

Serbia

2006

1 The Foundation of the National Section

The foundation of FICE Serbia in 2003 was inspired by the activities of FICE Southeast Europe which had been founded in 2001. Both the regional grouping and national sections are the outcome of the FICE project started in 2000 *Dialogue with Southeast Europe*.

Yugoslavia was a longstanding member of FICE but her membership lapsed in the 1990s. The present regional grouping brings together all the countries of the former Yugoslavia.

The founders of FICE Serbia are professionals employed in child care institutions. Almost all the institutions for children without parental care are members.

2 Finances

FICE Serbia as a young organization is establishing a network across the country. It has no office or full time employees. Members pay a symbolic fee, which is enough just for basic costs. Work is mostly voluntary and great effort, enthusiasm and energy is required of members.

3 Membership

At this moment, members are mostly employees of institutions plus some individual members involved in FICE activities. We are extending our scope to include child care related NGOs.

4 Activities

4.1 As a National Section

- Training courses for professionals in residential care
- Building a network of professionals
- Promoting FICE to become recognised by the Ministry and Social Care and NGOs as an organisation that supports children and professionals in residential care
- Financing: obtaining finances by partnership applications with other NGOs/institutions

4.2 With other National Sections

- Partnership programmes: youth camps and professional conferences
- Short term projects

4.3 In relation to the country as a whole

We have promoted the FICE International Code of Ethics and tried to pressure the government to promote a plurality of service providers.

5 Future

- We would like to have an office, paid staff and our own project: a community youth care centre.
- We would like to translate and publish professional literature on good practice and establish good links with regional and international FICE sections.
- Our goal is also to influence the transition and changes in the social care system in Serbia.

6 Special features

The foundation of FICE Serbia during a time of complete transition in Serbian society makes it very difficult for us to operate.