

## DROBNIC Mitja (EEAS-PODGORICA)

**From:** DROBNIC Mitja (EEAS-PODGORICA)  
**Sent:** 25 June 2015 10:58  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: Ares(2015)2268202 : Reply to letter regarding IPA projects on deinstitutionalisation

Dear [REDACTED]

In answer to your message near.d.1(2015)2563750,

### 1. With regard to Mladost-Bijela

- Are there still new admissions ?  
*The trend of admissions has been decreasing since the start of the project, from 28 in 2010 to 8 in June 2015. The duration of children's stay tends to reduce also with the increasing trend of fostering. The Ministry encourages social workers to seek alternatives to family separation. In addition, an approval from the Ministry is now necessary for long term admissions, which makes the process more rigorous (gatekeeping).*
- "4 % were transferred to other institutions" – What does this mean? Can you give an absolute figure.  
*Out of the 147 discharges recorded during the implementation of the project, 7 were to other institutions (which is 4.7%).*
- What is the current progress as regards establishment of small group homes?  
*1 small group home (SGH) will open in Bijelo Polje in the coming months. A further 4 are targeted to be established before the end of 2017. It should be noted also that 9 Day Care Centres are operational and a further 6 will be opened in the near future, providing more support to families to keep children at home: the number of children in day care centres has risen from 54 in 2010 to 145 in June 2015.*

### 2. With regard to international adoptions:

*Please note that Montenegro is a signatory to the Hague Convention on Inter-country Adoption*

- From where did these children come from? From Bijela only?  
*It is mostly children from Bijela but 1 case was from foster-care.*
- What is the exact background of the children (disabled, Roma, etc.)?  
*With regards to exact background, in view of protection of privacy, the information is not readily available to stakeholders and such request should be sent through a formal note from the European Commission to the line Ministry in charge.*
- Did the parents consent to adoption?  
*Parents do give consent unless they are legally deprived of parental rights as foreseen in the Family Law.*

- Was there no other possibility to care for these children in any suitable manner locally, considering COM's funding for alternative care in ME?  
*Inter-country adoption is considered as a last resort. The alternative (in order of priority) are as follows: day care possibility, kin-ship foster care, non-kin ship foster care, local adoption.*

Best regards,



**Mitja DROBNIC**  
Head of Delegation

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