DI – transition from the institutional model to family support and community based care in Greece

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Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs**

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- Some figures depicting the current situation
- Important steps
- Available data sources
- Challenges
- Responses
- Next steps
- … good practices

Situation and key data
of children in alternative care

In Greece as of Jan. 3rd 2023,
1,393 children remain in institutional care
(data from anynet.gr)

- Relatively long stay at the institutions

- Limited relationship with biological family

- Limited possibility of placement in foster care or adoption

- Treating foster care as secondary option in comparison to residential care

- Specific problems for children with disabilities

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Key data of children in Child Protection Units (Institutional Care)

	CPUs supervised by MoLSA	CPUs Municipal	CPUs supervised by Ministry of health	CPUs supervised by Ministry of Justice	CPUs supervised by Special Secratariat of UM	Units in hospitals
Public	29	2		3		15
Private	50		2		9	

Source: EKKA, January 2023

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Key data of children in CPUs
– Data for adoption and foster care

Children with IAP "for foster care" by age and sex

Age	Male	Female	Total
0-2	8	4	12 (2%)
2-6	27	8	35 (6%)
6-12	117	99	216 (37,4%)
12-15	86	108	194 (33,6%)
15-18	58	62	120 (20,7%)
	296	281	

Source: EKKA, January 2023

Key data of children in CPUs
– Data for adoption and foster care

Children with IAP "for adoption" by age and sex

Age	Male	Female	Total
0-2	2	1	3 (2%)
2-6	1	1	2 (6%)
6-12	29	22	51 (35,1%)
12-15	32	25	57 (39,3 %)
15-18	11	21	120 (22 %)
	75	70	

Source: EKKA, January 2023

Data sources on children in Greece

- The Greek Statistical Authority
- The GIS System of the National Mechanism for Coordination, Monitoring and Evaluation of Social Inclusion and Social Cohesion Policies (EM)
- The Information Systems of OPEKA
- The Information System of Adoption and Foster Care (Anynet)
- The Information System HELIDON
- The National Reporting Mechanism for the Protection of Victims of Human Trafficking (EMA)
- The site "paidi.gov.gr"
- The National System for Registration of Abuse Incidents
- The National Child Protection Line "1107" of the National Center for Social Solidarity (EKKA)
- The Information Systems of the Hellenic Society for Local Development and Local Authorities (EETAA)

Target & Actions towards DI

Target:

- The transition from the institutional model to family support and community based care

Actions:

- Important reform for adoption and foster care system

- Measures, legislative and others

- Assistance from Unicef

- TSI from DG Reform (Unicef and EASPD)

- RRF

- CG NAP

Target & Actions towards DI

Actions:

- Important reform of the adoption and foster care system: Law 4538/2018

  -national electronic registries and digital connection process

  - financial support for foster parents

- Measures, legislative and others

  - awareness raising campaign to promote foster care

  - Action plan to promote foster care of Ums

  - Training programs for social workers of the public sector

Target & Actions towards DI: the Greek RRP

Measures under the Resilience and Recovery Plan towards DI:

- Program for Semi-Independent Living in Apartments for young persons

- Professional foster care for minors with disability and/or severe mental disorders

- Early Intervention Program for children aged 0-6 years

Target & Actions towards DI: the progress so far

What has been achieved so far:

• To put in place a modern, transparent digital system for the adoption and foster care

• To clarify the meaning of foster care in relation to adoption and promote it within the society

• To develop
  - draft protocols and tools for the professionals,
  - draft action plans for the transition of institutions into places to support families, foster families, children in need

•   To prepare the implementation under the RRF of:
    - professional foster care
    - a family-centered model for the ECI

Challenges on data of children in alternative care

One of the main challenges is **the adequacy and quality of data** (also identified during the implementation of the pilot CG programme)

- Lack of systematic disaggregated data collection (i.e. gender, type of disability, etc.)
- Fragmentation of data and of data sources
- Lack of targeted surveys by case and geographical location
- Lack of uniform recording of administrative data

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Response to data challenges & good practices

- Development of a comprehensive monitoring framework under CG NAP with the involvement of all relevant Ministries (with technical support by UNICEF)
- The monitoring framework:
  - ✓ contains priorities and actions linked with each pillar (6 pillars: Poverty & social protection, Early Childhood Care, Education, Housing, Nutrition, Healthcare)
  - ✓ specifies targets for the first time under each priority (e.g. Zero number of children living in residential care by 2030)

Response to data challenges & good practices

Next steps:

- Operationalize the CG monitoring framework and define a governance mechanism for the implementation of the CG NAP - support from DG Reform (TSI)

- Develop a Single National Digital Platform (A study to identify the technical specifications of the Platform will be conducted by UNICEF)

- Further strengthen the existing central DI administrative database (anynet.gr) to collect additional data (disaggregated data and data on professional foster care) (with support by UNICEF)

- Assessment of the existing administrative data system at all levels.

- Review of the use of data for analysis/monitoring purposes

- Develop a costed data action plan to strengthen and improve the data system.

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A situation stagnant for long Changed in a few years

Thank you for your attention

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