

### **SLIDE 1 Theme**

#### **Formation of national work strategy on maintenance of successful socialization of boarding schools pupils in Belarus**

Dear participants!

The reforming process of child care system in Belarus has begun in 1993 with acceptance of the Law "About the rights of the child". Considerable changes were undergone by the legislation and child care system last 5 years.

I will name the key directions of the reform of child care system which have allowed to reduce the number of children-orphans and children without parental support, and the number of boarding schools pupils.

### **SLIDE 2 Reducing the level of social orphanhood**

The model of interdepartmental work with a family is formed, allowing reducing the number of parents deprived of the parental rights and consequently reducing the level of social orphanhood.

### **SLIDE 3 Refusals of parents of children**

The family, certainly, plays an important role in socialization of the child. Increase of parents responsibility for education of children including material, allows reducing number of refusals of children.

### **SLIDE 4 Return of children to the parents restored in the parental rights**

Also has been begun the process of restoration of parents in the parental rights. Till 2007 the statistics on restoration in the parental rights was not conducted, since there was no such phenomenon. Were known only some separate cases.

### **SLIDE 5 Growth of national adoption**

Let's especially note growth of national adoption. In comparison with 2004 (further we will compare to this year) the number of children adopted by Belarus, has increased by 32 %.

### **SLIDE 6 Adaptation of children-orphans**

I would want to note the development of the family forms of education of children-orphans and children without parental support. Children's homes of family type are actively created and more and more people from Belarus receiving wages and means for the maintenance of children accept children on education in their families.

But 2000 children-orphans and children without parental support, are brought up in children's homes and 5500 in boarding schools. About 1500 pupils annually leave boarding schools for an independent life.

Success of social adaptation of children-orphans in our society is the indicator of **efficiency of the national system of graduates support**. The national strategy on successful socialization of boarding schools pupils, which is now forming, is also one of directions of reform of child care system.

### **SLIDE 7 National strategy**

The national strategy of successful socialization of boarding schools pupils engages following directions:

- a) reducing the quantity of boarding schools for children-orphans and children without parental support;*
- b) enlarging the functioning boarding schools;*
- c) improving of system of social, educational and psychological help to boarding schools pupils;*
- d) creation of conditions for preparation of boarding schools pupils for an independent life;*

- e)improving the system of labor education, professional preparation and vocational guidance of pupils;*
- f) creation of a support system for boarding schools graduates;*
- g)development of the legislation providing successful integration of graduates.*

#### **COMMENTS TO NATIONAL STRATEGY:**

##### ***SLIDE 8 Reducing the quantity of boarding schools for children-orphans and children without parental support***

From 2004 to 2009 were closed 14 boarding schools in connection with development of family forms of education.

##### ***SLIDE 9 Enlarging the functioning boarding schools***

The quantity of children-orphans who are brought up in boarding schools since 2004 was reduced to 50 %. Since 2004 the quantity of boarding schools pupils has decreased from 230-330 children till 130-150, and in children's homes - from 100-150 children till 50-75. Throughout three last years some districts do not direct children in boarding schools. The program of optimization of a boarding schools network is accepted. Reducing of number of boarding schools pupils **has allowed to improve the quality of teaching and education of children-orphans, to make process of their preparation for an independent life more individual, and, finally, to approach living conditions of children to the family.**

*The last years policy of reorganizations of boarding schools in children's homes, and also reception on training in boarding schools of children from micro district families (settlement, nearby settlements), allows to avoid full closeness of establishments where orphans are brought up. Only for last 2 years, 8 boarding schools for children-orphans are reorganized in children's homes.*

***SLIDE 10*** The social, educational and psychological help is given in boarding schools (in establishments regular social teachers and teachers-psychologists work) and behind their limits. The boarding schools pupils visit establishments of out-of-school education and training, social protection establishments. Along with children who are brought up in families they are resting in summer camps and rehabilitation centers.

##### ***SLIDE 11 Creation in boarding schools of conditions for preparation of pupils for an exit in an independent life***

Educational programs of social orientation for children of all age groups that allows providing basic vital skills, acquaintance with the activity of various social institutes from savings banks to house-keeping services were developed and introduced in each establishment. Both the young man and girls are trained to cook, to form skills of self-service, to use home appliances, etc. For this purpose are equipped special spaces. A great attention is given to preservation and strengthening of related communications and communications with that community where the child lived before the placement in boarding school. Brothers and sisters are brought up in one establishment and also in one group.

Not less than one year prior to release from an educational institution, the social teacher contacts local government of that settlement where the child has got the orphaned status for preparation of a workplace and a place of its residing.

The decree of the President of Belarus gives the right to children-orphans of reception of free social habitation in the place of acquisition of the orphaned status, or in the place of granting of the first workplace.

**The local authorities annually plan building of social habitation for children-orphan reaching the majority in next calendar year. Children-orphan are accepted on the account of integration requiring improvement from the date of reception of the orphaned status, irrespective of age (i.e. from infantile age). At planning of building of habitation the databank of children-orphan is annually analyzed.**

*At the same time the decision of housing problem of children-orphan in practice and the maintenance of rates of building of social habitation is an economic problem. And rates of its decision yet do not correspond to quantity of the orphan expecting the turn.*

**SLIDE 12 Perfection of the system of labor education, professional preparation and vocational guidance of pupils**

Formation at pupils of readiness for professional work, creation of conditions for professional self-determination - among the main tasks. Special curricula and programs which provide professional preparation and vocational training of boarding schools pupils in the conditions of real manufacture, on the equipment established, as a rule, in establishment are developed and are realized. Boarding schools graduates simultaneously with base formation master various trades (joiner, vegetable grower, hairdresser, seamstress, etc.). First of all, it is focused on increase of competitiveness of graduates on a labor market. Past year in the TECHNICAL TRAINING COLLEGE 650 graduates have arrived, 54 graduates are employed right after release from children's homes, boarding schools. During the current year these figures approximately in one and a half time above.

Improvement of quality of teaching and level of knowledge confirms that at comparable quantity of graduates the number of the orphan who have arrived in higher educational institutions, since 2000 has grown in 2,7 times, and in technical schools and colleges – in 3 times. It was promoted by purposeful work on increase of level of boarding schools pedagogical workers, development of abilities and propensities of boarding schools pupils, and also their training on preparation courses at universities with budget means.

**SLIDE 13 After graduation support of pupils**

According to the legislation, boarding schools heads supervise the process of socialization of graduates within 3 years after release; render the social, educational and psychological help to the graduates experiencing difficulties in socialization. Changes are made to positions about children's home and boarding school. To the minor children-orphan who have finished basic formation, **till 18 years** is given the possibility to live in establishment and to remain pupils, to enter as a part of a group, being trained thus in vocational training establishment, college, technical school. It gives the chance to deal with the question on term of the pupil exit from establishment taking into account opinion of the graduate. The level of psychological pressure, and the fear of children about the future decreases.

**SLIDE 14**

For 2 years the structure of boarding schools assumes the possibility of opening of **after graduation adaptation** compartments. This is a new direction of work. Today in the country we have 61 boarding schools for children-orphan, from them 14 have compartments of **after graduation adaptation**. If the graduate is trained in a professional educational institution, college or university he lives in the compartment of after graduation adaptation during term which is defined by the faculty teachers, taking into account the desire of the pupil. Thus, in the period the pupil is residing at compartment of **after graduation adaptation it is absolutely independent, lives in a separate premise**, plans and spends his financial assets, serves itself and organizes his free time. The psychological, educational and social help is given by boarding school experts on demand of the former pupil.

**SLIDE 15**

In case of training in other settlement, graduates can spend in establishment where they have grown, not only days off and holidays, but also the vacation.

Thanks to functioning of such compartments a new practice of work with graduates is formed. At compartments of after graduation adaptation are established clubs of the young family for graduates. There, the former pupils can receive consultation on planning of the family budget, conducting housekeeping and help on care of newborn children.

Compartments of after graduation adaptation also are used for the senior boarding schools pupils to which the possibility to live independently is given.

***SLIDE 16 Development of the legislation providing more successful integration of boarding schools graduates (the housing legislation, the legislation on work, on social guarantees and on social service)***

In 2003-2009 it was accepted about 60 certificates of the legislation providing the improvement of the position of children-orphans in Belarus, and the decision about the problem of social orphanhood. First of all, the legislation directed on the social family support service, prevention of children replacement from a family, increase of parents responsibility for children education and preventive maintenance of a social orphanhood is improved.

***SLIDE 17 System of additional social guarantees***

The system of additional social guarantees for children-orphans and children without parental support is created, by it is guaranteed:

1. The state maintenance not only to majority, but also till 23 years in case of profession receiving on a day mode of study, *irrespective of marriage and children birth during this period*;
2. To students and pupils free place granting in a hostel;
3. The first workplace;
4. Free health services;
5. Free travelling in public transport till 18 years.

We have tried to present to your attention the basic directions of national strategy of work on maintenance of more successful socialization of children-orphans and children without parental support, boarding schools pupils. At the same time we understand, how much it is still necessary to do to reduce the number of children which lose parental care. And also to give the chance to each child-orphan to find his place in life, and have another destiny than his parents.

It is not enough to give to children-orphans the possibility to receive help and support. It is necessary to teach them to take advantage of these possibilities. Not all children-orphans are motivated on work and solving of vital problems. The creation of an effective system of support of boarding schools graduates depends on the human factor: the skill level of experts, possession of methods of work with modern young men. Therefore, we consider such meetings very important both for updating of the strategy and for mutual enrichment by a practical experience. I thank all who has shared the experience of work, and thanks for attention.

***SLIDE 18 Humanitarian projects with participation of the charitable and state organizations cover all regions of Belarus. It is impossible to overestimate a positive orientation of humanitarian activity, its results. Long-term cooperation with the foreign non-governmental organizations in this sphere promotes development of medical, social, educational and other long-term projects.***

One of priority directions of humanitarian projects is the improvement of Belarus children health at the expense of foreign free aid.

From 2007 till the first half of 2009, in children's improving establishments of Belarus at the expense of means of foreign free aid have passed health improvement about 8 thousand children from families having many children, incomplete families, socially-unsuccessful families, children-orphans, children-invalids. Means of foreign partners are involved also for creation of

conditions on strengthening of material base of children's health improving establishments, on carrying out of repair work ("Nadejda", "Planeta", "Jemchujinca", "Zubrenok", "Chaika", "Ptich" and others).

One of significant projects is realized in children's rehabilitation center "Nadejda" with the financial help of the Italian, German, British, Irish and Japanese charitable organizations («Legambiente Solidarieta», Italy; «Help to children of Chernobyl», Germany; «Samaritan purse" and "Command for you», Great Britain; «Children's Chernobyl project», Ireland and Chernobyl children's fund of Japan). And with the assistance of the Belarus partners: “Belarus charitable organization of social protection of children and educators "Pomoshy””, the international charitable public association «White flower», “Belarus children's fund”, “Belarus association of parents having many children”, the Gomel regional charitable public association «Hope to children in a trouble», «Autograph of Chernobyl» and others.

In the children's recreation camp "Planeta" from Minsk district, the Italian charitable organizations «Will help them to live», "Puer", «The group accepting Belarus children», «Small world», "Arkabaleno", with the assistance of the Belarus partners: «Life Tree», «World for children» and «Planet of children», help us to deal with the rising generation.

Improvement of children's health abroad is directed first of all on reducing the consequences of accident on the Chernobyl atomic power station. During the period from 1997 and for 9 months of 2009, within the limits of humanitarian cooperation with the foreign non-governmental organizations at the expense of foreign free aid have corrected health abroad about 669 thousand children. A greatest quantity of Belarus children were accepted by Italy - 325,7 thousand children, Germany - 118,8 thousand, Great Britain - 30,4 thousand, Spain - 61,4 thousand and other countries.

Humanitarian projects on improvement of children's health abroad cover all regions of republic. But the districts which have suffered from accident on the Chernobyl atomic power station are the first in this list. So, in the Gomel district - about 44,2 % from total of children who have left on health improvement, in Mogilev - about 19,1 %. Priority categories: the children living in territories soiled with radionuclide (41,4 %); from socially vulnerable families (22,3 %); being on the state and private forms of guardianship (23 %); with oncological diseases in a remission stage (41,4 %). The humanitarian project «Warm house» in which is engaged «Belarus children's fund» is one of the most significant programs, carried out by the Belarus public organizations at the expense of foreign free aid. 40 children's homes of family type in which 556 children are brought up are created, including 455 children-orphans. In the first half of 2009 at the expense of foreign free aid 4 cottages are bought. The Irish volunteers have capitally repaired houses in village Vilcha of Zhitkovichsky district and village Taranovo of Mogilev district. All families which have received them were helped to get furniture, home appliances etc.

One more project «The family as the priority form of life accommodation of the child: the biological family, the family of adoptive parents, the reception family», is realized by «Parental house». The purpose is to help children-orphans and children without parental support to adapt after boarding schools graduation. Plus, preventive maintenance of refusals of lonely mothers from newborn children. By the way, these directions are provided by projects of the presidential program «Children of Belarus», 2006 – 2010, and the National program of demographic safety, 2006 - 2010, and other documents.

The Mogilev regional executive committee, with the assistance of Department on humanitarian activity at the Administrative office of the President of Belarus has developed and has submitted for consideration heads of the state the Decree project «About building of an inhabited complex «SOS - children's village» in Mogilev», signed on June, 3rd, 2008. According to this document, in 2008 - 2009 in the regional centre an inhabited complex with 13 houses, one administrative building and objects of engineering and transport infrastructure is under construction. The international charitable organization «SOS - Kinderdorf International» (Austria) finances expenses for its designing and building. It is already mastered about 2 million US dollars.

We are helped by Switzerland, USA, Germany, Russia, Great Britain, Ireland, Italy and China. In total - more than 30 countries of the world. During the period from 1998 till 2009 in our republic has arrived foreign free aid for a total sum of 1188,7 million US dollars. More than 80% of foreign means go to the regions which have suffered from failure on the Chernobyl atomic power station (Gomel and Mogilev district), and to the capital.

If to speak about public health services, from 2008 till 8 months of 2009, with the support of the NGO «Nadejda express», in the Belarus medical institutions has arrived three large humanitarian medical cargoes, in the total cost of 6,3 million US dollars. As a result of more than 15-year cooperation it is imported various medicines and medical techniques, for a total sum over 110 million US dollars. The republican scientific and practical centre «Mother and the child» together with University of Bristol (Great Britain) realizes the project PROBIT III «Exclusiveness and duration of breast feeding: influence on atherosclerosis and diabetes risk factors in the childhood». From 2008 till 8 months of 2009 has arrived foreign free aid for the sum of 2,4 million US dollars. And, of course, the project «Children's heart» which started in Belarus in 2000. Since 2005, in the program was included the postoperative rehabilitation. 428 children with severe congenital heart and vessels diseases are already operated, consulted over 1800 children. The international fund «Children's heart» (USA) in gift has transferred to the Children's cardiological centre a device for definition of the brain saturation level with oxygen during operation, in cost of 25000 US dollars.

Within the limits of cooperation of the German charitable organization «Help to Gomel. Medical aid for Belarus» (Germany) with establishments of public health services of Gomel district, since 1991, the expensive medicines necessary for seriously ill patients are delivered. Only for the period of 2008-2009 this organization has delivered pharmaceutical production in the total cost of 1,7 million US dollars, from which 1,3 million dollars were transferred to Gomel central city children's polyclinic.

The projects directed on working out of power saving up technologies, nature protection actions are also interesting. In Mjadelsky district, for example, the Svirsky village executive committee carries out the project «Use of energy of water and the sun - a perspective way of development of alternative power in countryside». Its sense - development of alternative power on the basis of renewed energy sources by creation of working models of micro-hydroelectric power station and photo-electric installation in the territory of Komarovo, located in National park "Narochansky". The project «Reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> blowouts in atmosphere on an example of introduction of the power saving equipment at school of Gorodnaya, Stolinsky district, Brest region, is also interesting. It will allow making replacement of school's electrical equipment for illumination on power saving one.

A very important program - «Riding bogs of Belarus», realized by the Institute of experimental botanic "V.F. Kuprevich" of the Belarusian academy of sciences. Geographical and typological features of riding bogs of Belarus are already characterized, the account of vegetative resources of the natural marsh grounds used in the procuring purposes is made (wood resources, medicinal raw materials, growing berries areas), is studied ecologic and economic efficiency of protection of the bogs, are revealed more than 100 new places of growth of rare plants etc. The project is of great importance for our republic as for its realization are involved more than 120 volunteers from 31 countries of the world, which thanks to cooperation had the possibility to familiarize with natural and cultural and historic heritage of Belarus.

All named programs are the result of joint efforts and coordinated interaction of partners. All means and material aid go strictly to the planned addresses.

The Ministry of Education is grateful to all British and Irish charitable organizations for disinterested aid to our state, first of all to children.