



**SOS CHILDREN'S
VILLAGES**

A loving home for every child

FOSTER FAMILIES IN SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES RUSSIA

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De-I Policy In Russia

2012 - National strategy of actions in the interests of children for a period of 2012-2017

De-I policy:

- Decrease of the number of children left without parental care being placed in the residential care facilities
- Development of family-based forms of care
- Closure of residential institutions for children. The retraining and re-employment of staff
- Support institution care leavers to prevent repeated orphanhood
- Creation of institutions for children left without parental care with better quality services (family-like residential care facilities)

Living Room In A Traditional Residential Care Facility



Living Room In A Family-Like Residential Care Facility



Family-Like Residential Care Facility

- Small blocks of some apartments, consisting of living rooms for 2-3 people, bathrooms, dining rooms, recreation rooms
- Different age groups of 7-8 children, 2-3 of whom are pre-school children
- Siblings and other relatives living together
- Several permanent educators

Outcomes Of De-I Process

Decrease of the number of children in institutions (and consequently in database)

- In December **2011** – 133 000 children
- In May **2015** – 81 000 children

Reducing the number of children **by 40%**.



Some Problems Of De-I Process

- Some cases when children left without parental care (“social orphans”) are not registered in order to "improve" the statistics
- Foster parents sometimes have only a financial motivation to admit children
- Increasing the number of children returned from family-based care to the institutions.



Family Based Care System In Russia

- Adoption

- Guardianship (in general kinship care)

- Foster care:

- Foster parent is a guardian and a legal representative of a child
- Civil (not labor) contract with a local government
- Fixed rewards depending upon number of children and state of health (disabilities)
- Obligatory basic training for candidates to foster parents
- Duration of care is until child is 18 years of age

Percentage of Foster Family In Family Based Care In Russia

- In 2012 - 21%
- In 2013 - 28%
- In 2014 – 36.6%



Some Problems Of Further Development Of Foster Care

Due to the economic crisis in Russia

- Not enough resources
- Adoption
or guardianship
instead of foster
care





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SOS Children's Villages Russia In Terms Of De-I Process





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SOS Children's Villages Russia

In Terms Of De-I Process

- Changes in the legislation of Russia (de-I)
- Priority of adoption, guardianship and foster family
- SOS family is identified in Russia as an institutional form of care
- Withdrawal of Children from SOS CV families
- Foster families in CV as one of answers to external challenges:
 1. transformation of "classical" SOS families into SOS foster families → the so called "internal" SOS FF
 2. selection of already existing foster families for living in the SOS CV family house with full support from the SOS CV staff based on SOS standards → the so called "external" SOS FF

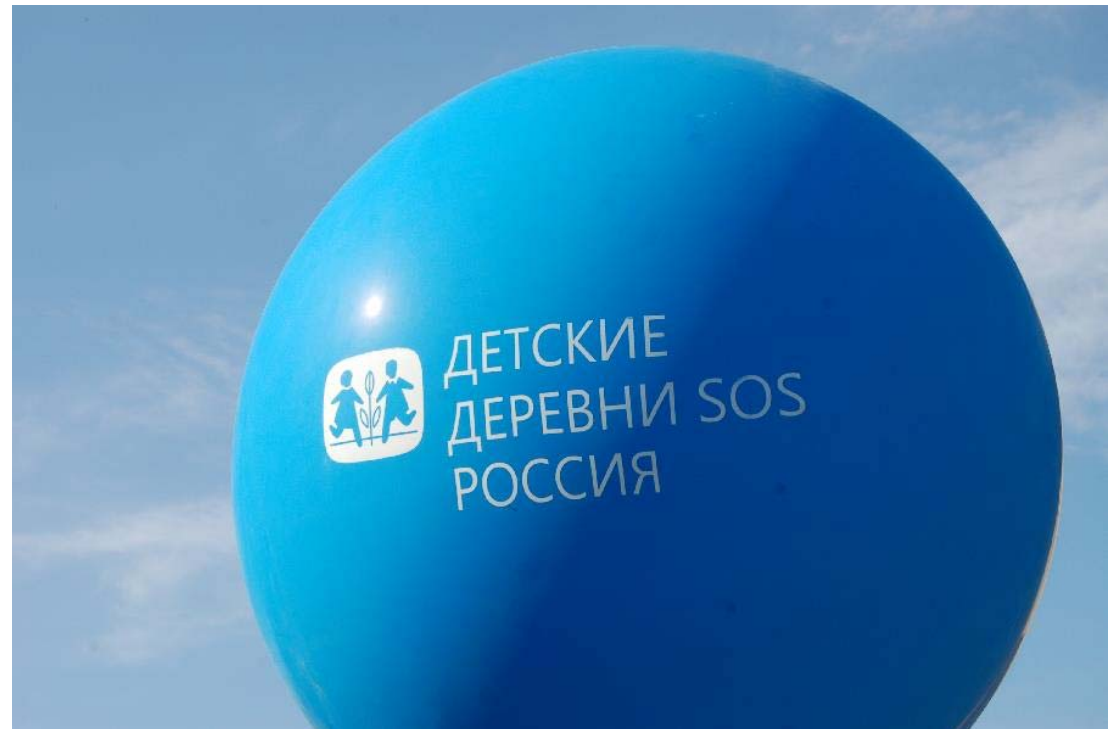
Changes In Types Of Families From 2013 To 2015 In SOS Russia

	2013	2014	2015
CV Tomilino	Classical CV (11 classical SOS F)	Classical CV + foster care (7 classical SOSF+4 FF)	Classical CV + foster care (5 classical SOS F+6 FF)
CV Vologda	Classical CV (6 classical SOS F)	Foster care (6 FF)	Foster care (6 FF living in CV + 3 FF is coming in October 2015 to 3 new CV FHs + 3 FF living in community and receiving long-term support from SOS CV + 10 FF living in community and receiving 1 year support from SOS CV within grant project)
CV Kandalaksha	Classical CV(12 classical SOS F	Classical CV + foster care (10 classical SOSF+2 FF)	Classical CV + foster care (8 classical SOS F + 4 FF)
CV Pskov	Classical CV (10 classical SOS F)	Classical CV (10 classical SOS F)	Classical CV + guardianship (5 classical SOS F+5 SOS mothers are guardians of SOS children)
CV Pushkin	Classical CV (12 classical SOS F)	Classical CV (12 classical SOS F)	Classical CV (11 classical SOS F)
CV Lavrovo	Classical CV (11 classical SOS F)	Classical CV (11 classical SOS F)	Classical CV (11 classical SOS F)

Research of Anatoly Vasilyev and Elena Khatskelevich

**“BIG SHIFT IN FAMILY BASED CARE IN RUSSIA – CV
TOMILINO TRANSITIONS TO FOSTER CARE” 2014**

- Elena Khatskelevich, National Family Based Care Advisor
- Anatoly Vasilyev, SOS CV Director



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BIG SHIFT IN FAMILY BASED CARE IN RUSSIA – CV TOMILINO TRANSITIONS TO FOSTER CARE



The introduction of the foster care model in SOS CVs in Russia has been a part of the MA's strategy since 2012. First results from the transformation and adaptation process of foster families in SOS CV Tomilino are now available. The whole process which included many discussions, worries and hopes took almost 2 years and could be called a "big shift" in family based care in SOS Russia – both methodologically and psychologically.

Tomilino is a small city 25 km southwest of Moscow and has been running as a classical children's village since 1996. It is therefore the oldest children's village in Russia. It was not clear how the new foster care model would influence the way of life, high quality of child care and strong traditions inside the children's village. CV Tomilino had been in the process of changing SOS-mothers' generation for more than 5 years. Besides, there were already 2 SOS couples in the CV and the De-I process in Moscow region was more advanced than anywhere else in Russia. Therefore it seemed like the right time for the transition.



The implementation of foster family support services started with signing a basic agreement with the Lybertsy state child welfare agency and "recruitment" of foster families who would live in the family houses in the children's village. Two foster families were chosen in February 2014. One is an "internal" SOS foster family, a former SOS family that passed through the official procedure of registration as a foster family. Former SOS parents become the official guardians of the children in their care. The other family is an "external" SOS foster family – an existing (officially registered) foster family where the parents already provide care for several foster children and are ready to come and live in the SOS CV family house and continue admitting new children.

Adapting to a new life

Both families signed a package of agreements with SOS Children's Villages Russia and with the state child welfare agency. Foster family support programmes were designed and each foster family was assigned with a family responsible person (coordinator) from the CV pedagogical co-workers. This period of adaptation lasted almost half of school year and the whole summer vacation, which was important for observing and supporting the foster families and the whole CV community.

Internal evaluation on different family types

Thereafter, the VD (FBC leader), pedagogues and the national FBC advisor carried out an internal evaluation of the foster families' life in the SOS CV community. One of the SOS families was also included in the analysis in order to use the results to further support all types of families in SOS CV

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Related Links

- SOS Children's Villages Russia
- Foster Care in CEE/CIS



Subscribe [here](#) to Programme News for CEE/CIS

Practical experience of implementation of foster care in CV Tomilino SOS Russia

Internal Evaluation

- Three types of families

1. “internal”
SOS FF
2. “external”
SOS FF
3. SOS family





Areas Of Analysis

- family structure and relationships within the family
- internal family resources and risk factors
- children with special needs in family
- child admission
- psychological and pedagogical support for children
- interactions within SOS CV community (using infrastructure, cooperation with other families accommodation rules etc.)
- participation in SOS CV activities and events inside and outside the CV
- child's rights protection
- SOS aunts/family assistants' support
- meeting CV guests (family on-duty)
- interactions with family responsible person and VD
- relationship between children of respective families and other children in CV
- cooperation of families with state child welfare agencies

“Internal” SOS Foster Family From Family House № 4



Results Of The Evaluation

- **Internal SOS foster family**

- More autonomous and independent:

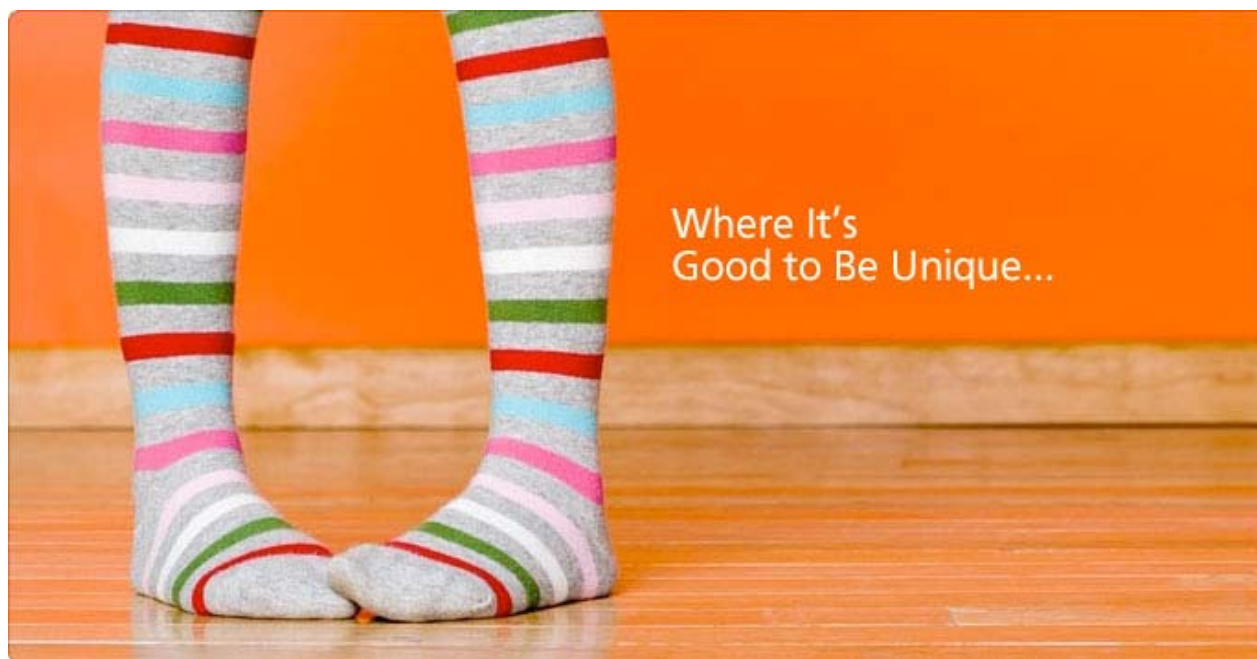
“+”	“-”
successful admission process of new children	appearance of inadequate parenting practices
willingness to share experience with others	resistance for cooperation with CV staff both from parents and children
active participation in events inside and outside of CV	
quality time spent with children	

“External” SOS foster family From Family House №7



Results Of The Evaluation

- **External SOS foster family**
 - a) SOS CV family house is a family home
 - b) Parent is the best expert in child care and development
 - c) Unique development route for each family



SOS Family

From Family House № 1



Results Of The Evaluation

- **SOS family**
 - a) foster parents are “real parents for children and not care-givers, educators”
 - b) different parental roles in terms of gender equality in SOS and foster families
 - c) high risk of withdrawal of SOS children from their SOS family



**decision of this analyzed SOS family
to become an SOS foster family**

The outcomes of the conducted evaluation

1. Baseline for the targets and measures set in the next CV development plan
 2. Introduced in respective SOS foster families support programmes and SOS and foster children development plans (IDP).
- The transformation and adaptation period of implementation of foster care in SOS CV Tomilino greatly influenced the whole CV community life, including the children as well as the adults



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Summary

De-I policy became the reason of introduction to CV Russia of foster families which united the advantages of family care and the international SOS quality standards of care.





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Thank you!

