



**MINISTRY OF REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL POLICY
Republic of Bulgaria**

Integrated Scheme - Support for the deinstitutionalization of social institutions delivering services to children at risk

**Operational Programme Regional Development and
Operational Programme Human Resources Development**

An example from Bulgaria

**EURoma meeting
Madrid, 13 December 2012**

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Integrated projects under OPRD and OPHRD – origin of the initiative (1)

- December 2009 - 130 residential type institutions in Bulgaria with total 7 150 children permanently separated from their family environment
- October 2009 a Working group for deinstitutionalization of children at deputy minister level. Its task: *to adopt a **National Map of Residence Care** defining the territorial scope (municipalities) where deinstitutionalization would take place*
- February 2010 - National Strategy “**Vision for deinstitutionalization of children in the Republic of Bulgaria**” – replacement of the institutional childcare with community-based family or close to family environment care
- November 2010 - **Action Plan 2010 -2025** for implementation of the Strategy – gradual closure of all institutions and provision of a range of new services



Integrated projects under OPRD and OPHRD – origin of the initiative (2)

Main objectives of the Action Plan:

- To develop a system of family-based and community-based services across the country
- To close down in a systematic way all classical-type boarding child-care institutions in Bulgaria while ensuring the provision of long-term or short-term placement in a family-type care for every child
- To develop the legal and regulatory framework for the transition towards the community-based and family-based care
- To improve the effectiveness of the care system for vulnerable children and their families



Integrated projects under OPRD and OPHRD – background information

The Strategy for closure of the existing 130 institutions and their replacement with services in family environment and community-based services must be implemented through **5 PROJECTS**

- Project 1: deinstitutionalisation of children in **Homes for children with disabilities** (24 homes for children with disabilities)
- Project 2: deinstitutionalisation of children in **Homes for medical and social care** (32 Homes for medical and social care for children)
- Project 3: deinstitutionalisation of children in **Homes for children deprived of parental care** (74 Homes for children deprived of parental care)
- Project 4: development of foster care
- Project 5: career development of social workers



Integrated projects under OPRD and OPHRD – management and coordination structures (1)

- Management and Coordination Working Group (ministers and deputy minister) – monthly meetings for assessment of the progress of the strategy
 - manage the overall implementation of the Action Plan
 - monitor and assess the implementation of the specific activities and projects
- Steering Committee for monitoring (expert group) - interdepartmental collective body, providing coordination of the implementation of the Action Plan
 - development of the Action Plan
 - monitoring of the implementation of the activities
 - coordination between all projects and stakeholders
- Technical Unit for Management of each of the projects



Integrated projects under OPRD and OPHRD – management and coordination structures (2)

Project management team – regional level

- Monitor and assist the development of the regional/inter-municipal analysis and the implementation of the Regional Strategies for Social Services
- Plan the scope of the services necessary for the replacement of each institution
- Report the progress to the Technical Unit for Management of each of the projects



Integrated projects under OPRD and OPHRD

Design of the projects - deinstitutionalization of homes includes the following activities:

Management structures at national level	HRDOP/RDOP – Projects 1, 2, 3
Communication strategy	HRDOP
Assessment of the needs for necessary services for the children raised in institutions	HRDOP
Regional/inter-municipal analysis and planning of the necessary services	HRDOP
Development of the local infrastructure of the services (buildings for the FTPC, day-care centers, etc.)	RDOP – Projects 1, 2, 3
Implementation of the inter-municipal action plans, staff training, preparation of the children for the transfer, support after the placement	HRDOP
Provision of additional technical and institutional resources for the institution	HRDOP
Maintenance costs for the alternative services	HRDOP
Monitoring and assessment	HRDOP



Integrated approach under OPRD and OPHRD

First priority in the implementation of the Strategy – project 1

- **Target group:** children with disabilities
- **Integrated approach** - OPRD interventions are to complement needs assessment activities and community-based services and social services for the individual needs of each child (1797 children from 56 institutions) - **OPHRD contribution**
- **Common objective:** to implement a sustainable model for taking children with disabilities out of specialized child care institutions. The municipalities are to develop their **projects for social services** when finalizing the **construction activities**



Integrated projects– OPRD contribution: deinstitutionalization scheme (1)

- In January 2011 a direct grant procedure scheme “**Support for the deinstitutionalization of social institutions delivering services to children at risk**” under OPRD was launched
- **Beneficiaries:** 62 municipalities within the scope of urban agglomerations in line with the National Map of Residence Care
- 3 deadlines for submission of project proposals: **30.06.2011; 30.09.2011 and 17.04.2012**
- The total amount disbursed under the scheme is Euro **54 696 185**. The contribution of the ERDF amounts to 85 % or **Euro 46 491 757**
- **Objective:** to support the creation of infrastructure providing community-based services to disabled children and adolescents
- Construction of **133 FTPC** and **27 sheltered houses** in 62 municipalities



Integrated projects– OPRD contribution: deinstitutionalization scheme (3)

Eligible activities for funding under Scheme

- Establishment of Residential Family Centers with the adjoining yards
- Building, repairing, renovating and upgrading the buildings of sheltered housing
- Implementing energy efficiency measures in the above buildings/premises
- Implementing installations/facilities for renewable energy sources
- Delivery of the appropriate equipment and furniture for the above buildings/premises needed for the relevant residential and social services
- Improved access of the disabled people to the above buildings



Integrated projects– OPRD contribution: deinstitutionalization scheme (4)

- 62 grant contracts at the amount of total Euro 53 mln. with all beneficiary municipalities
- In July 2011 Euro 5 mln under OPRD were granted to the Ministry of Health for the restructuring of 8 pilot Homes for Medical and Social Cares for children with the aim to establish innovative integrated services for deinstitutionalization of children aged 0-3 placed in such homes and children in the community in risk of abandonment



Integrated projects– OPHRD contribution: deinstitutionalization scheme

In June 2010 a direct grant procedure scheme “**Not to abandon a single child**” under OPHRD was launched with 2 components:

- Component 1: Planning of deinstitutionalization measures: analysis and assessment of children's needs
 - ❖ Budget: Euro 2 500 000
 - ❖ Beneficiary: State Agency for Child Protection
- Component 2: Provision of Social Services in the Community: gradual provision of the social services identified by the needs assessment
 - ❖ Budget: Euro 11 760 000
 - ❖ Beneficiaries: all beneficiary municipalities building social infrastructure under OPRD



Projects under OPRD– implementation phase

- All beneficiary municipalities have their management teams set up
- By the end of 2012 most of them are expected to have contracted the construction activities for FTPH and sheltered houses
- According to schedules the construction activities will take 8-12 months
- No major problems or delays have been identified so far
- All premises are to be ready for use by the end of 2013
- All social activities under OPHRD must be established by the end of 2014



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

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