



EUROPEAN UNION
DELEGATION TO MONTENEGRO

Head of Delegation

Podgorica, Montenegro

NOTE FOR THE ATTENTION

Subject: De-institutionalisation in Montenegro – IPA project 2010 / 255-602

Within the framework of the Montenegrin Strategy for Social and Child Protection System 2013-17, IPA 2010 was used to support the Government through the project "Social welfare and child care system reform: enhancing social inclusion". The intervention has been implemented between December 2010 and June 2014 by UNICEF as part of a global approach to social and child protection. The broad programme included a specific component addressing the need to enhance access to comprehensive, inclusive and sustainable family and community-based services as an alternative to institutionalization of vulnerable children. Below are the answers the questions you ask:

Komanski Most:

No children have been admitted in that institution since the moratorium was introduced in 2008. The 10 children remaining at the time have either turned 18 and moved to adult pavilion or left the establishment and the last minor left in May 2014. In effect, we do not need to mention this establishment anymore when we report on residential care for children in Montenegro.

Children's Home Mladost-Bijela:

At the start of the project in 2011, 154 children lived in the institution. At the last count (in December 2014), 95 remained (34% decrease). 15% were placed in foster care, 20% were adopted, 36% were returned to their biological families, 4% were transferred to other institutions and 25% turned 18 and started an independent life. The plan for the transformation of this institution has been developed and its adoption is imminent.

International adoptions:

In the given period (2011-2014), 17 children were adopted internationally (destination: Sweden, Serbia and Bosnia & Herzegovina).

Foster care:

Currently, there are 373 children in foster-care (figure includes both kinship and non-kinship) in Montenegro. The strategy target is to increase this number by 50 by 2016.

With regards to Montenegrin children in residential placement (this includes temporary placement for juvenile in conflict with the law) in establishments in Montenegro and outside (Serbia and Bosnia & Herzegovina), the number has decreased from 310 to 204 (34%) during

the course of the project implementation. This decrease is the result of a parallel IPA project on juvenile justice also implemented by UNICEF.

This data was gathered through the external final evaluation of the project and based on official data cross-checked with site visits.

All the achievements (as well as the institutional and administrative developments) are well beyond the targets set in the various strategy documents as demonstrated in the external evaluation report and the final narrative report (both documents are uploaded in CRIS for ease of reference).

In view of the starting point a few years ago, both the external evaluation and the EUD consider the achievements of the Government and UNICEF under this intervention effective and led to positive results and impact.



Mitja DROBNIC