

Partnerships for Every Child Moldova

Request for Proposals

Subject: Request for proposals (RfP) for a Study Tour on Reforming the Child Care System

Partnerships for Every Child Moldova invited interested organization or government agencies to submit a proposal for organizing a Study Tour on Reforming the Child Care System and development of alternative care services in accordance with UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The following programme information should be taken into consideration while preparing the proposals:

Program Title: Social alternative services care in the Process of Reform of Child Care System Study Tour

Duration: 6 days, including arrival and departure days

Location: Preferred countries: UK

Proposed Dates: 6 days in the period in July – August, 2014.

Group size: 16 -17 participants from Moldova

Lodging: Single/double occupancy

Evaluation Process: Best Value (highest combined technical and cost score)

Content

The following documents are presented below for detail information:

- A. Terms of Reference
- B. Proposal Submission Form

Submissions

The offers should be submitted following the Proposal Submission Form electronically at dmamaliga@p4ec.md by **10 a.m. GMT on June 13, 2014**.

Contacts

If you require more information or some points need clarification please contact Mamaliga Daniela, Programme Director, Partnerships for Every Child by e-mail or by phone +373 69137464

A. Terms of References

I. BACKGROUND/SUPPORTING INFORMATION

The USAID-funded Project “Children of Moldova are cared for in safe and secure families” (2014-2017) has a goal to improve the safety, wellbeing and development of highly vulnerable children, particularly those who are living without adequate family care. The project will work to ensure that: (i) Across Moldova, 100,000 children who are at risk of losing family care, are living with seriously inadequate family care, or are outside

family care have increased chances to stay with their strengthened families or be placed in appropriate, protective and permanent alternative family care; (ii) 4000 children have been prevented from being unnecessarily separated from their families in 10 regions of Moldova; (iii) 3000 children who are outside family care in 5 regions of Moldova live in safe and nurturing families. The project will consolidate the results of the previous USAID-funded project implemented by P4EC&EvC and create opportunities for national expansion and replication. The project will provide support to the authorities to develop a holistic system for strengthening and preserving family care and for alternative family-based care of children by engaging with various stakeholders to build capacities, strengthen coordination, build services, and win public support to child care reform.

The project will operate at national and local level. 10 LAs were selected as project sites, in consultation with MLSPF, MoE, LAs, UNICEF, CSOs. The Cahul, Causeni, Nisporeni, Orhei and Soroca LAs were selected as they have high number of children in residential care and are prioritized by the GoM for closure of institutions. The Ungheni, Calarasi, Falesti, Telenesti, and Singerei LAs were selected as they have a significant level of human resource capacities established with P4EC's support in previous USAID- and EvC-funded projects; in these regions the project will pilot programs for family strengthening before replication to the 5 new regions.

At the national level, the project will work with the MLSPF, MoE and other relevant ministries to strengthen national child protection systems, and to develop and improve social policies to address prevention of family separation and protection of children outside family care. The project will support these ministries to provide support, guidance and capacity building to all 35 LAs of Moldova to ensure that national child care and protection policies and legislations are implemented appropriately and that these policies are communicated effectively to the public.

At the local level, the project will support 10 LAs to pilot family support and family strengthening programs with particular focus on the development of strong prevention programming aimed at keeping children in families and strengthening families' skills and ability to care for their children; additionally the project will support the new 5 LAs to develop alternative family-based care for children and close down 7 large-scale institutions for children.

The project will directly target 7,000 children, including: 302 girls and 218 boys living in 7 institutions will be supported to be cared for in families and to attend community schools; 1262 girls and 1115 boys in family-based care and 53 girls and 50 boys in small group homes will be supported to find a permanent family care option; 2007 girls and 1993 boys at risk of losing parental care will be supported to stay with their families or find protective family-based care.

At the national level, the project intends to indirectly target additional 100,000 children, including 6,057 children in residential care, 10,060 in alternative family-based care, 9,000 children at great risk of family separation and 74,883 vulnerable children and their families.

The project will also build capacities of 20 policy makers, 400 decision-makers, 2,280 community child protection specialists and social workers across the country; 373 residential and 550 school staff, 1,404 members of community (representing community authority, health, education, church), and 20 NGOs, including faith-based organizations.

At local level there is still a dire lack of community family-type services. This is due to a number of factors. The most prominent are limited organizational capacities at local level to interpret and implement national policies, lack of support to the local authorities on behalf of the national ministries to implement these policies, lack of financial mechanisms at local level to finance the new services.

To address the root causes of family separation, and to protect children already without parental care, at local level there is little cooperation between individuals and agencies working in a range of sectors: social protection (providing support to vulnerable families to help them address the root causes of a loss of

parental care, and using social protection measures to help protect children already without parental care); child protection services (providing community based child protection mechanisms and enhancing family-based alternatives to residential care); education (providing high quality, relevant, education close to home that aims to protect children without parental care, and, where this is not possible, ensuring that children who have to leave home in order to gain an education have safe, well monitored accommodation); health care (providing quality health care services close to home and ensuring that children are not separated from their parents due to their medical condition); justice (providing child friendly protection and support to child victims of abuse, violence and exploitation; reducing the number of children placed in detention through measures designed to reduce juvenile offending, support to ensure free and fair trials, and diversionary tactics which offer alternative forms of punishment for children; finance (developing financial mechanisms for redirection of funding from residential system to the community based services).

The development of social services for children and families, their integration into the wider child protection and social protection context is essential for reaching positive outcomes for children in public care.

Within the context of the above this ToR therefore aims to challenge the actual “notion” of the reform and to contribute to the progress in reducing the number of children without parental care and protecting those already separated from their parents in Moldova. Thus it would be necessary to learn the best practices in EU neighbouring countries as well as analyse the lessons learned and possible challenges in these processes.

II. STUDY TOUR GOAL & OBJECTIVES

The overall goal of the Study Tour is to expose the participants from the 5 local authorities and Partnerships for Every Child Programme staff to the good practices in developing and providing alternative care services to children without parental care, thus strengthening the capacities of the Moldovan decision makers to implement a coherent childcare reform reducing reliance on residential care of children. The Study Tour should be organised in such a way to demonstrate the whole system changes and explain key lessons learned and possible pitfalls.

The following specific objectives are defined for the participants of the study tour:

1. To understand the overall structure and systems for ensuring the rights of the children in the country of visit including:
 - overall policy and legislation framework;
 - the system of provision of social services for families with children;
 - the education system that provides equal opportunities to all children without discrimination;
2. To get an understanding of the child protection system, protocols for inter-departmental cooperation, primary, secondary and tertiary prevention and protection of children at risk or victims of abuse, neglect and exploitation;
3. To get an overview of developments of the early intervention, targeted, specialised and high need services for children at risk or without parental care;
4. To get an overview of programmes aimed at strengthening families and psycho-social support to children living in households affected by different risk factors, such as substance abuse, violence.
5. To understand the principle of inter-departmental and inter-professional collaboration in delivering social services to children and families;
6. To get an overview of child participation practices at local level in services design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation;

7. To understand the process and mechanisms of financing of social services and re-directing resources to early intervention programmes and community-based social services.
8. To get an understanding of the role of NGOs in the provision of social services for families and children (commissioning/procurement of social services).

III. SPECIFIC REQUIRED COMPONENTS

The programme for the Study Tour should include the visits or meetings with the following institutions and organizations:

- Local government authorities responsible for the development and implementation of child care and child protection polices;
- Social services for children and families provided by local authorities and NGOs, including early intervention programmes, family support services, childcare services, specialised services for children with disabilities;
- Community schools, that provide inclusive education to all children, including children with special educational needs;
- Child protection local authorities teams and services provided to victims of child abuse and neglect;
- Advocacy NGOs working in child care field;
- Other visits and meetings that would inform the participants regarding the implementation of the International guidelines on alternative care for children.

The list is desirable, final composition should be suggested by the organizers and be explained. Interpretation from English to Romanian will be ensured by P4EC.

IV. PARTICIPANTS PROFILE

The group will consist of key stakeholders involved in the child care reform process at local level and P4EC project staff. The group will include representatives of the following agencies and organisation from the 5 project regions: 5 heads of the Local Directorates for Social Assistance and Family Protection (similar to the UK Social Work Departments at local level), 3 local Directorates for Education, Youth and Sports, 5 heads of the District Councils from the pilot regions and 3 P4EC's project staff (likely to be the project director, team leader and project manager who will also be responsible for interpretation).

B. Proposal Submission Form

Organisation submitting

NAME:

COUNTRY:

TYPE OF REGISTRATION:

ADDRESS:

TEL/FAX:

E-MAIL

CONTACT PERSON:

I. INFORMATION ABOUT THE ORGANISATION

Please provide brief description of your organisation – mission, main directions of work, current projects implemented.

Please include a statement here why your organisation is interested in organising such a tour.

II. INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY AND TECHNICAL CAPABILITIES

1. Experience in the sphere of services provided to children living in adverse circumstances
2. Experience in organising Study Tours and knowledge of the key stakeholders in the country
3. Staff member brief bio who will be responsible for preparation of the programme

III. AGENDA FOR THE STUDY TOUR

Daily programme for the Study Tour including the purposes of the meeting and name of organisation or person should be presented in this section.

IV. LOGISTICS ARRANGEMENTS

Please specify suggested accommodation, local transportation, materials which you plan to provide participants, interpretation etc.

V. BUDGET

The budget for this specific Study Tour is limited. The cost proposal should include budget lines which are mentioned below:

<i>Item</i>	<i>Unit price, USD</i>	<i>No. of units, USD</i>	<i>Total, USD</i>
Local transportation (incl. transfer from airport)			
Accommodation for participants (6 double rooms)			
Meals (please specify)			
Fee for the facilitation of study tour			
Administration costs (incl. printing etc.)			
TOTAL			