

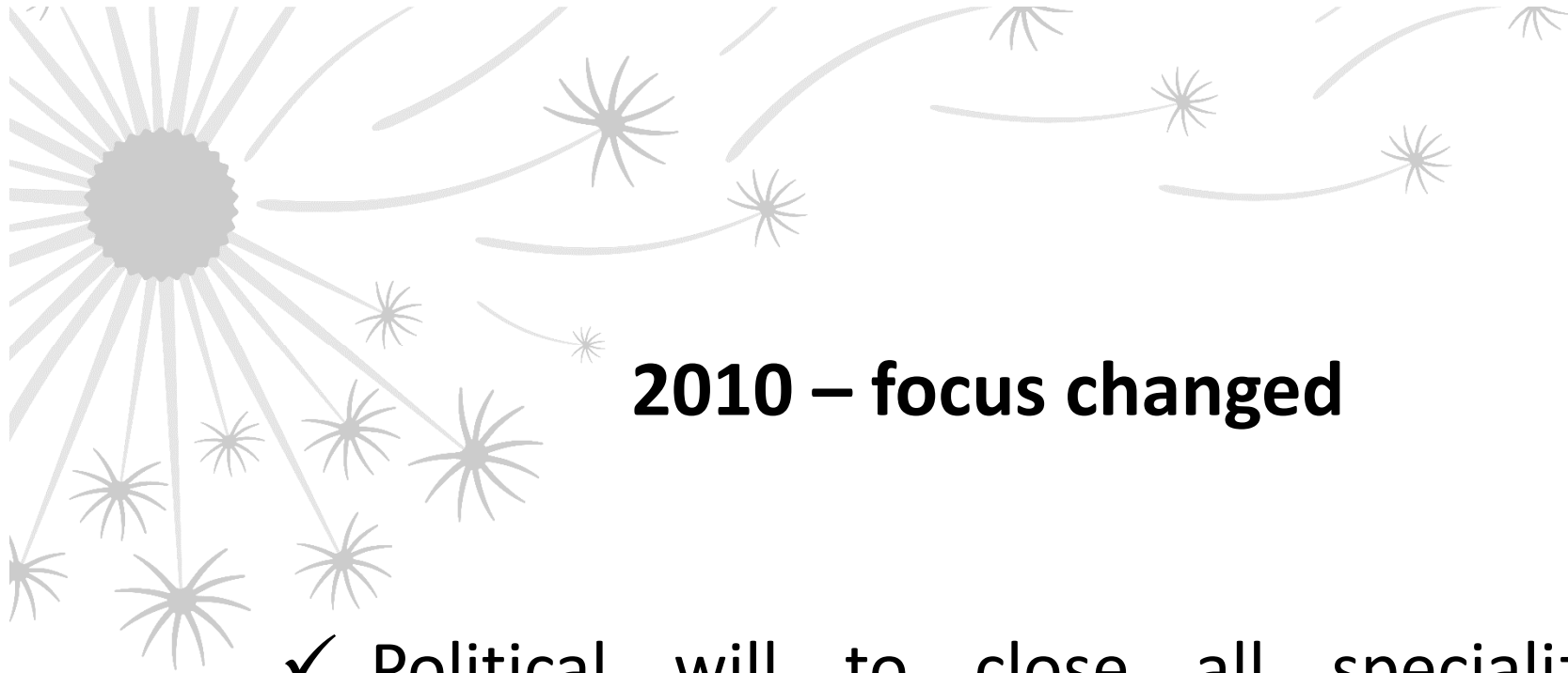


International Conference Deinstitutionalisation of Childcare: Investing in Change

5-8 *2019* *November* Sofia, Bulgaria

Deinstitutionalization in Bulgaria - a model of effective change in the Child Care System





2010 – focus changed

- ✓ Political will to close all specialized institutions for children
- ✓ Apply a systematic and holistic approach
- ✓ Creation of a new system providing a family environment (adoption, foster care, prevention and reintegration and, as a last resort - residential care in a family-type environment)



Basic prerequisites

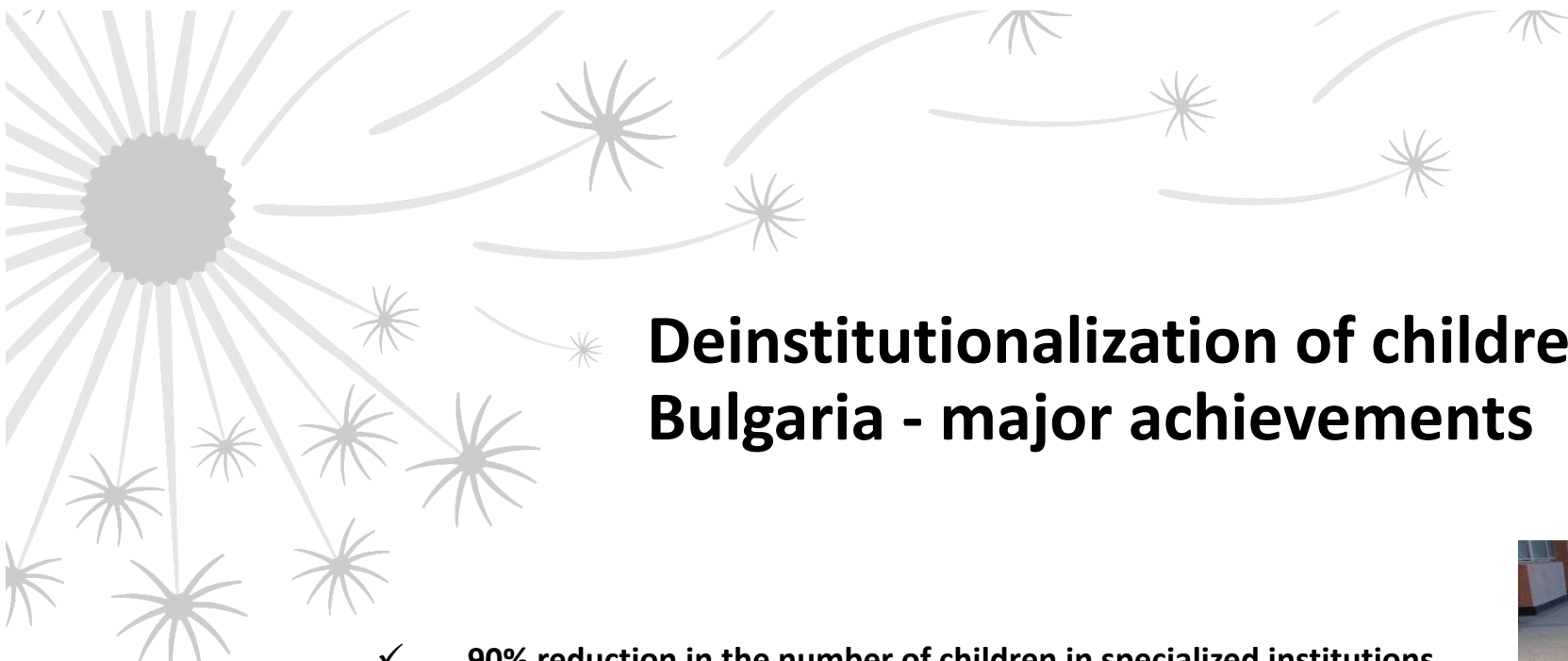
- ✓ **A common vision for goals, priorities and policies**
- ✓ **Partnerships at all levels**
- ✓ **Clarity on measures, responsibilities, timeframe**
- ✓ **Financial and organizational support**
- ✓ **Coordination and interaction mechanisms**
- ✓ **Guarantees for long-term sustainability**
- ✓ **Increased public sensitivity and intolerance of any violation of the rights of the child**



Consensus and strong political commitment

1 National strategy (2010-2025)
with 2 action plans focusing on:

- ✓ Closure of all homes for children with disabilities
- ✓ Closure of other specialized institutions for children
- ✓ Creating new alternative family-type services and an emphasis on prevention and early childhood development



Deinstitutionalization of children in Bulgaria - major achievements

- ✓ 90% reduction in the number of children in specialized institutions
- ✓ 85% reduction in the number of specialized institutions
- ✓ 116 specialized institutions were closed

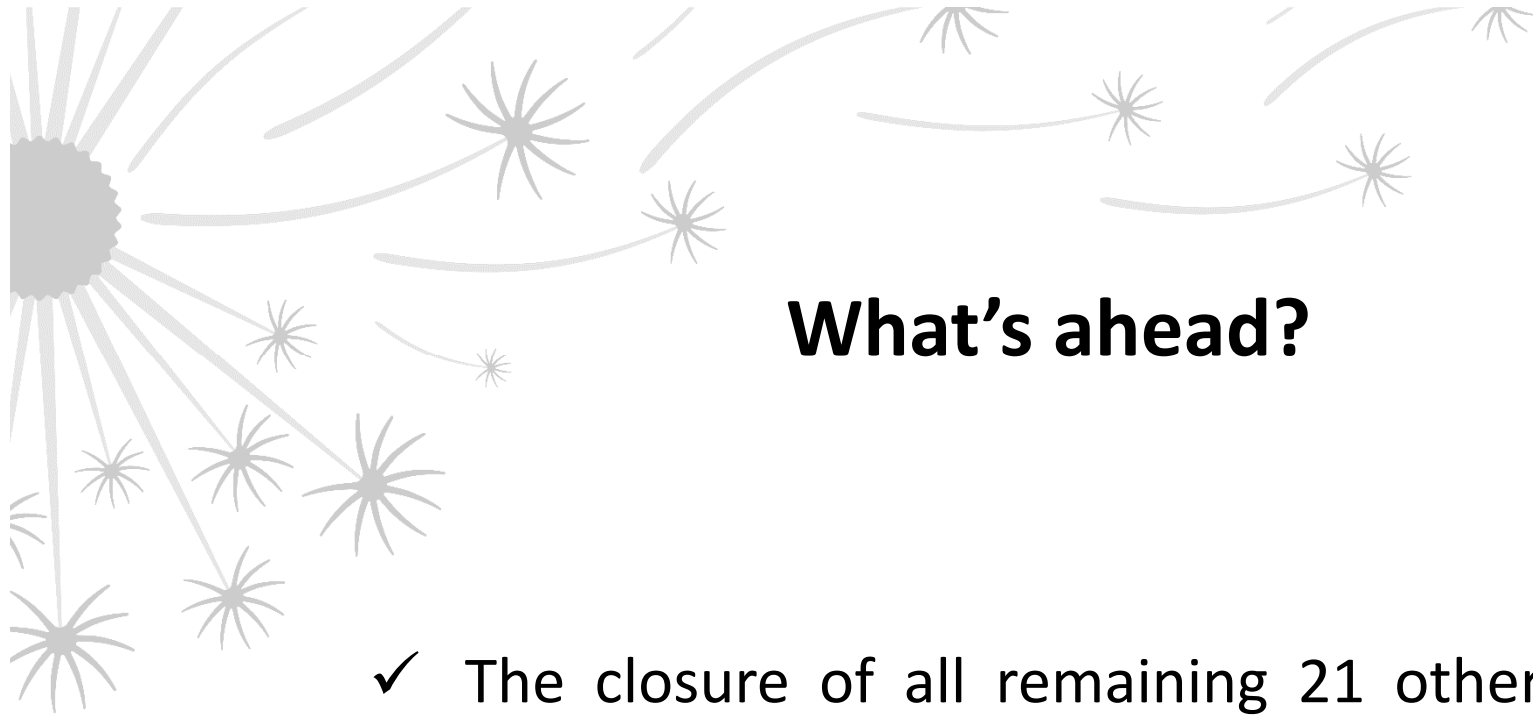


- ✓ Creating a community services for children and families (from 241 in 2010 to 627 at the end of September 2019)
- ✓ Abandonment prevention system, family reintegration, adoption and foster care development has developed
- ✓ The quality of life of children has improved
- ✓ An integrated approach to the provision of early childhood development services



Financial commitments for the period 2010-2019

- ✓ National budget – over **€ 450 million** to ensure and sustain the newly created system for social services for children
- ✓ European Social Fund and European Regional Development Fund - over **€ 260 million** for the construction of new social infrastructure and the development of alternative services for children and families



What's ahead?

- ✓ The closure of all remaining 21 other specialized institutions
- ✓ Investments in early childhood development
- ✓ Strengthening and improving the capacity of the child protection system and professionals
- ✓ Reform to improve the quality and efficiency of social services

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
ATTENTION!**

Zornitsa Roussinova
Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Policy

