Bulgaria

2006

1 The Foundation of the National Section

In February 2001, according to the Federation's Statutes, Bulgaria applied for and was accepted as an associate member of the FICE, and since September 2002, the SPSPD (FICE Bulgaria) has been a full member of the organisation, enjoying all rights and obligations arising from its membership.

The 'Association for Pedagogical and Social Help for Children' (FICE Bulgaria) was established on 16th of March 2001 with the support of people who work in the sphere of social work with children at risk all over the country.

2 Organisation and finance

2.1 The structure of management

Dashenka Tashkova — Chairperson of the Management Board			
Two members of the Management Board			
Project Commission	Informational	Commission of Social	
	methodological	Management	
	Commission		
Natalia Hristova	Bisser Spirov	Zvezdica Peneva	

The paid staff		based at
Coordinator	full time	FICE Bulgaria office
Technical assistant	full time	FICE Bulgaria office
An accountant	part time	
Lawyer	part time	
Two project coordinators	part time	
Methodological director	part time	
Chief Editor	part time	
PR consultant	part time	

The main activities and projects of FICE Bulgaria are financed by *De Oude Beuk* Foundation in the Netherlands; some of the projects are financed by the MATRA KAP programme of the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

3 Membership

The Association for Pedagogical and Social Help for Children (FICE Bulgaria) has created a working network of specialists that work in the sphere of social pedagogics. There are 67 individual and 62 organisational members of the association. Among them are many NGOs, foundations and associations, lecturers from Sofia and Plovdiv Universities, 29 children's homes, homes for children with mental health problems, social-pedagogical boarding schools and sanitary schools. Most of the members of FICE are social workers or people closely connected with the problems of children at risk. Working in the system for child care they cooperate with FICE.

4 Activities

4.1 As a National Section

The activities of FICE Bulgaria are the following:

- developing methods and training programmes to reform the specialist institutions in Bulgaria
- lobbying for changes in legislation in the field of child welfare
- organising courses for professionals in the field of child care and work with adults at risk;
- organizing conferences and seminars for the exchange of ideas and information
- promoting and implementing research
- supporting meetings of specialists in the fields of social work, children and young people and also with representatives of business to exchange experiences
- creating, supporting and supervising projects involving Bulgarian and foreign organisations
- popularising and spreading information about the problems of children at risk through publications and a bulletin

The main projects of FICE Bulgaria are:

'Renovation of child care III' (started 01.01.2006)

Main goals of the project:

- Training, consultation and support for project work
- Creating training programmes and modules on different topics connected with offering social services, business and care, self financing, obtaining funds, etc.
- Taking part in working groups to create new professional standards or programmes for children in risk
- Lobbing and advocacy
- Publishing a bulletin with project related information

Location: All over the country. The clients of this programme are the pedagogical staff of institutions for child care: homes for children deprived of parental care, homes for children and young people with mental health problems, homes for the medico-social care for children, homes or hostels for young people moving on from more specialised institutions.

The results of the action

- 1. Over the period 01.01.2006–31.06.2006 four courses for the pedagogical staff of children's homes, special boarding schools (for children with behavioural problems) together with their partners and colleagues from the Ministry of Education and the regional inspectorate of education and experts from Child Protection Departments were run.
- 2. A training programme and modules on different topics reflecting European approaches was created covering:
 - Case work assessment of need and care planning
 - Organisation, functioning and management of social services
 - Obtaining funds and managing projects
 - Business and care
- 3. Completing the project activities connected with creating a social-pedagogical model of work with children at risk with a view to deinstitutionalisation and improving the living conditions in institutions.
- 4. Facilitating professional contacts and the exchange of experience between pedagogues from different institutions in Bulgaria or abroad.
- 5. Publishing a bulletin of FICE Bulgaria.
- 6. Ensuring that young people who leave institutions have the opportunities to obtain vocational qualifications and personal fulfilment (the 'Business and Care' project).

'Interactive techniques for work with children'

Main goals of the project:

- Organising and carrying out training to develop practical skills for working with children:
 - Teamwork
 - Social communication
 - Upholding human rights
 - Solving different problems related to working with children in risk.
- 2. Developing the skills to use drama techniques to prevent or solve day to day problems.

Location: The programme took place in the towns of Kazanluk and Veliko Tarnovo. The target group was social workers from different HCDPCs and homes for children with a learning disability from all over the country.

The results of the action

- 1. Acquiring practical and theoretical skills in interactive methods for working with children in specialist institutions.
- 2. Improving the pedagogical work in institutions.
- 3. Facilitating professional contacts and the exchange of experience between pedagogues from different institutions in Bulgaria.

'Renovation of child's care II'(2005-2003)

Main goals of the project:

- Providing courses on wider European practice in order to increase the knowledge and professional skills of professionals working with children.
- Training, consultation and support for project work.
- Publishing a bulletin to promote good practice from Bulgaria and Europe in work with children at risk.
- Establishing contacts among professionals working with children in risk, especially those working with children in residential care.
- \bullet Promoting FICE Bulgaria through the media and public exposure.
- Taking part in working groups to create new professional standards or programmes for children at risk.

Location: All over the country. The clients of this programme are the pedagogical staff of institutions for child care — homes for children deprived of parental care, homes for children and young people with mental health problems, homes for the medico-social care for children, homes or hostels for young people moving on from more specialised institutions.

The results of the action

- 1. Creation of training programmes based on European practice in work with children at risk. In these programmes the following topics were developed:
 - Casework
 - Care planning
 - Work with parents
 - Teamwork
- 2. Over the period 01.06.2003–31.05.2005 eight programmes for pedagogical staff of HCDPCs and HCMP together with their partners and colleagues from the Ministry of Education and the regional inspectorate of education and experts from Child Protection Departments were run.
- 3. Carrying out project activities connected with creating a social-pedagogical model of work with children at risk with a view to deinstitutionalisation and improving the living conditions in institutions.
- 4. Facilitating professional contacts and the exchange of experiences between pedagogues from different institutions in Bulgaria and abroad.
- 5. Publishing a bulletin of FICE Bulgaria.
- 6. Ensuring that young people who leave institutions have the opportunities to obtain vocational qualifications and personal fulfilment (the 'Business and Care' project).

'Business and Care'

Main goals of the project:

- Providing training places to young people of 16 who are about to leave institutions
- Providing part time and full time employment for those who have shown the best results
- Manufacturing new types of bread of high quality for the Bulgarian market
- Generating sufficient profit to enable the bakery to become self financing and financing other social and charitable projects

- Giving young people from institutions the chance of a good start in business
- Creating relationships with big hotels and bakers through the campaign 'Business and care'
- Building and creating the first business project with the chain 'B&C' to give girls from institutions work selling bread

Location: The village of Mramor in the Sofia region: 'Bakery, training centre and accommodation'

The results of the action

- Creating vocational programmes to train young people in Dutch bakery technology
- Creating a business plan
- Ensuring opportunities for young people leaving institutions to obtain vocational qualifications and self-fulfilment
- Achieving the goal of the programme: to use the profits of business activities to invest in social projects

'Renovation of child care I' (2003-2001)

Main goals of the project

- Bringing together professionals working with children in risk, especially those working with children in residential care
- Carrying out training to increase the knowledge and professional skills of professionals working with children
- Training, consultation and support for project work
- Publishing a bulletin to publicise good practice from Bulgaria and Europe in work with children in risk

Location: All over the country

The results of the action

- Creating the training programmes 'How to write a good project' and 'Casework'
- Providing four courses for professionals and lawyers

- Achievement of project activities connected with developing a social-pedagogical model of work with children in risk with a view to deinstitutionalisation and improving the living conditions in institutions
- Facilitating professional contacts and the exchange of experiences between pedagogues from different institutions in Bulgaria and abroad
- Publishing a bulletin of FICE Bulgaria ISSN 1312-0565
- Creating opportunities for young people who are about to leave institutions to obtain vocational qualifications

'Ability to be a parent'

Main goals of the project:

- 1. To give prospective adoptive parents the knowledge and skills that will enable them to deal with stress and avoid the main mistakes in raising and educating adopted children:
 - Information about the common health and psycho-pedagogical problems of adopted children
 - Helping and supporting families to overcome any difficulties in their changing life style
- 2. Providing current information on the procedures and legal basis for adoptions and on children's rights

Location: Home for medico-social care for children 'St Sofia', Sofia city

The results of the action

- The candidates receive the knowledge and skills to deal with any psychopedagogical and health problems that may arise with the children and to adapt quickly to the changes in life style that arise when they decide to adopt a child
- They receive information about the procedures and the legislation relating to adoption and children's rights

'Restructuring of HCDPC "Raina Gateva"'

Main goals of the project:

- 1. Improving of the living conditions of the home.
- 2. Creating small group living (life in conditions close to the family environment)

Location: HCDPC 'Raina Gateva' Dorostol Street 34, Russe

The results of the action

- Through restructuring the living space the living conditions for children have changed for the better
- Small living groups for life in conditions closer to a family environment have been created
- The institution now has the opportunity to put into practice the demands of the Ministry of Education on the functioning of small groups.

'Vocational training for young people'

Goal of the project:

• Organise and carry out professional training as masseurs for young people from institutions

Location: Sofia city HCDPC

The results of the action

- Young people were motivated to take part in vocational training
- Young people acquired vocational skills
- Young people received support to find a job

4.2 With other National Sections

Some of the courses and conferences of FICE Bulgaria were organised with the support of FICE Netherlands.

4.3 In relation to the country as a whole

FICE Bulgaria works in close cooperation with the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, the Netherlands Embassy and the State Agency for Child Protection.

FICE Bulgaria supports changes in the regulations for the operation of children's homes in Bulgaria.