

**National recommendations on how to ensure alternative care is provided with a focus on the rights of children and their best interests**

**Country: Hungary**

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| *(Recommendation)*  *To see an example – use the link provided in the “guide” document* | *(Recommendation explained in more detail)* |
| **Promote the adoption of a comprehensive policy covering all areas of children’s rights to ensure that child rights education in general becomes a priority.** | Hungary lacks state policy in all areas of children’s rights and lacks measures to evaluate the implementation of its existing strategies and action plans. For children’s rights education to become a priority, there should be first a comprehensive policy covering all areas of children’s rights and the State should ensure that its strategies and action plans are provided with the necessary human, technical and financial resources for their effective implementation. [[1]](#footnote-1) |
| **Promote the establishment of a single body that is responsible for the overall coordination of the activities in the area of children’s rights.** | Hungary lacks coordination of activities in the area of children’s rights. The collaboration among different government agencies is up to their discretion and therefore it is hampering the effective implementation of activities in different areas of children’s rights. The State should establish a single body that is responsible for the overall coordination of the activities and this body should be provided with the sufficient authority and human, technical and financial resources to carry out its role effectively as a body that coordinates activities among various government agencies at the national, regional and local levels. [[2]](#footnote-2) |
| **Promote the establishment of an independent ombudsperson for children’s rights.** | In Hungary, the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights is responsible for monitoring the implementation of children’s rights. There is no separate, independent body for children’s rights. For children’s rights to be explicitly in focus, the State should establish an ombudsperson for children’s rights. |
| **Include compulsory child rights training in the curricula and the ongoing development of all care professionals.** | In Hungary, there is a great divergence in whether a care professional working with children has received training on children’s rights and whether the training he or she has received was of good quality. Therefore, education on children’s rights should be included in the bachelor level education of social workers, pedagogues, psychologists and students in law schools, at least in the form of special courses. This action should be supported by the Ministry of Human Resources and by the relevant universities.  Also, education on children’s rights should be part of the ongoing development of all care professionals. During the orientation of all new co-workers, care provider organisations should assess the level of new co-workers’ child rights knowledge and plan their ongoing development accordingly.  In order to strengthen the child protection system with a sufficient number of well-qualified staff, the State should provide the necessary technical and financial resources to all care provider organisations. |
| **Make accessible child rights training for care professionals.** | In order for children’s rights to be part of the ongoing development of care professionals, child rights trainings should be available “on the market” and accessible, and these trainings need to fit into the national system. In Hungary, only nationally accredited trainings can be admitted in the compulsory ongoing development of care professionals. These trainings are not free. The care provider organisations need to pay for the participation of their co-workers, or in the case of limited resources, the co-workers themselves. The State should provide the necessary financial resources to all care provider organisations. |
| **Ensure that child rights education is not only theoretical but care professionals are able to implement children’s rights into their everyday practice at all levels.** | Care professionals working with children in alternative care lack support in how to implement children’s rights into their daily work with children and young adults. Besides making child rights training compulsory and available both in the curricula and in the ongoing development of care professionals, alternative care professionals should be supported by regular supervision and via possibilities to exchange and share best practices with other professionals. After a completed training there should be a mentoring process in which professionals can get help in better putting the learnings into practice. The mentoring process also gives the opportunity to assess what has been achieved in terms of implementing good practices, principles, etc. This action can be supported on the level of each care provider organisation and SOS Hungary can only show a good example. Nevertheless, the necessary financial resources should be provided by the State. |

### Comments of the consultants about the national recommendations as provided by the national teams participating in the project.

The recommendations are analysed and commented per country. Some general remarks:

* *In the comments we looked in particular on how the team formulated recommendations against the two aims explained by Ronan with relation to the development of European Recommendations.*

Key aims for follow up activities as expressed by the international project team.

**1. Raise awareness amongst national and European decision makers on the need to build the capacity of care professionals as a central part of child care system reform in Europe.**

This objective is largely related to advocacy activities that need to be undertaken to ensure decision makers are aware of the need to train professionals as part of child care system reform and its related policies.

2. **Increase capacity building of care professionals in European countries through the formation of partnerships amongst relevant stakeholders, delivery of the trainings to care professionals and evaluating outcomes.**

This objective is linked the first one, but focuses more on the roll out and scaling up of the project activities (both advocacy and capacity building) at national level through the formation of relevant partnership with interested stakeholders, including national authorities.

* Teams have developed recommendations and actions as sort of a mix. Hungary developed a very clear set of recommendations with clear targets and also showing an understanding of what is achievable by the team and what others should realise..
* We tried to take findings from the questionnaires into consideration when looking at the recommendations, but because time is limited that could only be done with the first three, but it is worth doing this for all and make the teams to be more specific in their recommendations and thus in the development of their roadmaps.

### Hungary

Hungary clearly links the recommendations to the CRC Concluding observations.

The recommendation (number 4) is clearly linked to the questionnaires and the fact that training should include children’s rights. Good explanations and it is clear that SOS Hungary can only provide a good practice and advocate, but cannot realise this recommendation what should be done by the Government. This is clear input for the development of an advocacy strategy.

The training, and partnership developed thereof, can be used to make such strategy effective.

The recommendations of Hungary show exactly the key outcome of the project: the importance of learning that is put into practice and is not only theoretical, and the importance of exchange between professionals and it shows how that can be advocated for. The strong points SOS has by developing training that can be put up for accreditation are there, but also the limitation of an NGO like SOS, and thus the importance of seeking partners and find the stakeholders who can realise the change.

1. CRC Concluding observations on the combined third, fourth and fifth periodic reports of Hungary [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. CRC Concluding observations on the combined third, fourth and fifth periodic reports of Hungary [↑](#footnote-ref-2)