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# **FOSTER CARE IN BULGARIA BRIEF ANALYSIS**

***SAPI***  
**2010**

# Target groups

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## Period

May- October 2010

## Where

Shoumen, Sofia and Pernik

## Groups

- Professionals- 10
  - Foster parents- 10
  - Youngsters- 5
  - Biological parents- 5
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# Interviews with professionals

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- The professional communities in Bulgaria have common understanding of the true matter of foster care
  - Need for change of the paradigm of foster care – transition from being a substitution of the parents to being a complementary care
  - Problems with the access of some groups of children and youths to foster care – children with special needs, children from the Roma ethnicity and teenagers
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# Interviews with professionals

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- Difficult development of foster care in the big cities
  - The professionals' assessment of the financial side of the professional foster care is that it is insufficient
  - The professionals need a back up in the evaluation, education and support of foster families for emergency placement
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# Interviews with Foster Parents

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- Clear motivation of foster parents
  - Satisfaction with the support received by the social workers and with their own participation in the process of decision-making
  - The process of evaluation described as “long”
  - Lack of willingness to participate in the process of fostering a child with special needs and need for higher level of preparation
  - Letting the child go
  - The supervision and self-support groups
  - Foster parents prefer the professional foster care
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# Interviews with Biological Parents

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- Are there such??
  - If so, why we don't see them
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# Interviews with Youngsters

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- All youngsters describe as positive in their life the story of placement in a foster family
  - The process of placement is very emotional
  - Need of strong direct support for foster children
  - Participation of young people in making a decision is insufficient and formal
  - interest in the development of a network of unity and solidarity of young people in which to participate
  - Maintaining contact with birth family to a very small extent
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# Common issues

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- ❑ Major difficulties for the placement of disabled children and teenager gipsy children in foster families
  - ❑ The involvement of the biological parents is not enough
  - ❑ Need of networks of solidarity and unity
  - ❑ Lack of active involvement of children
  - ❑ Evaluation period for the foster parents is longer than the one stated by the law
  - ❑ Financial upkeep of the fostered children and the money which the families receive are insufficient
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