



ANNUAL REPORT OF FICE-BULGARIA
FOR 2017

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Introduction

Association for pedagogical and social assistance for children (APSAC) FICE-Bulgaria is a non-governmental umbrella organization, registered on May 1st 2001 under number 2987/2001 in Sofia Court of Justice.

Member of FICE-Bulgaria are professionals working in field of child welfare. Its members include 39 juridical and physical persons – Homes for children deprived of parental care, social-pedagogical boarding schools, non-governmental organizations, educators, teachers, social workers, students.

FICE-Bulgaria is a section of FICE-International (Federation Internationale des Communautés éducatives) FICE-International comprises of more than 40 national sections - is a non-governmental organization maintaining consultative status with UNESCO, UNICEF, ECOSOC and the Council of Europe.

FICE-Bulgaria is also an active member of National Network for Children in Bulgaria, the National Alliance for Social Responsibility, Coalition 2025 - network of NGOs which are actively involved in the process of deinstitutionalization of children deprived from parental care in Bulgaria. FICE-Bulgaria is participating in different expert councils of Child Protection Agency, Ministry of Education and Youth, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy.

The mission of FICE-Bulgaria is to work actively for improvement the quality of life of the children of Bulgaria.

FICE-Bulgaria works for:

- Advocacy of child's rights
- Increasing the quality in field of child care
- Popularizing international models for work with children at risk
- Political and religious neutrality and combating all forms of discrimination;
- Public responsibility;
- Supporting exchange of knowledge and experience in the area of pedagogic and social support among the organization members;

Funding of the organization

Funding of FICE-Bulgaria is from three sources:

- Projects, funded by national and European programs in Bulgaria and abroad;
- Economic activities which is performed by TRACE ltd
- Participation in public tenders to deliver services

For achieving its goals FICE -Bulgaria :

- Creates methodological guidances and trainings for reforming the specialised child institutions in Bulgaria;
- Lobbies for legislation changes connected with the raising of child wellbeing in Bulgaria;
- Undertakes trainings of specialists in the area of child and adult care;
- Organises seminars and conferences for exchange of experience and ideas;
- Makes scientific research;
- Drafts, supports and supervises partner projects between Bulgarian and international organisations, working with children at risk;
- Supports and consults projects of organisation members;
- Popularises and disseminates information and publications, connected with the problems of children at risk.

Structural changes and members

FICE-Bulgaria is a membership organisation, functioning under a Statute, voted by a General Assembly of the members as a supreme body and in practice it is governed by a Managerial Council. The last General Assembly was held on May 31 2017. It voted for changing the number of Managerial Council members and for the Annual Report for 2016.

At the moment members of the MC are as follows:

- **President: Dashenka Krалеva**
- Members: ass.prof.d-r Ivailo Tepavicharov and Herman Radler

FICE-Bulgaria has a website (<http://fice-bulgaria.org/>) and a Facebook group for popularising the mission of the Association which is open for all.

For the practical realisation of projects and FICE-Bulgaria day-to-day activities there is an office team that consists of five people working under labour contracts. There are also part-time and volunteer specialists- trainers, supervisors, evaluators, translators, etc.

Therapeutic Communities-Bulgaria

Therapeutic Communities-Bulgaria is a successor to TRACE-Bulgaria and a result of a long term collaboration between FICE-Bulgaria and Therapeutic Communities- Austria. The

activity of Therapeutic Communities-Bulgaria is connected with implementing trainings, consultations, analysis, elaboration of methods and concepts and also with providing innovative social services for children.

The organisation is licensed for the following social services for children:

-Center for Public Support

-Family type Center for Placing Children/Young people without disabilities.

Functioning

Projects and Events

- Project **„Developing Rights Centers for Children in Conflict and in Contact with the Law”**, funded By Velux Foundation, in the framework of which FICE-Bulgaria opened a child rights center in the town of Vratsa. As a result from the agreement with the Vratsa municipality the later provided for free for the period of the project (until 2019) the premises of the center. Repairs were made and equipment was bought. The service started working with clients at the beginning of April 2017. The team of the center consists of a social worker, psychologist and legal advisor.

- Project **“CYCLES - Child and Youth Caretakers Financial Literacy and Entrepreneurship Skills”**, FICE Bulgaria is a partner in a “CYCLES” project under “Erasmus+”. The leading partner is FH JOANNEUM(University for applied sciences, Graz, Austria), and among other partners are: IKJ (Germany), Groupe SOS Jeunesse (France), Therapeutic Communities (Austria), Fundacja Samodzielni Robinsonowie (Poland). The project aims at improving the knowledge and abilities of professionals, working with children and youngsters in the area of finance and entrepreneurship. As a result of this, the professionals will be able to transfer this knowledge and abilities to children and young people with whom they work and to better prepare them for an independent life.

The project will be implemented for 24 months.

The main product which will be developed during the project is the training program. It will consist of 6 modules. The members of the consortium will work together for its creation by sharing the specific experience in the field.

- In February 2017 FICE Bulgaria applied with a project **“U.P.G.R.A.D.E – United professionals for Generating Resources for Adults Delivering Education”**, under EC“Erasmus+”, KA1 – Training mobility for trainers in the educational area for adults. After the project has been highly evaluated by the National Erasmus+ Agency in Bulgaria, The Association was invited to sign a beneficiary agreement. The implementation of the

project started in November 2017.

The project activities will be implemented for 15 months. Austrian organisation “Therapeutic communities-Austria” is a partner of FICE -Bulgaria.

The project goal is raising the capacity of FICE-Bulgaria for delivering high quality trainings for adults working in the area of care for traumatised children and young people.

Project Subgoals:

1. Raising the key competencies of the training staff of FICE Bulgaria in order to improve the quality of teaching and learning for it to answer better to the requirements of the social and educational area specialists.
2. Improving the foreign language competences of the organisation staff.
3. Achieving higher level of internationalisation of FICE - Bulgaria through raising its attractiveness and international dimension as a training organisation for adults.

In the framework of the project two mobilities will be undertaken for participation in structured courses in Austria, provisioned by the partner organisation. Eight adult trainers, who will be selected competitively among the trainers working for the Association under part-time or a labour contract will take part in the two mobilities. Two structured courses with upgrading and complementary content on the following subjects will take place:

1. “Trauma pedagogic. Theory and practice.”
2. “Methods and techniques for training adults, providing services for children and young people, victims of different traumas.”

Trainings, supervisions, consultations, etc.

In 2017 specialised trainings were made in Sofia, Svoge, Etropole, Kostinbrod, Ardino, etc. In which took part a total of 144 professionals.

Herman Radler, President of FICE-International and Fice Austria provided trainings on important and up-to-date themes:

- “Sexual Pedagogic”
- “Trauma Pedagogic”
- „Broken Windows Theory“ or how to help our children not to perpetrate violence and theft?”

In 2017 the President of the Association made an assesment of the service quality provided by Therapeutic Communities-Austria. These activities will continue in 2018.

In 2017 the Association provided supervisions of teams from different social services-Center for Social Support- Etropole, CSS-Ardino, CSS- Costinbrod and Complex for Social Services for Children and Families- Roman.

Strategic plans

1. The priority goal of MC of FICE-Bulgaria is to provide funding and stable existence of the organisation for implementing its goals.
2. The development of FICE-Bulgaria leads to an organisation providing specialised trainings and services for the professionals working with children at risk.
3. The membership in the Association is being precised and only loyal members will remain.
4. Widening the network of FICE-Bulgaria and creation of regional offices.

FICE-International

FICE-Bulgaria isa national section, representative of FICE-International for Bulgaria. At the moment the president of international organisation is Herman Radler with a mandate 2016-2019 and technical secretary-Caterina Ivanova.

At the period of 26 March - 2 April 2017 FICE International had a Federative Council meeting, conference,professional exchange and educational visits in Kenya. The events were organised by FICE-Kenya, FICE International and FICE-Austria.

Conclusion

Association for Pedagogical and Social Assistance for Children FICE-Bulgaria is a partner organisation not only to the social services specialists, bot also to the government and to international organisations in the field. It has practical expertise, research experience and training program for working with children at risk, in social and in educational aspect.

Its policy is fully connected with the improvement of quality of life of Bulgarian children by training the adults working with them.

FICE-Bulgaria supports and improves the implementation of reforms in the childcare system thus supprting the European policy in the area and its members.

We thank all our partners, NGO colleagues, colleagues from child institutions, schools, resource centers, ministries, municipalities, foreign partners and organisations, members of FICE-Bulgaria, employees, volunteers, children and families, directly connected with our work. By joining efforts we can achieve the desired change for children and young people in Bulgaria.

Dashenka Krалеva,

President of the Governing Council of APSAC FICE-Bulgaria