



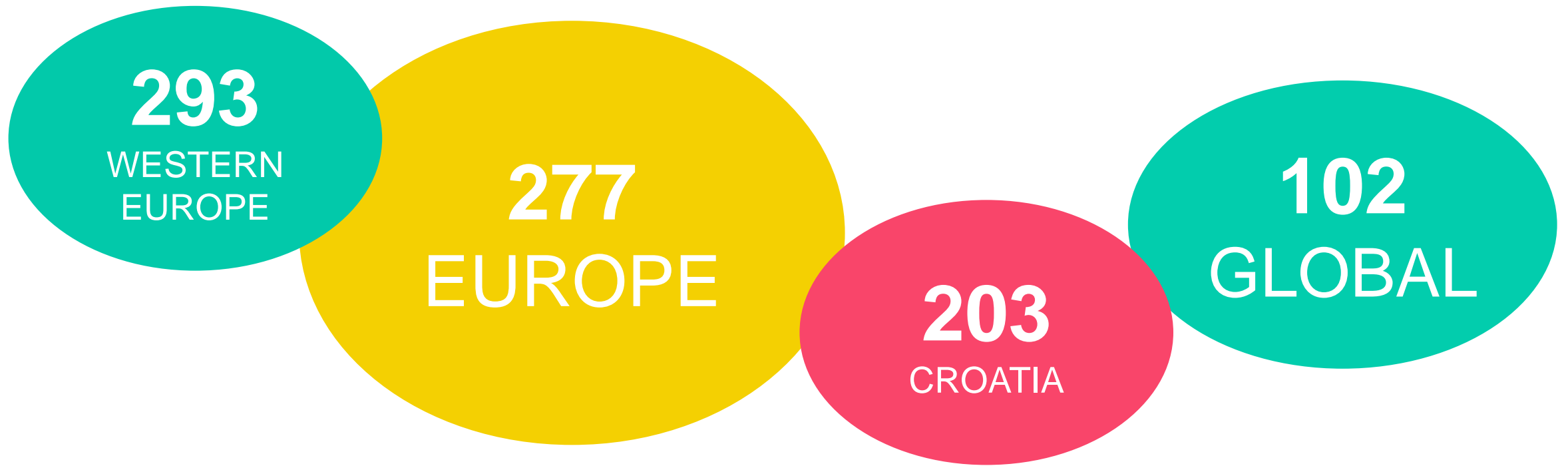
THE STATE OF CHILDCARE: WHERE WE STAND AND WHERE WE ARE HEADED

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Every child has the right to grow up in a nurturing family environment

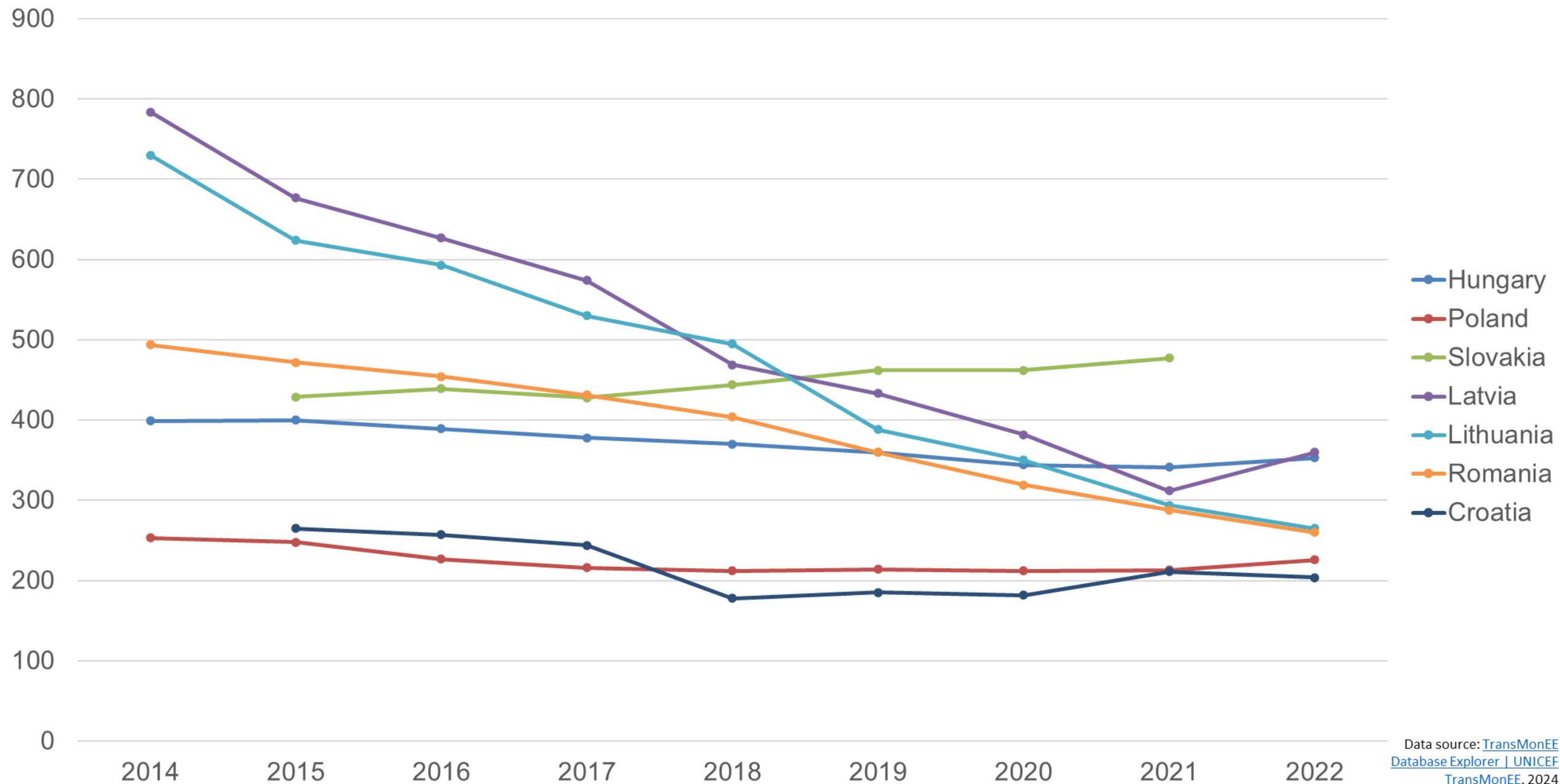
Yet around **337,287 children** aged 0-17 years across **36 countries in Europe** are growing up in residential care facilities – including large scale institutions



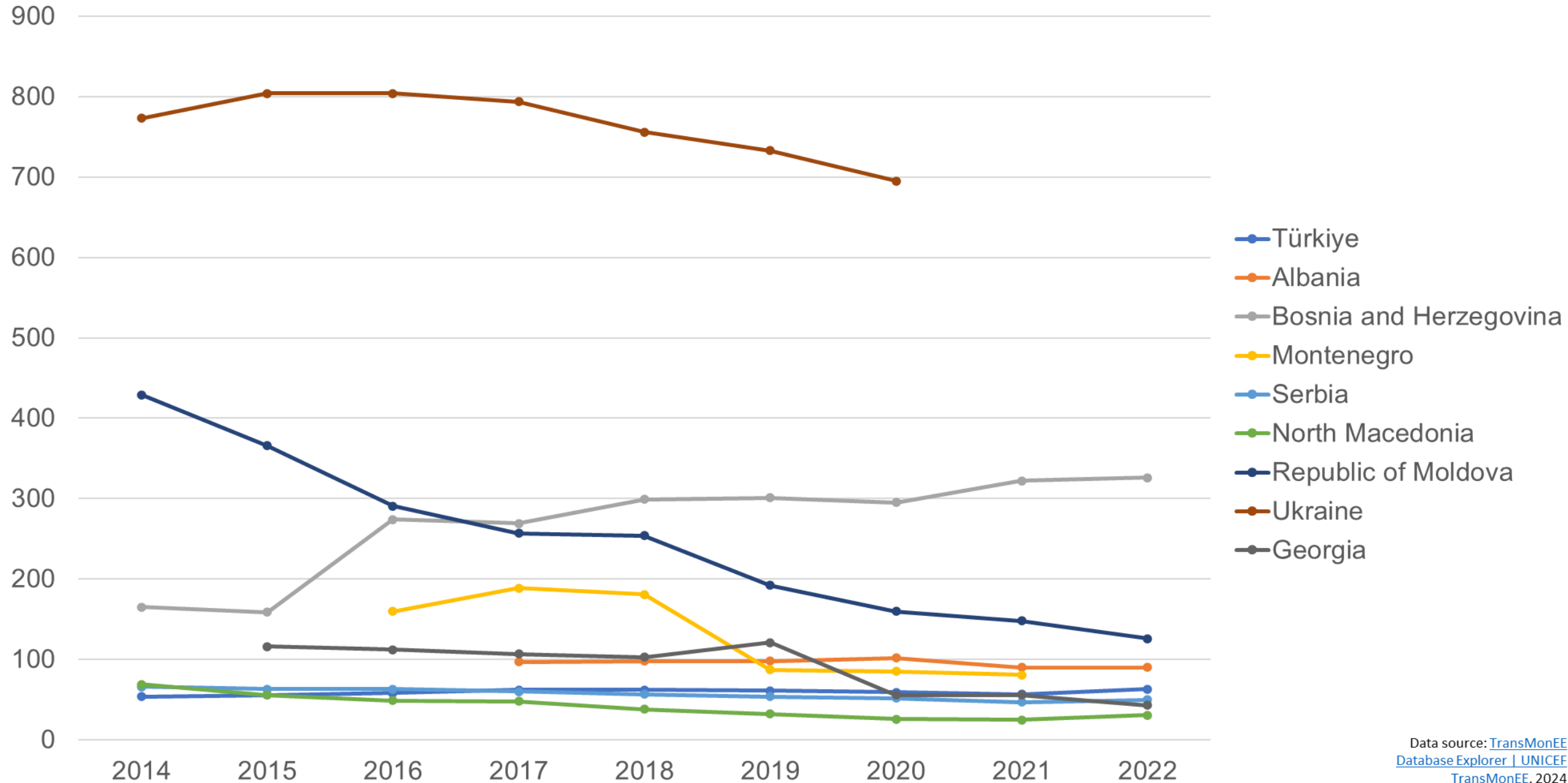


The estimated average rate for **Europe** is **277 children for every 100,000 children** in residential care, compared to an estimated **global** average rate of **102 per 100,000 children**

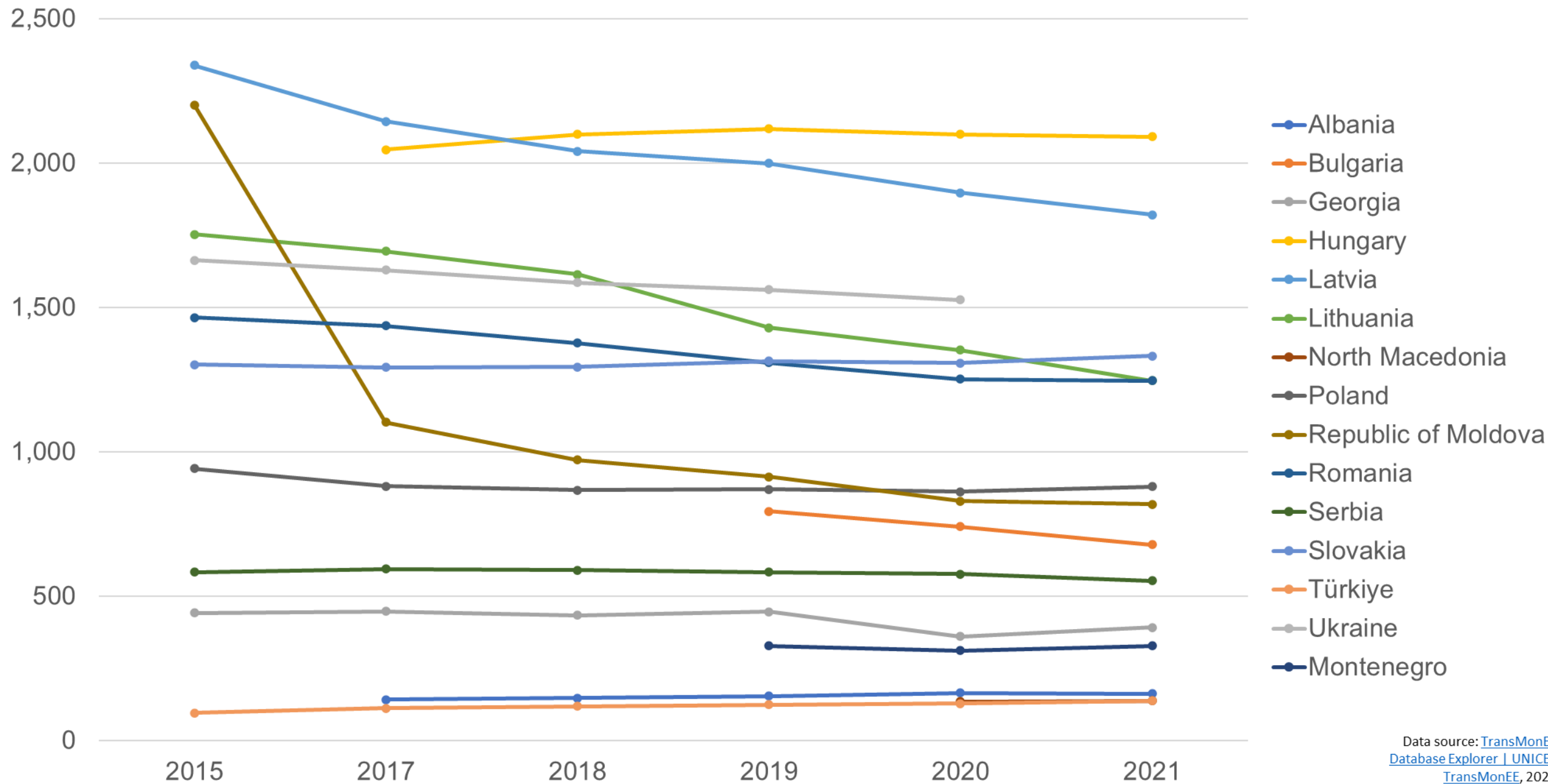
Rate of children (0-17 years) in formal residential care at the end of the year (per 100,000) in seven EU countries for which data over the period 2014-2022 is available



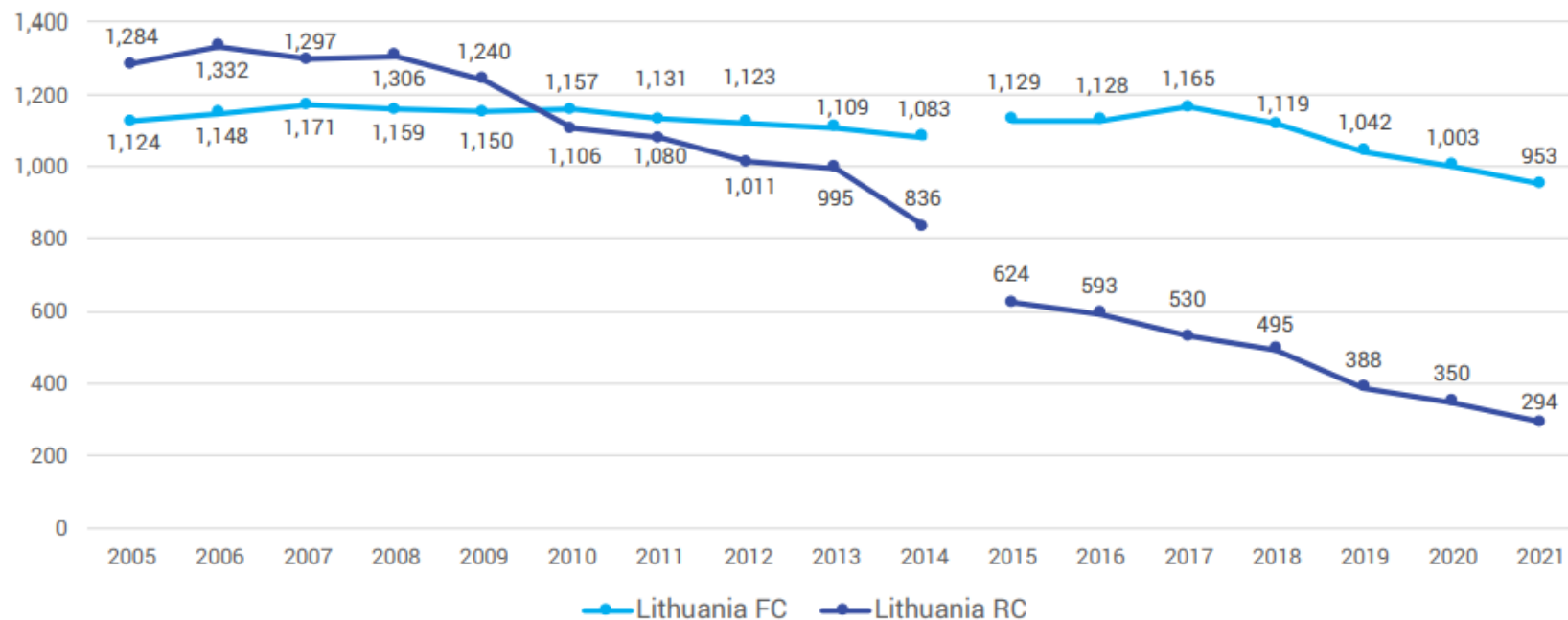
Rate of children (0-17 years) in formal residential care at the end of the year (per 100,000) in nine EU Accession countries, 2014-2022



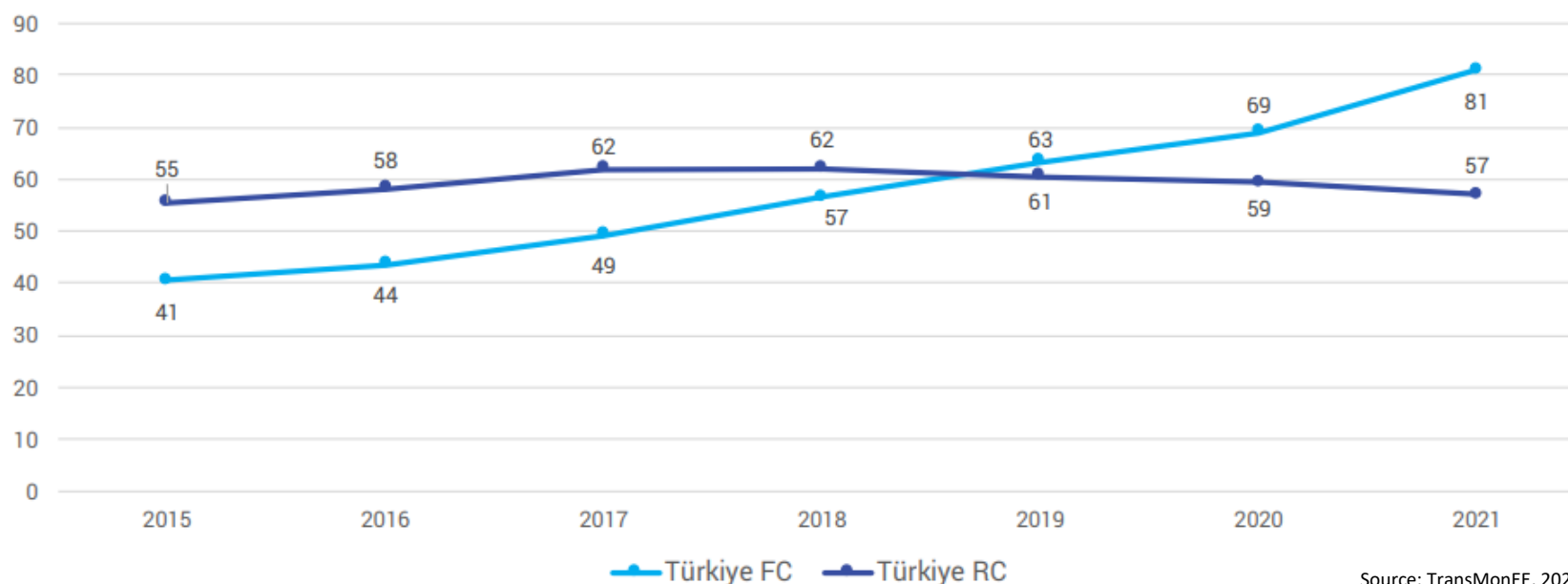
Rate of children (0-17 years) in formal alternative care at the end of the year (per 100,000) in countries in Europe for which data over the period 2015-2021 is available



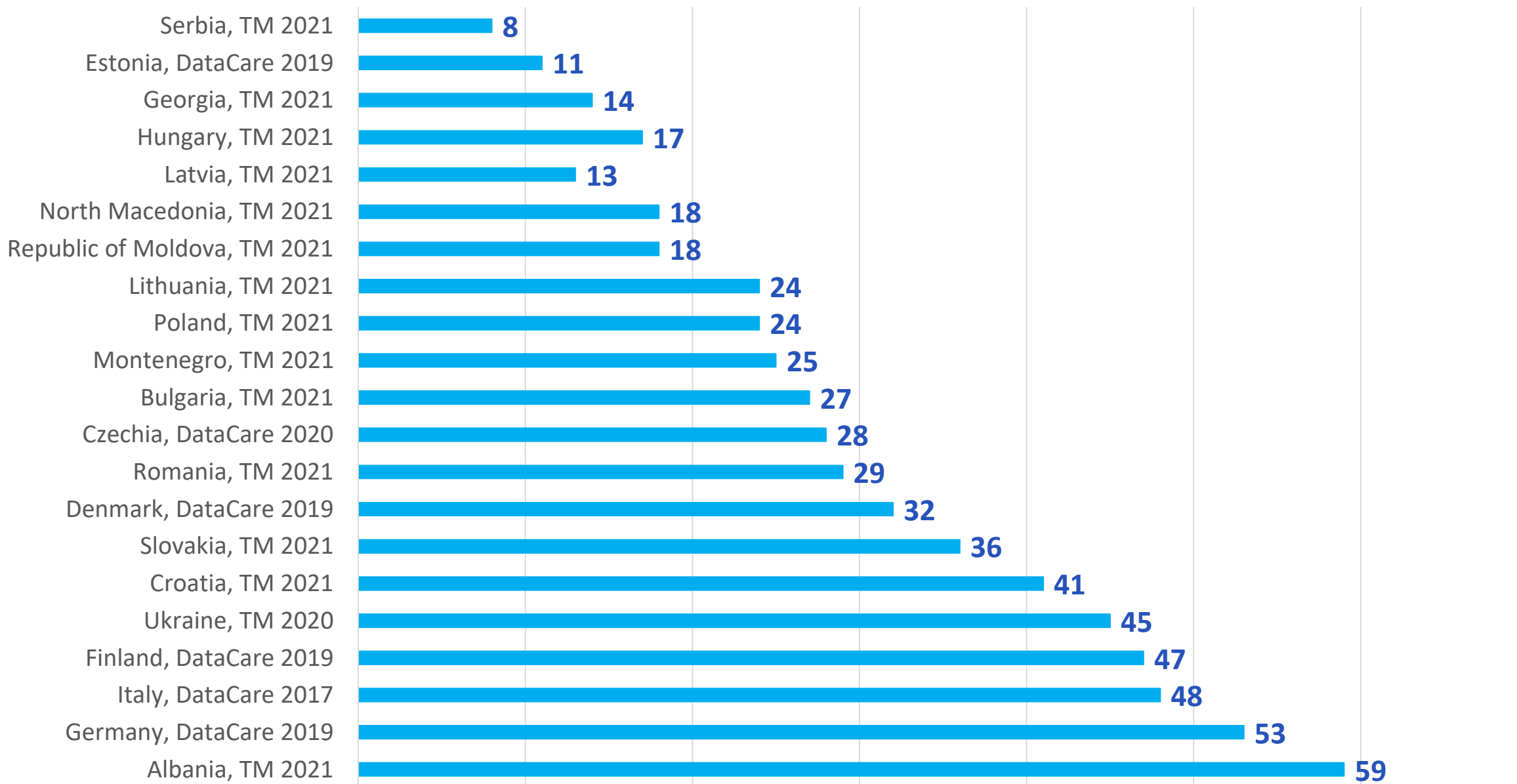
Substantial change in the composition of the types of care available in the formal alternative care system in the region



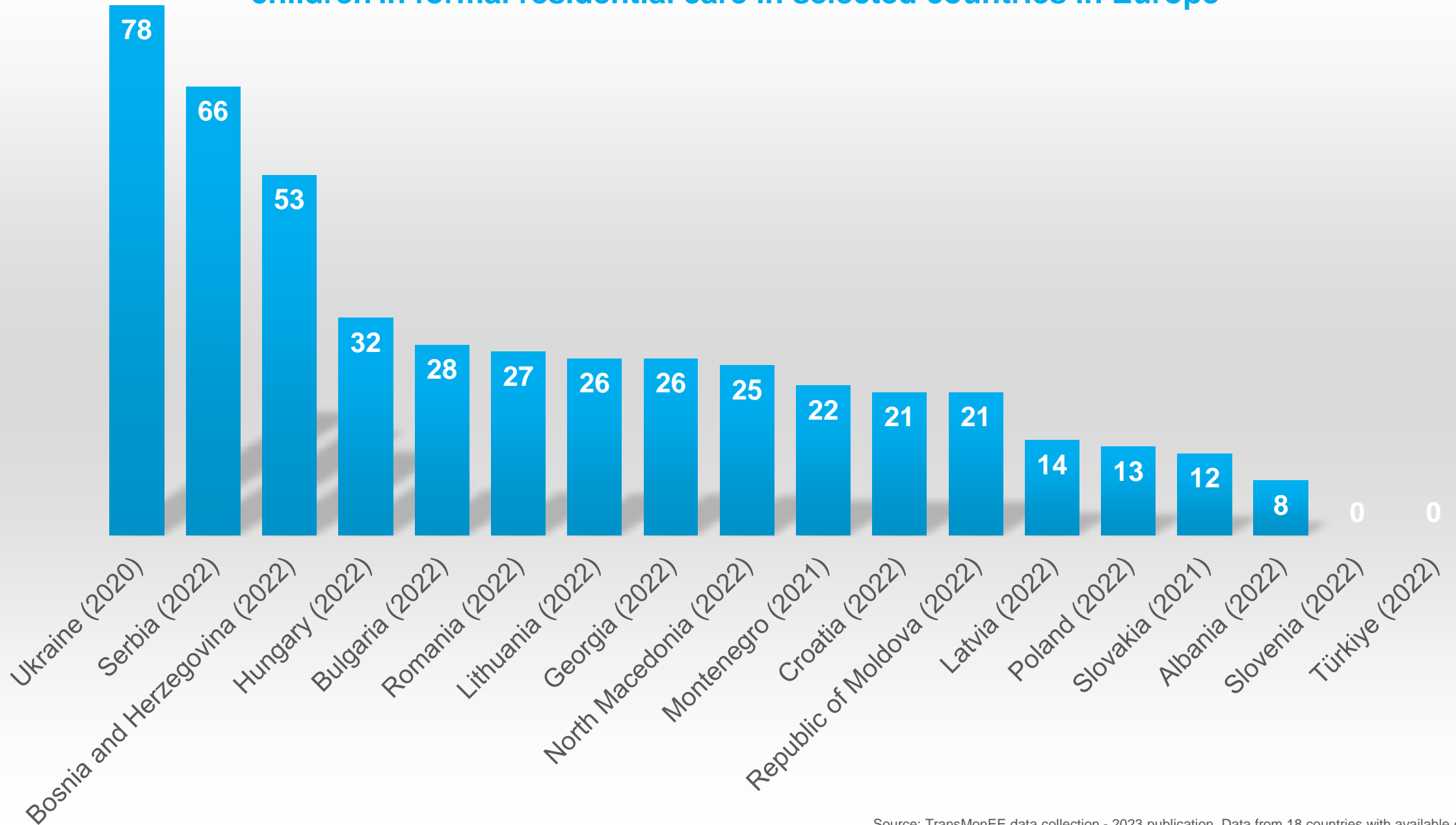
Trend analysis shows a change from greater rates of children in residential to greater rates of family-based care (per 100,000 child population) in certain countries



Percentage of children in residential care of the total number of children in formal alternative care, data from 21 countries in Europe



Children with disabilities (0-17 years) as a percentage of the total number of children in formal residential care in selected countries in Europe



What are we learning – Where are we headed?

Children with disabilities, children with so called 'challenging behavior', children as victims of violence abuse and exploitation, migrant and refugee children... Care and support systems are not currently prepared.

Pressures to increase residential placements will continue, unless:

- Social work, and the social services that social workers can use to prevent family separation are significantly strengthened and modernized.
- Inclusive education is deliberately linked to the phasing out of residential boarding schools / special schools.
- Foster care is professionalized, diversified, and supported at scale.
- Small scale residential care is limited, used only in exceptional cases for no more than 4-6 children, and is of high quality.
- Data systems are improved and modernized, and data is used to inform programming and policy shifts.
- Financial allocations to social services (family support services, alternative care, social work) are commiserate with the needs.
- Accountability for reforms which are complex and involve multiple sectors and coordination is secured at the right level.

Thank you!



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