



THE RIGHT TO CHILDHOOD

**NATIONAL STRATEGY TO PROTECT CHILDREN'S  
RIGHTS**

## I. Introduction

By acceding to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (hereinafter the “Convention”), the Czech Republic has undertaken to observe and safeguard the rights of children set out by the Convention. The safeguarding of the protection of children’s rights is an obligation of the entire society while the State guarantees that protection.

The substantive competence in respect of the protection of children’s rights, in respect of family support, support for alternative family care and the care of vulnerable children is currently divided into multiple departments. Numerous analyses and researches, and notably the knowledge acquired directly in practical life indicate the need to carry out a fundamental reform to this system. A major stimulus to the reform also comes from the latest recommendations by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, adopted on 17 June 2011, after the discussion of the Third and Fourth Periodical Reports of the Czech Republic that document the activities since 2003 to implement the Convention.

Hence a strategy at the government level has been created; the National Strategy to Protect Children’s Rights aka the “Right to Childhood” aims to create a system to protect consistently all rights of any child and to meet the child’s needs, a system to promote the improvement of the lives of children and families, eliminating discrimination and unequal approach to children, and promoting overall development of the child in his or her natural family or alternative family environments, as appropriate, all of that taking place with the child’s participation in the decision-making processes with a direct impact on the child. In safeguarding the “right to childhood”, certain groups of children and families require special approaches and attention.

To achieve this objective, a fundamental agreement on the main principles of working with children and families is needed. In its effort to find such an agreement, the Czech Republic may use numerous sources, primarily the Convention, the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the European Social Charter and other European conventions, the 2002 Action Plan entitled “A World Fit for Children” and the revised 2007 declaration “A World Fit for Children + 5”, Building a Europe for and with Children – Towards a Strategy for 2012 – 2015, the UN Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children, as well as case law, whether judgments by the European Court of Human Rights or judgements of the Constitutional Court of the Czech Republic. In areas which are already addressed comprehensively by other governmental strategic documents, the National Strategy refers to those materials or builds on the measures laid down by the government, as appropriate.

The National Strategy is based on the rights of the child, and defines the basic principles of the protection of children’s rights and of the care of vulnerable children. It contains specific intentions, objectives and activities, including the time frame, the setting of individual departments’ responsibilities and of monitoring and assessment methods. The National Strategy is expected to be implemented in close cooperation with the government, local and regional authorities, non-governmental non-profit sector, and public initiatives. Thus the National Strategy should be not only a formal document but also the basis for the enforcement of children’s rights not only through legislative changes but particularly through day-to-day practice. An unwritten objective of the strategy is to implant the ‘sense of the Convention’ in the activities of people who work with and for children and in the whole society.

By adopting this strategy, the government expresses its will and openness to the intense cooperation and coordination of activities and the harmonisation of approaches by the relevant departments. We bear common responsibility because all children deserve the

opportunity to achieve their full potentials. All children have the **right to childhood**.

## II. Primary objective of the National Strategy to Protect Children's Rights (the "Right to Childhood")

### Basic principles of the protection of children's rights and of the care of vulnerable children

The primary objective of the National Strategy **to Protect** Children's Rights is a functional system to protect consistently all rights of the children and to meet their needs; the system works with the following basic principles:

#### 1. Full focus on the child

The child is the centre of events in the entire system. The child and his or her prosperity are the primary interest of all responsible participants in the system, with all of their efforts being focused to resolve efficiently the situation of each individual child. The child is a partner in dealing with his or her situation as well as the situation of the child's family. The child has to be talked to, listened to, his or her wishes and needs have to be ascertained and taken into account (in accordance with the age and mental maturity of the child) and, on that basis, the most appropriate assistance and support have to be provided.

#### 2. Respect for the child's needs and development

Everybody in the system knows children's developmental needs and is aware of the impact the quality of care has on children's health and development. The protection of and support for the overall development of children's potentials are based on the comprehensive assessment of the child's development and on the identification of the areas of support and development. The measures adopted are an early solution and are always adequate to the child's age and stage of development.

#### 3. Bearing the child's long-term interest in mind, promoting his or her uniqueness and development

The measures adopted to protect children are part of an individual plan created for each child and his or her family. The plan is based on the assessment of the child's developmental needs and the capabilities of his or her parents or others caring for the child to respond to those needs. Child protection focuses on the identification of such outputs for each child that will provide the child with safety and enable the child to develop. The progress in a child's situation is evaluated and reviewed on a regular basis. The purpose of all interventions is to achieve the best possible outcomes for any child while the uniqueness of each child has to be taken into account.

#### 4. Providing all children with equal opportunities irrespective of gender, capability, race, ethnic group, disability, circumstances or age

Equal opportunities mean that children are guaranteed an opportunity to achieve the best possible development results without any prejudice or impediment in respect of their gender,

capability, race, ethnic group, disability, circumstances or age. Children are supported in the long term, with increased attention paid to them, notably in respect of their educational and health needs.

#### **5. Involvement of children and families as well as their entire social neighbourhoods into the effort to resolve the situation**

Everybody in the system sees the child in the context of his or her entire family (parents or those caring for the child and an extended family) and of the social environment (the community and culture where the child grows up). The interaction among the child's developmental needs, the capabilities of his or her parents or of those caring for the child to respond adequately to those needs, the impact of the factors of an extended family on the child and on the parents' capabilities requires a careful examination during the assessment process. The primary objective is to understand the links between the child's developmental needs and the capabilities and potential of the parents or those caring for the child to satisfy those needs. Another primary task in child protection is to provide the child and his or her family members with services that address such needs. For children who grow up outside their own families, the assessment of the child's needs and of the resources to meet those needs is even more comprehensive.

#### **6. Building on the strengths of children and families and identifying the problem areas**

In protecting children and families, it is essential to identify correctly the strengths and problem areas in the whole situation of the child, his or her family and the context in which these people live. It is always important to evaluate the impact the whole situation has on the child's health and development. A balanced approach to children and families must be used; rather than focusing solely on the deficiency model of working with families, the areas of positive capacities within a family, on which we can build in the event of interventions, should also be monitored. Working with the strengths of the child and his or her family is an important part of the plan for dealing with a situation where the child is vulnerable.

#### **7. Working on an integrated basis and in cooperation with all participating entities**

A wide range of various public authorities and services within the community (notably in respect of health and education) have been engaged in the child's life and development since his or her birth. The interdisciplinary cooperation in protecting and promoting the child's prosperity begins once it has been identified that the child or his or her family members have additional needs that require support or services beyond the scope of normally used services.

#### **8. Being a permanent and interactive process**

Child protection necessitates the understanding of what a vulnerable child is experiencing in the context of his or her family and the local community. Taking appropriate measures is a permanent and interactive process, the assessment of which also continues during interventions and the implementation of those measures.

#### **9. Provision and reviews of measures and provided services**

Measures and services are put in place and provided on the basis of identified needs of the child and families, with assessments conducted simultaneously. The protection also covers addressing immediate and practical needs as well as more comprehensive needs and those spanning a prolonged period. The impact of provided services on the child's development and situation is reviewed on a regular basis.

#### **10. Based on objectively identified facts and evidence**

Efficient practical work with children and families is based on sound expert judgements, which are supported by evidence and stem from the knowledge and experience of the expert engaged. The decisions based on these judgements are reviewed while it is necessary to take into account any new information acquired during follow-up work with the child and his or her family.

**The primary objective of the National Strategy to Protect Children's Rights will be achieved by 2018.**

### **III. Sub-objectives of the National Strategy to Protect Children's Rights (the "Right to Childhood")**

#### **Priorities in the protection of children's rights**

The primary objective of the National Strategy to Protect Children's Rights will be achieved through the accomplishment of sub-objectives in the following priorities:

#### **Transversal priorities**

##### **A. Child's participation**

##### **B. Elimination of discrimination and of the unequal approach to children**

##### **C. Right to family care**

##### **D. Ensuring the quality of life for children and families**

#### **Sub-objectives**

1. Identification of children's needs
2. Increasing the general awareness of children's rights among adults as well as children
3. Creation of opportunities for children and young people to participate in the decisions on matters that concern and influence them
4. Ensuring equal opportunities for children and young people from disadvantaged social environments

5. Ensuring equal opportunities for children and young people with disabilities
6. Promoting positive parenthood
7. Poverty prevention
8. Creation and opening-up of services and support to families and children
9. Support for alternative family care
10. Elaboration of the alternatives of care for vulnerable children and the deinstitutionalisation of care
11. Processes to protect and support the prosperity of children
12. Unification of childcare system
13. Setting the legislative conditions to safeguard positive benefits and to ensure that the needs of children and young people are met
14. Transparent funding of the system
15. Data collection and a single information system
16. Quality of work, education and standards

## **Transversal priorities**

### **Priority A:**

#### **Child's participation**

The child who is capable of forming his or her own views has the right to express those views freely in all matters affecting the child, the views of the child being given due weight in accordance with the age and maturity of the child.

### **Priority B:**

#### **Elimination of discrimination and of the unequal approach to children and young people**

Children's rights are guaranteed to each child without discrimination of any kind, irrespective of the child's or his or her parent's or legal guardian's race, colour, gender, language, religion, political or other opinion, national, ethnic or social origin, property, physical or mental disability, birth or other status.

### **Priority C:**

#### **Right to family care**

The family, as the fundamental group of society and the natural environment for the growth, well-being and protection of children, should be afforded the necessary protection by the State and society.

**Priority D:**

**Ensuring the quality of life for children and families**

The child must be ensured such protection and care as is necessary for his or her well-being, taking into account the rights and duties of his or her parents, legal guardians, or other individuals legally responsible for the child, and, to this end, the State shall take all appropriate legislative and administrative measures.

## Objective 1: Identification of children's needs

### Background:

Convention on the Rights of the Child, Articles 2, 3

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UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, Recommendation 46

**Summary: Children are guaranteed their rights irrespective of the child's or his or her parent's origin, disability, status. The State ensures the child such protection and care as is necessary for the child's well-being, taking into account the rights and duties of his or her parents and legal guardians, and therefore, takes all appropriate legislative and administrative measures. It is recommended to create a comprehensive assessment system in respect of the family situation and to involve all instruments of social work to ensure that children's needs are met.**

### Key activities:

- Application of the knowledge of children's needs, using modern scientific knowledge.
- Establishment and development of the system to identify and evaluate children's and their families' needs at multiple levels (through field work, in the ambulatory or residential form), including the identification of the needs of children with disabilities, children from disadvantaged social environments, or those placed in alternative types of care.
- Legal governance of the assessment framework for children's needs as the binding social care instrument for all staff in the system of protection of children's rights and care of vulnerable children.

### Responsibility for implementing the objective and the time horizon

Activity	Deadline	Framework responsibility
Application of the knowledge of children's needs	Permanently	All departments
Establishment and development of the system to identify and evaluate children's needs	2013 – 2015	MoLSA, MoEYS, MH
Legal governance of the assessment framework	2012 – 2014	MoLSA, MoEYS, MH

## Objective 2: Increasing the general awareness of children's rights among adults as well as children

### Background:

Convention on the Rights of the Child, Articles 4, 17, 29, 44

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Article 8

UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, Recommendations 23, 36

**Summary: Children are entitled to the protection from events that have an adverse impact on their childhood. The entire society is obliged to assure that right, which is guaranteed by the State. The State is encouraged to take measures to raise the public awareness of the Convention and to incorporate lessons on the Convention into school education programmes.**

### Key activities

- Targeted engagement of civil society in the public administration activities to promote and protect children's rights.
- Creation of educational and awareness materials and activities for the general public; cooperation with mass media in disseminating information on children's rights; promotion of civil society projects focused on raising the awareness of child's rights among children and adults.
- Development of the national initiative Right to Childhood. As part of the initiative, the government will, on an annual basis, determine the main topic to which activities of the relevant year will be directed. Since no later than 2013, the topic will be linked with setting a priority in the protection of children's rights within the state budget (Objective 14).
- Implementation of a national campaign focused on the enforcement and protection of children's rights.
- Incorporation of lessons on the Convention into school curricula.

### Responsibility for implementing the objective and the time horizon

Activity	Deadline	Framework responsibility
Promotion of civil society's engagement	Permanently	All departments
Creation of educational and awareness materials	Permanently	MoLSA, MoEYS, MH
National initiative the Right to Childhood	Since 2012	MoLSA
Implementation of a national campaign	2012 – 2014	MoLSA
Incorporation of lessons on the Convention into school curricula	2014 – 2015	MoEYS

**Objective 3: Creation of opportunities for children and young people to participate in the decisions on matters that concern and influence them**

**Background:**

Convention on the Rights of the Child, Articles 12, 13, 17, 23

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Article 7

European Convention on the Exercise of Children's Rights, Articles 3, 6

Convention on Contact concerning Children, Article 6

Judgement of the Constitutional Court of the Czech Republic, file reference II. ÚS 1945/08, dated 2 April 2009, on the right of the child to be heard if personal freedom is affected

Judgement of the Constitutional Court of the Czech Republic, file reference III. ÚS 3007/09, dated 26 August 2010, on the right of the underage child to be heard in the proceedings affecting the child's matters

Recommendation 1698 by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, dated 25 April 2005, on the rights of children in institutions

General Comment 12 (CRC/C/GC/12) on the right of the child to be heard

UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, Recommendation 36

**Summary: The child has the right to express his or her views freely in all matters affecting the child. The child must always be included in the solutions affecting him or her. The child's view must be identified and given due weight. This right also applies to children with disabilities or other specific needs. Targeted support is provided to children in the implementation of this right. It is recommended to put in place comprehensive legislation governing the right of the child to be heard, which would be applicable to courts of law, administrative authorities, institutions, schools, institutional facilities, services and families in matters affecting children, and which would guarantee the right of appeal against such decisions; to strengthen awareness and educational programmes for the implementation of these principles in order to change the common perception of children as passive legal objects rather than active legal subjects; to create systems that take account of the child's views in the political discussions and decisions affecting him or her.**

**Key activities:**

- Promoting the participation of children in decision-making processes regarding the enforcement and protection of their rights; creating mechanisms to enable children to participate in decision-making processes.
- Fostering the systems and measures focused on the involvement of children and young people in the adoption and evaluation of the system measures taken and their participation in creating such measures.
- Developing the staff competences across all entities within the system (social and legal protection authorities, courts of law, service providers) in hearing the child and identifying his or her view.
- Comprehensive legislation governing the right of the child to be heard.

**Responsibility for implementing the objective and the time horizon**

Activity	Deadline	Framework responsibility
Promoting children's participation	Permanently	All departments

Fostering systems and measures	2012 – 2014	MoLSA
Developing the staff competences	2012 – 2015	MoLSA, MJ, MI, MoEYS, MH
Comprehensive legislation governing the right of the child to be heard	2014 – 2016	<b>MJ</b> , MoLSA

## Objective 4: Ensuring equal opportunities for children and young people from disadvantaged social environments

### Background:

Convention on the Rights of the Child, Articles 2, 26, 27, 28  
 International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Articles 10, 11  
 Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 25  
 European Social Charter, Article 14, 16, 17  
 ILO Social Security (Minimum Standards) Convention No. 102, Articles 39 to 45  
 International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination  
 Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, Articles 4, 6  
 European Code of Social Security, Articles 39 to 45  
 Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU, Articles 33, 34  
 Declaration of the Rights of the Child, Article 4  
 National Action Plan for Inclusive Education  
 Strategy to Combat Social Exclusion  
 UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, Recommendation 31

**Summary: It is recommended to adopt quickly all necessary measures to eliminate effectively all forms of the segregation of children, notably the discrimination practices against them in the education system; to adopt a comprehensive national action plan to prevent racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and intolerance.**

### Key activities:

- Creating and implementing a plan to prevent discrimination, racism, xenophobia and intolerance.
- Developing the staff competences across all entities within the system in order to prevent prejudice and discriminatory positions and work with them.
- Promoting and developing services and social work in families who find themselves in difficult social situations.

### Responsibility for implementing the objective and the time horizon

Activity	Deadline	Framework responsibility
Creating and implementing a plan to prevent discrimination	2013 – 2018	MoLSA, Government Delegate for Human Rights
Developing the staff competences	2013 – 2015	MoLSA, MoEYS, MI, MH, MJ
Promoting and developing services and social work	Since 2012	Government Delegate for Human Rights, MoLSA

## **Objective: 5 Ensuring equal opportunities for children and young people with disabilities**

### **Background:**

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Convention on the Rights of the Child, Articles 23, 24, 29

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Articles 7, 9, 23

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Article 12

European Social Charter, Article 11, 15

ILO Social Security (Minimum Standards) Convention No. 102 (461/1991 Coll.), Articles 7 to 12

European Code of Social Security, Articles 7 to 12

Declaration of the Rights of the Child, Article 5

National Action Plan for Inclusive Education

UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, Recommendation 52

**Summary: Children with disabilities and their families should have access to such services as are necessary for their independent living and inclusion in society. Children with disabilities have equal rights with respect to family life. The State provides timely and comprehensive information, services and support to children with disabilities and their families. The State shall ensure that people with disabilities need not live in specific environments. In no case shall a child be separated from parents on the basis of a disability of either the child or one or both of the parents. Where the immediate family is unable to care for a child with disabilities, the State shall make every effort to provide alternative care within the wider family, and failing that, within an alternative family setting. It is recommended to ensure that schools receive adequate financial, technical and human resources for the State to be able to provide education to children with disabilities effectively within the mainstream educational system; the State is also encouraged to change its legislation in order to prohibit the rejection of children by schools on the basis of insufficient means; it is recommended to provide socio-economic support to children with disabilities irrespective of their age; to promote and allow for the care for children with disabilities in a family setting by providing adequate support to their parents or to those caring for them; to adopt measures addressing the impediments in the form of stances and environments that prevent the full, equal and effective participation of children with disabilities in society, and to train all experts who work with or for children with disabilities.**

### **Key activities:**

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- Creating a system of information on available services and forms of support for families with disabled children.
- Defining and creating a network of field and ambulatory social and healthcare services that provide disabled children with care in a family setting or an alternative family setting, with some of these services to be established by converting residential care facilities for children with disabilities.
- Legislative framework which is based on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and ensures that the child will not be separated from his or her family setting on the basis of disability.
- Promoting alternative family care where the immediate family is unable to care for a child with disabilities.

### **Responsibility for implementing the objective and the time horizon**

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Activity	Deadline	Framework responsibility
Creating a system of information on available services	2013 – 2015	MoLSA, MH, MoEYS, Government Delegate for Human Rights
Defining and creating a network of field and ambulatory social and healthcare services	2012 – 2016	MoLSA, MH, MoEYS
Legislative framework based on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	2014 – 2016	MoLSA, MH
Promoting alternative family care for children with disabilities	2012 – 2015	MoLSA

## Objective 6: Promoting positive parenthood

### Background:

Convention on the Rights of the Child, Articles 5, 18, 19, Article 24 (2) f), Article 29

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Article 16

European Social Charter, Article 7 (10)

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National Plan to Support Families with Children

National Strategy of Preventing Violence against Children in the Czech Republic for 2008-2018

UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, Recommendations 38, 40

**Summary: It is recommended to adopt all measures required to ensure that all children have the right to know, from birth and to the greatest extent possible, their parents and to be cared for by them; to face the widespread tolerance of physical punishment, inter alia, through public awareness and educational programmes in order to foster the use of alternative disciplinary measures in compliance with the child's own dignity and, in that context, to ensure that physical punishment is prohibited.**

### Key activities:

- Incorporating the principle of supporting families with children into all relevant strategic and legislative measures.
- Implementing the measures to ensure that children have the right from birth to know their parents and to be cared for by them.
- Promoting the establishment and use of services that facilitate the development of parent competences.
- Measures to promote positive parenthood and upbringing without physical punishment.

### Responsibility for implementing the objective and the time horizon

Activity	Deadline	Framework responsibility
Incorporation of the family support principle	Permanently	All departments
Ensuring that the child has the right from birth to know his or her parents	2012 – 2015	MoLSA, MJ, MH
Promoting the establishment and use of services to develop parent competences	2012 – 2016	MoLSA
Measures to promote positive parenthood	2012 – 2015	MoLSA, Government Delegate for Human Rights

## Objective 7: Poverty prevention

### Background:

Convention on the Rights of the Child, Articles 4, 26, 27

Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 25

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Articles 10 to 12

European Social Charter, Articles 16, 17

Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU, Articles 33, 34

Declaration of the Rights of the Child, Article 4

UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, Recommendation 44

**Summary: The child has the right to such standard of living as is adequate for the child's health and overall development. It is recommended to take measures to ensure that families from vulnerable socio-economic groups will be provided with necessary funds and welfare support so that all parents can exercise their primary responsibility for their children and that all children can enjoy, as far as possible, the fulfilment of their rights.**

### Key activities:

- Ensuring equal opportunities in the access to education for children and young people, particularly if they come from socially disadvantaged environments, alternative family care or institutional care.
- Implementing targeted assistance and support for young people when they start their independent lives and enter the labour market after completing their education, particularly if they come from socially disadvantaged environments, alternative family care or institutional care.
- Promoting the competences of families with children in respect of financial literacy.
- Specifying the measures and the supporting mechanisms in respect of families where the child might be removed because of housing shortage or material poverty (field social work, material support measures).
- Reviewing social security benefits in respect of families.

### Responsibility for implementing the objective and the time horizon

Activity	Deadline	Framework responsibility
Targeted assistance and support for young people when they start their independent lives	2012 – 2018	MoLSA, MoEYS
Strengthening the financial literacy and related competences	2012 – 2015	MoLSA
Specifying the measures to support families where the child might be removed because of poverty	2012 – 2014	MoLSA
Reviewing social security benefits in respect of families	2012 – 2013	MoLSA

## Objective 8: Creation and opening-up of services and support to families and children

### Background:

Convention on the Rights of the Child, Article 18 (2, 3)

Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 16

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Article 9

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Article 10

European Social Charter, Article 16

Communication from the European Commission on Early Childhood Education and Care: Providing all our children with the best start for the world of tomorrow (COM (2011) 66)

The Czech Republic's Housing Strategy until 2020

UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, Recommendations 31, 44, 50, 60

**Summary: It is recommended to ensure that necessary services are available to parents and small children, particularly to those from disadvantaged groups, to prevent the developmental delay of children in situations where these children are particularly vulnerable; to consider the creation and implementation of a system of providing adequate housing to people who find themselves in disadvantaged financial or social situations in order to ensure, inter alia, that the children have access to adequate conditions of living in a family setting.**

### Key activities:

- Promoting the establishment of community services, informal types of care and volunteering.
- Creating a guaranteed network of comprehensive services for children and families on a multidisciplinary basis (social, healthcare and educational areas). Community plans and capacities should be taken into account while creating the service network.
- Creating a system of information about available services while dealing with various life circumstances, including toll-free help lines.
- Progressively unifying the conditions of activities in the systems of services for families and children and of social services (standards, methodologies) while maintaining the specific status of services designed for social and legal protection of children.
- Creating the mechanisms of emergency and supported housing for families with children (as part of a comprehensive solution to social housing in compliance with the Czech Republic's Housing Strategy until 2020).
- Reviewing the social security benefits in respect of housing in relation to a comprehensive solution in respect of supported housing.

### Responsibility for implementing the objective and the time horizon

Activity	Deadline	Framework responsibility
Promoting the establishment of community services	2012 – 2018	MoLSA
Creating a network of comprehensive services	2012 – 2016	MoLSA, MH, MoEYS
Unifying the conditions of activities in services	2012 – 2015	MoLSA

Creating the mechanisms of emergency and supported housing	2012 – 2015	MoLSA, MRD
Reviewing the social security benefits in respect of housing	2012 – 2013	MoLSA

## Objective 9: Support for alternative family care

### Background:

Convention on the Rights of the Child, Articles 20, 21

European Convention on the Adoption of Children

Recommendation R(87)6 of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe of 20 March 1987 on foster families

UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, Recommendations 38, 46, 48

**Summary: It is recommended to develop foster care in order to prevent the placement of children in institutions of any type; to create and put in place a set of instructions, prepared after consultation with experts and entities of civil society active in childcare, to make a consistent and objective evaluation of children's suitability for adoption across the entire territory; to ensure that all children have the right from birth to know their parents (including children placed in alternative family care).**

### Key activities:

- Development and professionalisation of foster care; enhancement of support to foster care in respect of material welfare and access to services for alternative families and for children entrusted into care.
- Active search for alternative parents; changes in arranging the alternative family care to ensure that the preparation for alternative parenthood is guaranteed by professionals.
- Development of alternative family care, including the specialisation of some foster parents in the care of children with specific needs, a physical or mental disability; development of temporary foster care.
- Measures for the maximum reduction in the number of children from the Czech Republic placed in international adoptions.
- Implementation of measures and legislative changes to ensure that all children have the right from birth to know their families.

### Responsibility for implementing the objective and the time horizon

Activity	Deadline	Framework responsibility
Foster care development and professionalisation	2012 – 2014	MoLSA
Active search for alternative parents	2012 – and then on an ongoing basis	MoLSA
Foster care development and specialisation	2012 – 2016	MoLSA
Reduction in the number of children from the CR placed in international adoptions	2012 – 2015	MoLSA, MJ
Implementation of measures and legislative changes to ensure that children have the right to know their parents	2014 – 2016	MoLSA, MJ

## Objective 10: Elaboration of the alternatives of care for vulnerable children and the deinstitutionalisation of care

### Background:

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Convention on the Rights of the Child, Articles 5, 9, 18, 20 and 25

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Article 19

Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children, Articles 17 - 23

A set of general measures to enforce judgements of the European Court of Human Rights – preventing the removal of children from parental care for socio-economic reasons

Judgements of the Constitutional Court of the Czech Republic: file reference I. ÚS 618/05, dated 7 November 2006; file reference IV. ÚS 2244/09, dated 20 July 2010; file reference II. ÚS 2546/10, dated 6 September 2011; file reference III. ÚS 3363/10, dated 13 July 2011

Opinion of the Supreme Court of the Czech Republic, file reference Cpjn 2/2010, dated 8 December 2010, in respect of decisions by courts of law on ordering institutional care because of material deficiencies of the family, notably its poor housing conditions

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UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, Recommendation 46

**Summary: Children have the right to the overall development in a family environment. A child shall not be separated from his or her parents against his or her will. A child temporarily or permanently deprived of his or her family environment shall be entitled to special protection and assistance provided by the State. States shall primarily ensure alternative family care for such a child. Given the proven adverse impact of institutional care on children's development, such care should only be used when it appears to be an evidently good, necessary and constructive solution for a particular child and in compliance with his or her interests. In accordance with the predominant opinion of experts, care for young children (especially those under the age of 3 years) should be provided in family-based settings. Placement of children in institutional care because of material deficiencies of the family, notably its poor housing conditions, is unacceptable. It is recommended to quickly formulate a national policy for the deinstitutionalisation of care of children, including the creation of a comprehensive system to evaluate family situations, prevention services, admission criteria and a strategy to reduce the number of children living in institutional care; to ensure that the placement of children in residential care facilities should only be used as the last resort and, if used, that it is monitored and reviewed on a regular basis; in order to eliminate the placement of children in residential care facilities, family-type community services and foster care should be developed; to make necessary changes to the Act on Residential Care Upbringing, to establish compulsory registrations of childcare facilities, to penalise the operation of those facilities without a licence, and to establish unified standards for residential care facilities, including their regular reviews; to encourage and allow for contact between the child in institutional care and his or her parents, and to establish mechanisms for the reintegration of children in their families.**

### Key activities:

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- Creating a family support system and a network of field, ambulatory, respite and other services to allow, as far as possible, for providing the care of children in a family setting or an alternative family setting.
- Converting the existing residential care facilities into the providers of field, ambulatory, respite and other services on the basis of transformation plans prepared by individual facilities or their founders in cooperation with social and legal protection authorities, service providers and other relevant

entities. The facility transformation plans will also address the use and redirection of human and material resources and funds.

- Taking measures in the system of care of vulnerable children in order to define in legislation the age limit below which children cannot be placed in institutional care (3 years of age and subsequently 7 years of age).
- Specialising the care, reducing the capacities of residential care facilities, and setting a legislative limit on the period of ordered institutional care, including shortening the periods for regular reviews of the reason for such order.

### Responsibility for implementing the objective and the time horizon

Activity	Deadline	Framework responsibility
Creating a system of services	2012 – 2018	MoLSA, MH, MoEYS
Conversion of residential care facilities	2012 – 2018	MoLSA, MoEYS, MH
Enshrining an age limit	2014 – 2016	MoLSA, MJ
Specialisation of care, reduction in maximum capacities, reduction in the period of institutional care	2013 – 2018	MJ, MoLSA, MoEYS, MH

## Objective 11: Processes to protect and support the prosperity of children

### Background:

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Convention on the Rights of the Child, Articles 2, 3, 25

Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 25 (2)

Declaration of the Rights of the Child, Article 2

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Article 10 (3)

General Comment 13 of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child on the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC/C/GC/13), the right of the child to freedom from all forms of violence

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National Strategy of Preventing Violence against Children in the Czech Republic for 2008 – 2018

National Action Plan to Prevent Domestic Violence for 2011 – 2014

Crime Prevention Strategy for 2012 – 2015

General measures to enforce judgements of the European Court of Human Rights – preventing the removal of children from parental care for socio-economic reasons

UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, Recommendations 17, 41, 46

**Summary: States shall ensure that the child is protected in all processes concerning the difficult life circumstances of the child or the circumstances of his or her family. It is recommended to establish independent monitoring of the implementation of the Convention, including sensitive investigation of children's individual complaints; to ensure that the Public Defender of Rights has all the necessary financial, technical and human resources for effectively handling the complaints received from children; to prefer the abolition of all forms of violence against children, and to prohibit explicitly all forms of violence against children in national law.**

### Key activities:

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- Optimising the staffing and structure of activities of the authorities for social and legal protection of children and families, based on four processes: evaluation, planning, intervention (action) and revision (reassessment) so that each of those processes is conducted efficiently and leads to the improvement of children's situations. Changing the status of social and legal protection authorities into an authority that coordinates interdisciplinary cooperation and uses the network of services, expert sources and community sources in protecting children's rights.
- Preparing the procedures and mechanisms to protect rights in specific situations (migrants, children of foreigners, etc.).
- Establishing special approaches and system measures in the care of children who are exposed to an increased risk of socio-pathological phenomena.
- Establishing mechanisms to ensure that only those children are placed in alternative care for whom it is inappropriate or impossible to continue to live in their original families. The primary alternative type of care is alternative family care (foster care, adoption) while the other types of services shall only be used when absolutely necessary.
- Increasing the qualifications of judges in respect of the protection of children's rights, and developing cooperation among courts of law, social and legal protection authorities, and the network of services in safeguarding the protection of children's rights.
- Establishing a mechanism for the independent monitoring of the implementation of the Convention at the national level and a mechanism to report complaints, taking into account the specificities of children.

### Responsibility for implementing the objective and the time horizon

Activity	Deadline	Framework responsibility
Optimising the activities of social and legal protection authorities	2012 – 2016	MoLSA
Preparing the procedures and mechanisms to protect children's rights in specific situations	2012 – 2015	MoLSA, Government Delegate for Human Rights, MI
Establishing special approaches and system measures	2012 – 2014	MoLSA, MoEYS, MI
Establishing 'gate keeping' mechanisms	2012 – 2014	MoLSA, MoEYS, MH, MJ
Increasing the qualifications of judges in respect of the protection of children's rights	2013 – 2015	MJ, MoLSA
Establishing a mechanism of the independent monitoring of the implementation of the Convention	2016	Delegate for Human Rights, MoLSA

## Objective 12: Unification of childcare system

### Background:

Convention on the Rights of the Child, Article 3 (3), Article 4

UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, Recommendation 13

**Summary:** It is recommended to ensure the adoption of measures in order to create an effective mechanism or in order to strengthen substantially the existing mechanism of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs that is focused on the coordination of policies of the rights of the child at all levels of all relevant authorities and institutions; to ensure the necessary human, technical and financial resources for implementing a comprehensive, coherent and consistent policy of the rights of the child at the national, regional as well as local levels.

### Key activities:

- Making the legislative changes that would lead to the unification of the system of protection of children's rights and care of vulnerable children, and strengthening the coordination role of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs.
- Legislatively defining the role of municipalities and regions in the protection of children's rights (the amendments to the Act on Municipalities, the Act on the Capital of Prague, and the Act on Regions, including the related modifications in funding the system in relation to the adoption of the Act on the Support to Families, on Alternative Family Care, and on the System to Protect Children's Rights).
- Strengthening the vertical methodical and management structure of social and legal protection authorities.
- Strengthening cooperation mechanisms between the system that lies within the competence of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, the judiciary and the police.

### Responsibility for implementing the objective and the time horizon

Activity	Deadline	Framework responsibility
Legislative changes leading to the unification of the system	2012 – 2014	MoLSA, MH, MoEYS, MF
Legislative definition of the role of municipalities and regions	2013 – 2014	MoLSA, MI
Strengthening the vertical structure of social and legal protection authorities	2013 – 2014	MoLSA
Strengthening cooperation mechanisms	2012 – 2015	MoLSA, MJ, MI

### **Objective 13: Setting the legislative conditions to safeguard positive benefits and to ensure that the needs of children and young people are met**

#### **Background:**

Convention on the Rights of the Child, Article 3 (1, 3), Article 4

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Article 2 (1)

Declaration of the Rights of the Child, Article 2

UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, Recommendations 11, 33.

**Summary: The interest of the child shall be a primary consideration in all actions concerning children, including legislative actions. The State shall take the required legislative, administrative and other measures to exercise the rights recognised by the Convention. It is recommended to make a comprehensive review of all legislation and to adopt any measures required to ensure that the Convention is fully applied in the State's legal system; to step up the State's efforts to ensure the reasonable integration and consistent application of the principle of the child's best interest in legislative, administrative and judicial proceedings, as well as in all policies, programmes and projects concerning and having impacts on children. Likewise, the legal justifications of all judicial and administrative decisions must also be based on this principle.**

#### **Key activities:**

- Creating the legal environment where a system focused on the efficient resolution of children's needs can work.
- Conducting an analysis of the Czech Republic's legal system and its compliance with the Convention.
- Adopting a comprehensive legislation to include the settings of the main principles of the system's operation, family support mechanisms, alternative family care system, public administration activities in protecting children's rights, and the rules of activities for the providers of services to children and families (the "Act on the Support to Families, on Alternative Family Care, and on the System to Protect Children's Rights" and amendments to other related Acts).
- Implementing the new legislation on the basis of the prepared implementation scheme (methodology, working procedures, educational system, etc.)

#### **Responsibility for implementing the objective and the time horizon**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Framework responsibility</b>
Creating the legal environment	Permanently	All departments
Conducting an analysis of the legal system	2012	MoLSA, MJ, MF, MI, MoEYS
Creating and adopting a comprehensive legislation	2012 – 2014	MoLSA
Implementing the new legislation	2014 – 2018	All departments

## Objective 14: Transparent funding of the system

### Background:

Convention on the Rights of the Child, Articles 3, 4, 6, Article 27 (3, 4)

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Article 2

European Social Charter, Article 16

Recommendation of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child from the general discussion "Resources for the Rights of the Child – Responsibility of States" held on 21 September 2007

General Comment 5 (CRC/GC/2003/5, paragraphs 56 to 59) on General Measures of implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child

UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, Recommendations 19, 27.

**Summary:** It is recommended to consider an amendment to the Act on the State Budget in order to ensure easy identification and transparent presentation of state budget allocations to exercising any rights to the maximum possible extent of all resources available for exercising the economic, social and cultural rights of the child; to define clearly, on an annual basis, its priorities regarding the problems of children's rights, and to determine an allocation from the budget in respect of the protection of children's rights at both national and local levels; to evaluate the impact of expenditure on children and of its efficient use; to boost the State's cooperation with civil society, and to create a transparent system allowing for and taking into account the dialogue with civil society and the allocation of grants and subsidies to civil society organisations which facilitate the implementation of the Convention and participate in creating the policies concerning the rights of the child.

### Key activities:

- Setting the priorities for a relevant year in the agenda of the rights of the child (by the government, on the basis of a discussion held with civil society) and reflecting the priority in the state budget for a relevant year.
- In the context of the unification of material scope, the following changes should be made to the structure of funding the activities in the protection of children's rights and the care of vulnerable children: increasing the share of funds spent on prevention, on the support to services for families, on working with families, and on alternative family care; simplifying the financial relationship structure, decentralising some of the funds and increasing the degree to which regions and municipalities are interested in expenditure.
- Establishing a system to monitor expenditure from the state budget and other public budgets earmarked for the exercise of children's rights, and evaluating the efficiency of such expenditure.
- Incorporating the protection of children's rights and the care of vulnerable children into the Czech Republic's priorities in the preparation of the new programming period of the European Union and the European Economic Area; as part of those programmes, grant programmes for non-governmental organisations in respect of projects that facilitate the implementation of the Convention should be established.

### Responsibility for implementing the objective and the time horizon

Activity	Deadline	Responsibility
Setting the priorities for the relevant year	2013 – 2018	MoLSA
Changing the funding structure	2012 – 2015	MF, MoLSA, MoEYS, MH

Establishing a system to monitor expenditure and to evaluate efficiency	2014 – 2016	MoLSA
Incorporating the protection of children's rights into the new EU and EEA programming period	2012 – 2014	MoLSA, MF, MRD

## Objective 15: Data collection and a single information system

### Background:

Convention on the Rights of the Child, Article 3 (3), Articles 4, 44

UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, Recommendations 21, 41, 52, 68

**Summary:** It is recommended to strengthen and centralise the mechanism of integration and analysis of the systematic classification of data on all children below the age of 18 for all areas covered by the Convention, with special emphasis laid on vulnerable children and families; to use those indicators and data effectively in creating and evaluating legislation, policies and programmes of implementation, the earmarking of funds, and the monitoring of the Convention; to define a clear method of identifying the Roma minority as part of the data collection in order to facilitate the transparency and effectiveness of the creation of policies; to ensure, in this context, that such identification will be supplemented with adequate supportive and protective mechanisms in order to prevent the discriminatory misuse of such data; to consolidate the national system of data collection, the data analyses and dissemination, and the areas of research concerning the violence against children; to create mechanisms for the collection of comprehensive data on children with disabilities and to provide human, technical and financial resources required for using that data in respect of steering the policy of the participating State and managing the inclusive education programmes; to create and put in place a standardised system of collecting data on children with the aim of providing for efficient mutual comparisons, analysis and application of that data by the relevant departments in order to address the issue of vulnerable children.

### Key activities:

- Preparing the indicators and methodologies for the collection, analysis, sharing, evaluation and dissemination of data, sorted by the categories of the rights of the child and groups of children, in cooperation with specialised centres and civil society, while establishing the mechanisms that prevent misuse of the data.
- Building an information system for the protection of children's rights, allowing for information sharing among social and legal protection authorities, schools and school facilities, healthcare facilities, the Police of the Czech Republic, municipal police departments, Probation and Mediation Service, State Prosecutor's Office and other relevant entities, and the across-the-board deployment of that system as part of the Single Information System of Labour and Social Affairs. The system will use experience, principles and mechanisms acquired in the pilot tests of the Early Intervention System, including the integration of the previously implemented information environment in 38 towns of the Czech Republic.
- Using the data to create strategies, legislation and other measures.

### Responsibility for implementing the objective and the time horizon

Activity	Deadline	Responsibility
Preparing the indicators for data collection	2012 – 2013	MoLSA, OPDP, CSO, MI, MoEYS, MH, MJ
Building a single information system for the protection of children's rights	2012 – 2015	MoLSA, MI, MH, MoEYS, MJ, OPDP
Using the data to create strategies, legislation and other measures	Permanently	All departments

## Objective 16: Quality of work, education and standards

### Background:

Convention on the Rights of the Child, Article 3 (3), Article 18 (2), Article 21

European Convention on the Adoption of Children, Article 19

General measures to enforce judgements of the European Court of Human Rights – preventing the removal of children from parental care for socio-economic reasons

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UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, Recommendations 25, 46.

**Summary: The State shall ensure that the institutions, services and facilities responsible for the care and protection of children shall conform to the standards established by competent authorities, particularly in the areas of safety, health protection, and in the number and suitability of their staff. It is recommended to create systematic ongoing educational programmes on human rights, including children's rights, for all experts working for and with children; to improve the equipment of childcare facilities and to allocate the necessary funds for the efficient operation and monitoring of those facilities; to take measures to increase the number of social workers and to set the criteria for the selection and training of the childcare staff.**

### Key activities:

- Creating and implementing systematic educational programmes in respect of children's rights for all experts working with children.
- Standardising the activities of social and legal protection authorities and of all service providers and facilities for families and children (field, ambulatory as well as residential services); establishing the monitoring mechanisms and inspections to ensure that quality is observed.
- Developing a supervision system.

### Responsibility for implementing the objective and the time horizon

Activity	Deadline	Responsibility
Creating and implementing systematic educational programmes	2012 – 2015	MoLSA, MoEYS, MH, MJ
Standardising the activities of ASLPC and of service providers and facilities	2012 – 2014	MoLSA, MoEYS, MH, MI
Developing a supervision system	2012 – 2015	MoLSA, MoEYS, MH

## IV. Achievement, monitoring and evaluation of the National Strategy objectives

### Action plans for the fulfilment of the National Strategy to Protect Children's Rights

#### 1. Structure of the action plans

The objectives and key activities of the National Strategy to Protect Children's Rights will be achieved, monitored and evaluated on the basis of action plans, which define:

- a) activities, fulfilment indicators, time schedules
- b) responsibility for fulfilment
- c) human and technical resources to achieve them
- d) financial costs of the performance of individual activities, funding resources and the impact on public budgets
- e) legislative changes required to achieve the objectives
- f) the monitoring mechanism to evaluate the performance progress, and the identification of fulfilment deficiencies, if any
- g) method of involvement of civil society and children in the performance of the activities

#### 2. Timeframe for action plans

##### Action Plan for 2012 – 2015

Deadline for presentation to the government: March 2012

Responsibility: MoLSA, MH, MoEYS, MF, MI, Government Delegate for Human Rights

##### Action Plan for 2016 – 2018

Deadline for presentation to the government: by the end of 2015

Responsibility: MoLSA and other relevant departments

#### 3. Coordination and monitoring of the fulfilment of the National Strategy and action plans

For the coordination of the fulfilment of the National Strategy and action plans, an interdepartmental coordinating group will be established by no later than 31 March 2012 to continue working on the activities by the existing Interdepartmental Coordinating Group to Transform and Unify the System of Care of Vulnerable Children.

The Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, as the authority responsible for implementing the Convention on the Rights of the Child, will annually submit a report to the government as to the fulfilment of the National Strategy to Protect Children's Rights and of the follow-up action plans. For the purposes of preparing the fulfilment report, the relevant departments provide the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs with sub-reports on the activities performed. The first report will be submitted by no later than 31 March 2013.

## V. Supporting documents

### 1. International treaties, protocols and conventions

European Social Charter, No. 14/2000 of Collection of International Treaties.

European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, 1950. Communication by the FMFA No. 209/1992 Coll.

European Convention on the Adoption of Children (1967), No. 132/2000 of Collection of International Treaties.

European Convention on the Exercise of Children's Rights (1996), No. 54/2001 of Collection of International Treaties.

European Convention for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, 1987. Communication by the MFA No. 9/1996 Coll.

European Code of Social Security, No. 90/2001 of Collection of International Treaties.

Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1966. Decree No. 120/1976 Coll.  
<http://www.osn.cz/dokumenty-osn/soubory/mezinar.pakt-obc.a.polit.prava.pdf>

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 1966. Decree No. 120/1976 Coll.  
<http://www.osn.cz/dokumenty-osn/soubory/mezinarodni-pakt-o-hospodarskych-socialnich-a-kulturnich-pravech.pdf>

International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, No. 95/1974 Coll.

Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, 2000

Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, No. 96/1998 Coll.

Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction, 1980. No. 34/1998 Coll.

Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption, 1993. No. 43/2000 of Collection of International Treaties.

Convention on Jurisdiction, Applicable Law, Recognition, Enforcement and Co-operation in Respect of Parental Responsibility and Measures for the Protection of Children (1996), No. 141/2001 of Collection of International Treaties.

Convention on the Rights of the Child, Communication by FMFA No. 104/1991 Coll.

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Communication No. 10/2010 of Collection of International Treaties

Convention on Contact concerning Children, No. 91/2005 of Collection of International Treaties.

Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, 1984. Communication by MFA No. 143/1988 Coll.  
<http://www.osn.cz/dokumenty-osn/soubory/umlva-proti-muceni.pdf>

UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948.  
<http://www.osn.cz/dokumenty-osn/soubory/vseobecna-deklarace-lidskych-prav.pdf>

### 2. International documents

Declaration and action plan *A World Fit for Children*. Resolution S-27/2 adopted by the UN General Assembly on 10 May 2002 (amended in 2007).

[http://www.unicef.org/specialsession/docs\\_new/documents/A-RES-S27-2E.pdf](http://www.unicef.org/specialsession/docs_new/documents/A-RES-S27-2E.pdf).

<http://www.unicef.org/worldfitforchildren/files/A-RES-61-272.pdf>

Declaration of the Rights of the Child. A UN General Assembly Resolution of 20 November 1959

EU Guidelines for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of the Child. Council of the European Union, 3 December 2007. <http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/cs/07/st16/st16031.cs07.pdf>

Quality4Children. Standards for out-of-home child care in Europe. <http://www.quality4children.info/>

Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children (UN General Assembly Resolution 64/142 of 20 November 2009)

The Stockholm Declaration of the Second International Conference on Children and Residential Care, 12-15 May 2003. <http://www.cyc-net.org/cyc-online/cycol-0903-stockholm.html>

Building a Europe for and with Children – Towards a Strategy for 2012 – 2015

General Comment 7 of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC/C/GC/7), implementing child rights in early childhood

General Comment 9 of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child on the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC/C/GC/9), the rights of children with disabilities.

[http://www.unhcr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/\(Symbol\)/CRC.C.GC.9.En?OpenDocument](http://www.unhcr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/(Symbol)/CRC.C.GC.9.En?OpenDocument)

General Comment 12 of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child on the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC/C/GC/12), the right of the child to be heard.

General Comment 13 of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child on the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC/C/GC/13), the right of the child to freedom from all forms of violence.

### 3. Related national strategic documents

The Czech Republic's Housing Strategy until 2020

National Action Plan for Inclusive Education (2010)

National Action Plan to Prevent Child Injuries for 2007 – 2017

National Action Plan to Prevent Domestic Violence for 2011 – 2014

National Plan to Support Families

National Reform Programme of the Czech Republic 2011

National Strategy of Preventing Violence against Children in the Czech Republic for 2008-2018

General measures to enforce judgements of the European Court of Human Rights – preventing the removal of children from parental care for socio-economic reasons

Strategy to Combat Social Exclusion for 2012 – 2015

Crime Prevention Strategy for 2012 - 2015

#### 4. Opinions, analyses, studies, research papers

Analysis of the legislation, management and funding of the system of care of vulnerable children, Research Institute for Labour and Social Affairs, p.s.i., 2010

Analysis of the current situation in the field activities conducted by authorities for social and legal protection of children, and setting the optimum conditions for the performance of the social and legal protection of children in proportion to the number of clients, Research Institute for Labour and Social Affairs, p.s.i., 2009

Evaluation of the system of care of vulnerable children, Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic, 2007

[http://aplikace.mvcr.cz/archiv2008/dokument/2007/prevence/mladez1016/hodnoceni\\_systemu3.pdf](http://aplikace.mvcr.cz/archiv2008/dokument/2007/prevence/mladez1016/hodnoceni_systemu3.pdf)

Miscellany of opinions by the Public Defender of Rights. Family and Child, 2007

Development of children in alternative family care and institutional care in the context of current social developments, 2010

Public authorities' interventions in parental rights and their impact on family life, Counselling Centre for Citizenship, Civil and Human Rights, Prague 2006

## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

CR	Czech Republic
CSO	Czech Statistical Office
CSI	Czech School Inspectorate
EEA	European Economic Area
EP	European Parliament
EC	European Community
EU	European Union
FMFA	Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MF	Ministry of Finance
MRD	Ministry for Regional Development
MoLSA	Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs
MJ	Ministry of Justice
MoEYS	Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports
MI	Ministry of the Interior
MH	Ministry of Health
MFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
UN	United Nations
ASLPC	Authority for Social and Legal Protection of Children
OPDP	Office for Personal Data Protection
PDR	Public Defender of Rights
p.s.i.	Public scientific institution