

EC Partners

St. Petersburg City
Committee for Social
Policy, Russia

Doctors to Children
(DTC), Russia

Lapsele Oma Kodu,
Estonia

Facts and Figures

- EC contribution:
€300 000 (70% of
the total)
- Duration: 2007-2009



EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Social cohesion

Rehabilitation of street children in St. Petersburg

"This project proved that coordination and continuity of efforts of all child welfare actors are required to build a continuum of care for street children and integrate them into society."

Galina N. Kukulidi, Head of the
Kalininsky Department of Social
Protection, St. Petersburg



Context

In Russia street children constitute one of the most marginalized and vulnerable groups of the population. There are between three and ten thousand street children living in St. Petersburg. These minors are at an increased risk of physical and psychological abuse, chemical addiction, sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS.

Objectives

- Develop a continuum of services from street outreach, to drop-in centres, to overnight shelter, to social apartment, to preventive services.
- Develop local human resources through training staff, study visits, and on-going mentoring and professional supervision.
- Introduce a unified multi-disciplinary, professional case management approach for state and non-government agencies working with street youth.

Impact

- 1 632 children and youth in St. Petersburg benefited from the project, including 881 homeless children and youth, 751 neglected children and youth from at-risk families.
- 81 children and youth were reintegrated into biological families or placed into foster families, 22 youth resumed their education, 55 youth received vocational training, 14 youth were employed and 10 youth received drug rehabilitation treatment.
- A unified interdisciplinary case management protocol for assistance to street and at-risk youth was piloted and implemented thus strengthening the system of rehabilitation of street children and adolescents in St. Petersburg.

Rehabilitation of street children in St. Petersburg

From street to university: the story of Sasha F.

Sasha, a 16 years old boy, used to live on the street. His father had died and his alcoholic mother, disabled, was bed-ridden.

Sasha was placed into various shelters where he was not able to remain for prolonged time. The boy started to miss school, use alcohol and spend nights in street youth gangs.

In spring 2007, he was referred by Doctors to Children (DTC) team to a drop-in center (DIC) for assistance. During six months Sasha attended the DIC where he participated in trainings and group activities. His continued life on the streets, however, significantly impeded his educational progress and supported his alcohol use. The DIC staff found that Sasha needed more advanced services and referred him to the halfway house, which was created by the local administration and DTC as part of this project.

The halfway house staff monitored his school attendance and performance. Sasha was then in the final grade. Additionally, he received assistance of DTC's vocational counseling and training service. He completed short-term computer courses. One of the halfway house counselors introduced him to photography and helped him make his first pictures. Sasha turned out to be a very talented photographer. He decided to enroll into the Film and Television University in St. Petersburg. With assistance from the halfway house staff, he collected a package of the required documents and prepared for his entrance exams. Sasha was provided with a legal guardian and started to receive benefits as a social orphan.

As the period of residence at the halfway house is not unlimited, the staff actively worked with Sasha's family to identify housing options for him. Sasha was assisted in establishing a relationship with his elderly grandmother, visiting her and helping her about the house. In the summer 2008, upon enrolling into the Film and Television University, Sasha moved in with his grandmother. Presently, he is a third-year university student with great plans for the future.