

Development of Integrated Social Services for Exposed Families and Children

Terms of Reference – Study Tour Development of the Legislation and Regulations for Implementation of the Money Follows Child Mechanism

Proposed working dates of Study Visit: 27 August–02 September 2006

Study Tour Objective: To support the Ministry of Family Youth and Sports to develop the mechanism for the implementation of the legislation and regulations for the Money Follows Child Mechanism (MFC) as indicated in the Presidential Decree No.1086/2005 11 July 2005, Instruction of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No.35930/1/1-05 19 July 2005 and the Law of Ukraine “On Provision of Organisational and Legal Conditions for the Social Protection of Orphans and Children Deprived of Parental Care” No. 2342 13 January 2005.

Background:

The project Developing Integrated Social Services for Exposed Children and Families is financed by the European Union and implemented by the EveryChild Consortium. Its main aim is **to reduce the number of children placed in boarding institutions and social orphanages in Kyiv oblast by assisting the State Social Services for Children Family and Youth in developing and implementing efficient integrated social services able to provide effective support for vulnerable families and children.**

The project has the following three **Specific Project Objectives (SPOs):**

- SPO 1: To develop and implement in the pilot region a basic package of social services for exposed families and children
- SPO 2: To provide assistance to the Ministry for Youth Affairs and Sport and its State Social Services for Children Family 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.
- SPO 3 To increase the capacity of the staff of the State Social Services Centre and its regional branch in Kyiv oblast in implementing the new model of integrated social services for exposed families and children by launching training programmes and public awareness campaigns.

The main project partner is State Social Services for Family, Children and Youth as part of the Ministry of Youth and Sport of Ukraine. Kyiv oblast and its relevant departments,

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which have responsibility for the care of vulnerable children, is another important partner with whom the project works closely.

The project timescale is from April 2005 until October 2007.

The EveryChild consortium methodology reflects a commitment to working in partnership with the stakeholders and beneficiaries, engendering local ownership at all levels and facilitating inter-agency working underpinned by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. It aims to promote development of policy, which is underpinned by good practice. The Project will build on the existing services in Ukraine, both those provided by the government and those provided by non-governmental structures in order to develop a coherent strategy for childcare through appropriate child-centred, family-based social services for vulnerable children and their families. The philosophy of this project provides an opportunity to develop an empowering approach that incorporates practical development and a systematic change in policy in order to provide a long-term sustainable impact.

EU and local experts will work alongside, and in partnership with, key decision makers from the relevant governmental ministries and departments and non-governmental organisations in developing the direction of the project activities.

Rationale:

The Ministry of Family youth and Sports have established links with the Ministry of Children and Family in the Republic of Latvia. They have expressed an interest in visiting a country which has recently undergone a reform of the child care system in line with European Union standards. This visit is therefore intended to reference the practice and experience of a country which was formerly part of the Soviet Union and which is now a new EU Member State.

Activity:

Plan and implement a Study Visit to Latvia for specialist representatives of the Ministry of Family Youth and Sports and other ministries and agencies which will provide opportunities to study the reform of the child care system and in particular systems for financing state support to children. It is anticipated that the Ministry for Children and Family in Latvia will host a delegation of finance practitioners from the Ministries during the period August-September 2006 in order to share their experience of reform, particularly in the sphere of financial supports to vulnerable children, orphans and children deprived of parental care. The visit should focus 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. The visit will be organised on the basis of formal and informal meetings with the opportunity to see the development of practice as well as policy. Demonstrating the links between policy and practice and funding, the visits will develop the participants' knowledge base and equip them to deliver realistic and effective policy within Ukraine. The visit should reference the practice and experience of other European countries and relevant European and international standards and conventions

In practical terms all planned visits should demonstrate this within the context of social support (both social work support and social benefits) to families in crisis to prevent family breakdown and alternative family type care.

Attention should also be paid to enabling participants to apply the learning in the Ukrainian context and assisting them to develop action plans and strategic goals.

The visit should provide opportunities for participants to learn about children's social services in the Republic of Latvia in particular

- mechanisms and systems for inter-ministerial and inter-departmental working and cooperation to promote an integrated approach to service provision with specific reference to the linkages between policy development, implementation and finance
- the development and application of legislation to support community based care services for vulnerable families and children
- inspection, monitoring and evaluation - systems and methods
- funding mechanisms for redirection and targeting of resources
- knowledge and skills management within organisations to support change

Number of participants: 10 + 2 representatives from EveryChild

Number of days: 7 days (5 + 2 travel)

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