A CHANGE IN A CHILD IS A CHANGE FOR BULGARIA

ANNUAL REPORT
2017
ABOUT NATIONAL NETWORK FOR CHILDREN

The National Network for Children is an alliance of 144 civic associations and supporters working with and for children and families in Bulgaria.

Promotion, protection and respect for children’s rights are a key part of our binding principles. We believe that each and every policy or practice having an effect on children, whether directly or indirectly should be based first and foremost on the best interests of the child. Moreover, the design, implementation and monitoring of such policies and practices should be accompanied by a clear assessment of their impact on children and young people and carried out with their active participation.

OUR VISION

The National Network for Children works towards a society where each child can have a family and enjoy the best life and development opportunities and where sectoral policies for children and families are aligned and children’s rights and welfare are guaranteed.

OUR MISSION

The National Network for Children is an advocate for children’s rights and welfare, bringing together and developing a wide, socially-significant network of organisations and supporters.

OUR GOALS

- Campaign for better policies and practices for children and families.
- Change public attitudes to children’s rights.
- Develop participation models for children and young people.
- Unite and develop the Network and its member organisations.
Dear Friends and Supporters,

Yet another year has passed in which we, the members of the National Network for Children, devoted our efforts to building a society where each child can have a family and enjoy the best opportunities for a normal life and development of their abilities and talent to the full. Over 140 organisations committed to supporting and protecting the lives, health, welfare and rights of children helped tens of thousands of children and their families to be able to get medical care whenever needed, to go to school and kindergarten, and to live with their families or, at least, in a family environment. They offered support to child victims of violence and to others having found themselves, mostly as a result of external factors beyond their control, in conflict with the law.

Working together under the Network, we actively supported and campaigned for changing child policies in Bulgaria in order to ensure that each decision having a potential impact on children’s lives would be based on the best interests of the child so that every child, regardless of living environment:

- Would be able to receive the best possible education;
- Would have guaranteed support for his/her family to take the necessary care of him/her;
- Could live in a society with zero tolerance for child abuse;
- In the event of falling victim to violence, would be guaranteed access to adequate justice, which is friendly rather than harmful to children;
- Could be reassured that any media coverage of issues relating to children would be done in the most child-friendly and ethical of ways.

What we managed to achieve in 2017 was to ensure that more children living outside of their families would receive support based on trust and understanding. We were further able to include the issue of early childhood development as one of the priorities of the Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the European Union. We initiated a debate about establishing a Children’s Health Park – a multi-profile children’s hospital. NNC member organisations opened 4 Children’s Rights Centres to support children in conflict with the law. We assisted with the distribution of donations amounting to over 5 tons of cleaning products and thousands of books among vulnerable children and families. These and other achievements of the Network in 2017 are covered in the report; still, it cannot list all numerous activities and initiatives done by our members.

What we failed to achieve in the course of the year was:

- Ensure government commitment towards adopting a comprehensive children and family support policy;
- Reform the justice for children in Bulgaria to ensure support rather than punishment for children engaging in activities which remain unpunished even in the case of adults;
- Adopt real measures to address the issue of child poverty and inequality;
- Put children firmly on the political agenda of the government.

Let us not, however, think of our failures as let-downs but rather as next year’s challenges and tasks. And let us continue to believe that as long as we make the effort to change the world and ourselves a little each day, we can build a better future for children!

George Apostolov
WHAT WE MANAGED TO DO IN 2017

73 624 children, 21 71 families and 11 661 professionals — social workers, psychologists, teachers, judges, police officers — were reached and supported by member organisations of the National Network for Children in 2017.

18 specific legislative and practical amendments were introduced in 2017 as a result of the targeted efforts of the National Network for Children. They create opportunities for, among others, development of more accessible child-centred social services, better care for children in family-type placement centres, and drawing special attention to supporting child development between ages 0 and 7 under the Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

We continue to bring together over 140 organisations working with and for children across the country and to campaign for specific proposals for changes in policies and practices stemming from the day-to-day experience of professionals working directly with children and families.

4 Children’s Rights Centres supporting children with problem behaviour and children in conflict with the law, as well as their parents, were established in 2017 by the National Network for Children. They are run by member organisations of the Network having relevant practical experience, and have already offered support to more than 150 children and their families.
5 tons of cleaning products and thousands of children’s books

donated by Ficosota Syntez and Lidl Bulgaria were distributed among vulnerable children and families throughout the country with the support of the National Network for Children and its member organisations.

What is the Influence of the National Network for Children

65 opinions, positions and letters sent to institutions.

1 self-authored monitoring report — Report Card: What is the Average Government Score for Childcare?

6 collaborative efforts with international organisations, the European Commission and the Mission of the Republic of Bulgaria in Geneva contributing to the development of international policies for children.

4 National Councils where the NNC takes part.

30 working groups and advisory councils.

3 monitoring committees under the operational programmes.

5 thematic working groups with over 200 participants.

9 public events with institutions, media and citizens.

4 own channels for online communication through which the National Network for Children reached about 4 million Bulgarians in 2017.
REPORT CARD 2017: What is the Average Government Score for Childcare?

In 2017 the grade awarded to Bulgarian institutions for childcare was **Average 3.20**.

4 out of 10 children in Bulgaria live in material deprivation.

For the sixth consecutive year the National Network for Children presented its annual REPORT CARD 2017: What is the Average Government Score for Childcare? The presentations took place simultaneously in Sofia and in 8 other Bulgarian cities, while the report itself was prepared by over 25 experts and 6 prominent external specialists, who reviewed and assessed the performance of Bulgarian institutions.

The Report Card is a review and assessment of institutional commitments in five key areas: General Principles under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child; Family Environment and Alternative Care; Healthcare; Education; and Justice. The texts are prepared by NNC experts, but an effort is also made to include the opinions of institutions and external experts so as to ensure as objective an assessment of the achievements and challenges as possible.

2017 saw a slight downshift in the implementation of government’s commitments, reflected in an average annual grade of **Average 3.20, as quoted in Report Card 2017**. Grading in the Report is on a scale of six, and follows the evaluation model used by the Bulgarian school system, where a grade 6 means ‘Excellent’ and a grade 2 means ‘Poor’. In 2016 the average grade was 3.28, the highest awarded so far. For comparison, the average grade in 2015 was again 3.20.

How do children, parents and professionals evaluate the government’s childcare performance?

In 2017 the National Network for Children conducted a wide-ranging survey among children, young people and adults (parents and specialists working with children). It involved 51 focus groups all over the country, run by members of the Network, and an online poll, and had a total participation rate in excess of 900. The collected and analysed data were used to compile a supplement to the Report, commonly called the Small Report Card. In it every respondent reached by the survey shares how his/
This year, just like the one before, the highest awarded grade – Good 3.64 (marking a rise of 0.06 compared to 2016) – was for Healthcare. The highest ranking sub-area was Infant Mortality, followed by In-patient and out-patient care, scoring 4.36 and 3.71 respectively. The rise in ratings was mostly due to a drop in the infant mortality rate and to efforts to prioritise maternal and child health.

The second highest ranking area in 2017 was Education, with an average grade of 3.44, which is almost identical to last year’s grade of 3.45. Higher grades were awarded to school education and commitments for inclusive education. At the same time, there was a drop in the ranking of early childhood education and care as a result of stagnation and lack of vision for long-term resolution of national challenges in childcare between ages 0 and 7 and inclusion of children of this age group in nurseries and kindergartens.

Justice received an average grade of 3.05, marking a 0.40 drop compared to the year before. The reform of the child justice system is still incomplete despite the draft bill prepared by the Ministry of Justice in 2016, aiming to repeal obsolete legislation in the area. Although the changes in question still fail to meet the approval of all institutions concerned and have not yet reached the stage of discussion at the National Assembly, they represent a significant step forward, particularly over the progress made in the previous 5 years. At the same time, concerns about the quality of life of children placed in socio-pedagogical boarding schools (SPBS) and correctional boarding schools (CBS) continue to abound and remain extremely worrying.

The grade awarded to Family and Alternative Care – Average 3.01 – is almost identical to 2016’s grade of 3.02. Despite the government’s commitment to support parents and ensure children’s rights to a family through creation of preventive and alternative childcare services and closure of specialised institutions, there is still no overarching approach for support provision to children and families.

The lowest ranking area in Report Card 2017, just like in previous years, is General Principles under the UN Convention the Rights of the Child, with a grade of Average 2.86, compared to 2.01 the year before. The lowest ranking sub-area here is Non-Discrimination, with a score of Poor 2.13. For the fifth consecutive year, no progress was reported under the commitment for creation of a specialised unit to review the cases of discrimination against children, and Bulgaria remains one of just three EU Member States to not have an Ombudsman for Children. In addition, cases of discrimination and unequal treatment of refugee and Roma children, and children with disabilities concerning their access to quality education, healthcare and adequate housing and social environment are not uncommon.

**Grades**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General Principles under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child</th>
<th>2.86</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Family Environment and Alternative Care</td>
<td>3.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthcare</td>
<td>3.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>3.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Justice</td>
<td>3.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Grade</td>
<td>3.20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
‘Children should not be separated from their parents unless it is for their own good. For example, if a parent is mistreating or neglecting a child.’

Article 9

1,552 children and young people with disabilities remained in services into which they have already settled

The National Network for Children reacted strongly and categorically against changes to the Implementing Regulations to the Social Assistance Act which would lead to administrative moving out of children and young people from 122 family-type placement centres. As a result, 1,552 children and young people with disabilities stayed in the service into which they had already settled and where they had built trust with the staff and close friendships with the other children and young people. We thus managed to prevent a gross violation of the rights of those children, insisting that the best interests of the child should be respected as a guiding principle.

We assisted 264 centres*

to continue to provide more effective support to the children they work with by alerting the relevant authorities to absurd cases where elderly people with mental health problems or people in need of placement in old people’s homes were referred for assessment to services specialising only in child support. Such situations began to emerge after the publication of Methodological Guidelines of the Agency for Social Assistance. As a result, the Guidelines were withdrawn and a working group was convened at the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy to prepare changes to the Implementing Regulations, which eventually replaced the texts in question.

* (community support centres, social rehabilitation and integration centres, and day-care centres)
†Governments should help parents by providing services to support them.†

Article 18

9% of children live in institutions

91% — in families or family environment

Roadmap for preparation of new legal framework of social services in Bulgaria

In 2017 together with a number of other stakeholders we consolidated our efforts around the need for a new approach to social development and new bridges for dialogue in support of changes to benefit all people in need of social assistance. This marked the beginning of a reconsideration of cooperation opportunities between the civic sector and state authorities in public policy making.

We were successful in campaigning for a less traumatic moving out of 1,023 children from large institutions for children deprived of parental care (DMSGD and DDLGR), and, as a result of our continuous efforts, a second parallel operation was developed under OPHRD to synchronise the development of new integrated health and social services for children and families with the closure of large institutions. Thus, the two operations included assessment of children, preparation for moving out and transfer to family environment and/or community-based services, assessment of parents and their capacities, as well as efforts for development of the new services and staff preparation, including induction and ongoing training.
‘All children and young people have the right to a primary education, which should be free. Young people should be encouraged to reach the highest level of education of which they are capable.’

**Article 28**

---

**Return to education for children and students from the mandatory pre-school and school age groups**

In July 2017 the Council of Ministers adopted an **Institutional Cooperation Mechanism for Enrolment and Retention of Children and Students from the Mandatory Pre-School and School Age Groups in the Education System**. Before the start of school year 2017/18 the already established inter-institutional mobile teams in municipalities visited the addresses of nearly 206,000 students who were not enrolled or had dropped out of the education system. About 80% were found to be temporary or permanent residents in a foreign country, together with their parents. Of the remaining 22,000 students as of 1 November 2017, based on MES data, 17,297 had resumed attendance in school or pre-school education. The National Network for Children welcomes the establishment of the mechanism and its systematic enforcement, however reaffirming the recommendation that it should be put in place only after a regular and detailed analysis of its long-term effects, as well as in combination with supporting rather than punitive measures for children and families at risk.

---

**Organisation of school education activities**

In September 2017 we contributed to amending Article 15 of Ordinance 10 on the **Organisation of School Education Activities**, aiming to simplify the bureaucratic procedure of managing out-of-school visits to public, cultural, natural and other sites. Association Roditeli (Parents) and the National Network for Children were the first organisations to oppose and manage to prevent the proposed amendments to the Ordinance to the Tourism Act, requiring compulsory presence of a tour operator on one-day out-of-school trips for students, which would further complicate the existing procedure and restrict students’ access to out-of-school events and sites.
The National Network for Children together with the Institute for Progressive Education held a pre-election discussion forum ‘Education: A Dialogue for the Future Here and Now’ with representatives of all major political parties and coalitions, citizens, experts, teachers and other education specialists, civic associations and various stakeholder institutions. Almost all parties and coalitions highlighted in their presentations the same key problems of the Bulgarian education system – the high level of functional illiteracy among Bulgarian students, the alarming dropout rate, the poor quality of education and the excessive complexity of the curriculum, the lack of incentives and motivation for teachers etc., and shared their remedial plans. NNC continues to monitor the implementation of those plans.

In November 2017 the Ministry of Education and Science circulated a letter to remind directors that school visits by NGOs should only take place with the support of the Minister and/or the relevant Regional Education Administration. The National Network for Children reacted strongly to this attempt to limit school autonomy and the freedom of directors to choose their partners. As a result of the generated publicity around the issue, together with the organisations of the Citizen Participation Forum and after discussions with the Ministry of Education and Science, a common position was reached, reaffirming the statutory autonomy of schools and encouraging the continuation of fruitful partnership with the civil sector.

The purpose of the initiative ‘The School as a Community Centre’ is to develop schools as communities and transform them into open and multifunctional hubs creating, maintaining and uniting a community of students, teachers, parents and other players in the public life of the area. Our long-term vision includes development of a network of community schools working together towards establishing schools as communities and transforming them from schools of high standards into schools of high quality. In fact, for us, this change would mean a transition from singling out the best students to providing training to all students, and from preparation for competition to preparation for lifelong learning, i.e. a type of schooling where children and young people do not follow a line of development determined by adults, but learn to make discoveries and choices of their own, and to bear their consequences.

‘Children’s education should develop each child’s personality, talents and abilities to the fullest.’

Article 20

Statutory school autonomy

We support 33 schools

In their efforts to become community centres. The purpose of the initiative ‘The School as a Community Centre’ is to develop schools as communities and transform them into open and multifunctional hubs creating, maintaining and uniting a community of students, teachers, parents and other players in the public life of the area. Our long-term vision includes development of a network of community schools working together towards establishing schools as communities and transforming them from schools of high standards into schools of high quality. In fact, for us, this change would mean a transition from singling out the best students to providing training to all students, and from preparation for competition to preparation for lifelong learning, i.e. a type of schooling where children and young people do not follow a line of development determined by adults, but learn to make discoveries and choices of their own, and to bear their consequences.

Pre-election promises of political parties

The National Network for Children together with the Institute for Progressive Education held a pre-election discussion forum ‘Education: A Dialogue for the Future Here and Now’ with representatives of all major political parties and coalitions, citizens, experts, teachers and other education specialists, civic associations and various stakeholder institutions. Almost all parties and coalitions highlighted in their presentations the same key problems of the Bulgarian education system – the high level of functional illiteracy among Bulgarian students, the alarming dropout rate, the poor quality of education and the excessive complexity of the curriculum, the lack of incentives and motivation for teachers etc., and shared their remedial plans. NNC continues to monitor the implementation of those plans.
‘Children have the right to a good quality healthcare, to safe drinking water, and nutritious food to help them stay healthy.’

**Article 24**

Children’s psychiatrists are extremely inadequate as a number – each of them accounts for about **50 000 children and adolescents** (0-19).

**We have put the issue of early childhood development high on the political agenda of the government**

Following a proposal of the Network and partner organisations, the issue was included as one of the MLSP priorities during the Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the European Union. We believe that investing in early childhood is key to personal health, education, social inclusion and overall success. We continue to advocate a unified and integrated policy guaranteeing children’s welfare from a very early age, as well as its transformation into a leading support tool for children and families.

**Children’s Health Park**

For the first time, together with our member organisations, we managed to bring together parents, professionals and civic associations around the idea for creation of a Children’s Health Park. This is the largest public-benefit initiative for construction of a new and modern multi-profile university hospital for children in the capital city, which will unite the existing 14 medical establishments, at present rather dispersed, and provide an opportunity for single-spot consultation, treatment and rehabilitation of children and development of paediatrics in the country. Together, we set up an initiative committee to raise public awareness and we made the first steps towards the creation of the Children’s Health Park.
We launched the project ‘Putting the Puzzle Together: Sustainability of Family-Oriented Approach and Early Intervention in Bulgaria’, supported by Open Society Institute Foundation, which aims to mobilise the efforts and available resources of all stakeholders working for early intervention and implementation of a common advocacy and communication strategy for improvement of early intervention policies and legal regulations in the country. Our goal is to ensure consensus among professionals on the importance and content, and the resources, know-how and skills for implementation of a family-oriented approach and early intervention, as well as to agree on a common vision and unification for development of early childhood care.

Support for the Fund for Treatment of Children

Yet again, in 2017 the NNC supported the concerns voiced by NGOs and other members of the Public Council at the Fund for Treatment of Children Centre that the proposed amendments to the Rules of Procedure and Organisation of the Centre are not in the best interests of children and their parents, do not generate positive outcomes of the work done, do not simplify procedures, and result in a lack of publicity and transparency in the activities of the Fund.
March saw the opening of four Child Rights Hubs in support of children with problem behaviours, victimised children and children in conflict with the law. The activities of the centres focus on advocating the rights of such children in court, at school and before the police. Psychologists and social workers from the centres engage extensively with their families and parents, aiming to intervene at the earliest stage to prevent more serious risks. The hubs opened in Sofia (run by Social Activities and Practices Institute), Pazardzhik (run by Crime Prevention Fund – IGA), Vratsa (run by FICE – Bulgaria) and Ruse (run by ‘Equilibrium’ Association) under the project ‘Child Rights Hubs for Children in Conflict and Contact with the Law in Bulgaria’ of the National Network for Children, supported by Velux Foundation.

In the course of the year the Ministry of Education and Science closed down the socio-pedagogical boarding school in the village of Dragodanovo, thus reducing the number of boarding schools for child offenders down to five. Nearly half of the children from Dragodanovo were mechanically transferred to another identical institution, while the rest were referred to a social service or family environment. The National Network for Children continued to campaign for the urgent closure of all institutions given their extremely poor condition. We, however, emphasised that this should happen only after a detailed assessment of the needs of the already placed children and in coordination between all ministries.

We continue to alert state institutions to the urgent need to proceed with the reform of the child justice system and to repeal the 60-year-old Law on Combating Anti-Social Acts, which does not ensure sufficient support for children having broken the law. At the end of the year, the Council for Implementation of the Revised Strategy for Judicial Reform at the Ministry of Justice undertook to submit the bill to the National Assembly as a matter of urgency.

‘Children who break the law should not be treated cruelly. They should not be put in a prison with adults and should be able to keep in contact with their family.’

**Article 37**

189 children were accommodated in educational boarding schools and social pedagogic boarding schools during the school year 2016/2017. These are places with extremely poor living conditions.
Childhood Without Bars

The National Network for Children, together with the Bulgarian Helsinki Committee, the Social Activities and Practices Institute and other civic associations, petitioned for immediate reform of the child justice system at a protest which took place in October. The event was organised under the ‘Childhood Without Bars’ campaign, which advocates protection for the rights of children having broken the law. The event included a display of an art installation consisting of a teddy bear put behind bars, created by Destructive Creation team. The campaign was accompanied by the circulation of a petition for a new legal act, which has collected nearly 6,000 signatures so far.

Directive 2012/29/EU

By means of amendments to the Penal Procedure Code the National Assembly announced the introduction of the requirements of Directive 2012/29/EU, establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime. Unfortunately, this did not result in a full enforcement of the provisions guaranteeing the rights of victimised children or child witnesses of crime, an issue to which we, at the National Network for Children, alerted both the President and all responsible institutions.

Round table discussion on ensuring the rights of child victims of crime

In collaboration with the Ombudsman of the Republic of Bulgaria and PULS Foundation, we organised a round table on the case of a child victim of sexual abuse, calling for optimisation of the existing reaction and prevention mechanisms for similar cases.

‘Children who have been neglected, abused or exploited should receive special help to physically and psychologically recover.’

Article 39


‘Governments should protect children from sexual abuse.’

Article 34

Children have the right to say what they think should happen when adults are making decisions that affect them and to have their opinions taken into account."


Megaphone Programme
Like in previous years, in 2017 the Megaphone programme was again the highlight of our efforts in the area of child and youth participation. The programme unifies and structures our experience and core activities accumulated over the past seven years. It involves children and young people who are either volunteers or are supported by some of our member organisations. Together with young Megaphone members we design, prepare and carry out a series of activities and campaigns, ensuring that, thanks to their efforts, the events are as useful as possible to children in Bulgaria. At the same time, we discuss and propose opportunities for enforcement of children’s rights, more specifically the right to opinion. So far, nearly 160 children aged between 14 and 17 have taken part in the programme, and currently we are actively involved with 32 such children, who represent 16 of our member organisations. All participating children become members of the Megaphone Youth Network – also known as the small network within the bigger network, which brings together all young people we have cooperated with over the years.

In many ways the Megaphone programme can be seen as a two-year training adventure. One part of it consists of a series of three capacity building activities for the young participants and their organisations. These include the so-called Autumn School on Children’s Rights, Spring Camp of Megaphone, and Child and Youth Panel at the Annual Meeting of the National Network for Children. The participants get a practical taste of their acquired knowledge on children’s rights and skills in the other part of the programme, which includes two of the most important annual public events of NNC – the Golden Apple Awards and Voice It Youth Forum. In the first year the young participants complete the three training activities (in order to develop knowledge and skills about children’s rights) and take part in the two public activities (in order to test their practical enforcement in areas which they find interesting or important). In the second year the same participants choose their roles based on interest – co-facilitators, PR specialists and advocates, and, backed up by their experience, interests and future professional plans, assist new members to settle in their first year experience and engage in extensive development of the activities of the Network to maximise their overall usefulness for children. The adult professionals from participating member organisations go through a similar process, albeit from the position of supporting the young people specialists and in line with their sought organisational development.

In 2017 we took particular pride in that the Child and Youth Panel at the Annual Meeting of the Network was far more than just a group of young Megaphone participants taking part in the different activities of the event. This time around we designed and prepared a part of the programme for the Annual Meeting together. The youngsters had a key role in hosting certain parts of the programme and in the overall support of the event, as this time the Annual Meeting involved many other children and young people Network members work with. Thus, for the first time ever, we managed to hold a major conference event in collaboration with our youngest participants, making it more welcoming and inclusive of other children.
Through its child and youth participation activities the National Network for Children seeks to identify children’s views on policies and actions carried out for their benefit. To this end, we not only use different ways of consulting children, but we also implement regular training and educational programmes (so that children and adults can be competent enough to assert their right to opinion), and we strive to ensure that institutions and relevant decision-makers will take children’s opinions into account.

Voice It Youth Forum
For the third consecutive year we held the Voice It Youth Forum with the support of young Megaphone participants and members of the Network. On 20 November the event simultaneously marked the anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, in a particularly inspiring for young people way, but also publicly reaffirmed the importance of the right to opinion, showing what this actually means in the course of one day. The variety of discussions on child-centred topics (chosen through child consultations), presentations of organisations and film screenings attracted nearly 200 participants. The opinions and proposals of the participating young people on topics such as violence, digital literacy, sexual health and others were sent to the responsible institutions.

Seekers of In/Equities National Campaign
In 2017 the National Network for Children launched a unique model for Bulgaria – the In/Equality Seekers Campaign. As a child-run study, the campaign included small teams of young people and a supporting adult and organisation in different parts in the country, ‘armed’ with a specific methodology and guidelines for action. From here, seekers were invited to begin an exploration of prejudices against Roma children, such as where they stem from, how they resurface in the public domain, and whether they result in cases of unequal treatment of children. So far, thirty children from six teams based in six different locations have taken part in the campaign, and for 2018, in accordance with the lessons learned and the improved approaches, we are planning to distribute the methodology as a free educational module among anyone willing to try it out and convinced of the equal rights of all children.
In 2017 we presented the seventh Golden Apple awards for contribution to the welfare of children. The awards are a recognition and tribute to the efforts made by different people, organisations and institutions to improve the lives and welfare of children in Bulgaria.

The **Hero of Children** award was presented to Mariyana Geleva and a group of mothers from all over the country manufacturing hand-knit toys and using the money collected from their sales to help the treatment of seriously ill children. Their Facebook page ‘In Good Faith – Give Hope’ has thousands of followers contributing to their cause in support of children and families. Their motto is ‘Stitch after Stitch, We Offer Hope’. The award was presented by the Mayor of Sofia, Yordanka Fandakova, who, addressing all attendees in her welcome speech, said that they were all children’s heroes thanks to their efforts to improve their lives.

The **School** award went to ‘G. S. Rakovski’ School of the village of Golyamo Novo, Targovishte Municipality, in recognition of the efforts made by the school team to ensure that the way to knowledge for their children is paved with a lot of positive emotion and a sense of adventure. The school has many bilingual children and their specific educational needs are met through various innovative solutions so they can feel worthwhile and capable and so learning can be pleasant and interesting. The award was presented by the Deputy Minister of Education and Science, Denitsa Sacheva.

The award in the **Hospital** category was presented to Specialised Hospital for Active Treatment of Children’s Diseases ‘Prof. Dr. Ivan Mitev’ – Sofia. Currently, this is the only hospital in Bulgaria providing high quality treatment for a wide range of diseases in children. The prestigious award was presented by Prof. Viktor Zlatkov, Rector of the Medical University of Sofia.
The ceremony was held on the eve of Children’s Day at Sofia City Art Gallery.

The prizes are traditionally awarded in seven categories: Hero of Children, School, Hospital, Municipality, Journalist, Benefactor, and Special Contribution to NNC.

The nominations for the Hero of Children category are made by the general public through the website of the Golden Apple initiative www.1June.nmd.bg. The winner is chosen by public vote. The nominations in the other categories are made by the member organisations of the Network across the country working with and for children and families.

The award for Special Contribution to NNC was presented to Maria Donkova, co-founder and member of Paideia Foundation, which has worked for better quality and access to education for 18 years already. Paideia is one of the first members of the National Network for Children, and Ms. Donkova has had a leading role in the advocacy efforts of the Network to ensure the accessibility of Bulgarian education for every child, as well as its focus on the development of children as happy and successful individuals.

The Journalist award went to Eleonora Tahova, journalist and host of the radio show ‘Dnes’ at BNR Blagoevgrad. In her broadcasts and features Ms. Tahova regularly draws the public attention to child- and family-centred topics, covering and commenting on events with respect for the dignity of young people. Irina Nedeva, Director of the Association of European Journalists – Bulgaria, presented the award.

The award in the Benefactor category went to DHL Express Bulgaria for a campaign organised by the staff and partners of their regional office in Targovishte in support of infants and socially disadvantaged families in the region, together with Targovishte Non-Profit Organisations Club. The initiative managed to successfully change the attitudes of both the company’s team and the entire community to begin to consider donation as a personal cause. The award was presented by Maya Klevtsova of Societe Generale Expressbank, who supported this year’s ceremony and also won the award in the same category some years ago for their cooperation with Karin Dom Foundation in Varna.

The jury’s vote for the Municipality ward went to Ardino Municipality, whose priorities include early childhood development, ensuring children’s rights and family support. The award was presented by Elena Atanasova of UNICEF Bulgaria, and was received personally by the Mayor of Ardino, Resmi Mehmed Murad.

The Golden Apple awards featured 32 nominations of people, organisations and institutions who are role models in ensuring special care and attention for the better life and welfare of children.
In 2016 the National Network for Children began to work actively on a very ambitious project – building a House of Children.

The House will be a national training and advocacy centre for children’s rights. It will provide a shared space where children, young people, parents and professionals will work together for happier and more confident, active and successful children in Bulgaria.

The House will offer a friendly and fostering environment to all Bulgarian children regardless of age, family or social status. It will host training events on children’s rights, the role of institutions, financial culture and entrepreneurship, health culture, ecology and sustainable development, leadership, and, in general, different ways for children’s growth as active and responsible citizens. Here children and young people will have the opportunity to practically enforce their right of opinion and child and youth participation. The House will also be home to all 150 member organisations of the Network and host their common activities and events.

The House will be run as a social enterprise and will hire for work young people leaving institutions or foster care.

Who will use the House

- Children and young people from all over the country regardless of age, origin and social status;
- Young people leaving institutions and foster care, who will acquire work experience and skills through engagement in various activities and active participation in the management of the House as a social enterprise;
- Parents and families;
- Professionals working with children;
- The community of the National Network for Children and the entire civil sector, businesses, institutions, as well as all who work for and with children and families.

What is the current stage of the project

The funds for the purchase of land were secured thanks to two large international foundations – AOK and Velux. The plot is located in the centre of Sofia, on Hristo Botev Boulevard, between Slivnitsa Boulevard and Tsar Simeon Street, and has an area of 825 sq. m.

Studies and coordination procedures for construction of the House are currently underway. An open competitive procedure will be launched to select the concept design, in which all architects and architecture studios will be invited to take part.

In the meantime, we are running a fund-raising campaign. You can join in by donating online through the website of the National Network for Children www.nmd.bg (payment options include credit or debit card, ePay, PayPal or bank transfer to our donations account). You can also support our donation campaign through the Global Giving international fundraising platform, where we now have over 200 donors.

Become an architect of the future, support the House of Children!
‘Children have the right to reliable information from the media. Mass media such as television, radio and newspapers should provide information that children can understand and should not promote materials that could harm children.’

**Article 17**

Children and media: We halted a proposal of the Council for Electronic Media authorising unethical coverage

In April the National Network for Children raised the alarm that the Council for Electronic Media (CEM) had initiated changes to the Criteria for Protection of Children against Harmful Content in the Media which violate their rights and are in breach of the Child Protection Act and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. In a statement issued and sent to CEM, the State Agency for Child Protection, the National Council for Self-Regulation and the Association of European Journalists, the National Network for Children expressed concern that the changes in question open up legal opportunities for children to be featured in programmes violating their privacy rights and their dignity and harming their development, as well as opportunities for broadcasting programmes with harmful and dangerous content for children. The NNC also reiterated that for the third year in a row state institutions were in breach of the Radio and Television Act through their failure to sign a tripartite agreement between CEM, SACP and media service providers for observing the Criteria. The latter were introduced in 2011 by virtue of changes to the Radio and Television Act initiated by the NNC. In recent years the Network has filed 10 alerts for violations of the RTA and unethical features of children in the media. As a result of NNC’s strong reaction, the changes to the Criteria were withdrawn. In December CEM adopted an amendment to the Criteria introducing uniform alert signs to indicate whether the programme is appropriate for children.

In 2017 the website of the National Network for Children was visited by 140,000 unique users. With more than 1,500 news posts featured in the Bulgarian version and more that 100 in the English version, we continue to be an important source of information about child policies for both professionals and experts and parents and children.

Our Facebook page was ranked in the top ten most popular in Bulgaria. We have collected more than 65,000 likes, and just in the course of last year we reached over 4 million Bulgarians through over 2,000 posts.

Our weekly newsletter is distributed among 5,680 subscribers. The English version, which is quarterly, is read by nearly 900 subscribers.

Through a total of 9 public events and 14 press releases to the media in 2017 we contributed to raising the awareness on children and family related issues in Bulgaria. The Network was featured in over 400 publications in the media and we participated in 47 TV programmes.

You can also become our friend here [www.facebook.com/nmdbg](http://www.facebook.com/nmdbg) and visit our website here [www.nmd.bg](http://www.nmd.bg)
For yet another year the Bulgarian company Ficosota donated more than 5,000 litres of liquid household cleaning and laundry products and several tons of washing powder, cosmetics and personal care products, which the National Network for Children and its members helped distribute among vulnerable children and families. The products donated by the company were worth nearly BGN 20,000. Ficosota has made this grant in kind for a third year in a row.

39 NGOs working with children from 27 different locations across the country accepted the donation at the Ficosota warehouse in Shumen, and distributed it among families most in need all over Bulgaria. The donations are generally offered to families of children at risk and have achieved sustainable results.

Leading trade chain Lidl Bulgaria made a donation of over 2,500 children’s books to the National Network for Children. The fun learning aids were distributed among nearly 20 NGOs from all over the country who work directly with children and participate in the NNC. Colouring books, music books and encyclopaedias went to children the NNC member organisations work with (students and vulnerable children in different social services) or became part of travelling libraries and other charity initiatives.

We are deeply grateful to our donors!
WHAT WE FAILED TO ACHIEVE IN 2017

Adoption of a Child and Family Act and Strategy
to regulate and outline an overarching family support policy is a cause which the National Network for Children has advocated since 2010. Unfortunately, despite the commitment of the State Agency for Child Protection to include the preparation of these documents in its Agenda 2017, it did not happen. The aim of these efforts is to transform the Vision on Family Policy, developed jointly by experts, parents, academia and NGOs, into state policy.

Changing the way of management of EU Structural Funds
to ensure opportunities for piloting new practices and innovation and reducing the gap between different regions and municipalities in the country, rather than financing activities which are part of the regular duties of the state and local administration.

Improving the capacity of Child Protection Departments
and ensuring differentiation between the systems for social assistance and for child protection. In our view, the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy and the Agency for Social Assistance should make the urgent effort to invest in Child Protection Departments by increasing the number of social workers in them, developing workload standards and providing appropriate training, supervision and support.

For the sixth year in a row the promised reform in the child justice system
remained only an intention. Just like before, 2017 failed to see the repeal of the 60-year-old Law on Combating Anti-Social Acts of Minors, affecting over 10,000 children per year.

Bulgaria still has no Ombudsman for Children,
an idea which the National Network for Children has advocated for years. Most European countries have a specially appointed public advocate responsible for children and young people.

‘Governments should make these rights available to children.’

Article 4
CHANGES WITHIN THE NETWORK IN 2017

10 new organisations joined the Network in 2017. They are based in Sofia, Plovdiv and Razgrad, and their efforts are dedicated to better education, mental health support, assistance to victims of violence, work with Roma communities, promotion of sport and healthy living, and support for young LGBT people and children in institutional care.

167 consultations and advisory sessions were held by Network for its members and other organisations in the course of the year.

4 thematic working groups operate under the National Network for Children – Family, Health, Education and Justice, – bringing together member organisations based on their field of work, expertise and professional opinion. The working group on Child and Youth Participation operates alongside the thematic working groups and supports the development of child participation in the NNC.
A new Management Board


8

regional coordinators of the National Network for Children are responsible for the coordination and development of the Network at local and regional level. In June 2017 the mandates of the first regional coordinators expired, and new elections were held at which the members in the regions voted for organisations to assume the role of regional coordinators in the next two years.
FINANCIAL REPORT

In the past year the National Network for Children implemented activities related to training, exchange of experience and good practices in Bulgaria and abroad, successfully implemented series of campaigns, child participation, strategic planning, etc.

The implementation of the majority of the NNC’s commitments was possible thanks to the trust of our partners and funding organizations.

---

### STATEMENT OF PROFIT AND LOSS (one-sided)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Note</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Revenues</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1,064</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Expenses</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>(1,049)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gross result</td>
<td></td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Finance income</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Finance costs</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>(5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net result</td>
<td></td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

### CONDENSED BALANCE SHEET

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSETS</th>
<th>Note</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B. NON-CURRENT ASSETS</td>
<td></td>
<td>511</td>
<td>521</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II. Tangible fixed assets</td>
<td></td>
<td>511</td>
<td>521</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL SECTION B:</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1,06</td>
<td>746</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. CURRENT ASSETS</td>
<td></td>
<td>927</td>
<td>732</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II. Receivables</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III. Investments</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>147</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV. Cash and cash equivalents</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>927</td>
<td>732</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL SECTION C:</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,06</td>
<td>746</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. DEFERRED EXPENSES</td>
<td></td>
<td>927</td>
<td>732</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL ASSETS</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,626</td>
<td>1,267</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LIABILITIES</th>
<th>Note</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. EQUITY</td>
<td></td>
<td>88</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VI. Reserves</td>
<td></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL SECTION A:</td>
<td></td>
<td>88</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. LIABILITIES, incl:</td>
<td></td>
<td>10</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>less that 1 year</td>
<td></td>
<td>18</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>over 1 year</td>
<td></td>
<td>17</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. FINANCING AND DEFERRED INCOME</td>
<td></td>
<td>11</td>
<td>1,593</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>less that 1 year</td>
<td></td>
<td>991</td>
<td>643</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>over 1 year</td>
<td></td>
<td>512</td>
<td>511</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL LIABILITIES</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,626</td>
<td>1,267</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
List of projects implemented by the National Network for Children in 2017

- ‘Co-operation and monitoring to realize children’s rights’, donor UNICEF – Bulgaria – project duration 20 months, end of the project November 2017
- ‘Development of Community Schools in Bulgaria – Phase 2’, donor Charles Stewart Mott Foundation – project duration 24 months, end of the project June 2018
- ‘Reducing discrimination and promotion of social inclusion of Roma children and young people and children with disabilities’, donor UNICEF, project duration 9 months, end of project June 2018
- ‘Child Rights Hubs’, ‘Child Rights Hubs for Children in Conflict and Contact with the Law in Bulgaria’, donor Velux Foundation, project duration 36 months, end of the project March 30, 2019
- ‘Rights Courts for Children’, donor Programme Justice of the European Commission, duration 24 months, end of the project September 2017
- Institutional support to implement the strategy of the NNC 2015-2020, donor OAK Foundation, duration 36 months, end of the project June 2019
- ‘Rescue: Reading the early signs of dropping out of school’, donor Erasmus+, project duration 36 months, end of the project September 2019
- ‘CHAPTER – Children Help movement Against Physical Threatening and Emotional Repression’, donor EU Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme, project duration 24 months, end of the project November 2018
- ‘Putting the Puzzle Together: Sustainability of Family-Oriented Approach and Early Intervention in Bulgaria’, donor Open Society Institute, project duration 24 months, end of the project September 2019

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

All amounts in BGN thousand unless otherwise indicated

3. Revenues

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Income from donations under conditions</td>
<td>1 050</td>
<td>859</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership fees</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income from unconditional donations</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other income</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>1 064</td>
<td>880</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Association does not account for revenues from business activities.

The income from donations, represent income from projects under which the Association is a Beneficiary and which have been recognised in the year when the associated expenses have been incurred.

4. Expenses

The Association’s expenses are related to its core activity only. Following are the analysed by nature of expenses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cost of materials</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hired services</td>
<td>584</td>
<td>444</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wages and salaries</td>
<td>330</td>
<td>341</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compulsory social securities</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depreciation</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other costs</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>1 049</td>
<td>930</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WHO ARE WE?

The National Network for Children is a network of over 140 organisations working with and for children and families all over the country.

Management Board

The NNC has a 7-member Management Board, consisting of representatives of NNC member organisations elected by the General Assembly. The Management Board supports, consults and monitors the work of the Secretariat and makes decisions on key for the Network issues outside the mandate of the General Assembly.

Supervisory Board

The Supervisory Board makes a review of the financial situation of the Network at the end of the fiscal year, and provides monitoring throughout the whole year. Also the Supervisory Board monitors compliance with the rules and procedures of the organisation.
Regional coordinators – The 8 regions and organizations

The work of regional coordinators is concentrated on coordinating local activities, initiatives and campaigns, coordination of specific regional activities, support and activation of members of the Network and supporting relationships between NNC members and other organizations and institutions that, have a role in guaranteeing children’s rights.

- **North-Eastern Region** (Varna and Dobrich)
  - Gavroche Association, Varna

- **North-Eastern Central Region** (Targovishte, Razgrad, Shumen, Silistra)
  - Club of NSO – Targovishte

- **North Central Region** (Veliko Tarnovo, Lovech, Pleven, Gabrovo, Rousse)
  - Center for Interethnic Dialogue and Tolerance Amalipe – Veliko Tarnovo

- **North-Western Region** (Vratsa, Vidin, Montana)
  - Association First of June – Byala Slatina

- **South-West Region** (Pernik, Blagoevgrad, Kyustendil, Sofia – district)
  - PULS Foundation, Pernik

- **South-Western Central Region** (Plovdiv, Pazardzhik, Smolyan)
  - Social Practices Foundation in the Community, Pazardzhik

- **Central-Eastern Region** (Stara Zagora, Haskovo, Kardjali)
  - World Without Borders Association – Stara Zagora

- **South-Eastern Region** (Bourgas, Silven, Yambol)
  - Association „The True Guardian“ – Burgas
DONORS AND FRIENDS

On behalf of all member organisations of the National Network for Children, the Secretariat would like to express their heartfelt gratitude to our partners and friends.

The people and companies who have worked with us for the better future of Bulgarian children are:

**Ficosota Syntez**, who donated more than 5,000 litres of liquid household cleaning and laundry products and several tons of washing powder, cosmetics and personal care products to NNC member organisations. The products were distributed among the families most in need all over the country.

**Lidl Bulgaria**, who donated over 2500 children’s books and learning aids to nearly 20 NNC member organisations and reached socially disadvantaged families and children.

**Societe Generale Expressbank**, who sponsored our annual Golden Apple Award for contribution to the welfare of children in Bulgaria.

**Miroglio**, who sponsored our annual Golden Apple Award for contribution to the welfare of children in Bulgaria.

**Allianz Bulgaria**, who donated issuance for our office car.

**Sofia City Art Gallery** and **Sofia Municipality** who provided free of charge the gallery premises for our Golden Apple Award ceremony

**Ministry of Culture**, who provided free of charge the area of ‘Largoto’ Complex for conducting the ‘Voice It’ Youth Forum

**Anna Rizova-Noykova** (Design for Friends), who supports the organisation’s visual identity;

**Marieta Vassileva** (Taralezh ‘Hedgehog’), who produced basic printed materials of the organisation;

The team who produced our Christmas video message ‘This Christmas’:

‘**Bannerjiinica**’, creators; **Ivelina Georgieva** – design and illustration; **Vladimir Georgiev** – video animation; **Stanislav Nikolov**, FULLCONTACT – voice and sound and **Ekaterina Antonova** – author of the text.
**NETWORK MEMBERS 2017**

**Blagoevgrad Region**
- Association ‘Community Council on Education’ – Gošte Delchev

**Burgas Region**
- ‘The Faithful Steward’ Association – Burgas
- ‘Demetra’ Association – Burgas
- ‘Regional Roma Alliance’ Association – Burgas
- ‘Roosters’ Association – Burgas
- ‘Smile’ Association – Burgas

**Varna Region**
- Association of Parents of Children with Dyslexia – Varna
- ‘Gavoche’ Association – Varna
- ‘Eurointegration’ Association – Varna
- ‘Karin Dom’ Foundation – Varna
- ‘Vassilitsa’ Association Agency for Social Development – Varna
- ‘Joy for Our Children’ Foundation – Varna
- Social Centre Maria – Varna
- Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus Association – Varna
- ‘Sauchastie’ Association – Varna
- ‘Colourful Future’ Association – Varna

**Vidin Region**
- Association ‘Organization’ – Drom – Vidin

**Vratsa Region**
- ‘First of June’ Association – Byala Slatina
- Association Vratsa Software Society ‘Science and Technology Centre’ Association – Vratsa
- ‘New Way’ Association – Hayredin School Board of Trustees of ‘Hristo Botev’ School – Tarnava

**Gabrovo Region**
- YMCA Gabrovo Association ‘Social Dialogue 2001’ Association – Gabrovo

**Dobrich Region**
- ‘Helping Hand’ Foundation – Dobrich

**Kardjali Region**
- Association ‘Initiative for Development – Kardzhali
- ‘Decides’ – Kardzhali

**Kyustendil Region**
- Association ‘Knowledge, Success, Change’- Dupnitsa
- Association Largo – Kyustendil
- Parental Boards of Trustees of Kindergarten ‘Kalina’ – Dupnitsa

**Lovech Region**
- ‘Ecomission 21st Century’ Association – Lovech
- ‘Knowledge’ Association – Lovech

**Pazardzhik Region**
- ‘Future’ Foundation – Rakitovo
- ‘Julieviy Dom’ Foundation KUZMANOV Foundation – Zvartenchevo
- Crime Prevention Fund IGA – Pazardzhik
- ‘Social Practices in the Community’ Foundation – Pazardzhik

**Pernik Region**
- ‘PULSE’ Foundation – Pernik
- ‘White Swallow’ Association – Tran

**Pleven Region**
- Pleven Public Fund ‘Chitalishta’ – Pleven

**Plovdiv Region**
- ‘Big Brother, Big Sister’ Association – Plovdiv
- ‘Gender Alternatives’ Foundation-Plovdiv
- National Alliance for Volunteer Action – Plovdiv

**Ruse Region**
- BRTMI Association – Ruse
- ‘Equilibrium’ Association – Ruse
- European Centre for Mediation and Arbitration (ECMA)
- ‘Cartas-Ruse’ Foundation – Ruse
- Open Society Club – Ruse
- Centre Dynamica Association – Ruse

**Silistra Region**
- ‘Ekaterina Karavelova’ Women’s Association – Silistra
- ‘Hope for a Good Future’ Association – Silistra

**Sofia City Region**
- ‘Sofia City Region’
- ‘Agapedia’ – Bulgaria’ Foundation
- Alliance of Bulgarian Midwives
- Association ‘Bulgarian Psychoanalytic Space’
- Association of Bulgarian family values, traditions and culture
- ‘Bulgarche’
- ‘Alpha Club – to Survive’
- Association
- Association for Early Childhood Development
- ‘Parents’ Association
- Charity Foundation
- Bulgarian Association of Adopted Children and Adoptive Parents
- Bulgarian Family Planning and Sexual Health Association
- Bulgarian Paediatric Association
- Bulgarian Helsinki Committee
- ‘Bulgarian Child’ Foundation
- BNC ‘Together for the Children’
- Bulgarian Training Institute ‘Child and Space’
- ‘Children’s Books’ Association
- ‘Children and Adolescents’ Association
- Association ‘Children of Bulgaria’
- ‘Detchitsa’ Foundation
- ‘Evrika’ Foundation
- ECIP Foundation
- ‘Teach for Bulgaria’ Foundation
- ‘Maternal and Child Health’ Foundation
- ‘For our Children’ Foundation
- ‘Health and Social Development’ Foundation
- Ethnic Minorities Health Problems Foundation
- Institute for Promotion of Vocational Education and Training
- Institute for Progressive Education
- Foundation

**Sofia Region**
- ‘Towards a Better Life’ Association – Chelopech

**Stara Zagora Region**
- ‘Future for Children’ Association – Kazanlak
- Chitalishte ‘Vazradosna Iskra’ – Kazanlak
- ‘Samaritans’ Association – Stara Zagora
- ‘World without Boundaries’ Association – Stara Zagora

**Targovishte Region**
- ‘Academia 245’ Association – Antonovo
- ‘Naya’ Association – Targovishte
- Club of NGOs – Targovishte

**Haskovo Region**
- ‘Children and Families’ Association – Haskovo
- ‘Give a Smile’ Foundation – Dimitrovgrad
- ‘Hope for Protection’ Association – Haskovo

**Shumen Region**
- ‘SOS Women and Children survived violence’ Association – Novi Pazar
- Association of Roma Women ‘Hayatchi’ – Novi Pazar

**Yambol Region**
- Municipal School Board of Trustees – Boliarovo
- Chitalishte ‘Umenie 2003’ – Yambol
CHILDREN HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE HEARD

www.nmd.bg / facebook.com/nmdbg