

Towns and Districts Friends of Children, Croatia

Union of Societies "Our Children, Croatia"
Croatian Society for Social and Preventive Paediatrics
State Institute for the Protection of Family, Motherhood and Youth,
UNICEF Croatia
CROATIA

Short description of the programme

Launched in 1999, the Croatian Towns and Districts Friends of Children Initiative has mobilised a broad coalition including the Union of Societies "Our Children, Croatia", the Croatian Society for Social and Preventive Paediatrics, the State Institute for the Protection of Family, Motherhood and Youth, UNICEF, other institutions and professionals. The programme promotes action to fulfil the rights and needs of children. Local authorities and civil society, children's institutions, parents and children commit to make their towns and districts more child friendly and monitor achievements through a complex set of rights-based indicators. The initiative builds on the partnerships developed by the Town Mayors Defenders of Children launched during the Balkans war as a way to assist displaced children.

PARAMETERS

Requirements and Indicators in the Action Programme Fields

A. Town/District programme and plan for the achievement of children's rights and needs

- 1) Every town/district participating in the action must draw up the programme and operational plan for the achievement of children's rights and needs in the current year.
- 2) The programme and operational plan should be drawn up jointly by relevant bodies of the town/district authorities, administration and professional services, institutions, associations and other legal entities and individuals who are engaged in children's care as well as representative of the children. The document will consist of the integral combination of all contributions by participants taking part in its drawing up.
- 3) The following are the starting points for the drawing up of the document for each programme field of the action: concretization and implementation of the UN Convention on Children's Rights, goals of the National Action Programme for children in Croatia, the demographic development of the local community and all other measures, actions and activities that the town/district plans to undertake for the support, protection and development of children.
- 4) The introductory part of the document should include the following data: a) what year or period of time period it refers to; b) total number of children in the town/district and the numerical survey of peer groups; 0-3, 4-6, 6,7-11, 12-15 and 15-18 years of age; c) the percentage of children within the total population of the town/district.
- 5) The programme and plan for the achievement of children's needs and rights in the

town/district is to be prepared by the action co-ordinating committee, and is approved by the town or district council.

- 6) On the occasion of the Week of the Child every year, i.e. the first full week in October, all participants in the carrying out of the programme and plan analyse the achieved improvement and discuss future measures in the implementation of the programme requirements of the action.

B. Specified-purpose funds in the town/district for the protection and education of children

- 7) The survey of the total of funds at disposal for children in the town/district in 1999 (table with sources and sums classified according to types of programme fields and the declaration of their percentage in relation to the total funds).
- 8) Detailed statement of regular specified-purpose funds from the town/district budget for activities intended for children.
- 9) Detailed statement of special donated specified-purpose funds and other sources collected for the particular needs of children.
- 10) The plan of the total of specified-purpose funds for children in the town/district for the year 2000.

C. Support and help for the civic associations that have programmes for children and the inclusion of children in reaching meaningful decisions regarding themselves

- 11) The list of registered associations with activities regarding children.
- 12) Public support and the support of the authorities to the work and realization of the programmes of these associations.
- 13) Subsidizing programmes of these associations out of the town/district budget.
- 14) Recommendations to potential sponsors to help associations in their activities.
- 15) Stimulating the making out of other meaningful forms of citizen's associations and their activities in helping children, particularly those with special needs.
- 16) Motivating children who should, in accordance with their age and maturity, individually and in groups, freely state their thoughts and suggestions on decisions regarding themselves, and they should also address their messages at the adults.
- 17) Special specified-purpose help for associations for the organization of great children's events, end-of-the-year communal meetings and exhibitions, as well as participation at international children's meetings and manifestations.
- 18) Supporting associations in the presentation of the results of their work publicly and in the media.
- 19) Awarding associations and their members with the highest town/district acknowledgements and awards for special achievements in the voluntary and professional contribution for the benefit of children.

D. The child in a secure and healthy town/district

- 20) Action for a healthy environment, clean air, safe drinking water.
- 21) No smoking in rooms where children spend their time.
- 22) Roads and crossing made safe and specially marked, safe seats in cars and bicycle tracks for children.
- 23) Actions and courses for the increase of safety for children in traffic; measurable

indicators show a low rate of traffic injuries and mortality of children in traffic.

- 24) Measures that make communication and movement of handicapped children and children with special needs.

E. Children's health

- 25) Free systematic examinations of pregnant women.
26) Detection of high-risk pregnancy, prevention of damage and handicaps in the newborn.
27) Infant and perinatal mortality rate in the town/district.
28) Promotion of breast-feeding of infants and inclusion of the maternity hospital (where at hand) into the action Hospital – Friends of Children.
29) Early inclusion of newborn infants into primary health care.
30) Developed registered nurses' service.
31) Vaccination of all children (percentage according to vaccine type).
32) Measures to ensure teeth care and a correct locomotory system.
33) The rate of coming down with the so-called preventable and unproductive illnesses.
34) Prevention and curing of children's traumas.
35) Implementation of set standards in the medical examination of the health condition in children.
36) Actions of preventive activities for the development of healthy ways of life.
37) Actions for a healthy and regular nutrition of children in families and institutions.
38) Humanization of child's stay in hospital, inclusion into the action For the Child's Smile in hospital.
39) Health control institutions and houses for children.

F. Education of children

- 40) Number and percentage of children in crèches.
41) Number and percentage of children in kindergartens (out of the total the number of children with special needs).
42) Number and percentage of children in shorter programmes outside the kindergarten.
43) Support and help in the carrying out of approved programmes outside the kindergarten.
44) Number of children in primary school and the percentage of coverage of children by obligatory education compared to the officially registered children of that age group (out of the total the number of children with special needs).
45) Measures to prevent children from missing school and breaking up education as well as stopping such developments.
46) Helping children with special needs.
47) Types of extracurricular activities and the percentage of children covered by them.
48) Supporting children in learning foreign languages and informatics.
49) Offering special programmes and stimulating gifted children.
50) Organizing extended day school programmes (number and type of children).
51) Percentage of professionally trained staff compared to the norms.
52) Degree of quality of education in schools on the basis of professional inspection findings.
53) Cooperation of educational institutions with relevant local community authorities.

- 54) The percentage of primary school equipment compared to the required norms.
- 55) The construction of new and updating of the existing education buildings (taking into account the abilities of children with special needs).

G. Social welfare for children

- 56) Number and percentage of children covered by all social welfare programmes compared to the total number of children in the town/district.
- 57) Social action for children who live in hardship conditions.
- 58) Forms and scope of welfare programmes for children outside their own family (adoption, fostering, children's homes and other forms).
- 59) Total number and percentage of handicapped and disabled children.
- 60) Social welfare for children with invalidity (the percentage of coverage for such children).
- 61) Social welfare for children with impaired sight (the percentage of coverage for such children).
- 62) Social welfare for children with impaired hearing (the percentage of coverage for such children)
- 63) Social welfare for children mentally retarded children (the percentage of coverage for such children)
- 64) Inclusion of children with special needs into integrated forms of social welfare and programmes within their natural environment.
- 65) Number and percentage of neglected and abused children compared to the total number of children.
- 66) Prevention of children abuse and interventions in order to stop such occurrences.
- 67) Preventive actions against children's addiction to smoking, alcohol, drugs.
- 68) Prevention and suppressing socially unacceptable behaviour of children.
- 69) Social welfare for children and juvenile perpetrators of criminal acts.
- 70) Types, scope and content of help offered to children – war victims.
- 71) Social welfare for children whose parents are abroad.

H. Culture and sport of and for children

- 72) Stimulating the establishment and work of institutions that offer cultural content to children.
- 73) What programme for children are offered by centres, residential homes and other institutions of culture.
- 74) What programmes for children are carried out by children's libraries and reading rooms.
- 75) Measures undertaken to enlarge the collections of libraries and supply them with audio and video equipment.
- 76) The work of puppet theatres and children's theatres (professional and amateur).
- 77) The repertory of cinemas that have children's films shows.
- 78) Stimulating the establishing of children's groups within the cultural clubs.
- 79) Social and professional actions for the stimulation of all sorts of children's creativity.
- 80) Actions to make cultural values more popular and accessible to greater numbers of children.
- 81) Actions to prevent and suppress negative influences on children: pulp fiction and

trash in children's books, print, music, as well as violence and pornography in films and on television.

- 82) Subsidies for the production and purchase of quality toys, books and other contemporary sources of information and notions intended for children.
- 83) Stimulating and awarding artistic creativity for children.
- 84) Stimulation of the development of children's sports associations.
- 85) Supporting children with talents for particular sports.
- 86) Organizing seasonal children's games and sports activities.
- 87) Organizing finals in children's sports games and activities.
- 88) Organizing children's participation at tournaments and children's Olympics.
- 89) Construction of sports facilities and halls for children that will also be accessible to children with special needs.

I. Children's leisure time and recreation

- 90) Establishment and way of work of children's playgroups and play-rooms.
- 91) Establishment and way of work of children's clubs and snug nooks.
- 92) Establishment and way of work of Children's Forums (introducing children to the notion of children's rights), and their activities in the form of children's town/district councils.
- 93) Establishment and way of work of creative workshops and courses adapted to children's interests.
- 94) Establishment of children's newspaper editorial boards within local newspapers, radio and television stations.
- 95) Stimulation and development of children's informatics activities.
- 96) Establishment and way of work of centres for technical activities and skills of children.
- 97) Ecological activities of children in learning about nature and the protection of their natural environment.
- 98) Organization of week-end trips, scouts and research camps.
- 99) Construction and equipment on independent children's playgrounds.
- 100) Cleaning up and tidying of school courtyards for children's games and other activities.
- 101) Tidying up of green areas for children's games, entertainment and leisure.
- 102) Equipping popular resorts, recreation centres and fun parks for children.
- 103) Giving children the chance to stay in children's recreation centres (summer and winter premises) and producing meaningful recreational activities.
- 104) Participation in the children's final events, meetings and exhibitions.
- 105) Participation of children at intercity and international children's meetings and events.
- 106) Inclusion of children with special needs in the above mentioned forms of a meaningful way of spending leisure time.

L. Support and help to parents in their care and education of children

- 107) Giving priority to parents with lower incomes, single parents and parents of children with special needs regarding accommodation in crechés and kindergartens.
- 108) Complete or partial exemption of certain categories of parents from paying costs

for crechés and kindergartens programmes

- 109) Adapting the working hours of crechés and kindergartens to the needs of employed parents.
- 110) Granting free textbooks to children whose parents are unable to buy them.
- 111) Supporting the work of the school canteens to offer a hot meal or at least a snack for all pupils (a minimum of a glass of milk for each child).
- 112) Securing free transport for pupils who come from afar to their central school (particularly for those with special needs).
- 113) Special support for parents with many children.
- 114) Granting favourable housing loans to families with many children.
- 115) Participating in the costs of parents for the purchase of children's food, special drugs, clothes, footwear, school kits, children's books and toys (for parents with low incomes or those unemployed).
- 116) Professional help for families in different situations of crises and for children with inclinations to various addictions.
- 117) Actions of prevention of children abuse and application of sanctions against parents who abuse their children.
- 118) Supporting organizers of schools, counseling centres and other forms of education for a responsible parenthood.
- 119) Supporting associations who organize parents' get-togethers and other forms of social gatherings and talks among parents about the education of their children.
- 120) Helping to design and produce animation leaflets, brochures and manual for parents.
- 121) Helping authors in their production of special broadcasts on the local media, films and other forms of instructing parents to help them raise and educate their children.
- 122) Making adults in the social environment more sensitive and able to understand the different needs of children.
- 123) Stimulating and supporting the achievement of a better harmonization of family and working life, with goal of having parents spend more time with their children, so that the whole of the local and social community should move toward a society with friendly attitude to children.