



Croatia + The Netherlands a winning team !

Bep van Sloten

Foster Care Conference Zagreb

27 November 2010



Where it started

2005

- Forum for Quality Foster Care started

2006

- Visit of Forum representative to The Netherlands: cooperation started
- 22 September: First Foster Care Conference in Zagreb: “Fostering partnerships”

2007

- Foster Care legislation
- Project proposal developed and approved by Ministry of Foreign Affairs The Netherlands

2008

- Start of three years Matra project.





ICDI



International Child Development Initiatives



Forum
za kvalitetno udomiteljstvo djece

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Flexus
Jeugd
plein



Two key objectives

Adults

- The foster parents in Croatia can make use of their own support and service network, continuing to work on the improvement of the quality of foster care in cooperation with all actors in foster care, including social workers and policy makers.

Youth

- Foster children and youth can meet, have their opinions heard by their carers and by decision makers.
Youth participation is realised in Croatia and the rights of children are respected during and after leaving care.



Achievements

- Forum is registered Civil Society Organisation
- Board with members from different regions of Croatia
- Cooperation between foster parents, youth and staff from CSW
- Cooperation with Ministries, UNICEF, SOS, residential facilities and other NGO's
- Quality4Children standards implemented
- Conferences, trainings, foster families days
- Magazine, website, E-newsletters, publications
- And....



Activities

Adults

- Working visit to The Netherlands
- 9 Magazines, website
- Conferences
- Foster families days
- 9 training days foster parents
- 2 training days social workers
- Leaflet
- Round tables
- Board representing many associations + youth
- Quality4Children
- Participation IFCO conference
- Handbooks
- Media campaign

Youth

- Working visit to The Netherlands
- 9 Magazines, website
- Conferences
- Foster families days
- 3 training weekends
- Leaving care handbook
- Leaving care round tables
- Presentations in round tables
- Youth meetings
- Youth Board
- Participation “I matter”, Power4Youth, IFCO conf.
- Children rights leaflet
- Media campaign





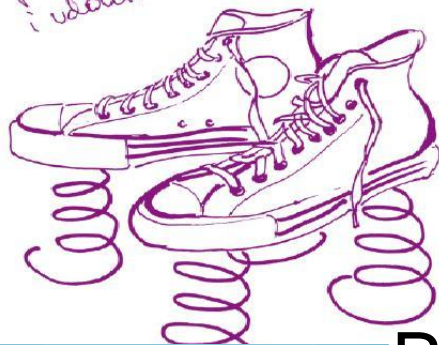
FOSTER FAMILIES DAYS





KATAPULT

edukativna brošura za ulade koji su raski ili se pripremaju za izdazak ustanova i udovoljiteljski obitelji



PUBLICATIONS



In loving
memory



The people

- Foster Parents Associations: Oaza, Nadomak Sunca, Zipka, Nada-Ivanec, Put ka sreći, Udruga udomitelja istarske županije
- Office staff
- Board members and steering committee members
- Youth Board
- Croatian experts for trainings, media campaign, conferences, strategic meetings, etc
- Dutch experts



The Youth Board



Project transition

- **Year one: transition and building**
Transition of knowledge from The Netherlands to Croatia
Building of Forum infrastructure
- **Year two: implementation and growth**
Training by Dutch and Croatian trainers
Implementation and publications
Regional implementation via round tables
- **Year three: harvesting and planning for the future**
Publications; presentations; media campaign
Strategy for 2011- 2013



What we learned

- Looking at the Dutch situation with different eyes.
- Youth participation
- What enthusiastic foster parents can achieve
- Cooperation in working on quality care
- Trainers always get the most out of a training; projects do the same with people involved.....



The future: strategic plans

- a network of support in cooperation with all relevant stakeholders for foster parents and foster parents organisations and stakeholders in the field of care for children.
- mechanism of support and self-organisation of children and youth in foster families
- advocate the improvement of quality of foster care in the process of creating and implementing public policy
- organisational sustainability of Forum



And you?

- What does Forum mean for you?
- What can you contribute?
- How can you contribute to the ongoing mission of Forum: improve the quality of care through networking?
- We promise ongoing exchange between our countries of good practices and information





Forum is an important part of the
future of your foster care
structure

Never change a winning team!
Help to make it stronger.

