



# EU FUNDS IN ENHANCEMENT OF CHILDCARE AND BUDGETING

---

Natalia Efremova,

Deputy-minister of Labour and Social Policy and National Co-Ordinator of EU  
CG, Bulgaria

# CHILDCARE REFORM IN BULGARIA

## **Guiding principle:**

The family is the best environment for every child

## **Strategies** for the transition from institutional care to care in the community:

Long-term National Strategy “*Vision for DI of childcare in Republic of Bulgaria*” 2010 -2025 and Action Plans for 2010 – 2016 and 2016 - 2025

## **Participation of the civil society:**

NGOs in the Monitoring Committee and relevant WGs

The greatest success is **the improved quality of life of children.**



# RESULTS OF THE REFORM

Adoption of the National Strategy  
"Vision for the DI of childcare in  
Bulgaria" 2010-2025 and first  
Action Plan 2010 - 2016

2010

All institutions for children with  
disabilities are closed  
(till the end of 2015)  
All institutions for children deprived  
of parental care are closed  
(till the end of 2020)

2015 – 2020

From 241 services in 2010  
to 750 services in 2024,  
covering more than  
20,500 children and families  
3 Homes for Medico-Social Care  
for children about to be closed

2024

2014 – 2020

2024

BGN 320 million from the HRDOP

- Providing new services
- Training and supervision
- Other activities

3 979 children in families of  
relatives or closed people  
1 484 children in foster families  
2 779 children/young people  
in services for residential care

# OTHER IMPORTANT RESULTS

## The Social Services Act:

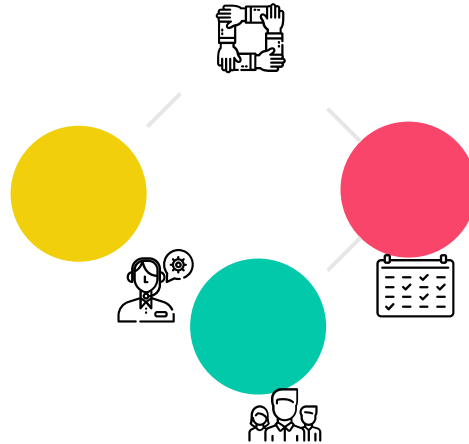
- The provision of residential care for children up to 3 years is not allowed
- Measures for prevention of abandonment, reintegration into a family, adoption and foster care strengthened
- Improving the quality of life of children removed from specialized institutions
- Integrated approach in early childhood development services
- Support to children with disabilities – financial support, day care and home-based services



# CHALLENGES

**Integrated measures** for children and families and **strengthening inter-institutional cooperation**

**Enhancing the capacities** of the system and the specialists



**Raising public awareness and involving local communities**

**Strengthening prevention, reintegration and family support**

# THE NATIONAL ACTION PLAN IN BULGARIA

## Implementation of the Council Recommendation (EU) 2021/1004 establishing the ECG

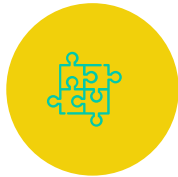
- Integrated approach
- Complex care and protection of children
- A significant focus on Early childhood development



# DI REFORM AND THE EU CG ACTION PLAN

## Objectives

- Reduction of children in residential care
- More children and parents supported through:
  - ✓ Prevention and early intervention
  - ✓ Information and counselling
  - ✓ Therapy and rehabilitation
  - ✓ Training and skills development



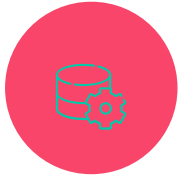
## Target groups

- Children in alternative care
- Children with disabilities
- Children in precarious family situation
- Refugee and migrant children

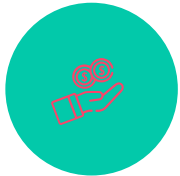
## Measures

- Prevention of risks
- More children in a family or family-based care
- Early intervention
- Support to young people leaving care

# FINANCIAL RESOURCES



## State budget



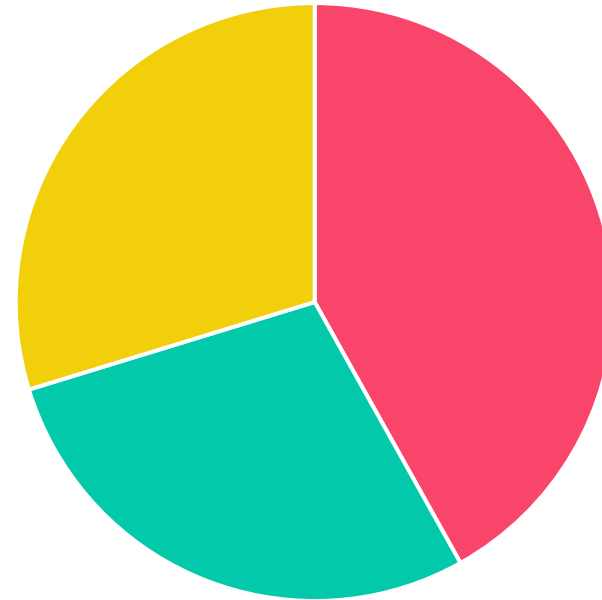
## EU funds – over € 136 millions

- Education Program
- Human Resources Development Program



## Objective

- Over 200,000 children to be reached





# FUTURE FOR CHILDREN: A KEY OPERATION UNDER THE HRDP



## Key Activities

- ✓ Health promotion
- ✓ Patronage care for children from 0 to 3 years
- ✓ Early childhood development services
- ✓ Health and social services
- ✓ Counselling and mediation re: labor market



## Main Objectives

- ✓ 40 000 children and their families will be supported
- ✓ Almost 7,500 children already have been supported

# Thank you!

Any questions?

[mlsp@mlsp.government.bg](mailto:mlsp@mlsp.government.bg)

+359 2 8119 432

<https://mlsp.government.bg/>

