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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>CPUs supervised by MoLSA</th>
<th>CPUs supervised by Municipal</th>
<th>CPUs supervised by Ministry of health</th>
<th>CPUs supervised by Ministry of Justice</th>
<th>CPUs supervised by Special Secretariat at of UM</th>
<th>Units in hospitals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>15</td>
<td></td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Key data of children in CPUs – Data for adoption and foster care

### Children with IAP “for foster care” by age and sex

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-2</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>12 (2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-6</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>35 (6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-12</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>216 (37.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12-15</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>194 (33.6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-18</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>120 (20.7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>296</td>
<td>281</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3 (2%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2 (6%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-12</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>51 (35.1%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12-15</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>57 (39.3%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-18</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>120 (22%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>75</td>
<td>70</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Dimitra Nikou

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