



EUROPEAN UNION
DELEGATION TO THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

The Head of Delegation

Jean-Eric Paquet
The Director
C-Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Kosovo

Belgrade,
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Jean Jean-Eric,

Subject: IPA projects on Deinstitutionalisation

Thank you for your letter regarding our IPA projects on Deinstitutionalisation.

Our IPA 2011 project "Enhancing the position of residents in residential care institutions for persons with mental disability and mental illness and creation of conditions for their social inclusion in the local community" includes support for the de-institutionalization of large-scale institutions in the health and social welfare systems where **only adult persons** with mental health problems or disability are placed. However, we are paying specific attention to the implementation of this project, as well as to the IPA 2013 project with UNICEF "Strengthening the justice and social welfare systems to advance the protection of children in Serbia".

We are preparing a specific monitoring plan which will include the establishment of a project-level quality control system to oversee the status of the implementation of grants, including routine and ad-hoc monitoring visits and reporting, risk assessment tools and irregularity reporting system. At present we have an on-going Technical Assistance contract until December 2015, and we are planning to use savings or unallocated funds to put in place a new TA for monitoring on an individual basis. We are also paying special attention to the need to build the capacities of relevant national institutions to ensure that proper individual monitoring continues after the end of our projects. The IPA 2011 project and the IPA 2103 project with UNICEF have been included in our Operations on- the-spot-check plan for 2015, Contracts and Finance on- the-spot-check plan for 2015 and also in the ROM Mission plan.

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Regarding children in institutional care, Serbia's strategy has not been focused on closing down homes, but reducing the number of children. This is because the ratio of children / staff was so inappropriate that the Government decided to go for reducing the number of children in children's homes wherever possible, leaving those in institutional care with greater support on a temporary basis until moves are made to close down institutions and legal entities which could be transformed into family-based environments. Please see the attachment with detailed answers to all your questions.

We will follow this sensitive issue closely and regularly report on our projects on deinstitutionalisation.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Davenport". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "M" and a long, sweeping tail.

Michael DAVENPORT
Ambassador

1. Number of institutions hosting children in Serbia

The number of residential institutions for children is defined by the Decision on the network of institutions within the social welfare system. According to the Decision on the network of institutions there are 21 institutions for children and youth, out of which 3 institutions have correctional/educational programmes, so they do not fall under the alternative care institutions for children without parental care. One institution is closed. And one children's department is closed.

In that sense, Serbia has presently 17 institutions for the placement of children and youth without parental care or with disability. Out of the 17 institutions, 5 have more working departments that are mainly physically separated into different living and organizational units. If we look at the number of physically separated unit and not the number of legal entities, then we can say that Serbia has 28 organizational units that are only for the accommodation of children and youth (82%). Out of that number, 20 placement units are part of the institutions intended only for the placement of children and youth (2 accommodate also for mothers with children or pregnant women), and 3 placement units are within larger institutions for placement of children and youth with disability and adults with intellectual and mental disability. Out of the remaining 5 placement units (18%), 3 placement units are envisaged as common care placements for children and youth and adults with intellectual and mental difficulties in communication, which 2 are only for adults with intellectual and mental difficulties in communication.

2. Their localization

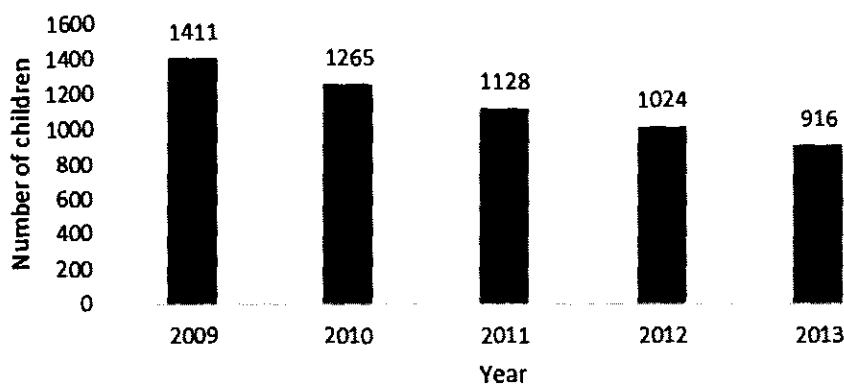
The geographical location of institutions where children are located and the number of clients:

		< 18	18 - 26	> 26	Total
Domsko odeljenje „Hristina Markišić“, Aleksinac	36	7	5	0	12
Dom za decu i omladinu „Vera Blagojević“, Banja Koviljača	42	16	0	0	16
Dom za decu i omladinu „Vera Radivojević“, Bela Crkva	48	28	3	0	31
Centar za zaštitu odojčadi, dece i omladine, Beograd	466	277	50	10	337
Dom za decu „Jefimija“, Kruševac	48	16	6	0	22
Dom za decu i omladinu „Stanko Paunović“, Negotin	24	7	0	0	7
Dom za decu i omladinu „Duško Radović“, Niš	36	12	4	0	16
Dom za decu i omladinu „Spomenak“, Pančevo	48	14	8	1	23
Dom za decu i omladinu „Miroslav Antić-Mika“, Sombor	36	25	9	0	34
Dečje selo „Dr Milorad Pavlović“, Sremska Kamenica	140	69	39	0	108
Dom za decu i omladinu „Petar Radovanović“, Užice	48	11	10	0	21
Dom za lica sa autizmom, Radna jedinica stacionar za autističnu decu i omladinu, Šabac	40	0	11	36	47

Centar za smeštaj i dnevni boravak dece i omladine ometene u razvoju, Radna jedinica za decu i omladinu oštećenog sluha, Beograd	46	6	8	0	14
Dom Veternik, Novi Sad	500	72	170	311	553
Dom Veternik, Radna jedinica za smeštaj dece i omladine, Novi Sad	100	72	170	42	284
Dom Veternik, Radna jedinica za smeštaj odraslih i starih, Novi Sad	400	0	0	269	269
Dom Sremčica, Beograd	300	80	83	135	298
Dom Sremčica, Radna jedinica za smeštaj dece i omladine, Beograd	100	75	34	1	110
Dom Sremčica, Radna jedinica za smeštaj odraslih lica, Beograd	200	5	49	134	188
Dom za decu i lica ometena u razvoju „Dr. Nikola Šumenković“, Stamnica	450	33	68	266	367
Dom za decu i lica ometena u razvoju „Dr. Nikola Šumenković“, Radna jedinica za smeštaj dece i omladine, Stamnica	250	33	68	31	132
Dom za decu i lica ometena u razvoju „Dr. Nikola Šumenković“, Radna jedinica za smeštaj odraslih lica, Stamnica	200	0	0	235	235
Dom za decu ometenu u razvoju „Kolevka“, Subotica	180	168	0	1	169
Dom za decu ometenu u razvoju „Kolevka“, Radna jedinica za smeštaj i intenzivnu podršku, Subotica	170	167	0	0	167
Dom za decu ometenu u razvoju „Kolevka“, Radna jedinica stacionar za majku i dete, Subotica	10	1	0	1	2

3. Number of children still in institutions

According to the data from the Republic Institute for Social Protection on 31/12/2013 there were 916 children in residential care institutions (including 3 correctional facilities). Generally, in the last 5 years there has been a drop of the number of children in residential care that is about 10% annually.



In institutions that are intended for children and youth without parental care and for children and youth with disability (17 institutions), at the end of 2013 there were 841 child, out of which 61 were below three years of age, which is 7,3%. Out of this number 515 were children with disability (61.2% of the total number), out of which 23 children were under 3 (37.7% children below three years of age). At the end of 2013, in institutions for adults there were 18 children living there, which is significantly lower than in 2011, where there 100 children living in institutions for adults.

4. Number of institutions down-scaled or closed

One institution is closed. One Children's ward in large scale institution has been closed. The Decision on the Number of Placements does not reflect reality as there are a much higher number of placements than children in the institutions. Five institutions have separated small group homes with a maximum of 12 children/youth with disability.

5. Number of children in foster care and receiving other types of social support

During 2013, 186,424 children were registered in Centres for Social Work, which is 14,8% of the population of children. The number of children in care (both formal and informal care) was 8,899. According to data of the Republic Institute for Social Protection, 5125 were placed in foster families. Out of this number, 19.5% was placed in foster families that are kinship families, which 80,5% were placed in foster families which were not kinship families.

6. Adoption of children

There have been 13 international adoptions and 138 national adoptions by 21st December 2013 in that year. 35 children were still awaiting international adoption, and 85 children were in the process of national adoption. The number of families waiting for adoption was 768.

