

ЗДРУЖЕНИЕ ЗА ЗАШТИТА НА ПРАВАТА НА ДЕТЕТО

Defence for Children's Rights (DCR)



ANNUAL REPORT

Association Defence for Children's Rights - "Educational entertainment Daily care center for street children"

January – December 2014



About us

Mission:

Protection and respect of the rights of the children regardless of the race, color, sex, nationality, ethical or social background, religion, political or other beliefs guaranteed by the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Vision:

Our vision is to create a world in which the child will enjoy and exercise their rights of mental, physical and social well-being according to the highest standards and can achieve harmonious development of personality, to grow up in a family environment in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding family as the basic unit of society and the natural environment for the growth and prosperity, and to be provided with the necessary protection and assistance so that it can take whole responsibility in the community.

Values:

Children's rights are inseparable from human rights: the right to identity, the right of access to education, the right (life) world to respect diversity as a basic principle of life.

Each individual should allow access to real and relevant information and services to be able to exercise their rights.

The state should provide political, financial and public commitment that all national policies to protect children based on the framework of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and advocate for the inclusion of diverse needs and interests of children.

Structure of the Organization:

1. PhD Vladimir Ortakovski, Professor at the Faculty of Security, **President at Defense for Children Rights (DCR)**
2. PhD. Oliver Bacanovich, Professor at the Faculty of Security, **Vice President at Defense for Children Rights (DCR)**
3. Kiril Trajkovski, social worker, **Member in the Executive Committee of DCR**
4. Mladica Kotevska, social worker, **Member in the Executive Committee of DCR.**
5. Irena Velkoska, **Member in the Executive Committee of DCR**



During the activities of the Project in the Center for 2013 were hired:

1. Irena Velkoska, **Project Coordinator**
2. Vasilka Jovanovska, **Social worker**
3. Natasa Gjorgjievska Tnokovska, **Psychologist** (from 09.2014)
4. Aleksandra Zakevska, **School Teacher**
5. Maja Bozinovska, **Pedagogue**

International Volunteers from Volunteer Center Skopje: Robin Sarels, Marion Marthouret, Paul Angles, Matthias Crainich, Maxim William, Marko Nemanic, Monica Naglova.

The work and the activities of the Association can be track on its official website www.zpd.org.mk, and through the social networks **FACEBOOK: Day center for street children - Suto Orizari**.

Annual activities:

Educational entertainment Daily care center for street children

The activities of the Center covers identification of children on street through mobile teams, registering children on streets, providing shelter, food, medical care, education both formal and in formal education, including the children on street in the formal education process, providing support and aid to continue with the education, creating psychological reports on every child, constant meetings with the parents of the children, close co – operation with relevant stakeholders, assistance in providing ID papers to the children and their families.

Registered and protected children

During the period of 2014 the number of new registered children on the street is **33**. The children were identified through activities on terrain by the mobile teams, most of them begging on the street at the Hotel Alesandar Palace, on the street Partizanski Odredi, in Shuto Orizari and in front of the bigger super markets. The age of the children is between 3 – 14 years. The 33 children were not involved in the educational process nor in the institutional care provided by the State. Before involving the children in the Centre, meetings with the parents and review of the whole family documentation were made. During their first week in the Centre,



the children were evaluated for their intellectual capacities, level of literacy, meetings with the psychologist which resulted with psychological report of the children and immunization and medical check of the children.

With consent of the parents / guardians of the children, they can visit and stay in the Centre and enjoy the benefits of the Centre itself.

In 2014, we submitted 5 written notifications to the YU Center for Social Work of Skopje. We realized and frequent contacts, meetings and discussions with the departments of Centers for social work, submit for taking measures and increased supervision over custody of the children victims of domestic violence, physical violence and aggressive behavior, rude neglect of parental duty of care and education, labor exploitation, begging. In some notifications to the responsible institutions, legal service calls to certain international documents and national laws which stipulate the rights of the children, how to achieve them and the mechanisms for their protection.

The number of direct users of the services of the Centre in the period of 01.13 – 10.13 is **138** children beneficiaries. In January and June **18** children had termination of the services of the Centre, in on the other hand, to create conditions for fostering new children who need care and protection , but also to meet different needs: the need of education and educational facilities , socialization , proper and intensive psycho - social and pedagogical treatment , vaccines , health and social protection , identity , security , meals , clean water , hygiene and supportive environment to fully develop into healthy adult individuals.

Reason for termination of **18** children : for providing better subsistence and living conditions on other children due financial cuts, **7** children move in Kumanovo and Tetovo, 3 school children come in under age extramarital union, 2 children illegally (without personal documents) leave in Serbia with their father, 6 children because of lack of cooperation with the parent.

Up to December 2014, 120 children from vulnerable marginalized Roma community aged 03-18 years had the status of daily cared children who use the services of the Daily Center.

Children without personal documentation (ID), medical and social care and insurance

In 2014 from 33 new evidenced children 8 of them were with no personal documentation registered by the Organization. This 33 children for the first time had their first systematic examination and immunization and opened a health card in collaboration with the local Health Centre and with the NGO “HERA” Skopje.

For 5 children we helped enrollment in the registry books for birth certificate, but in complex cases where children are born at home, are elderly or have refugee status, this year also we turned to the institutions responsible for the personal identification and to civil society organizations. In December, only three families or for children 5 to determine the identity of the child through DNA analysis. Parents / pregnant women who possess personal documents are directed to the Clinic of Gynecology enrollment and keeping appropriate medical documentation upon birth registration the newborn babies in the local office. For 8 newborns provide with clothes, prams, powdered milk and cereal for infants.



Almost all of the children lives in the Municipality "Shuto Orizari" which means they have common social environment: come from families who are in a difficult financial situation of dysfunctional families without proper parental care with noted educational neglect, social and emotional problems.

Some of them are not registered in the birth registry and do not have health documents for which they are not allowed obtaining adequate health care and protection. Between the kids is registered a problem with malnutrition and lack of hygiene. Given all this attention is devoted to the general health of children through regular vaccinations, TB testing, examinations and providing other services (providing free skin and eye examinations and laboratory tests, hospital accommodation and treatments, and providing or purchasing prescribed medical therapies).

Prevented Underage Marriages

In year 2014, **14** from 17 underage marriages are prevented. Although the underage marriages in this category of population is a common thing and a tradition, we continuously are trying to reach the children and the parents not to lobby and put a pressure on the kids to have underage marriages or extramarital marriages. The reasons for this actions are that the children are not both physically and psychically developed and lack of resources and education in parenthood.

3 cases where minors came into juvenile illegitimate marriage, 13-year-old S.M. and 14-year-old Gj.J. without knowledge of the close family members in the night hours they leave their homes, while 14-year A.Dz with permission of the parents, they engaged her and send for a boy(also under age) who lives in France. We make effort this three children to complete school year.

In cooperation with the Association for action against violence and human trafficking, "La Strada" Skopje, as part of the program activities "Don't take my childhood" whose goal is to contribute to increasing the prevention and protection of Roma children in Macedonia in forced / child marriage and trafficking. The workshops implemented with children from the day center, named "To marry or not" meant to initiate discussion about the negative consequences of risks regarding psycho-physical growth and development of children resulting from early child marriages, and its relationship with violence, trafficking and poverty.

Children – Youth Club

The Children – Youth Club continued to work this year also. The children are getting with wider education about their rights, the importance of education, in general primary and secondary school through motivational conversations, discussions, empowerment, creating moral grounds for their easier involvement in the Society. The workshops are conducted twice a week for 2-3 hours with pre prepared month operating programme. In the workshops are included children at the age of 12 – 17 years old who are fostered in the Centre.

Children on the street involved in pre – school and school institutions



The second semester of the school year 2013/2014, **76** children successfully completed of **87** children which still use the services of the Centre. The other **11** school children are children who have previously been temporarily excluded from the Centre for receiving a positive report and absence of street activities (begging, collecting plastic bottles, etc.).

In the academic year 2014/2015 in the educational process included **14** first graders of different ages and some of them are without personal documents. We included: **11** children in "Braka Ramiz Hamid " and **3** children in night elementary school "As Makrenko" and we provided the required documentation for enrolment in school. This year for the first time we have **9** children that we included them in high schools: SUGS "Arsenij Jovkov", SUGS "Lazar Tanev" and ASUC "Boro Petrusovski". But in October, because moving the whole family in Germanija, a high school student Gj.A. interrupts the educational process.

In the academic year 2014/2015 the total number of children included in the regular education process is **90**. Pestalozzi Children's Foundation provided school materials and accessories, backpacks, necessary for school, regarding the need of every child individually. Second hand clothing was provided by the Red Cross of Skopje. Provided uniforms for waiters and cooks for 5 high school students enrolled in the Secondary School "Lazar Tanev" by the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy

During their first month of school, the children are escorted from the staff members from Daily Center to their school in order acquire commitment and positive habit of regular school attendance and approval of the school environment, but also to get to know and come closer with teachers. We made contact with all teachers and pedagogical service of the primary schools "26 July" and "Braka Ramiz Hamid" to explain the material status of new enrolled children and to point out the possibility to contact us for any information, as well as professors from secondary vocational schools. The collaboration continues with night school "AS Makrenko" where we have 3 new children enrolled, and previously enrolled children successfully completed grade continue into next year. Accomplishing daily contact with teachers in schools, where we are informed of the progress of each child, and the difficulties that we can overcome and work with children helping them with writing, reading and calculating the numbers.

Working with parents

Before the start of the new school year and during the whole year are held educational workshops with parents based on the protection of children's rights, raising the capacity of parents, care and responsibility, the importance of education and regular attendance, underage marriages etc. Also we visited their homes, in terms of the absence of the child from D. Center and school, give instruction or information to complete of the documentation through which they can exercise their rights in the field of health and social care.

Protecting the rights and interests of children, intensive individual discussions take place with all parents, especially parents whose children are forced into begging during the weekend. Every time were pointed sanctions for abuse and neglect of parental rights and exploitation of a child, and if there is no changes will be reported to the Centers for Social Work and Interior who by official duty will take the child temporary and



will initiate proceedings for revocation of parental rights before the competent Court and will file criminal charges against the parent who abuses and neglects the custody.

Collaboration with relevant stakeholders

Schools services, including pedagogue department and school teachers

DCR have made necessary meetings and appointments with the staff of the local schools where the children of the Centre are registered, and discussions about their situation and status have been made. They are willing for collaboration with the Centre and the children and that collaboration resulted positive in order to keep attendance of the children in the schools. Also during the classes they are provided with special attention in order to learn the materials well, although the Centre is providing support to those children regarding any exams, homework's, etc. Also the Centre is organizing meetings on regular basis with the parents of those children who attend at school in order to improve the relation of the children with the schools. Excellent collaboration is provided between DCR and the Elementary schools "Braka Ramiz Hamid", "July 26" and "As Makarenko"

Ministry of Labour and Social Policy

The Ministry of Labour and Social Policy (MLSP) has address for our presence in many meetings and workshops. DCR was a part of the making the Action Plan for Children on Street 2013 – 2015. Our mutual cooperation is on high level regarding exchanging information, data and on addressing the issue for children on street.

Ministry of Internal

Educational workshop was conducted with the parents and representatives from the Police Station (PS) in Cair – Biljana Utkovska and Ministry of Internal (Mol) Department for Prevention – Katerina Stojkova where education and topics for Prevention of Human Trafficking, Juveniles Marriages and violation of children's rights were covered.

NGO "HERA"

Due to good collaboration and our partner organization "HERA", we manage to conduct **5** workshops where 3 of them were with the parents, regarding raising awareness about STDs, other diseases, infections, sexual



protection and about the food and the risk of getting a food from the trash. They provided aid regarding free dermatological examination and therapy for the beneficiaries.

Voluntary Centre Skopje (VCS)

During the year of 2014 humanitarian activities are conducted with volunteers from France, Slovenia, Slovakia through the VCS. Through various educational and creative activities, the children had the opportunity to socialize, learn more about different culture and diversities. The workshops were conducted 3 times per week, from 10 – 14 o'clock, with all groups of children. The children had positive impressions and also learned different social activities and improved their creative skills.

In August from 40 children the Daily Center for the first time went on a five-day summer holiday in Ohrid enabled from three young volunteers from France- Marion Marturano, Robin Sarel, Paul Angles, who gathered money by kraudfanding platform (platform for group venture).

The team from Volunteer Centre Skopje allow Armando R. to be one of the young people who went to St. Petersburg, Russia where together represent the Volunteer Center Skopje in youth exchange "It's me, I'm great" organized by the Russian-German Center in Kirch (19/07- 30/07/2014) with participants - young people from Germany, Tunisia, Spain, Russia, Macedonia, Latvia and Italy, aged 16 to 18 years. The purpose of this project is the participants learn new cultures, no steretipi and prejudices towards other countries participating in this project.

By Volunteer Center-Skopje on 27.11.2014, took place an event titled "Live Library". Our youth from the Center and seller of street magazine "Face to Face", represented an open "book" to his life story. The visitors were interested to hear his life story.

Project "Face to Face" ("Лице во Лице")

The Project "Face to Face" was implemented by "Centre for Media Activities" Skopje where children from the Centre at age between 15 - 21 years could sell magazines on the street and keep percentage of the sell (50% of the sell for themselves) in order to improve their material status. This philanthropic project had helped 10 children from our Centre to find temporary job by selling magazines. Their position is well known, they have not finished Elementary School and they are not in position to find jobs. In collaboration with the "Centre for Media Activities" certain workshops of education for communicational skills for children/youth took place and made beneficiaries of our Centre to successfully sell the monthly magazine to the broader public. The activity was sustainable through the year with main goal the "Centre for Media Activities" to organize in the future possibility for work positions in various legal entities and companies.

Center for Media activities through service of the International Network of Street press in the Germany - published a story about our youth A.R. in their magazine.

The award for most successful sellers to "Face to Face" that platform for activism organized for the third time, in cooperation with "Habitat Macedonia" were awarded to A. R. and J. J. youth from Daily Centre. The winning



sellers, "Habitat Macedonia" provide reconstruction to a part of their habitat, in order to improve their housing conditions.

Events and recognitions

All event regarding annual celebration (Christmas, New years Eve, Ramazan, Easter, Halloween, International Voluntary Day) are followed with certain event for the children of the Centre. More important and significant dates for the annual activities below.

International Day of Family- May 15

Public performance was held on 18/05/2014, in the City Park, event was implemented by the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, unless our organization active participation took the Association for the care and education of children and youth of Skopje and Macedonia. At the event participated 17 children from the daily center, one child was presented with several songs related to the family and the other 16 children drew, painted and wrote messages to mark the day.

International day of children on the street – 12 April World Day Against Child Labour - June 12

DCR continue to fight to protect children from the most severe forms of child labor or disabling them to be involved in activities harmful to the child's health or safety. The fact that this problem does not pay enough attention and resources for achieving sustainable social change. To achieve the elimination of the worst forms of child labor requires great effort and commitment in terms of reducing poverty, improve social protection and inclusion of all children in education.

Rights of the Children – Children's week

Regarding this event, DCR has organized workshops where the children could show their creative made works, have a small sport competitions, etc. The activities provided by the Centre and other organizations were: "Children have right to know their rights", Children have rights to express their opinion".

International children's Day

Defence for children rights with it's activities continuously working to improve the situation of children in the country and to fight against the worst forms of child labor and sexual abuse of children. DCR marks November 19 - World Day for protection the children of abuse and November 20 -International children's Day.

On 22/11/2013, the under the motto "Life for babies, not abortion," together with the CSO "Lydia heart beating"- Stip, "Revita" -Bitola and NGO "Dvizi se"- Skopje werw part of the march and took a number of parents and children that came out to peaceful march through the streets of Skopje, was organized for International children's Day, November 20th.



Donations

Continued assistance and support for the implementation of activities in the Daily Centre through the whole year we had by MT Tinex. From October 2014 to February 2015 supported project by the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy in the field of social protection. Realization of the six month pilot project "Building educational opportunities for children from vulnerable groups" at the local level (from 1 September 2014 to 01 March 2015) with partner organizations (NGOs Hera, SOS Children's Village, REC-Umbrella, CSI Hope, RRC-Roma Resource center as manager of this project) with the support of the Swiss-Pestalozzi children's Foundation

During the year, in – kind donation (in the form of clothes, shoes, food, school materials, new year packages) were made from the Red Cross, Mobile Operator T-Mobile, Komercijalna Banka, The Lioness Club, Rotary Club, NGO Humanity Without Borders and Youth for love, "Tartan Army Children's Charity" through the British Embassy in the Republic Macedonia,, French and the British Embassy, the British company Johnson Matthey.

Lobbying, advocacy and monitoring of the situation of child rights in Republic of Macedonia

DCR in 2014 worked on lobbying and advocacy for children's rights under the Convention on the Rights of the Child, monitored the situation of child rights in the country, as well as the work of state institutions and local government units in terms of their actions when it comes to protecting children and their rights , especially the children belonging to marginalized groups. The monitoring is done through the activities of the Centre: Collaboration with parents, Workshops for parents, Workshops for children and free social and legal aid, through the work of the State Council for Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency where the president of the Council is also the president of DCR, Mr. Vladimir Ortakovski.

In order to provide greater and more efficient protection for children, especially for cases where parents force their children to beg on the street, this year the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy (published on their web site and the Media 24/02/2014) conduct a precision of the provisions in the Family Law for stricter sanctions for the abuse of children and severe neglect of performing parental duties.

DCR is strongly committed to help and contribute with our experience working with street children.

Throughout the year, the Daily Center was visited by representatives of the French Embassy and Ambassador Laurence Auer, which cooperate long and faithful support us in the work. Association Defence for children rights participate in celebration of International Human Rights Day.

In March 2014 Daily Center was visited by the Catholic Church "The church of Jesus Christ of latter day saints" in the mediation with the Red Cross of Skopje.



In two occasions (April and July), Daily Center was visited by GIZ - German Development Cooperation-regional program for social protection and prevention of human trafficking as well as representatives of social work centers from Kosovo in order closely to get acquainted with the work and the role of state and non-government centers who work with street children, for which we received a positive opinion.

In July 2014 UNICEF Representative Mr. Bertrand Desmoulins closely met the work and activities of the Center.

Alan Birot- regionalnen technical adviser for anti - trade the French permanent mission to the UN, OSCE and other international organizations based in Vienna, on three occasions visited D.Centar activities. The collaboration resulted from working meetings organized by the OSCE Regional child trafficking which our Association was represented by Antonio Velkoski. He was impressed by the work of D.Centar, its prevention / stopping potential victims of trafficking, forced labor, juvenile delinquency, etc.

The DCR it's a part of the Regional Partner Network through the "Centre for Youth Integration" from Serbia, a network between 7 organization and institution from Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sarajevo, Novi Sad, Banja Luka, Mostar and Zenica.