



**MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL POLICY
MINISTRY OF REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS**

Republic of Bulgaria

**Integrated Approach for deinstitutionalisation –
the combination of Operational Programme “Human Resources
Development” and Operational Programme “Regional
Development”**

**Madrid, 13-14 December 2012
EURoma Network Meeting**

Background information

The implementation of the deinstitutionalisation process in the last 10 years in Bulgaria has identified several key challenges that the reform faces:

- Inadequate and inefficient coordination between the different participants, incl. ministries, local authorities, services providers and users;
- Insufficient connection between the different sector policies and systems related to child welfare – family assistance, social assistance, child protection, education, health care, employment, housing policy, justice, etc.
- Establishment of community-based services parallel to the continued existence of large institutions resulting in inefficient use of resources;
- Creation of new community-based services which “imitate” the institutional model;



Background information (2)

- Insufficient capacity of the child protection system, in particular the Child Protection Departments (CPDs) in the “Social Assistance” Directorates (DSA);
- The mechanisms for financing the social inclusion services and measures do not correspond to a sufficient extent the Government’s policies for family support and are not efficient enough for removal of the classic type of institutional care;
- Insufficient use of the EU funds for supporting the priorities of the reform of the child and family protection and welfare system;
- Uneven progress in the different regions and municipalities of the country in the implementation of the reform.



Background information (3)

In the beginning: Phare Programme 2004 - 2006: (Pre-accession period)

- **The overall objective of the multi-annual project** was strengthening of the child welfare system and deinstitutionalisation of children, people with disabilities and elderly people, placed in specialized institutions through provision of community-based services and improving the quality of life of persons with mental health problems with respect of human rights:
- **BG 2004/016-711.01.02 Deinstitutionalisation through provision of community based services for risk groups (Phase 1);**
- **BG 2005/017-353.01.02 Deinstitutionalisation through provision of community based services for risk groups (Phase 2);**
- **BG 2006/018-343.01.01 Deinstitutionalisation through provision of community based services for risk groups (Phase 3).**



Background information (4)

Results achieved under the three phases:

- Assistance developed and supported **208 social and mental health services.**
- **193 grant contracts supported:**
 - nearly 6000 children and 3000 families at risk;
 - 2900 adults with disabilities or elderly people and
 - 1500 people with psychiatric disorders/mental health problems.
- **Individual grants also contributed to the restructuring or closure of:**
 - 25 childcare institutions and
 - 10 institutions for adults with disabilities or elderly people.



Background information (5)

- **The assistance made a tangible contribution to the development of community-based services for vulnerable people in Bulgaria. It created about:**
 - 2/3 (two-thirds) of all Care Support Centres and the transitional homes for children;
 - more than 40% of the day care centres for elderly people and the crisis centres;
 - about 30% of the day care centres for adults with disabilities and the family-type centres for accommodation of children;
 - 1/4 (one fourth) of the sheltered homes and
 - about 1/5 (one fifth) of all day care centres for children with disabilities in the country.



Background information (6)

- **Access to community-based services, as an alternative to institutionalisation, was improved in 97 out of 264 Bulgarian municipalities;**
- **Approximately 80% of the projects included training of staff and experts as well as the development of common standards for services that can be replicated by all providers;**
- **Partnerships between NGOs, private service suppliers and local authorities. NGOs were lead partners in 40% of the grants.**



Political and institutional context 2007-2013

- **The Bulgarian Government adopted** with Minutes 8.2 of the Council of Ministers dated 24.02.2010 a strategic document named **National Strategy “*Vision for Deinstitutionalisation of the Children in Bulgaria*”**;
- Bulgarian Council of Ministers approved on 24th of November 2010 **Action Plan for the implementation of the National Strategy**;



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- **6 Schemes directed to Deinstitutionalisation process have been approved by OP HRD Monitoring Committee up to the first quarter of 2011.**
- **Within 3 of them the integrated approach is strongly covered – total budget: 63 775 207 mln. Euro/124 731 550 mln.lv.;**
- **Financed under priority axis 5 “Social inclusion and enhancement of social economy” of the HRD OP;**



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HRD OP DEI integrated schemes 2007 - 2013

Briefly described the DEI integrated schemes are:

1. **“CHANCE FOR A HAPPY FUTURE”** aims at establishing and implementing a sustainable model for long-term deinstitutionalization of children from 0 to 3 years of age living in homes for medical care for children (DMSGD) through provision of integrated health and social services for family support and preventing the risk of abandonment of children.
 - Budget - 16 500 000 mln. leva/ 8 436 445 mln. Euro;
 - Component 1: 2011-2014; Direct Beneficiaries – Ministry of Health, National Agency for Child Protection, Agency for Social Assistance;
 - Component 2 /integrated approach/: 2012-2014; Beneficiaries – Municipalities and districts of municipalities with services financed under RD OP. Suppliers of social services are directly included during the implementation process;



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2. “TO NOT ABANDON ANY CHILD” - the overall objectives of the scheme are:

- to achieve sustainable model for the deinstitutionalization of children with disabilities placed in institutions for children;
 - Promotion of the new philosophy of care for children with disabilities with an emphasis on prevention of the risks of abandonment, early intervention and family support;
 - Extension of foster care and closure of specialized institutions for children with disabilities - homes for mentally retarded children and homes for children with physical disabilities.
- **Budget - 18 000 000 mln. leva/ 9 203 395 mln. Euro;**
 - **Component 1: 2010-2014; Direct Beneficiaries – Ministry of Health, National Agency for Child Protection, Agency for Social Assistance;**
 - **Component 2 /integrated approach/: 2010-2014; Beneficiaries – Municipalities and districts of municipalities with services financed under RD OP.**



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3. "LIFE IN THE COMMUNITY" aims at:

- ensuring the right to life in the community of persons placed in institutions, children deprived of parental care (DDLRG) and adults with physical disabilities, mental disorders and mental retardation;
 - Creation of new forms of social services for persons from the target groups;
 - Provision of a new kind of social work, including social protection, real integration, rehabilitation, counseling, mediation, training, full inclusion in community life of persons from the target groups;
- **Budget - 29 275 207 mln. leva/ 14 968 405 mln. Euro;**
 - **Component 1 and Component 2 /integrated approach covers both components/: 2012-2014; Beneficiaries – Municipalities and districts of municipalities with services financed under RD OP. Suppliers of social services are directly included during the implementation process;**



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Critical success factors (1)

In spite of the success achieved in the process of modernisation of the system through the Pre-accession Phare period and by means of EU funds now, efforts for achievement of a higher quality of the social services and their bringing up close to family environment are still needed.

- **Political leadership**
- **Sufficient administrative capacity:**
 - Public administration
 - Beneficiaries
- **Positive attitudes:**
 - Broad public, local community, stakeholders, incl. media and NGOs
 - Target groups



Critical success factors (2)

- **Design of the intervention:**
 - Strategic vision
 - Coordinated and integrated approach
 - Targeting (diversity of the target group; adequate information on characteristics of the target group)
- **Strong partnership:**
 - Active involvement of stakeholders at all stages
 - Involvement of local community



HRD OP DEI integrated schemes 2007 - 2013

Thank you for your attention!

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