



Mission

The Know-How Centre for Alternative Child Care, New Bulgarian University, aims to support the university's mission, mainly “to use its academic potential to serve society by supporting social and economic changes through participation in projects, academic activities, and related programs. The Centre’s team recognizes the value of entrepreneurial principles in relation to the behavioral and social policy sphere, meaning that while economic resources remain a necessity and continue to play a key role social policy, we must be equally engaged in the development of people.

The Centre was created to support reforms which strive to transform the institutional, group-oriented (“one-size fits all”) approach into individualized, client-centered approaches which originate from the unique context and community of each client. The Centre seeks to provide services to children and families in Bulgaria characterized by client (child-family) participation, holistic development (physical, emotional, psychological), and the respect and dignity each person deserves.

Vision

In line with the mission, the Centre collaborates with the Bulgarian government, in addition to related institutions and entities, on Bulgaria’s national deinstitutionalization policy. Specifically, the Centre is working to develop, implement, and evaluate policies and practices reflecting human right’s principles and values. This work has led the Centre to engage in:

- Studying the process of closing institutions for children and reforming the child welfare system in general
- Evaluate direct practice strategies, methods, tools, and programs regarding social service work with children and families
- Further bridging the gap between academic knowledge and social services practice
- Regularly report project findings across disciplines, as well as abroad in order to generate knowledge and discussion with the goal of refining direct practice and policy

Goals

- Improve the capacity of professionals working with children and adults
- Develop and implement standards in terms of the educational training of professionals
- Develop programs and procedures grounded on evidence derived from research in which children and adults were actively involved in the research process
- Conduct impact assessments of policies and projects
- Promote research methods which value the full inclusion of the participants
- Apply and promote a strengths-based perspective in practice and in research
- Strengthen the cross-sector, collaborative network in order to maintain a an on-going feedback and accountability

Products

1. Deinstitutionalization: The Case of Bulgaria (funded by the Oak Foundation)
2. Child-Centered Monitoring system (funded by the Oak Foundation)
3. A Community Development Model, specific to excluded and marginalized communities (funded by Velux Foundation).
4. Training and supervision for professionals working with marginalized individuals and groups (funded by the Oak Foundation, European Commission-Brussels, and the Austrian Agency for Cooperation and Development)
5. NBU Online and distance courses in social work for caring specialists (funded by the European Commission-Brussels)
6. Social Work Program: Bachelor and Master levels for professionals working in the Agency for Social Assistance
7. Project incubator
8. Experts by Experience – involving vulnerable groups’ representatives in policy and programs development

Contact

Address: 1142 Sofia, str. "Han Krum" 38A

Tel. 02 403 20 30; email: info@knowhowcentre.org

website: <http://knowhowcentre.nbu.bg/>