

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

Country: *Romania*

<p>Develop and approve a national strategy on training provided to professionals working with children (including children in alternative care)</p>	<p>Currently, the only regulation regarding trainings is provided by the Labour Law. Indeed, specific regulations are lacking – regarding the training of the professionals working in child protection field in general and staff working with children in alternative care in particular.</p> <p>In order to cover this gap, a strategy on training provided to professionals working with children (including children in alternative care) is very much needed.</p> <p>There has been some activity from the side of the National Authority on Child Protection and Adoption to develop a national strategy on training staff working in the child protection field, but so far with no results. Considering the fact that the governmental authority on child protection also recognises the need for initial training as well as the legal requirements on minimum continuous training hours (the Labour Law and the minimum quality standards on social services), we think that this is the right moment to work on a national strategy on training.</p> <p>The strategy would also establish the obligation of developing training curricula for professionals working with children, and the materials developed in the frame of the project could be included as mandatory tools.</p> <p>Having a national strategy could be a very strong instrument when applying for funds aimed to train staff working with children in alternative care.</p>
<p>Establish a platform on training professionals working with children in alternative care</p>	<p>This platform should be initiated in closed partnership with the National Authority on Child Protection and Adoption, and it would be used by the academic institutions, universities, accredited training providers and NGOs providing trainings, public authorities, etc.</p> <p>The platform would facilitate the exchange of information; it would host resources for trainings and it would also host a pool of professionals who provide trainings.</p>
<p>Develop a 3-year training programme by the child protection departments which have been involved in this project</p>	<p>The training was extremely well received by all participants. We are very committed to the sustainability of the project and therefore we want to work together with our partners to make it possible. We have trained professionals from child protection departments with which we cooperate with in case management; a training programme would contribute to a better quality of the services provided to children in our care.</p> <p>The child protection departments will include the training</p>

	<p>provided in the frame of the SOS project as a component of the initial training for their newly employed staff as well as for the staff working directly with children in alternative care.</p>
<p>Raise awareness on training care professionals working with children in alternative care</p>	<p>Considering the coordination and support role of the National Authority on Child Protection and Adoption, it is very important to have the support of the governmental authority in recommending the usage of the training materials by all the child protection departments. It could also be recommended to use these materials in training maternal assistants.</p> <p>The recommendation for the NGOs would come from the national network of NGOs for children.</p> <p>This could be done by a circular letter recommending the training and also by uploading the trainings materials on the website of the National Authority on Child Protection and Adoption. They will serve as important training resources for the child protection providers and also for the future national strategy on training provided to professionals working with children.</p>
<p>Coordination regarding the legal frame when it comes to occupational and quality standards for social services for children</p>	<p>A coalition of NGOs could contribute to improving the legal frame when it comes to occupational and quality standards for social services for children. There are occupational standards included in the National Code of Occupations, but currently they are not being presented in terms of mandatory education conditions and responsibilities. This could be a very important resource in advocating for a national strategy on trainings.</p>
<p>Create a pool of trainers on national level to provide trainings for children in alternative care</p>	<p>The National Authority on Child Protection and Adoption would take the leading role for this process and it could benefit from the methodological support of a Consultative Committee formed by NGOs active in child protection field.</p> <p>The trainers could be an important resource for providing qualitative trainings to the professionals working with children in alternative care.</p>