

Governmental developments for institutional care in Estonia

2006

Statistics

Year	Population	Number of the children in institutions
2002	1 361 242	1881
2003	1 356 045	1539
2004	1 351 069	1549
2005	1 347 510	1683

Statistics

Year	Population	Number of the children in foster families
2002	1 361 242	1065
2003	1 356 045	1467
2004	1 351 069	1416
2005	1 347 510	1219

Governmental developments for institutional care

- Institutional-care arranging and financing will be led to local municipalities
- Working out methodology for calculating living costs for child and financing service as cost-based
- Enact minimal requests for institutional care in level of law.
- Legitimize demands and numbers for child welfare workers in local municipalities
- Planning the future for governmental children welfare institutions
- Minimal requests will be imposed on service providers to raise the quality of service

Governmental developments for institutional care

- Greater responsibility from local municipalities for guiding child to service and helping to plan future during the service (legitimizing individual development plan)
- Impose activity license system for service providers and improving supervisory
- More flexible service financing (by domiciliary local governments) and gradual applying for cost-based financing principle
- Decrease the number of children living in family based groups (from year 2015- 6 children in one family based group)

Governmental developments for institutional care

- Request to create a development plan for children in out of home care
- Educational and additional educational terms are made for workers and additional training paid by government is guaranteed
- Family-based child care in addition to institutional care service – SOS model

Governmental developments for institutional care

- Government ensures necessary investments for building family houses and builds houses for local governments (in new location and separated as possible)
- 16 governmental children homes will be committed to the local municipalities
- 9 or more governmental children homes will be reorganized from European Regional Development Fund means and from Estonian governmental means.
- Approximately 62 family houses for family based care will be built on different areas of Estonia.

Measure

- Measure for these actions takes 143,9 million kroons from EU structure support means + 15% means from Estonian government

The rights of children in institutional care

ESTONIA



- In March 2004 the three international child care organisations, FICE, IFCO and SOS Children's Villages, have launched a project which is aimed at assuring and improving the chances of development for children and youth in out-of-home child care in Europe. 32 European countries are participating in the project.



- Almost all of the 32 participating countries are represented by a national project coordinator who together with his/her national team contributes to the project by
- Collecting good practice stories in out-of-home child care
 - Further processing of the data towards quality standards in cross national teams
 - Forming and contributing to a European network advocating the development and implementation of quality standards



- Based on 350 Stories from people directly concerned (children/young people; biological parents; main care persons)
- 20 stories were collected in Estonia. 10 of them were sent for analysing

Further Information

Website:

www.quality4children.info

Outcomes of Estonian Stories

- Separating of siblings

“In 1997, we were living in the institution and my biological parents had another child. So I had a little brother. I so much wanted him to be with us, but I was told that it was extremely difficult to take an infant to the institution.”



The sex of the care givers

“For many young people the educator can be the closest person with whom the young have a good relationship. From time to time, the boys need someone with whom to communicate on certain subjects. The girls have female educators for that. The boys, on the other hand, won't go to with all of their problems. “Fathers” are needed”



Non-professional care givers

“We don't trust the adults anymore, because the adolescent may think, “Why should I go and tell the adult about my problems if he/she is going to pass it on to someone else anyway...”, “We were expected to come to eat at the right time, go to school, and go to bed at the right time, but no one ever asked me how I felt



Missing contacts with child's homeplace

- “To be honest, I don't remember having any contacts with local social workers after my placement”



Child's Identity

“I'm Russian but at school I get the worst marks in Russian”



THANK YOU!