paediatricians and Neonatology Physicians, where they discussed the issue of cooperation between health protection services and early intervention services, as well as the issue related to organizing the activity of "Mother and Baby Unit" Kyiv Oblast Social-Psychological Centre (Annex 23, 24).

This resulted in a broader Seminar on the 17 November for 130 social workers employed with early intervention service, neonatology physicians, pediatricians and heads of maternity welfare centers to improve the multi-agency cooperation (Annex 25).

Result 1.6 Services for the provision of support to children who are victims of violence developed

Activity 1.6.1 Establish services and mechanisms which protect children from abuse

In order to develop an appropriate child protection mechanism multi-agency training was conducted for representatives of all agencies involved in de-institutionalization process including staff of internats on 11 July 2006 in Brovary city (Annex 26) and on 4 July in Vyshgorod rayon. In addition to that, two sessions within the framework of the series of regional trainings "Emergency child protection" were conducted in September 2006 devoted to the issue of protecting children from abuse.

In December the project plans to conduct training "Protection of children's rights as a priority in social work". Social workers and managers of structural departments of rayon, city administrations, who are obliged to protect children's rights, will take part in the training (Appendix 27).

Result 1.7 Rehabilitation programmes for children in conflict with the law developed.

Activity 1.7.1 Establish rehabilitation programmes for children in conflict with the law.

2 specialised services for children in conflict with the law employing 4 social workers are operational in Brovary city and Vyshgorod rayon Centres of Social Services for Family Children and Youth. The Project has formed a partnership with the NGO Ukrainian Centre for Common Ground who has worked to develop restorative justice programmes in Ukraine. Following a working group meeting on 16 October agreement was reached to conduct a multi-agency seminar for three pilot rayons, Brovary city, Vyshgorod and Fastiv rayons on 14 December (Annex 28). This event will support the notion of development of multi-agency working to reduce juvenile crime and will target personnel of Criminal Militia, Centres for Social Services, Department for Education and local rayon and city administration officials.

Result 1.9 Model of integrated social services approved by authorities and tested in pilot region.

Activity 1.9.1 Advise on the expansion of service developments recently piloted in the region.

At the request of State Social Services for Family Children and Youth the Project in partnership with Kyiv oblast Training Centre conducted seminars on 27 September and on 13 November for social workers, specialists and departmental representatives of oblast Centres of Social Services for Children Family and Youth from all 27 oblast of Ukraine. Participants were acquainted with the achievements of the project in terms of supporting families in difficulties (Annex 31). Again at the request of State Social Service, a seminar for the Directors of these oblast CSSCFY from all Ukraine was conducted on 25 October to raise awareness and promote the methodology of work of integrated social services (Annex 32).

The Project was also pleased to host a delegation of State representatives from the Republic of Kyrgyzstan 30 – 31 October (Annex 33).

On 21 November the Project representatives presented the model of Integrated Social Services and its successful development in Kyiv oblast to representatives of Kharkiv city and Kharkiv oblast State Administrations at a seminar dedicated to the future strategic development of family based care.

Activity 1.9.2. Complete a plan of Intended service provision.

Activity 1.9.3 Develop a multi agency approach to gatekeeping admissions to residential care.

In July a presentation was made for the employees of CSSFCY and for the part-time trainers of oblast Training Center in order to familiarize them with principles of operation and functioning of the “Gatekeeping” mechanism. In the three primary pilot sites the mechanism is being developed in line with the Integrated Social Services approach and will be refined in the next reporting period. The model of Integrated Social Services has been developed in three rayons: Vyshgorod and Fastiv rayons and Brovary city. In each of the sites an individual model of integrated social services is implemented which takes into consideration the specific environment, context and needs of each rayon. Vyshgorod Rayon Council have approved the programme “Every child should have its own family” which supports the implementation of the model of integrated social services (Annex 29) and a single point of entry, ‘Public Reception’, is operational in Brovary city based on an order of the Head of the City Council (Annex 30).

Activity 1.9.4 Facilitate and implement an agreed multi-agency strategy for deinstitutionalisation in Kyiv oblast.

The programme for reform of child care services developed during the earlier phase of the Project was further elaborated during this reporting period and a consultative process commenced with Project partners including a two day working group held on 1-3 August. A DRAFT strategy has been developed and this will be updated to include the outcomes of the Money Follows Child Experiment and additional legal reforms. Project representatives have also provided information materials and the benefit of their experience to the development of a similar document being developed by UNICEF in Ukraine.

On the 12th of October 2006 a working group meeting was conducted to develop the mechanism and methodological materials to prepare children from residential care institutions to be reintegrated to their family or home environment.

These materials were provided to social workers during training ‘Reintegration, socialisation and providing care for children, placed in residential care institutions’, conducted in Brovary city (31 October–1 November) (Annex 34) and in Vyshgorod rayon (7-8 November). The training resulted in the development of joint action plans were developed in order to ensure the implementation of the reintegration process at rayon and city levels.

Activity 1.9.5 Attend meetings of Kyiv oblast Co-ordination Council for Child Protection.

The Project was represented at the the Co-ordination Council for Child Protection meeting of 29 November when Project results were presented and the issues of effective implementation of the

project by rayon state administrations and city executive councils was discussed with specific reference to development of appropriate budgeting for 2007 in order to support activity (Annex 35).

SPECIFIC PROJECT OBJECTIVE 2:

To provide assistance to the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sport and its State Social Services for Family, Children and Youth to elaborate recommendations for the improvement of the existing legislation that should facilitate the implementation of the new forms of social services and social care included in the package.

Result 2.1 The existing legislation in the field of social protection rendered to children and families analysed.

Initial analysis completed during inception phase. The Monthly Legal digest published and on the Project website updates the initial findings.

Result 2.2 Recommendations for adjusting laws, by-laws and regulations developed.

Activity 2.2.1 Identify specialists to work on key areas of legislation and develop new amendments and proposals.

Legal Experts continue to develop the recommendations made during the inception phase following the initial analysis. The SPO 2 activities have been defined by the Legal Action Plan (Annex 37) agreed between the beneficiary, Ministry of Family Youth and Sport and State Social Services for Family Children and Youth (SSSFC&Y).

The Project Representatives participate in 4 working groups, namely 1) State Institute of Family and Youth Affairs Working Group on development of Money Follows Child Regulation 2) Working Group of Standards of Quality Social Services provided for vulnerable children and families 3) Ministry of Labour and USIF (Ukrainian Social Investment Fund, under the auspices of the World Bank) 4) Ministry of Family Youth and Sports Working Group on Development of Care and Guardianship rules.

Activity 2.2.2 Set up working meetings with key practitioners in the relevant sector to discuss and feedback areas which require strengthening

This activity commenced during inception phase and will continue throughout the life of the project. The working group can support the Project activities in this respect, as will the Kyiv oblast Coordination Council, in particular the representative of the Prosecutors office. The Project continues to co-ordinate its activity working closely with the British Council 'Strengthening Regional Social Services' EU Project and concluded an information sharing working meeting on 17 November. Further links have been established with American Bar Association Central European and Eurasian Law Initiative (ABA CEELI) who are preparing a project concept in relation to the legal status of orphans and children deprived of parental care. An on-going dialogue with Project partners and beneficiaries continues to consolidate the partnership and ensure achievement of Project outcomes. This has included both informal and formal meetings including participation on the Collegium of the Kyiv oblast Department for Family and Youth 27 July 2006. In addition the Project conducted a Seminar on 3 & 4 October 2006 to discuss the model of Integrated Social Services as a fundamental standard for providing high quality services to vulnerable families and children (Annex 36). The Project also contributed to the Working Group established to identify a single terminology in the sphere of child protection and provided both a legal glossary developed by Project Experts and a glossary of social work terms.

Activity 2.2.3 Prepare proposals to develop legislation as it affect young people's rights as they become adults and leave state care

This item is included in the preparation of the Separate Indicative Timetable for the Legal Team which is currently in progress. See Annex 37 Legal Action Plan 3.

Activity 2.2.4 Prepare and submit proposals for legislation that will enshrine the new types of services and define the status of new roles e.g. foster parent

See above 2.2.3 Resolution No 564 amendment and Laws on Child Care (current Laws and draft laws under preparation

Activity 2.2.5 Prepare and submit proposals to give legal and financial definition to the notion of 'full state maintenance' and in particular clarify continued levels of support to adopters and foster parents that will remove some of the uncertainties for people wishing to take on these roles

This activity has been defined under the Legal Action Plans, as support to the implementation mechanisms to be developed for Feldman's Law No 2342-IV, 13 Jan. 2005, (*okonechnie poloshjeniya), or more correctly it's promulgation.

Activity 2.2.6 Organise public meetings to discuss and update draft laws and proposals for amendments

See above Activity 2.2.1 and 2.2.3

Activity 2.2.7 Review draft laws and proposals put forward to Cabinet of Ministers

This activity has been hampered by the fact that the promulgation of Feldman's Law is still pending. According to its promulgation clause, the promulgation should have taken place during 6 months (by 13.July 2005) from it's entry into force 13. Jan. 2005. Promulgation is the responsibility of the Cabinet of Ministers.

Project National Legal Expert will list for project internal purposes the laws, order and decrees which have been prepared for the implementation of Feldman's Law by September 2006, by two categories, namely a) laws, decrees and orders already in force, b) laws, and other regulations in the process of preparation, as far as this information can be accessed from public data bases.

Result 2.4 Support to the State Social Services for Children Family and Youth in improving legal provisions that regulate the creation of foster families family type care institutions and legal status of foster parents provided.

See activities noted above under result 2.2

Result 2.5 Quality Standards and control procedures for the provision on integrated social services developed and piloted.

Activity 2.5.1

This item is included in the preparation of the Legal Action Plan 3 (Annex 37) which is currently in progress. Support has been provided to the Working Group of the Ministry of Family Youth and Sports on the development of standards for family care including the provision of DRAFT Quality Standard Services for Vulnerable Families (Annex 47). Additionally Good Practice Guidance has been developed, piloted and published (Annex 4). Project representatives will also contribute to the USIF seminar on Standards in Social Services and Quality Management 23 & 24 November 2006.

Activity 2.5.2 Produce Good Practice Guidance.

See activity 1.9.7 and 2.5.1 above.

Activity 2.5.3 Set target times for in-country adoption of babies abandoned at birth.

This item is included in the Legal Action Plan preparation of the Separate Indicative Timetable for the Legal Team which is currently in progress and will be reported on in January 2006. Ratification of the Hague Adoption Convention of 1993 is decisive for the timetable of this activity.

Activity 2.5.4 Promote the piloting of service user groups probably in collaboration with an NGO

Service users were consulted during this phase of the project using focus groups, specifically in the arena of information and access to services. Their opinions have informed the recommendations of the Institute of Family and Youth (Annex 38). Participative work was also undertaken with children to identify their primary concerns and highlight the issues which affect them most (Annex 39). Further work has been done to engage with pilot service user groups to inform the service development and

allow Managers to be more responsive to needs. The outcomes of this work are fed back to rayon Directors of Centres for Social Services for Family Children and Youth.

SPECIFIC PROJECT OBJECTIVE 3:

To increase the human capacity of the Staff of the State Social Services for Children Family and Youth and it's regional branch in Kyiv oblast in implementing the new models of social services for exposed families and children by launching training programmes and public awareness campaigns.

Result 3.2 Training Programmes for Managers and Social Service Providers developed

Activity 3.2.1 Develop training programmes for managers and social service providers

See activity 1.9.3 above

Activity 3.2.2 Publication of training materials.

The Core Training Curriculum (Annex 40) for work with vulnerable families and children, which aims to improve the quality and status of social work education and offer flexible opportunities for skills development has been approved by the Order of State Social Services for Family Children and Youth 21.11.2006 No 57. The Programme was published in this reporting period, with a foreword by the Director of State Social Services for Family Children and Youth, Svitlana Tolstoukhova

Result 3.3 Training for different target groups executed.

Activity 3.3.1 Delivery of training modules in collaboration with local training institutions.

Training has been provided on a continuing basis as noted in the reporting for SPO 1 above according to the training programme (Annex 41) and in accordance with the Core Training Curriculum (see above 3.2.2).

The partnership with Kyiv oblast Training Centre, (established within the framework of this Project) was strengthened during this period and the training is planned and delivered jointly. The Project has also made strategic partnerships with appropriate NGO's to provide training (see 1.7.1 above).

Activity 3.3.3 Arrange visits for key personnel to study models of good practice developed in European countries.

The second Project Study Visit was conducted to Latvia within the scope of the Terms of Reference (Annex 42) at the request of the Ministry of Family Youth and Sports. Participants studied the reform of the child care system and in particular systems for financing state support to children. This visit was facilitated by the Ministry for Family and Children of the Republic of Latvia and was conducted 27 August-3 September. The feedback from participants was positive, details are provided in the attached report (Annex 42 a) and can also be found on the web-site: www.everychild.org.ua . A follow-up meeting was held in Kyiv to discuss lessons learnt (Annex 42 b) within the context of an expanded meeting to the MFC working group.

Result 3.4 Public awareness campaign launched to provide information on new services.

Activity 3.4.1 Public opinion research on the impact of the social services in providing social support for vulnerable children

During this reporting period the Institute for Family and Youth Development undertook a series of focus groups members of the public and professionals in the social sector in order to test the information materials developed (Annex 38). Based on the research findings publicity materials are under development for dissemination in January 2007.

Activity 3.4.2 Producing and publishing information materials about available social services.

Information leaflets on available social services (see Annex 44) have been produced and distributed among population and other stakeholders at the rayon level within Kyiv oblast. In the quarterly newsletter 'Changes for Children' (see Annex 45) information on the available social services, project activities and work in the field, case studies and best practice have been presented. Newsletters are distributed among partner organisations, state and local authorities, service user audience.

Activity 3.4.3 Developing recruitment materials for prospective foster parents and adopters.

Information materials for prospective foster parents and adopters have been developed, evaluated and tested (see above Activity 3.4.1). They include posters, leaflets and information packs and inform audience about the new forms of family care and state support provided through the social services activities.

Activity 3.4.4 Create an internal network for the circulation of information about the progress of service developments.

Information continues to be circulated inside the internal network developed during the previous reporting period. During this reporting period more than 20 news posts have been distributed via e-mail subscription among the members of the internal network. 4 press releases have been put on the web site of the European Commission. On 14 occasions information on Project activities have been highlighted on the web pages of different press agencies and partner organisations. The Press Conference held on 12 September 2006 to provide information on the distribution of equipment to the value of 400,000 euro provided by the EU within the framework of the Project was broadcast by 6 television companies and was followed up with articles in 5 national newspapers. 'Children Rights' magazine, issue No 5 (see annex 46) contains a section dedicated to the project implementation in Kyiv oblast.

4.2 Action needed from local authorities and or the European Commission

The Project has developed an internal monitoring and evaluation system to measure the impact of activity and will require the cooperation of Project partners at local and national level in order to collect the necessary data. In particular assistance from the MFY&S, State Social Services for FC&Y, Kyiv oblast State Administration will be appreciated.

A key factor in ensuring long term sustainability of Project results and outcomes will be the national dissemination and development and adaptation of the model of integrated social services. This will require the cooperation of all agencies with responsibility at a national level to engage in a meaningful dialogue and development for an appropriate strategy for reform of children's services which can build on the Draft Strategy developed (see Activity 1.9.4 above). We therefore respectfully request the commitment of Representatives of the Steering Committee to the process.

5. PROJECT PLANNING FOR THE NEXT REPORTING PERIOD

01 December 2006- 31 May 2007

Through its continuing partnership with the Ministry of Family Youth and Sports and its State Social Services for Family, Children and Youth, the Project will consolidate existing working groups and establish further networks to ensure that the progress made thus far is secured and built upon.

SPECIFIC PROJECT OBJECTIVE 1

To develop and implement in the pilot region a basic package of social services for exposed families and children.

Result 1.4 List of services for alternative childcare and adoption elaborated.

Activity 1.4.1 Establish services which support alternative childcare and adoption.

Whilst the services have been established further work will take place during this reporting period to consolidate these services and increase the number of children placed in adoptive or foster care placements.

Activity 1.5.1 Establish a partnership between SSSCY, NGOs and authorities currently responsible for the regions maternity services and residential care of 0-3 year olds to provide services that will assist parents, particularly single mothers.

The contacts established with the Ministry of Health and local Health Departments during this reporting period will be developed to ensure that Maternity Hospitals and Mother and Baby Homes are fully engaged in the Early Intervention process.

Result 1.7 Rehabilitation programmes for children in conflict with the law developed

Activity 1.7.1 Establish rehabilitation programmes for children in conflict with the law.

Social Workers are active in this sphere in the pilot sites however during this reporting period specialist training will be provided on a multi-agency basis to provide appropriate support.

Result 1.8 Methodology to define and allocate budget resources for the development and operation of services able to provide timely and flexible packages of intervention elaborated

Activity 1.8.2 Propose and pilot a methodology to fund new services.

This activity will be undertaken by the Social Finance Experts in consultation with the Legal Expert Team and will be considered in this reporting period. A report indicating proposals and recommendations for a methodology to fund new services will be provided to beneficiaries by March '07. This will clearly identify a vision for financing foster care, providing benefits for vulnerable families, financing institutional care, provision of material support to guardians and financial aid to adoptive families.

Result 1.9 Model of integrated social services approved by authorities and tested in pilot region

Activity 1.9.3 Develop a multi-agency approach to gatekeeping admissions to residential care

The model of Integrated Social Services was developed and introduced to partners during October-December 2005. This model has an inherent 'gate-keeping' mechanism which is intended to reduce the number of routes by which children can enter institutional care. Initial discussions with Service for Minors and State Social Services Family Children and Youth indicate that there is agreement on the concept and this will be further developed during this reporting period. The EU Expert in Social Development will during this period assess the current implementation of the model of Integrated Social Services within the pilot sites and the developed Gate-Keeping mechanism. Based on the outcomes and the internal project impact monitoring and evaluation the model will be further developed and described.

Activity 1.9.4 Facilitate and implement an agreed multi agency strategy for deinstitutionalisation in Kyiv oblast

Activity in this area has commenced and will be further developed in this reporting period. It is proposed that the framework document developed during this reporting period which will be further defined and it is proposed that this is linked to the strategy for the dissemination, development and adaptation of the model of integrated social services proposed.

Activity 1.9.5 Attend meetings of Kyiv oblast Co-ordinating Council for Child Protection

The Kyiv oblast Coordinating Council for Child protection will be the key body which will need to approve the model of Integrated Social Services along with the Steering Committee and the Project Partner. The EveryChild Consortium has attended meetings of the Coordination Council in the last reporting phase at which the model was introduced and discussed. The Project will continue to report to the Council on an on-going and regular basis. In the interim close links are maintained with individual Departments within Kyiv oblast on an individual basis.

Activity 1.9.6 Review the progress on the programme of improving childrens services in Kyiv oblast

The Kyiv oblast programme for improving childrens services has been a fundamental building block of the Project activities. It is intended that the coordination council meetings (above 1.9.5) will provide an appropriate forum for the review of this programme against development and proposed future activity.

Activity 1.9.7 Develop Good Practice Guidance

The current DRAFT Good Practice Guidance on Assessing Vulnerable Families and Children will be approved by State Social Services for Family Children and Youth and published for national dissemination in this reporting period.

SPECIFIC PROJECT OBJECTIVE 2

To provide assistance to the Ministry for Youth Affairs and Sport and its State Social Services for Family, Children and Youth to elaborate recommendations for the improvement of the existing legislation that should facilitate the implementation of the new forms of social services and social care included in the package.

Result 2.2 Recommendations for adjusting laws, by-laws and regulations developed.

Activity 2.2.3 Prepare proposal to develop legislation as it affects young people's rights as they become adults and leave state care

This activity is identified in the Legal Action Plan (Annex 37) for the period December 2006-September 2007 and a pro memoria with recommendations will be provided to Project beneficiaries based on the experience in the rayons in connection with the reintegration process.

Activity 2.2.4 Prepare and submit proposals for legislation that will enshrine new forms of care

Legal Experts will contribute to development of a proposal which encompasses the existing legislation but which includes comprehensive regulation and guidance for implementation. This will be informed by the analysis, evaluation and recommendations provided in the report on 'removal of parental rights'. A further and more comprehensive ToR in respect of this piece of work will be developed following discussion with the beneficiary in the coming months. Should this piece of work prove contentious and potentially difficult to implement during the lifetime of the Project the Expert will provide a research paper and discussion document for the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sport indicating the benefits of such an approach and detailing the necessary steps which should be taken in order to realise the concept.

Activity 2.2.5 Prepare and submit proposals to give legal and financial definition to the notion of 'full state maintenance' and in particular clarify continued levels of support to adopters and foster parents that will remove some of the uncertainties for people wishing to take on these roles

This activity will continue to connect the efforts of the Legal Experts and Social Finance Experts in supporting the definition of the money Follows Child Mechanism.

Activity 2.2.7 Review draft laws and proposals put forward to Cabinet of Ministers

See above Activity 2.2.3 In addition the Project Legal Experts will continue to produce the monthly Legal Digest which is published on the Project website and distributed via the internal communication network. This monthly Legal digest reviews the activity in the legal sphere in Ukraine in relation to children and families.

Result 2.5 Quality Standards and control procedures for the provision on integrated social services developed and piloted.

Activity 2.5.1 Draft regulation and quality standards to monitor and evaluate new services

Project Experts will continue to engage in the process of consultation and will provide recommendations and advice where necessary. The development of standards is included in the outcomes of many donor funded social Projects operating in Ukraine and thus an uncoordinated approach to the development have occurred. Locally all services developed operate within specific standards disseminated during training of social workers and these are fed into the national standards development process. However the Project will also continue to raise the issues of standards development without a framework for monitoring and enforcement, something which is unlikely for children's services until a national policy is adopted by the Prime ministers office.

Activity 2.5.2 Produce Good Practice Guidance

See activity 1.9.7 above.

Activity 2.5.3 Set target times for in-country adoption of babies abandoned at birth.

See activity 2.2.1 above. It is expected that this will be included in the proposals made in connection with legislation developed as requested by the Ministry.

Activity 2.5.4 Promote piloting of service user groups

Service user groups will be piloted at rayon level, proposed by Project representatives responsible for service development. In addition the focus groups established in connection with the Public awareness component will continue to be consulted. In addition the Legal Experts will establish a consultative group at rayon level with professionals directly involved in the provision of services and collect their proposals for improvement of legal provisions.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 3

To increase the human capacity of the staff of the State Social Services for Children Family and Youth and its regional branch in Kyiv oblast in implementing the new model of social services for exposed families and children by launching training programmes and public awareness campaigns.

Result 3.2 Training programmes for managers and social service providers developed.

Activity 3.2.2 Publication of training materials. Materials to be published during this period will include Manual for Alternative Family Care, Manual on Work with Families in Crisis, Manual on Child Participation and Good Practice Assessment Guidance.

Result 3.3 Training courses for different target groups executed

Activity 3.3.1 Delivery of training modules in collaboration with local training institutions.

The training activity will continue in line with the agreed training programme (Annex 41)

Activity 3.3.2 Supply specialist trainers to provide special training

As has become common practice the Project will source any additional experts to provide training beyond the expertise of the currently approved Project Experts.

Activity 3.3.3 Arrange visits for key personnel to study models of good practice/deinstitutionalisation developed in other European countries.

A third Study Visit is proposed to take place in April 2007 for key practitioners and managers at oblast and rayon level to provide them with an opportunity to see models of good practice in Europe. It is anticipated that this Study Visit will concentrate on grass roots service delivery models for vulnerable children and families. Initial enquiries have resulted in a dialogue with Swedish providers who are willing to demonstrate a variety of service provision operated by state, non governmental and private providers within the overall State policy.

Result 3.4 Public Awareness Campaign launched to provide information on new services and encourage community based initiatives.

The PR strategy will continue to be implemented during this reporting period.

Activity 3.4.2 Producing and publishing information materials about available social services.

Any necessary refinements to the materials developed during this period will be made based on the response to the materials developed and disseminated during this reporting period

Activity 3.4.6 Establish a user forum and ensure its representations are considered by the Coordination Council for Child Protection.

See above Activity 2.5.4. Phase 3 of the Public Awareness Research will be conducted in order to evaluate the process of implementation of the PR Strategy.