

## National recommendations on how to ensure alternative care is provided with a focus on the rights of children and their best interests

### Country: *Croatia*

<p><b>Develop a set of minimum standards for care professionals to implement a child rights-based approach in their work</b></p>	<p>Policy makers should develop minimum standards for care professionals as a precondition to work in an alternative care setting, which should involve undertaking training on the child rights-based approach in their work.</p>
<p><b>Make the training on child rights-based approach a part of the standard curriculum for professions working with children and young people in alternative care</b></p>	<p>This training should be an integral part of every standard university curriculum for social workers, social pedagogues, pedagogues, psychologists and other professionals working with children and young people in alternative care. This two-day training curriculum would be a very cost- and time-effective way to prepare all young professionals on how to implement a child rights-based approach in their work from the very start of their professional career.</p> <p>The relevant Ministry of Social Policy and Youth should collaborate with all relevant universities in order to find the most appropriate way to implement the training in the curricula.</p>
<p><b>Improve the competences of all professionals working with children in alternative care for the implementation of children's rights in their work</b></p>	<p>Policy makers should find ways to implement the child rights training for all professionals working with children and young people in alternative care, with a special emphasis on organising joint trainings with all professionals (alternative care, Social Welfare Centres, courts, health system, police, civil society organisations, etc.).</p> <p>Such training would also encourage collaboration and networking. The primary actor for this action should be the Ministry of Social Policy and Youth, which could, together with other relevant ministries (Ministry of Education, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Health), develop an action plan on how to implement this training with professionals involved in the alternative care of children and young people.</p>
<p><b>Develop and implement a child protection policy in every alternative care setting</b></p>	<p>In order for the capacity building of care professionals to be successful and sustainable, policy makers should develop a child protection policy, which would serve to implement and monitor the fulfilment of child rights in every alternative care setting, and would also have reporting and responding protocols in place, as well as child friendly mechanisms for reporting a child rights violation.</p>