

Towards improved monitoring and supervision of children's residential facilities

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The rights of children in institutions in the region of the Baltic Sea States

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CRC Article 20

"Alternative care could include, if **necessary** placement in **suitable** institutions..."

Institutions: the last resort?

- *As Roger Morgan reported:*
 - 1) Children say homes offer being with other children in the same situation **without** family living, whereas foster care provides individual attention **with** family living
 - 2) They want a **range** of places among which they can choose

Deinstitutionalisation

- What is an institution?
- Deinstitutionalisation does not mean zero residential care
- Alternatives to be developed should provide **choice** from a **range**, *including* residential care

Residential care

- The necessity principle
 - Not from the system's standpoint
 - But from that of the individual child
- The suitability principle
 - General compliance with standards
 - Effective pursuit of set goals
 - Appropriate response to child's needs

Consulting the consumer

In market research, you are not asking for the opinion of the producer of the product...

Giving information to the child

- Children’s opinions and requests must be based on their access to necessary information, not least including:
 - Why they are placed
 - Why they are in the specific care setting
 - How long is the expected stay
 - What is the care plan

Among their requests..

- Staff training on conflict resolution/restraint
- Rules on use of medication
- Meeting mental health care needs
- Pro-child protective measures
- Work with/access to family
- Frequent inspections, involving child
- Adequate resources
- Preparation for leaving care

The importance of the approach

- ”Last resort” or ”one of a range” approach determines:
 - What we monitor
 - Who we ask
 - How we monitor
 - Why we monitor
 - To what use we put the results