



The project is funded by
European Union



The project is implemented by
Consortium "EveryChild"

REPORT

ACCORDING TO THE RESULTS OF THEMATIC CAMPAIGN «CHILDREN'S RIGHTS»

*25 July - 10 August 2006 p.
Sergyivka village of Odessa oblast.*

***DIRECTION:
«CHILDREN'S
PARTICIPATION»***

Prepared: Zh. Petrochko

GENERAL REVIEW

I. The aim of the organisation in conducting thematic campaign “Children’s rights” was to initiate discussion on the needs and problems children face and get information for EveryChild planning its programmes and activities, as well as encourage children participation in planning process.

II. **Main period of work** included the following events, organised by Zh.Petrochko, EveryChild Ukraine expert.

<i>Days</i>	<i>Event</i>
1	Training programmes for children «Children’s rights»
2	Competition of posters (for senior schoolchildren) and drawings (for junior schoolchildren): «Happy childhood»
3	Assistance in discussion of the document “UN recommendations on alternative forms of care» in the group discussions
4	General discussion «A child’s voice must be heard» (following the discussion of the document in groups)
5	Questionnaires among the children (guidelines and assistance in filling in questionnaires)
6	Focus group with children from orphanage “Lyubystok”

In addition to the planned activities the representative of the organisation together with N.Rudko, the Director of social services centre of Vyshgorod rayon, were involved in conducting daily meetings with pedagogical workers in the summer camp, and assisting in general summer camp events.

Every day of the campaign had its own motto: “Children have right for information”, “Children have right for rest”, “Children have right for own opinion”, «“Children have right to develop their talents”, “Children have right for personal life”, and others.

III. The results of the organisational period are:

- Analysing of questionnaires, materials from discussion and focus groups, drawings/posters;
- Preparing the analytical report.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Taking into account the abovementioned facts one may conclude that organization's goal has been reached and the implementation of change and tasks have been fulfilled.

The activities on change have formed the system each component of which logically continued the previous one and at the same time was sustainable. The sequence of activities characterized as "complex" was done correctly and might be generalized and used in the future work. Achieving the main goal which is to involve children in planning of activities and discussion of important international documents there have been conducted the series of additional activities such as:

- general description of change (newspapers, mottos, general morning meetings, ties and badges with organization's logos);
- trainings;
- playing activities for children of primary school and teenagers;
- drawing competition;
- sport and art activities;
- discussion of the document in the sphere of child rights protection;
- distribution of questionnaire among the participants.

The key component of change is training on the rights of the child. Their aim is to raise the legal awareness of the participants and prepare children to other activities such as drawing competition, discussion of UN Draft Recommendations, filling in the questionnaire "Child's Rights". Children show great interest in training. Learning through playing the best fits the peculiarities of summer holiday.

Children are to be involved in the training according to their wish and age (11- 14 years old). However, this rule might be broken when we talk about working with children who grow up in childcare institutions, foster families and when children are eager to work with the whole group of children of different age formed before coming to the summer camp (members of sport unit, art, group, ect).

The bright activity of change is drawing competition which can inform about the imagination and feeling of young artists.

Children are capable to discuss the documents on child rights. However, taking into consideration personal characteristics and skills, not all the children are actively involved into discussion. Regardless this fact, the participation of less active children in such discussions is necessary. They are also interested, children listen how their peers and friends express their thoughts and learn how to present and stand on their views.

Discussion of UN Draft Recommendations was the logical step after the training, drawing competition and other activities were conducted. It is necessary to uphold to such sequence during the work on other similar documents. Children can refer to the information received, find the confirmation of their beliefs and use the articles of UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

It is important for discussion participants to get acquainted with the documents beforehand. It's advisable to involve children-leaders in public discussion (debates, role play, etc).

The focus group with children from children's home "Lyubystok" gave the opportunity to partly study children's intentions, fears, their attitude to family types of care, vision of their parents' main problems and readiness to return home. The main outcomes:

- there is a conflict between children and one of the carer. This situation need to be urgently addressed by the organization;
- the majority of children from "Lyubystok" children's home have no desire to live or return to their family. This fact confirms the necessity of explanatory work with children living in institutions on the benefits of family types of care;
- children want more often visit their relatives or guardians;
- it is important to implement in children's home the module course "Learning to live independently". The subjects raised during this course are interesting and urgent for children and enable to form their social competency, feeling of confidence.

Having analyzed the questionnaires of children from "Lyubystok" children's home was found out that:

- the majority of participants stated that they lack kind attitude;

- children have great expectations in solving their problems from children's home director, his wisdom and justice;
- children would like to return home or create new family if they were wizards;
- children from "Lyubystok" children's home would like to know additional information on "EveryChild" organization and ready to provide their assistance.

There has been conducted a questionnaire. There have been distributed 131 questionnaires (16 among children from "Lyubystok" children's home). 3 questionnaires should not be taken into account, so there have been analyzed 112 questionnaires of children aged 10-17 (questionnaires of children from "Lyubystok" have been analyzed separately).

43 questionnaires have revealed children's problems of different character. Among those 24 questionnaires that need social workers and other appropriate staff take urgent steps. The following problems stated: absence of father or mother and child's feeling about it; separation of parents; parent's alcoholism; domestic violence; parents old age; children and parents' conflicts; low living standard; bad attitude of the teachers; absence of love; lack of food.

The results of "Child's Rights" questionnaire are the following:

- 68% children regard that children's rights in Ukraine are violated very often;
- the most frequently violated rights are the right to quality medical care, protection from abuse, private life, proper standard of living, protection from drug abuse;
- children need to have right for education, development of their talents and rest, quality medical aid, protection from abuse, free expression of personal views, private life, proper standard of living, protection from drug abuse;
- 17% – possibility of free expression of personal views; 14,3% are not satisfied with their health condition, the same percentage are not happy about the carer's attitude to them; 9,8% – living conditions and 8,1% – with the life development as a whole;
- the majority of children value in the family friendship, love, mutual understanding, care and respect and are proud of that. Most of the children are proud of their parents, siblings and only few of them stated that are only proud by living conditions of their family;
- children are unhappy about the quarrels in their families, that parents do not understand them, that they do not feel love and support; that parents abuse alcohol; parents divorced; suffer from domestic violence; that parents need to work hard; that members of their families have problems with health; that they have poor material and living conditions.
- 17% children (19 kids) stated that their parents need support; 56,3% refused support; others were not sure with answer. Among desirable kinds of support were stated money (material support), medical treatment, proper employment for parents;
- children from Vyshgorod district mostly lack confidence in the future (49,1%), health (32,1%) and free time (31,3%). 10,7% of children state that they lack kind attitude of people;
- the most frequently children face problems connected with inability to maintain relationship with others, unwillingness to study, problems with friends and others;
- 40,2% children think that they are able to solve life's problems; 28,5% are sure that "they can do it almost always"; 25% stated that "they can both solve and do not solve their problems to the same extend" or "more often they cannot solve their problems";
- 83,1% children are expecting help and support from their parents; 46,4% – from friends; 36,6% – from siblings; and only 8 children (7,2%) – are expecting support from their carers;
- the biggest group among the children was the one that has the high level of spiritual intentions, wanting to improve the life of other people;
- 63,4% children stated: "I am happy!" 6,3% – objected this statement; 30,4% – were not sure with the answer as the feeling of happiness depend on the atmosphere in the family, absence of conflicts between parents and children, and absence of child abuse.

Recommendations regarding the planning of EveryChild activities:

- it happened to be difficult to respond to children's questions regarding further actions and organization's priorities, often their proposals were not concrete and did not correspond to the statute EveryChild's activities;
- children regard as urgent the direction of activities regarding protection of children from abuse (53,6%); support of children in childcare institutions, their adaptation in social life (50,9%); training for children on how to be independent, take part in decision making process and creating for children the center of mutual support (up to 40,2%);
- contemporary children need to be more actively involved in the process of decision making, they are ready to help their peers to overcome the problems;

- 44,7% of children answered that would like to cooperate with EveryChild. Children are ready to help organization in different spheres of activities such as work with orphans, involving children in decision making process, organization of leisure activities, etc.;
- children would like to have more information about the organization: 51,8% are interested in thorough information; 50,0% - what children received support from organization, their case studies; contact details, 13,4% would like to know web site address and information about the staff;
- taking into account children's activities it is advisable to initiate the development of volunteers groups in all Centers of Specialized Services for Children and Youth (CSSCY) and especially in pilot districts.

We have come across the following *difficulties*:

- Firstly, Vyshgorod CSSCY did not have experience of implementing of such changes. In the previous years children of Vyshgorod district only had holidays in "Medyk - 2" according to quite flexible timetable. Such experience was not good enough taking into account discipline issues, especially with senior teenagers.
- Secondly, camp's methodist and carers were not optimistic taking into account different circumstances including the abovementioned and fulfilling all the tasks on implementation of change.

Growing children's active participation, their positive reaction objected the assumptions of some carers and children regarding radical change of views of contemporary children on organized summer rest ("Children are not interested in change, only children below 12 are going to invent mottos and take part in mass activities, etc").

Taking into account the outcomes, administration and carers staff acknowledged that the idea of organized rest and implementation of change need to be taken into consideration. Therefore, the most important result of EveryChild's work is the change of attitude of social workers, pedagogues and other specialists that work with children to the forms and methods of leisure organization for children.

There has been worked out organization's vision of such changes in the future, analyzed personal mistakes in the summary meeting that prove the sustainability of the proposed by EveryChild kinds of activities for children during summer holidays.

Thematic campaigns aimed at raising legal awareness of children in Kyiv oblast, involving them in decision making process, discussion of documents regarding children's issues, including children in the process of planning and correcting of EveryChild's activities makes sense to conduct in summer camps.

Children of appropriate age need to be selected to take part in thematic campaign. The best age is from 10 to 14 years old. It is useful to have mixed groups of children as kids from well-off families start thinking about the problems of orphans, realize the value of family life and family relationship.

This summer organization's experience and implementation of thematic campaign in cooperation with Vyshgorod CSSCY is worth to be disseminated in other districts of Kyiv oblast having offered different options of changes.