



ADVOCATING FOR SOCIAL SERVICES FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES

- *Opening Doors II pan-European campaign launched in Chisinau*
- *Continuing to develop community based social services for children and their families in the context of decentralization and limited local budgets is the main focus of the ODII in Moldova*

The Phase II of the Opening Doors for Europe's Children campaign launched on December 1st in the European Parliament was launched in Chisinau, Moldova. 'Opening Doors' it is a pan-European campaign that supports strengthening families and promotes transition from institutional to family- and community-based care for children in Europe.

In Moldova, the campaign was launched through a press club targeting journalists and bloggers as key influencers in the country (according to most recent 'Barometrul Opiniei Publice' opinion pool in the country, media is maintained its highest position in ranking of most influencing institution in Moldova). The launching event was attended by EU Delegation, UNICEF and the the Alliance of NGOs working in the field of child and family social protection (APSCF) representatives. The EUD Project Coordinator, Iuliana Stratan stressed out the EUD will to continue to support the national DI efforts of Moldova in line with the Common European Guidelines on the Transition from Institutional to Community-based Care (<http://www.deinstitutionalisationguide.eu/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/GUIDELINES-Final-English.pdf>)



The second phase of the campaign was focused on the general public and was kicked off through an online press conference organized in partnership with 'Simpals' online media holding (which owns around 60 moldavian websites targeting the general public) and

www.mama.md. The press conference was broadcasted live on a few social media and web portals, and gathered over 1 000 views in one hour.



The speakers, Mrs Liliana Rotaru, the President of CCF/HHC Moldova and Mrs Mariana Ianachevici, the President of APSCF addressed to the general public in a very interactive and easy to understand manner about the child protection reforms, progress, results, challenges and way forward aiming to end once and forever the institutionalization in Moldova and all children to grow up in a caring and loving family environment.

'Family is the best environment for growth and development of the child, no institution or professional can replace it', Liliana Rotaru mentioned.

'Every child has the right to family based environment, services and policies which would act for his/her best interest', Mariana Ianachevici stated.

Both hosts of the press conference helped the public to understand better the progress of child protection system reforms and why is important to close the institutions and develop community based social services to support the families, despite the challenges of decentralization reforms and the insufficient local budgets.

'We strongly Advocate for FEASIBLE SOLUTIONS to continue the development of community based social services to support children and their families', Liliana Rotaru noted.

'We want money to follow the children, to be invested in services. The CHILDREN need this now, and this is an OBLIGATION of local communities', Mariana Ianachevici stressed out.

The speakers have interacted with the public and have answered to their questions, like what would be the benefits and advantages of becoming foster parents, why and how to be active citizens and other important details for the public.

The online press conference could be watched [here](#).

In Moldova, the second phase of OD campaign is coordinated by CCF/HHC Moldova and is supported by the following civil society organizations: APSCF, Amici Dei Bambini, AVE COPIII, Keystone Human Services International Moldova, Partnerships for Every Child and 'Speranta' Resource Centre.

The campaign is focused on supporting the 2014-2020 Child Protection Strategy and its Action Plan, development and appropriate funding of minimum package of social services to support the de-institutionalization in the context of decentralization reform.

DI in Moldova. Facts and figures

- 2,214 children in 35 institutions in Moldova in 2015. The majority of these institutions are residential institutions, auxiliary schools and special schools under the Ministry of Education.
- 200 children with disabilities in 2 institutions.
- The number of children in formal care per 100,000 child population remains one of the highest in the CEE/CIS region; 1,826/100,000 in 2014
- The number of children growing up in foster care families is increasing constantly in Moldova, from 282 children in 2007 to 981 children in 2015.
- In 2015 there were 91 children in 12 Small Group Homes. SGHs in Moldova operate by NGOs and they are adequately equipped and trained to meet children's individualized needs.

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

- The Action Plan of the 2014-2020 Child Protection Strategy was widely consulted and approved in July 2016.
- CCF/HHC is implementing a project funded by UNICEF aiming to development of a comprehensive model for the prevention of family separation and DI of children under 3 and children with disabilities.

For more details:

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