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EU Project "Development of Integrated Social Services for Exposed Families and Children"

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This project is implemented by the EveryChild Consortium.

The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Commission.

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by the European Union.

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European Union's Programme for Ukraine

Development of Integrated Social Services for Exposed Families and Children



A project implemented by
the EveryChild Consortium

The EU Project "Development of Integrated Social Services for Exposed Families and Children" is a vital initiative aimed at the protection of children's rights in Ukraine.

The overall objective of the Project is to reduce the number of children placed in residential institutions by supporting the development of local social services which can support families or provide alternative family care. This includes policy and legislative development as well as capacity building to develop the skills and experience necessary to sustain service development.

Project Objectives

> To develop and implement innovative models of integrated social services for vulnerable children and families in Kyiv oblast.

> To develop and improve legislation which will support the new models of social services and to improve existing family and child protection legislation in accordance with European standards.

> To increase the capacity of the staff of State Social Services for Family, Children and Youth and allied child protection agencies, so that they are able to deliver and continue to develop the new services - through specialised training programmes and public awareness campaigns.



During 2006 a range of services to ensure the right of a child to grow up in a family have been developed within the framework of the EU Project. They operate within the state structure of Centres for Social Services for Family, Children and Youth in 34 rayons and cities of Kyiv oblasts.

Each of the services is aimed at either supporting families to care for their own children or where this is not possible finding substitute families for them. Early Intervention Services (EIS) and Family Care Support Services (FCSS) are working predominantly to prevent the breakdown of vulnerable families, providing short term intervention or long-term support, while Family Care Support Services (FCSS) are finding possibilities for children who cannot live with their own families to live in a family environment, either through adoption or foster care.

As a result of Project activity in the six months January-June 2006

- > An additional 129 trained social workers were providing social services to vulnerable families and children in Kyiv oblast bringing in total the number of social workers to 232.
- > 26 families were assessed, trained and registered as foster carers and a further 9 are in preparation.
- > More than 800 socially vulnerable families with children were assessed as requiring support to prevent family breakdown and received social work support to prevent admission of children to institutional care. Out of 464 families (1093 children) that were provided with support in the first six months of 2006 the cases of 223 families were successfully closed (478 children).
- > 26 potential infant abandonments have been prevented.

Project implementation

This project is implemented by the EveryChild Consortium.

Project beneficiary

Ministry of Ukraine for Family, Youth and Sport, State Social Services for Family, Children and Youth.

Activities

The project has been implemented since April 2005 and will last until October 2007. It is being piloted in Kyiv oblast.

Value

1 600 000 Euro.

Equipment to the value of 400 000 Euro was provided to rayon and city Centres of Social Services for Family, Children and Youth to improve the quality of social services provided to vulnerable families and children.

The EU Project "Development of Integrated Social Services for Exposed Families and Children" (registration card of the Ministry of Economy and European Integration №1599 від 25.04.2005) is implemented based on the Order of the President of Ukraine "On priority activities, aimed to protect children" № 1086/2005 dated 11th of July, 2005, Order of the Ministry of Ukraine for Family, Youth and Sport № 13 as of 21st of March, 2005) and Agreement on Cooperation between the partners: "EveryChild", State Social Services for Family, Children and Youth and Kyiv Oblast State Administration.