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**REPORT**  
**OF THE SOCIAL ACTIVITIES AND PRACTICES INSTITUTE**  
**FOR 2014**

**. PROGRAM “TRAININGS, METHODOLOGICAL SUPPORT AND RESEARCH”**

**Strategic goal: increasing the capacity of the helping professions through the provision of training, methodological support and supervision.**

**Result 1: Increased capacity of the specialists working in the organization** – total number of training hours provided to the teams of SAPI - 168 hours; total number of participants in the trainings – 144 (some of the experts have participated in more than one training).

**1) Increased capacity of the team of supervisors and methodological consultants through training of professionals from SAPI for consultation and supervision of foster families.**

In 2014 we continued the successful training of professionals supporting foster families within a project funded by the Program “Grundtvig” of the European Commission. Two groups with a total of 13 experts from SAPI were participants in a training on the topic “The positive approach in consultation and supervision of foster families”, provided by the organization “Our Home”, Warsaw, Poland; and in a training on the topic “Personal and professional dimensions in the work with foster families”, provided by the International Children and Families Foundation, Bucharest, Romania.

In 2014 the experts of SAPI participated in two trainings organized by the international consultant Ortodoxi Salomon - “A systematic approach in social work” and “Application of the ancient Greek myths in the systematic approach”. A total of 23 experts from SAPI participated in the trainings.

**2) Developed capacity of the specialists from SAPI in the sphere of abuse prevention and work on cases of children victims of abuse, and of families in which there abuse is present.**

In 2014 we have invested substantial resources in the building of the capacity of the specialists from SAPI for abuse prevention and for work on cases of children victims of abuse, within the framework of the project implemented in the Municipality of Vidin “A package of integrated services for guaranteeing the rights of the children participating in legal procedures”. Successfully carried out were trainings on family mediation and preparation of members of the mobile team for interviewing children victims or witnesses of crimes. A

total of 80 representatives of SAPI took part in the trainings (most of the participants were included in both trainings).



**3) Extended competences of the teams participating in the social services aimed at working with children in conflict with the law.**

A training was carried out with a total of 28 persons from the teams providing the new service “Intensive support of children in conflict with the law”, lead by the partners of SAPI - “Youths Inclusion”, Belfast, Northern, Ireland.

**Result 2: Provided methodological support and supervision to the teams from the social services.**

SAPI is an organization that not only provides social services, but also insists on the quality of the work during the process of service provision. The quality is guaranteed by a monthly supervision of every specialist, and standards have been developed for one individual and one group supervision.

In 2014 apart from the SAPI teams, supervision was provided to the CSC and HCDPC Dupnitsa, and CSC Razgrad, the Municipality of Bourgas, CSSCF Varna, and Special School in Osenec.

**Result 3: Trainings in PTC**

In 2014 SAPI completed successfully two public procurements, one of them was with 4 independently defined positions. We also won an additional one, which we will complete in 2015.

**ORGANIZED TRAININGS**

- 1) Training of trainers for provision and management of social services, and of trainers of supervisors – total number of hours **120**, total number of trained participants **84**, total number of developed training programs – **6**, three for introductory training and three for advanced training, with a total of more than **600** pages.



Training for provision of social services in Burgas

- 2) Training on monitoring and assessment of policy implementation and strategies for development of social services, and for control of the quality of the provided social services; as well as trainings on crisis interventions – total number of hours of training **1344**, total number of participants **608**, total number of programs **2**, with a total of more than **300** pages.
- 3) Training on the management of social services, control of the quality of social services, and provision of management of social services – total number of training hours **672**, total number of participants **528**, total number of training programs – **1**, with a total of more than **100** pages.



- 4) Training on management and qualitative provision of social services and mechanisms for effective partnership and interaction between the municipal authorities and the non-government organizations for the provision of social services – total number of training hours **864**, total number of participants – **1790**, total number of training programs **1**, with a total of more than **100** pages.

- 5) Training of specialists from Association “Chovekoliubie” – Pazardjik, working in Social Rehabilitation and Integration Centre in Septemvri and Peshtera. Trainings were organized on the topics: Views, methods and techniques in social work; Information gathering and analysis; Basis of rehabilitation; Health and safety working conditions; Pedagogical communication; Assessment of the social situation; Normative regulation of the social services; Needs assessment; Development of an individual care plan; Development of training programs; Regular evaluation of the staff; Obligatory documentation filing of Social Rehabilitation and Integration Centre; Supervision – total number of training hours **216**, total number of participants – **36**. Most of the participants have passed training in all of the topics. Total number of training programs **14**, with a total of more than **700** pages.
- 6) Training of trainers of foster families and candidates for adopters from the CSC – Pernik – **40** hours, total number of participants – **8**, **number of training programs 1**, with a total number of over **50** pages.



- 7) Training of specialists from the CSC Belene for organization of the work and provision of services, as well as training of trainers of foster families and adoptive parents – a total of **72** hours of training, trained **5** specialists. Provided practical internship to experts from CSC Belene – 4 days.
- 8) Child interviews – a total of **48** training hours, a total of **28** participants.
- 9) Carried out were the first three modules of the training for supervisors in social work - a total of **48** hours of training, with a total of **9** participants.

#### FORTHCOMING TRAININGS IN 2015.

- 1) We are planning to carry out introductory and continuing trainings based on a project for social inclusion for more than 900 participants – the teams of the services “Formation and development of parental skills” and “Family consultation and support”, based on public procurement won by SAPI.
- 2) We plan to carry out trainings based on an Indication Program For Forthcoming Trainings, which will be offered by FCC in 2015.

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**Result 4: Carried out research**

In 2014 SAPI has carried out two research projects – “Exploration of good practices in the sphere of child-parent, and child-teacher relationships” based on the project “Bientretans – Resilience Network”, and “Assessment of children victims and witnesses of crimes in Bulgaria”.

***Priorities of the program and challenges for next year*****Priorities**

- Sustainability of the program
- Development of the program
- Promotion of the results and achievements
- Building international partnerships

**Tasks:**

- Ñ Organizational planning of the program activities
- Ñ Enlargement of the team of the program

**Challenges in 2015:**

- Creation of a methodological council for the training centre, whose functions would be: approval of the training programs and plans; development of criteria and standards for the trainers; definition of the status of every trainer in the PTC – an intern, junior trainer, an expert trainer, a consultant; coordination and approval of the exam syllabus, etc.
- Qualitative completion of the public procurement, based on which more than 900 specialists are expected to be trained.
- Training of probation officers.
- Training of the staff working in the services for children in conflict with the law and their families, Sliven.
- Training of the teams that will provide the new services for youths sentenced with imprisonment, as well as of the inspectors from “Probation – Prison”.
- Development of expert and training teams – definition of the status of every trainer; ensuring opportunities for an internship for every trainer; gathering training teams on specific topics;
- Publicity of the offered services – advertisement of the services provided by the PTC.
- Trainings on resilience for different groups of professionals based upon requests.
- Creation of Resilience Resource Centres in Latvia and Moldova.

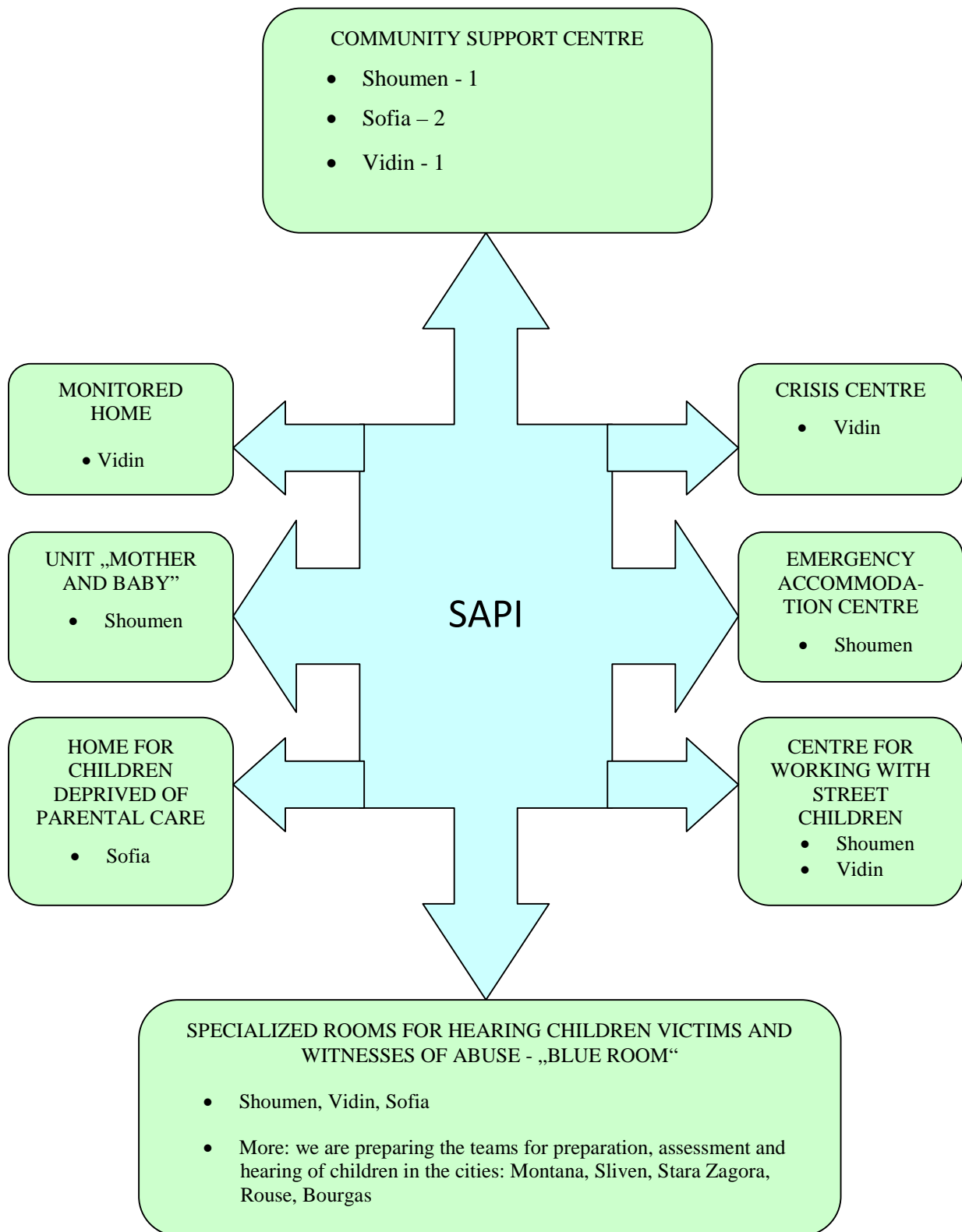
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**. REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE PROGRAM “SOCIAL SERVICES TO CHILDREN AND FAMILIES AT RISK”**

In 2014 SAPI achieved sustainability in the management of social services on a national level as a provider of services delegated by the mayors of the Municipalities of Shoumen, Vidin, and the Capital Municipality. Satisfying for the organization is the greater and greater interest shown in the services offered by SAPI in the capital, where we manage two services in the community and one institutional service for children. The professional skills of the specialists of SAPI, the approach and the competences that we systematically improve, have been recognized by the leading child protection units and by the clients, who are able to make a more and more informed choice of a service provider. In fact the capital has at its disposal a greater and greater selection of social services, and the competition has been well developed. At the same time the interest in the services provided by SAPI is increasing. This gives us confidence that we have been recognized on the market as good professionals, and that we have achieved a level of efficiency in our work. In the Municipality of Shoumen SAPI remains the only provider of social services for a ninth consecutive year, which challenges us to constantly extend the range, apply and pilot innovative services, and promote good practices. In the Municipality of Vidin we can say that we have proved ourselves, we have been granted with confidence and with partnerships, and we can report good results achieved with the support of all the local institutions and the Municipality.

In 2014 with the support of SAPI another specialized room for hearing and interviewing children has opened in the city of Montana. The range of services in the complexes in Shoumen and Vidin are being offered on a regional level, while the services in Sofia – by almost all capital directorates of SSD.

**The Network of Services Managed by SAPI**



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## **1. A team for provision and management of social services, supervision and methodological support**

In SAPI 114 people work based on labour contracts; over 10 experts are based on civil contracts; over 25 volunteers work for the organization; and in total we have more than 150 people.

Based on labour contracts and on full working hours in the headquarters of SAPI in Sofia work: Executive Director – 1, - Program Director - 2, Program Coordinator - 1, Accountant - 1, Assistant in the management of European projects and programs – 2. Expert on programs and projects- 1, Human resources experts – 1, Human Resources - 1.

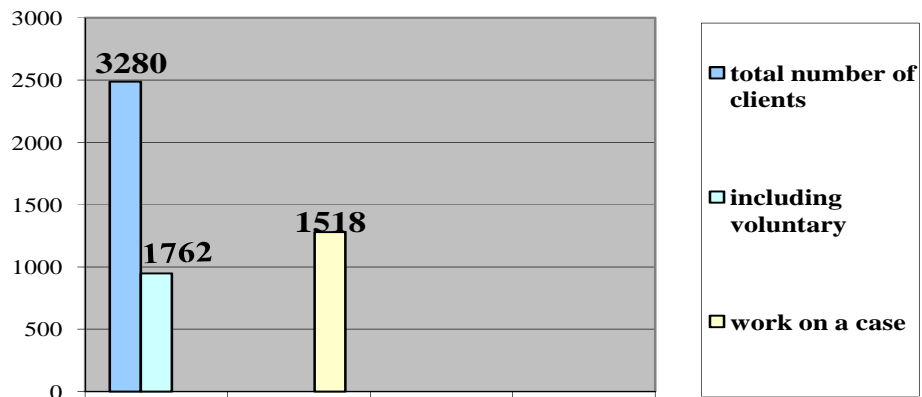
Based on labour contracts and on full working hours in the structures of SAPI work: - in the Community Support Centre - Sofia, HC “Asen Zlatarov”, Complex for Social Services to Children and Families Shoumen and Vidin: Directors – 4, Deputy-Directors - 1; Psychologists, including heads of sectors – 14; Social Workers and Specialists in Social Activities, including heads of sectors – 54, Speech Specialists – 1; Educators – 13,5; Assistant-Educators – 4; Accountants – 1,5; Cashiers – 3; Technical and Helping staff – Receptionists, Hygiene Workers, Drivers - 9.

The organization has been applying and improving for a third consecutive year a Career Development System for the specialists. A total of 5 consultants and 11 experts from the specialists in Shoumen, Vidin and CSC-Sofia have the competence and the preparation to lead trainings for specialists, to develop training programs, and to carry out supervision of social workers under the supervision of Professor Nelly Petrova, Dr. Nadya Stoykova, Darinka Yankova and Elena Manasieva – methodologists and supervisors in SAPI.

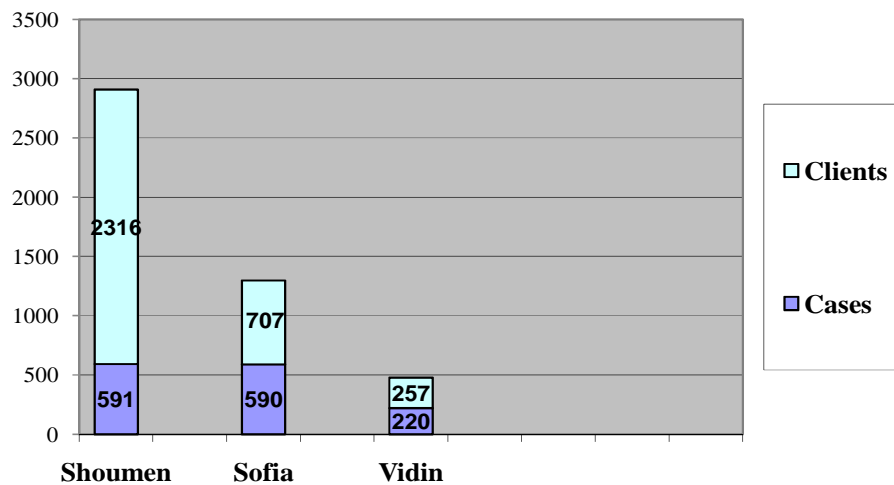
## **2. Types of groups that we have supported**

With a lot of professionalism and good treatment of our clients the team of specialists in SAPI achieved successes, which can most generally be quantified in the support of a total of 3 280 clients. Compared to the data from last year we report an increase of 25% in the total number of clients. We have increased by 16% the clients in our work on cases, they are 1518 as compared to 1280 in the previous year. We have drastically increased the volunteer clients, which are mostly children who have passed a training on prevention of aggression, as well as group programs, group programs for parents, psychological and legal consultation. The total number of volunteer clients of the organization is 1762 – an increase of 28% as compared to the previous year, from which 1725 are in Shoumen:





Quantitative indicators for the municipalities where we work are shown below:



For another year the capacity of the services in Shoumen and Vidin has remained unchanged and this requires the teams to work double over the normal capacity. In order to keep the quality in our work, we have ensured additional funding of 83 166 BGN from implemented projects of SAPI.

### ***2.1. Priorities in support of risk groups of children***

*2.1.1. With our work with children - criminal offenders, and with the prevention of behavioural problems, the prevention of school drop out, and with support through the Resilience Approach, we have started the model “Social Inclusion of Children in*

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*Conflict with the Law” through an innovative service for children in conflict with the law “Intensive Socio-Pedagogic Support”, applied in the cities of Sofia and Shoumen.*

The difference in 2014 in regards to this priority was the challenge for the teams of CSC Sofia to work systematically with the team of the Home “Asen Zlatarov”, on the active support of the children from the Home in the process of growing up and transition to young adulthood, and for most of them in the re-thinking of alternatives to a criminal behaviour. In 2014 with the start of the innovative for the country services aimed at children at high risk: children in disadvantaged social situations; with low educational preparation; in or getting out of the care system; who have committed or are at risk of committing a crime; with alcohol or drug abuses; with a risky sexual behaviour; with another risk behaviour dangerous for themselves or for others, we have placed the accent on the practical interventions that lead to a palpable improvement of the lives of these children in short and medium terms. Based on the model “Social inclusion of children in conflict with the law”, applied through the service “Intensive socio-pedagogical support” in Shoumen and Sofia, we worked with 82 children and 16 families. For the first time in the country in CSC Sofia we hired a specialist based on the model – youth social worker and mapping of the resources of the educational system, which is necessary in relation to the needs of many of the children with criminal acts and of those who have dropped out from school. In the form of an inter-team discussion we have started weekly meetings of the team, in which participants are the child itself, as well as all the adults engaged with the child /parent, carer, key social worker, mentor, educator, social worker from the Home for Children, psychologist, representative of the CPU/. One of the new activities for children in conflict with the law in 2014 in Shoumen is the *Art-Therapeutic Workshop*. In this workshop we use different techniques from the art of painting, through which the children have the opportunity to project internal problems and conflicts, and to express themselves by a kind of a permanent product. This has affected their emotional conditions in a very good way, it has decreased their anxiety and increased the confidence in their personal abilities. The group work also helped them to demonstrate tolerance to the others and to respect those that are different.

After the analysis of the service “Intensive socio-pedagogic preparation”, we can report both on the results that we have accomplished for the clients, but also on the difficulties in reaching those goals. The results can be seen in the change of the clients’ functioning – the way in which they had not previously thought about the consequences of illegal or criminal behaviours; the way in which they found sense in things that are constructive: education, profession, relationships; the self-awareness of being important and valuable persons. The difficulties are related to the lack of structures in the system related to education, professional and pre-professional preparation, family environment, as well as the marginalized environment of the children and youths at high risk of committing crimes.

*2.1.2. Guaranteeing and observing the best interest of the children participating in legal procedures – integrated approach for support and protection of children victims and witnesses of crimes.*



In 2014 SAPI has continued its efforts in the application of the European practices and the minimum standards regarding the rights, support and protection of the victims of crimes, written in Directive 2012/29/ U of the European Parliament and the Council from 25.10.2012. The specialists from the mobile team of SAPI have provided support in the criminal and civil cases of 46 children, with the implementation of measures to limit the *secondary victimization* of the children – assessment and preparation for interviewing in a protected and child-friendly room, use of video- and audio-recording technology in order to record the interviews and to reduce the visual contact with the crime perpetrator, with magistrates, relatives, and others. The mobile team this year once again provided support in the preparation and hearing of 6 children based on requests from CPR/CPU – in the cities of Troyan and Bourgas. Three of the children had suffered sexual abuse, two were witnesses of sexual abuse, and one child was a perpetrator of fornication. One child was prepared and accompanied to a meeting of the Regional Court in Novi Pazar, while the RC in Levski carried out an external meeting in the specialized room in the CSSCF Shoumen with the support of specialists on child interviewing during the interviewing of two under-age children in regards to physical and sexual abuse. The teams of magistrates and social workers have worked very intensively in Shoumen, where a total of 20 child hearings within child-friendly procedures have been carried out; in Vidin the hearings in the specialized room have been 9; while the cases of individual support and preparation for participation in legal procedures have been 17. As compared to the previous year we report an increase of 15 % in the total number of children. As a good practice we report the gathering of a “Monitoring Committee” under the project “A package of integrated services for guaranteeing the rights of the children participating in legal procedures”. In the past 2014 in Vidin the teams have organized 3 meetings of the Committee. Participants in them were representatives of the RPD Vidin, RD of the MIA, CPU Vidin, CPU Belogradchik, CPU Dimovo, the Regional Court, and the Regional Prosecutor’s Office in Vidin.

*2.1.3. We continued to specialize the teams in individual and group work in order to ensure more opportunities for the children to live in a favourable family environment or in one close to that of a standard family.*

➤ We have ensured **family care for 20 newborn babies** from risk families and abandoned by their biological parents, 18 of whom were in Shoumen. Since 2012 the total

number of newborn babies placed in foster families with the support of SAPI is 87. We have continued to develop the foster care for babies and for children with disabilities, as well as to professionalize the foster families. The professionalized families that take care of children with disabilities are 18, while the specialized families for newborn babies are 22. The teams of SAPI have provided support, assessment and training of 146 foster families in Shoumen, Sofia, and Vidin, while the newly trained candidates for foster families are 46. During the whole year the specialists from SAPI have provided methodological support and supervision to a total of 65 foster families, working with the teams of the municipalities on the project “I also have a family” in Sofia, Vidin and Shoumen.

➤ to **122 children placed in foster care**, through individual work, psychological consultation, workshops and group programs **we tried to help them to understand, accept and rethink their situation**. In this way we continued to share the care together with the foster families and the biological parents of the children.

➤ in the implementation of the institutional project of HC “Asen Zlatarov” we realized a number of activities, measures, and innovative practices and services, aimed at the children and the staff. Using the variety of contemporary methods, approaches and programs, SAPI has ensured a real contribution for achieving the main goals of the project proposal, namely – **improving the quality of life of the accommodated children, and support for closing down of the HCDPC**.



We have introduced a new model of work, namely – management/leading of a case. In December 2014 there were 30 children accommodated in the Home, and the accommodation of 11 children was terminated. During the year we worked on 5 cases of reintegration. As a result of the evaluations, 5 children were selected, for whom it was appropriate to work for their placement in foster care. We also worked for ensuring a structured everyday life of the children through the development of a project for the group, which aimed to reflect the group’s way of life. We introduced weekly meetings of the groups under the motto “At a cup of hot milk” and “An evening of the group of FRIENDS”. Through the group work we provided opportunities for empowering the children and their active inclusion in the process

of improvement of the care for them. We have worked out a conceptual framework, aimed at prevention of child prostitution as a meaningful risk for the children from alternative care. The idea about socio-educational and psycho-social support has been based also on the main approaches that SAPI applies for conceptualization and rendering meaning to the work with children.

- Integrated approach – protection, support in recovering from traumas and child-friendly justice;
- General resilience approach – psycho-therapeutic activities based on the strong sides of the children;
- Bientretans – good treatment that goes beyond the daily care;
- Systematic approach;
- Prevention of risk factors.

From the total number of 2407 children – volunteers 1648, part of casework - 759.

**A total of 2407 are the children** that we have covered under all activities and services in the structures, from which **759 were part of casework and another 1648 part of group work**, workshops and prevention trainings. We report a very slight increase in the work on cases and a 70% increase in the number of volunteer clients<sup>1</sup>.



<sup>1</sup> Trainings and group programs – 1648; Work with children in foster families – 122; Prevention of dropping out from the education system -143; Children in conflict with the law – 92; Children in alternative form of care – 72; Children victims of abuse – 250; Mediated meetings in cases of parental estrangement – 37; Socially-educational and psycho-social assistance - 43

**2.2. We have supported a total of 873 parents – work on cases 756, volunteer clients<sup>2</sup> - 117.**

The analysis reveals that we have an almost equal number of cases in the work with children and parents, which is an important factor for the achievement of good results in the work with children.



The group programs for parents have received an even greater popularity, and we confirmed ourselves as the only provider in the country that develops a number of programs for parents based on different age groups. The interest in the School for Pregnant in Shoumen, the programs “Positive Parenthood”, “Smack-Free – how to take care of our children with love and respect”, has continued in Vidin, Sofia and Shoumen. SAPI and the teams in the three cities have supported and participated in the implementation of two national initiatives organized for the first time in the country – **“A Week of the Fathers”** and **“An Information Day for Adoptive Parents”**.



<sup>2</sup> Group work with parents for prevention of abuse – 131; Individual support and consultation of families for the increase of the parental capacity - 168; Assessment of the parental capacity – 103; Training and support of candidates for adopters and for adopters -144; Psychological consultation of parents in cases of defined risks – 182; Training, assessment and support of foster parents -146



### 3. Quality Management

➤ We stimulate the work of the Council of Consumers, in which we encourage the participation of children. During the year the children clients of the CSSCF Shoumen, Vidin, HC Asen Zlatarov and CSC Sofia were very active in giving their opinion and advice.

➤ We have completed the work with over 500 clients as part of our work on cases, and in most of these cases we have received a feedback. We analyse every completed case and the results show that in 95% of the cases we achieve the pre-set goals and the clients are satisfied by our collaborative work. In 5% of the case we are not successful and the reasons for this are: change of the living place of the client; often the meetings are in the home of the clients – due to the lack of funds they cannot travel to the city – thus the meetings are rare; refusal of the clients to use the service. From the monthly reports it can be seen that the largest amount are the cases of children/families that were directed towards services that are for a six-month or an yearly period. Directed for a period of six months were 65% of the cases, 15 % were for yearly-long services, 15% for a period of three months, and 5% for services lasting one month (most often these are trainings of candidates for adopters). In the majority of the cases sustainability of the work is achieved when we work on average about 10-12 months with the family and the child.

➤ During the year the services provided by SAPI have confirmed the organization as a leading one in Sofia for providing training internships to students from the major “Social Pedagogy” in SU. In 2014 on an internship in the CSC have passed more than 80 students , future specialists in social work. In 2014 we also renewed the collaborative work with the Shoumen University by signing a contract for carrying out training practices and internships for students from the major “Social Pedagogy”. For a relatively short period of time 9 students have passed practices of 120 hours.

### III. REPORT ABOUT THE ACTIVITIES OF THE PROGRAM “CHILDREN AND JUSTICE. PREVENTION OF ABUSE”.

The main program priorities on which we worked are the same as they were last year, namely:

- **Increase of the competence of the professionals working with children victims of abuse and their families.**
- **Promotion and raising the awareness among a wider range of professionals.**
- **Increase of the quality of the direct work with children victims of abuse, and guaranteeing an access to qualitative services for more children.**
- **Introduction of the integrated approach of work on cases of violence against children.**

**Result 1:** In 2014 SAPI contributed to the formation of adequate policies for children who have suffered from abuse or have been witnesses of abuse, and to the application of legislation that is in the best interest of the child, as well as to guaranteeing children’s rights based on the existing international standards.

In 2014 the team of SAPI continued its activities for the *introduction of an integrated approach* to the work in the system related to cases of child abuse, and with this we contributed to the application of Directive 2012/29/ regarding the minimum standards for the rights, support, and protection of the victims of crimes. Issued were methodological materials, organized were round tables, trainings, and discussions of cases from the practice.

In 2014 in the city of Vidin we continued the implementation of the project “**A package of integrated services for guaranteeing the rights of the children participating in legal procedures**”, supported by the Bulgarian-Swiss program for collaboration, which allowed the continuation of the activities for the introduction of adequate policies for the children victims of crimes.

In 2014 SAPI started a new project “Listen to the child – is justice provision becoming child-friendly?”, aimed at support for piloting of the model for integrated approach and collaboration on cases of children victims of crimes. In this way SAPI has directly worked for the introduction of the requirements of Directive 2012/29/ , and especially of article 22 for the preparation of an individual assessment of the situations of the abused children. To this aim SAPI extended its partnerships with responsible ministries and structures that are in charge of the policies for children and of justice provision to children, such as the Ministry of Justice, the Supreme Cassation Prosecutor’s Office, and the State Agency for Child Protection. We also extended our partnerships with other organizations such as the Program for Development of the Legislative System, the Bulgarian Paediatrician Organization, etc.



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In order to guarantee the rights of the abused children, and in order for them to receive psycho-social support and help, in 2014 SAPI continued to provide services to children victims of violence and participating in legal procedures in the cities where we work – Vidin, Sofia and Shoumen. In 2014 **250 children** were directed to use the social service **for support and consultation of children victims of abuse**.

**Result 2: In 2014 SAPI contributed to the increase of the competence of the professionals who work with children victims or witnesses of abuse and their families.**

The collaborative programs of NJI with the team of SAPI for the training of young judges and prosecutors continued throughout the year. Within the framework of the project “Improving the access to justice provision of children victims of crimes, children in conflict with the law and their families”, funded by UNICEF – Bulgaria and implemented by The Program for the Development of the Judicial System (PDJS) in partnership with SAPI, we organized trainings for magistrates, police officers, and lawyers from Sliven, Shoumen and Montana.

In 2014 social workers and psychologists that form the *mobile specialized teams* for hearing children in Sliven and Montana passed a 3 module (48 hours) training on specialized methodology for preparation, hearing, and support of children victims of abuse. In addition, experts from Dupnitsa, Stara Zagora, Plovdiv, etc. were also trained in the SAPI Centre for Professional Training, so that they could join the mobile teams for interviewing children working on a local level. In total more than 30 experts have been trained to interview children.

During the year we carried out methodological meetings, supervision, and trainings upon requests from the teams in Stara Zagora, Bourgas, Plovdiv, Dupnitsa, Montana, Blagoevgrad, Rouse, Shoumen, Sofia and Vidin.

Within the framework of the program we issued manuals and methodological materials, training films, research reports and analysis, brochures for children and parents.

**Result 3: In 2014 SAPI contributed for ensuring better conditions and for respecting the rights of the children victims or witnesses of crimes, as well as for decreasing the risk of secondary traumatizing of the children when meeting the justice organs.**

Within the framework of the program “Child Justice – Prevention of Abuse” SAPI started activities related to the support of other organizations for the establishment of specialized rooms for interviewing children victims or witnesses of crimes in new cities in the country.

In 2014 SAPI actively supported the project of UNICEF-Bulgaria for the establishment of the so-called “Blue Rooms” for interviewing and hearing children in the Municipalities of Montana and Sliven (the room in Sliven was officially opened in January of 2015). In this way, 13 out of the 14 blue rooms in the country have been built with the support of SAPI.



**Result 4: In 2014 SAPI contributed for better access to the service “preparation of children for interviewing in front of a judge or for hearing in court”. We also provided an opportunity for a greater number of children to have access to child-friendly conditions when they are victims or witnesses of crimes.**

In 2014 SAPI managed to extend its **mobile team for child interviewing**, which works on a national level since 2011, with representatives from Montana, Dupnitsa, Plovdiv and Rouse. 10 experts have joined the teams.

According to data from Shoumen, Vidin and Sofia, the total number of children that have passed through child-friendly procedures in 2014 is 46 (for 2013 they were 35, while the total number for the country in 2014 is 120 children). SAPI supported the formation of teams for interviewing children on a regional level in two other residential areas in the country.

**SAPI continued the activity of the mobile team for interviewing children on a national level.** The members of the mobile team from the CSSCF Shoumen and Sofia worked on 6 requests for hearing children from other residential areas, based on the sustainable methodology of applying child-friendly legislation within the frames of pre-court procedures. In 2013 these requests were 9.

**Result 5: In 2014 SAPI contributed to the raising of the awareness of a wider circle of citizens and professionals in regards to the phenomenon abuse and good practices for its prevention, especially prevention of abuse against children in the country and internationally.**

During the year we organized *2 sensitive provoking seminars, 5 work meetings for monitoring* on a local level, *and 5 methodological meetings for professionals* – social workers, psychologists, police officers, magistrates, for raising the awareness about the problems of domestic violence, about the participation of children in legal procedures, and about identifying factors for good collaboration on a local level.

In 2014 within the project “Bientretans – a Network of Resilience” we developed new partnerships with organizations from Latvia and Moldova. Some of the partnerships became permanent and we have started new project initiatives together. In 2014 SAPI also continued to be part of a big international network for prevention of violence, sexual abuse and exploitation of children in the countries from Central and Eastern Europe.

In the CSSCF Shoumen on the occasion of the international day for prevention of violence against children we carried out a campaign for prevention on the topic “Children Speak Without Words”. Organized were a number of events with children in partnership with 6 schools from the Municipality of Shoumen.



Campaign “Children Speak Without Words”  
Shoumen, 2014



Training groups for parents, 2014

**Result 6: In 2014 SAPI contributed to the distribution of good practices for prevention of violence against children through training and consultations for parents.**

As in the previous year, this year one of the goals of SAPI was to reach to more parents in the kindergartens and schools as part of the policies for child abuse in the family environment. In regards to the support for parents of young children, we carried out trainings with parents related to *the application of positive methods for upbringing children* and avoiding corporal punishment. Through training groups for parents of children between 3 and 6 years of age and between 7 and 14 years of age have passed a total of **131 parents**. The groups for parents were organized in Shoumen, Vidin and Sofia as part of additional activities for prevention of the corporal punishment of children.

In the centres for social services to SAPI we provided daily free consultations for parents who have difficulties in taking care of their children, and who would like to receive additional information and support.

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**Result: 7 In 2014 SAPI contributed to the improvement of the policies for children in conflict with the law and for the introduction of innovative services.**

In 2014 mainly within a partnership with British Association for Adoption and Fostering /BAAF/ – Great Britain, NCN – Bulgaria, the Capital Municipality as an associated partner, and other partners from Italy, Hungary, and Belgium, SAPI managed to implement the project “Alternatives to the imprisonment of young criminal offenders – development of programs for intensive and specialized foster care”. This provided an opportunity for the team of SAPI to carry out research about the attitudes to the introduction of alternative measures to the measures of imprisonment of children in conflict with the law, by using the opportunities for foster care.

We organized a reviewing round table with the participation of interns from SAPI, which provided an opportunity for them to see the experience of France in their work with children in conflict with the law. The team of SAPI took an active part in the preparation of recommendations for changes in the system for youth justice in the NJC. We participated in international conferences and round tables in Belgium, Italy, England, etc.

During the past year SAPI managed to pilot a new service for children in conflict with the law called “Intensive socio-pedagogical support”, which is aimed at assisting and supporting these children who are in conflict with the law or are at high risk regarding their positive social inclusion. It was implemented as part of the services of SAPI in Sofia and Shoumen, in partnership with organizations such as Fiore – Italy, and Youth Inclusion – Northern Ireland.



International conference,  
Belgium, 2014



International meetings with partners from Include  
Youth, Northern Ireland



Program “First Steps”,  
Sofia, 2015



Program „Social skills for communication”,  
Sofia, 2015