

# Deinstitutionalisation of Childcare: Investing in Change

5-8<sup>2019</sup>  
November



## Thematic Panels – Part 1, 7th November 2019

### 11:30–13:00 **Panel 1, Hall 7: Prevention of separation of children from their parents** Simultaneous interpreting provided BG/ENG/RUS

Presentations and discussion in the thematic panel focus on the importance of community based prevention services in a successful DI process and their role in establishing strong gatekeeping mechanisms. Three family intervention programs from Austria and Bulgaria will be presented, including crisis placements with the goal of reintegration, family consultative centres, and mobile family support services in rural areas. Participants will discuss role of different stakeholders - state, local authorities and NGOs for the development of support services to prevent separation of children from their parents.

Presenters: **Dimitrina Petrova, Georg Dimitz, Dessislava Encheva - Ivanova**  
Moderator: **Maria Dantcheva**; Rapporteur: **Nicola Oberzaucher**

### 11:30–13:00 **Panel 2, Hall 9: Promoting DI reform and managing change** Simultaneous interpreting provided BG/ENG/RUS

Deinstitutionalization of childcare is a national priority and policy whose implementation led to a major social change. This change is related not only to the moving out of children from specialized institutions and their closing down, but also to the improvement of the quality of life of the children moved out of institutions and of the practices for supporting children and families.

How to ensure a mutual understanding of the deinstitutionalisation process so that all participants can develop a shared vision for change? How should the deinstitutionalization process be planned and how should the interests of all parties be taken into account? What are the main challenges facing the process? How to successfully coordinate the accumulated knowledge and the practical management of the process to achieve effective change?

In order to answer these questions and to start the discussion, two presentations will be made focusing on deinstitutionalization as part of the integrated policy to support children and families, as well as the process through the prism of municipalities.

Presenters: **Asya Ilieva, Tzvetan Predov**  
Moderator: **Maya Grozdanova**; Rapporteur: **Tonislava Sotirova**

### 11:30–13:00 **Panel 3, Small Hall, 6th floor: Reintegration and support to birth and extended family** Consecutive interpreting provided BG/ENG

The team of HHC - branch Bulgaria will present its experience and good practices in support of the deinstitutionalization of childcare reform in Bulgaria. The audience will be introduced to the model of Active family support, developed and implemented by the organization in support of children and families at risk, as well as with the functioning of the District coordination mechanisms for deinstitutionalization as a tool for interinstitutional resolution of specific cases in the best interest of the child. A particular emphasis will be placed on the implementation of the working models in the reintegration of institutionalized children into a family environment and the mobilization of community resources in support of their families. Practical examples will be presented to illustrate the targeted work of bringing children from 0 to 3 years out of the Homes for Medical and Social Care for Children. A filmed case of reintegration of a disabled child into his family will be screened.

Presenters: **Elena Petkova, Boryana Klimentova**  
Moderator: **Georgi Simeonov**; Rapporteur: **Iva Nikolova**

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## Thematic Panels – Part 2, 7th November 2019

**14:00–15:30 Panel 4, Hall 7: Foster care**  
Simultaneous interpreting provided BG/ENG/RUS

There is sufficient evidence that foster care is a key service to achieve successful DI because it provides the necessary family environment for the children who have lived in institutions.

What are the factors that make foster care a good family environment? What are the factors that undermine its quality? How can "policy", "science" and "practice" levels coordinate their efforts to achieve quality foster care?

Three presentations will set the stage for the discussion framed by the above questions. The first one will present the successes and the challenges of the foster care development in Bulgaria. The second one will present an evidence based foster care model, developed in the UK. The third one will share the personal experience of a Bulgarian foster parent.

Presenters: **Ognian Hristov, Alan Woods, Alexander Milanov**  
Moderator: **Antoaneta Mateeva**; Rapporteur: **Radostina Antonova**

**14:00–15:30 Panel 5, Hall 9: Small-scale residential care**  
Simultaneous interpreting provided BG/ENG/

One element of a deinstitutionalisation strategy is the setting up of small-scale residential care. Its purposes are to secure a smooth transition of highly institutionalised children and young adults into life in the community and to be one of the care options for children with very complex needs.

Which children are in need of small-scale residential care? What is quality small-scale residential care and how do we monitor it? How do we shift the conversation from "for" and "against" small-scale residential care to a constructive debate that takes into account that every child has their individual needs?

The discussion on these questions will start with three presentations on models of small-scale residential care for children with disabilities and children with challenging behaviour, and the role of the professionals in child care.

Presenters: **Brian McDonald/Bisser Spirov, Roland Stübi, Inna Braneva**  
Moderator: **Alexandrina Dimitrova**; Rapporteur: **Bisser Spirov**

**14:00–15:30 Panel 6, Small Hall, 6th floor: Strengthening social work, social services and allied sectors workforce**  
Consecutive interpreting provided BG/ENG

The panel presentations and discussions are aimed to put a focus upon the importance of strengthening the social work, social service and allied sectors workforce as an investment in the future of children and the whole society.

The following will be presented: 1/ Guidance and framework for monitoring, support and development of the social services workforce and the allied sectors; 2/ preliminary results of the first of its kind mapping of the social services workforce in Bulgaria and 3/ the expectations of young people leaving care for the support that they should be provided with by care givers and other professionals.

The participants will have the opportunity to discuss what are the key elements of a systematic approach to planning, developing and supporting social work, social services and allied sectors workforce, the challenges for its implementation in practice and possible solutions for how they could be overcome.

Presenters: **Stela Grigoras, Natalia Mihaylova, Zule Reyes**  
Moderator: **Desislava Encheva – Ivanova**; Rapporteur: **Maya Grozdanova**