

# RIGHT TO ADEQUATE HOUSING: facing up to the challenges



SOS CHILDREN'S  
VILLAGES  
INTERNATIONAL

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- We are aware of how important it is to invest all our energy and resources towards our ultimate goal: to guide children in our care to successful, self-reliant and autonomous lives
- We are at the same time aware of, and challenged by, the changes in the world, and with the difficulties resulting from these changes, particularly in CEE/CIS/Baltics.
- Our vision: **we want all children in the care of SOS families to leave independent and autonomous lives**



- Establishing a profession
- Job and income
- Housing
- Social skills and life skills
- Emotional stability



With the term “**SOLVED HOUSING**” we consider that a young person

- has a permanent place to live, either:
  - an own apartment/house that is his/her private property or
  - has tenant's rights of tenure meaning that the youngster has the right to live in some premises permanently (with a fixed rent), and nobody can take these rights away from him/her.
  
- is living in conditions (standard of house/apartment) that meet the minimum defined standard (in our case described in the organisation's housing policy).



## ■ Obstacles:

- Nowadays without financial support, to find appropriate housing is fiction for the majority of young people in CEE/CIS/Baltics. Backup of their families is needed.
- For children who do not have such backup (such as the majority of children in our care), it is even more difficult.
- Governments as duty bearers do not always ensure proper support to children leaving alternative care.



- From the day of admission, the personal background of the child must be known and all the child's possible inheritance rights and opportunities for benefits must be analysed and checked
- Housing should be one of the development planning goals
- Clear and transparent internal organisational policies on supporting housing
- Preconditions for financial support with defined responsibilities of the young person as well as of the main care givers and care organisation management should be known to everybody
- Financial support of the organisation comes at the end of the process ( youngsters' savings- youngsters loan taken – support lump sum of the organisation)
- Lump sum support is limited



**THE YOUNG PERSON SHOULD BE MOTIVATED  
TO PARTICIPATE IN AND TO ACTIVELY INITIATE  
THE PROCESS OF MEETING HER/HIS HOUSING  
NEEDS**



## REASONS BEHIND

- Housing is one of the main result areas of independence and autonomy and we are committed to guide children in our care toward independence
- It is then our responsibility to support them in meeting their housing needs
- Sometimes it could even mean to temporarily and partly take over a direct supporting role including financial support
- Costs of care and responsibilities toward our donors



## CHALLENGES:

- Lacking or insufficient support from duty bearers
- Taking over duty bearers responsibilities
- We should permanently remind duty bearers of their duties through cooperation and advocacy actions.
- Sometimes demanding additional processes for care givers and child development co-workers
- Lacking initiative, active role of young person and overprotection
- Difficulties to obtain funds for this purpose



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# Thank you

Vilnius, 07.10.2009