

CHILD AND YOUTH CARE IN CROATIA

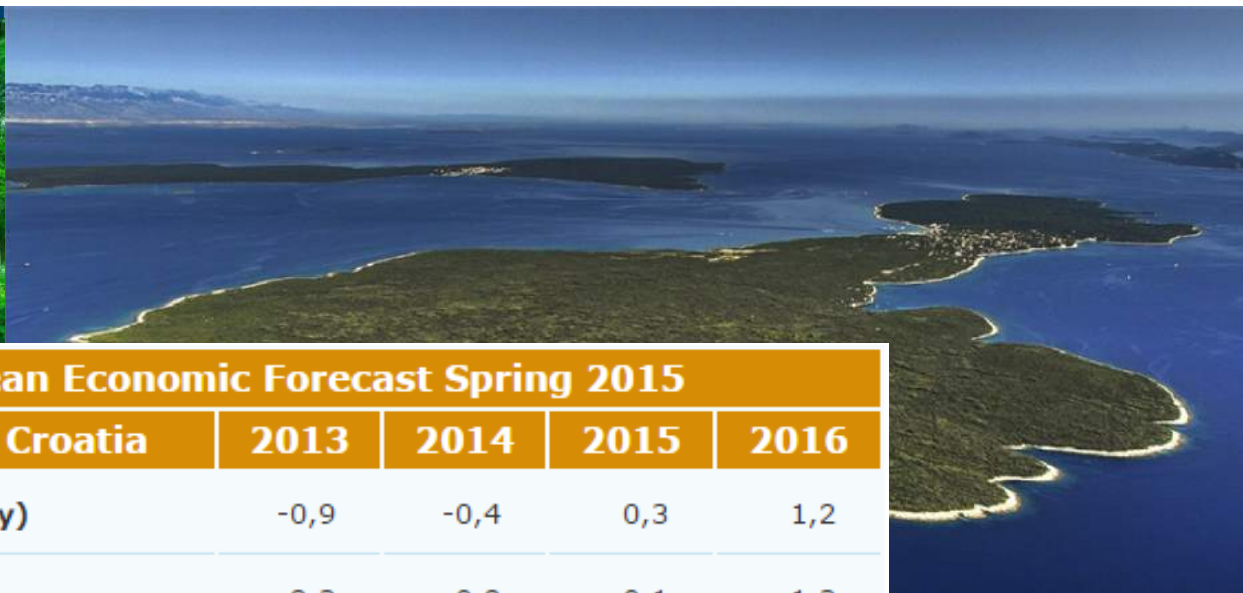


Dr.sc. Lucija Vejmelka, assistant professor



University of Zagreb, Faculty of Law, Department of Social work

lvejmelka@pravo.hr, lucijav@gmail.com



European Economic Forecast Spring 2015				
Forecasts for Croatia	2013	2014	2015	2016
GDP growth (% , yoy)	-0,9	-0,4	0,3	1,2
Inflation (% , yoy)	2,3	0,2	0,1	1,3
Unemployment (%)	17,3	17,3	17,0	16,6
Public budget balance (% of GDP)	-5,4	-5,7	-5,6	-5,7
Gross public debt (% of GDP)	80,6	85,0	90,5	93,9
Current account balance (% of GDP)	0,1	0,6	2,0	3,0

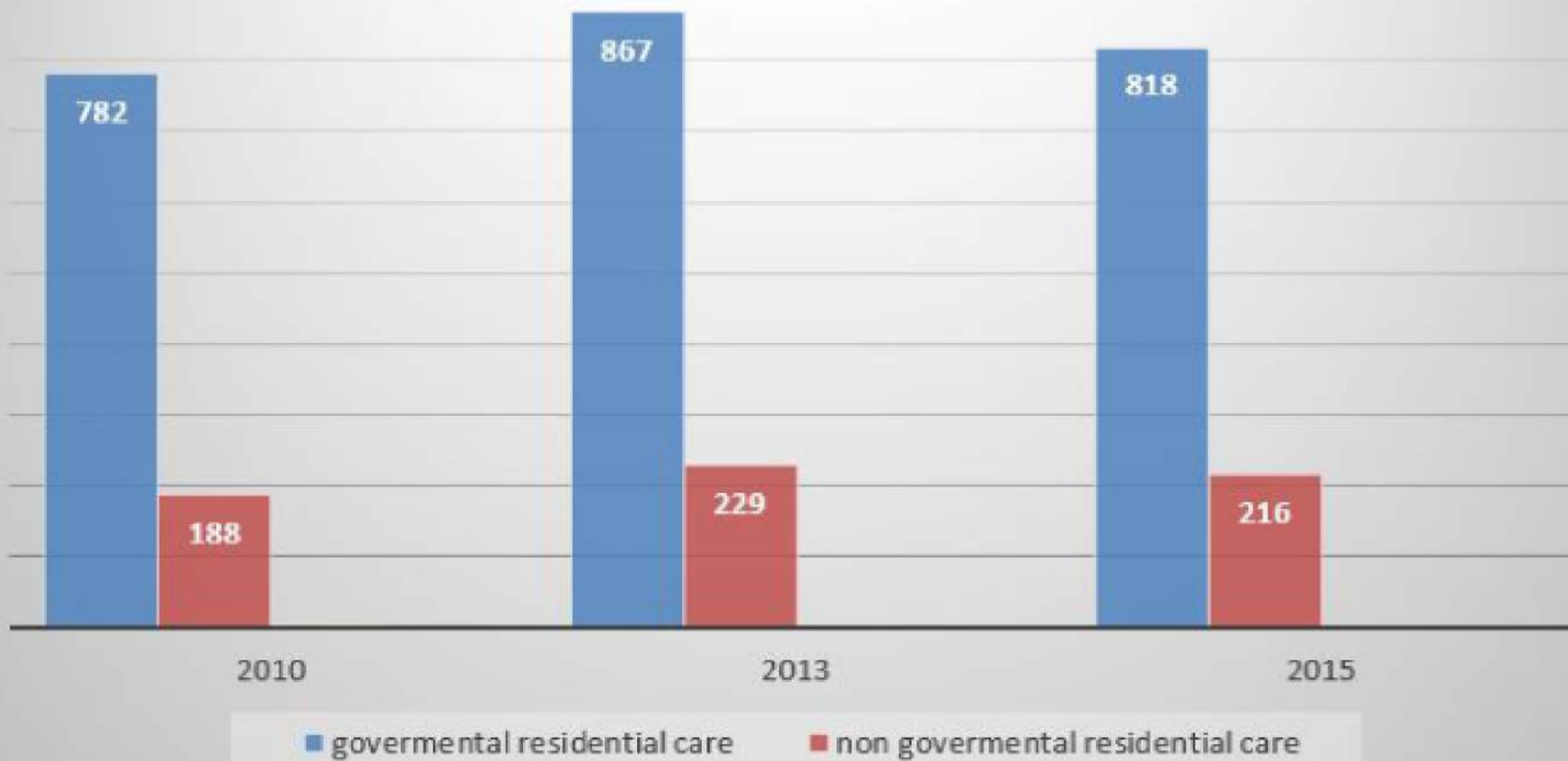


CHILD CARE IN CROATIA



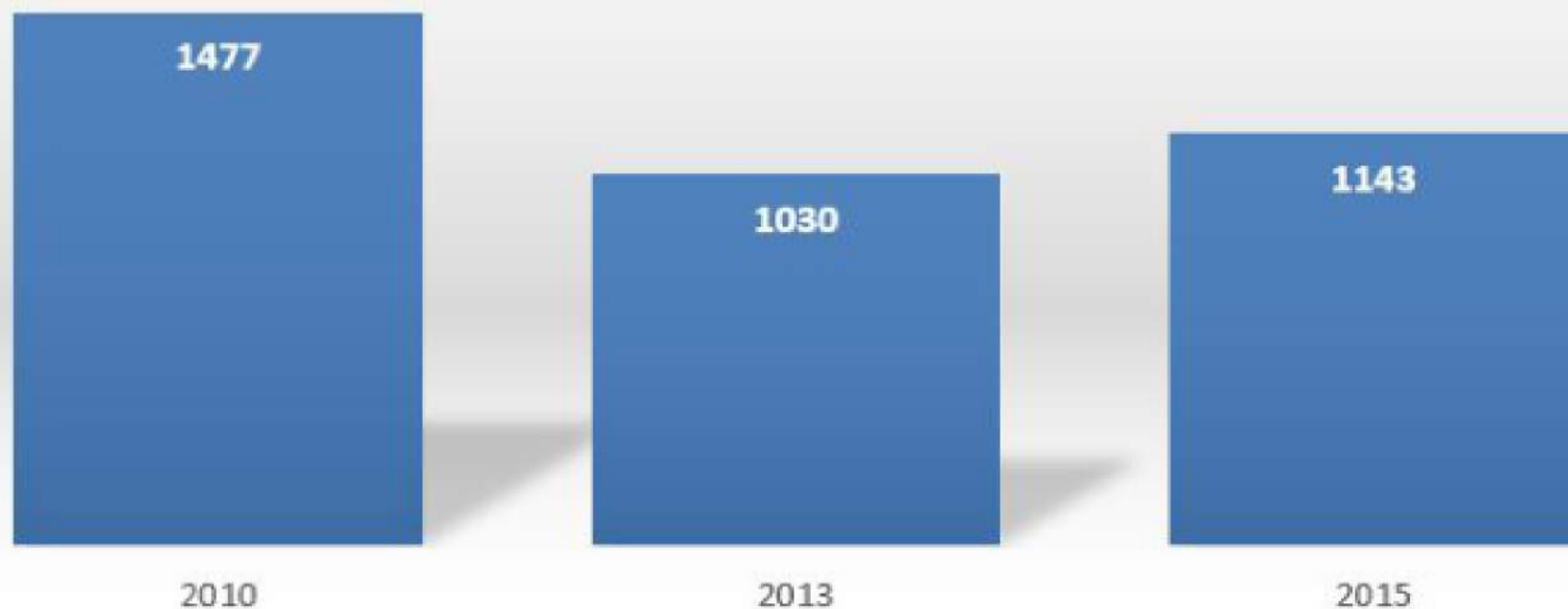
- **14 governmental institutions for children without parental care:**
 - 8 residential children homes for kids without parental care
 - 6 centers for providing services in the community
- **11 governmental institutions for children with behavioural problems**
- **3 non governmental children homes for children without adequate parental care**
- **159 private family homes:** (49 in 2014: 67 children in care)
- **81 organized housing provided by residential institution**
- **Foster care**

RESIDENTIAL INSTITUTIONS FOR CHILDREN WITHOUT ADEQUATE PARENTAL CARE

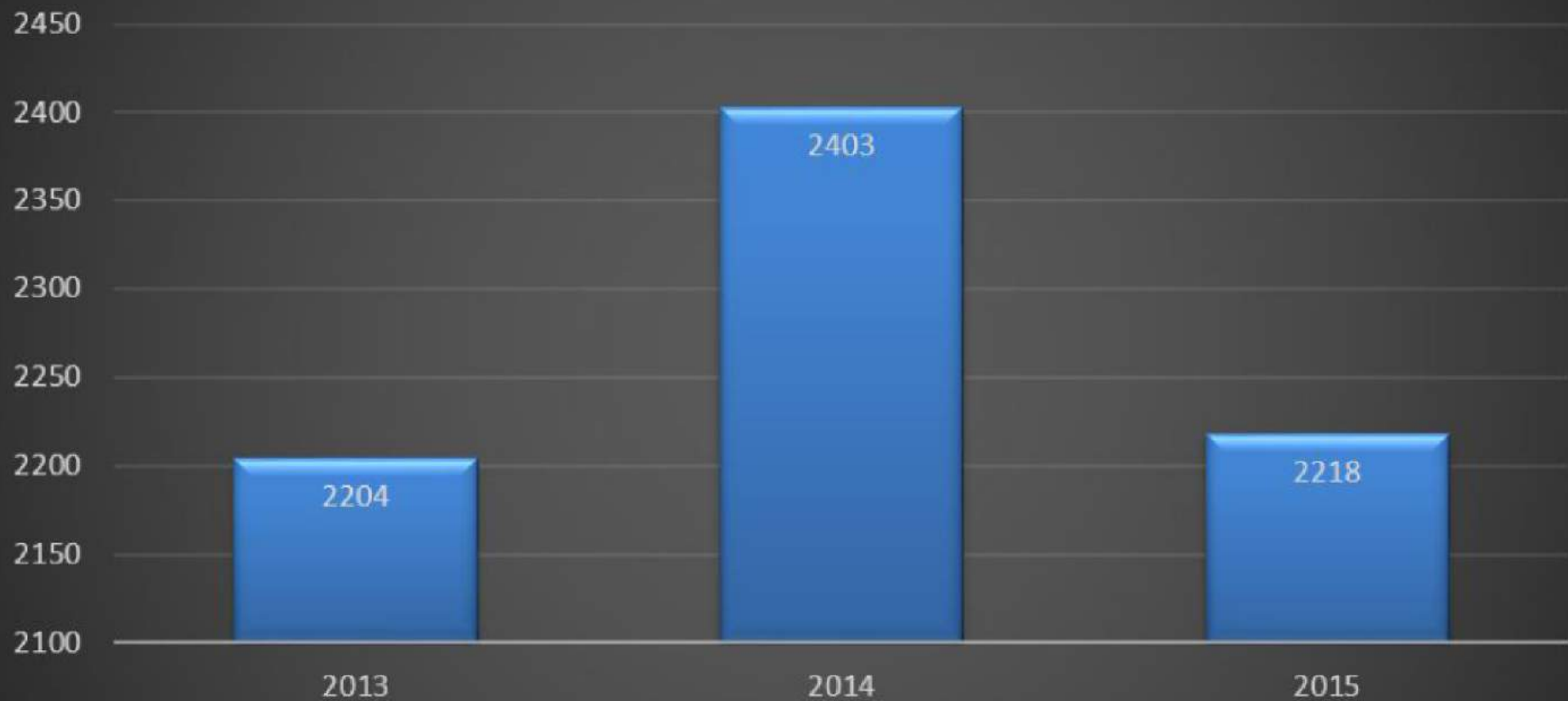


institutions for children with behavioural problems

■ institutions for children with behavioural problems



NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN FOSTER FAMILIES



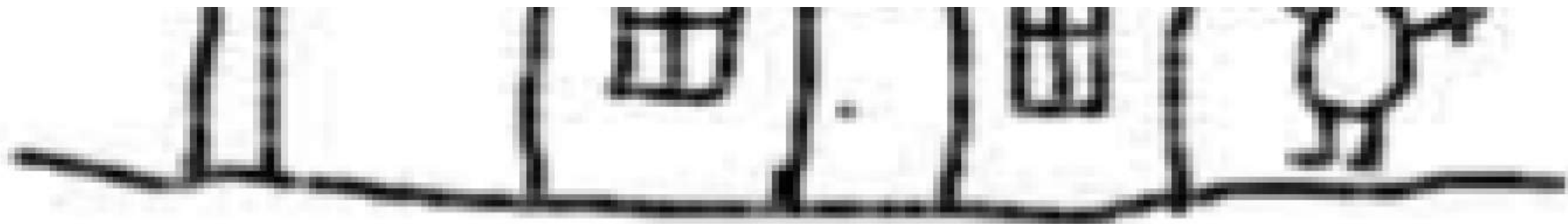
NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN FOSTER FAMILIES



CROATIA- APROXIMATE RATIO IN POPULATION OF CHILDREN 0-19

ON **10 000** CHILDREN **50** ARE IN CARE

ON **10 000** CHILDREN **120** ARE INSTITUTIONALIZED (RESIDENTIAL CHILD CARE + CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES)



EXPERTS IN CHILD CARE

Children homes for children without adequate parental care:

- 22 social workers
- 24 social pedagogues
- 21 psychologist

1 professional : 15 children

Children homes for children with behavioral problems:

- 5 social workers
- 10 social pedagogues
- 9 psychologist

1 professional : 48 children

1 expert care worker/educator: 24 children



SPECIFICS OF CHILD AND YOUTH CARE IN CROATIA

- Placement in the institution or the foster family is limited by the free placement capacity not the best matching for the child
- We still don't have integrated services- child within social care system has too many contacts with too many experts
- Administration limits for adoption

AFTER THE PLACEMENT THERE IS

NO WORK

WITH PRIMARY FAMILY

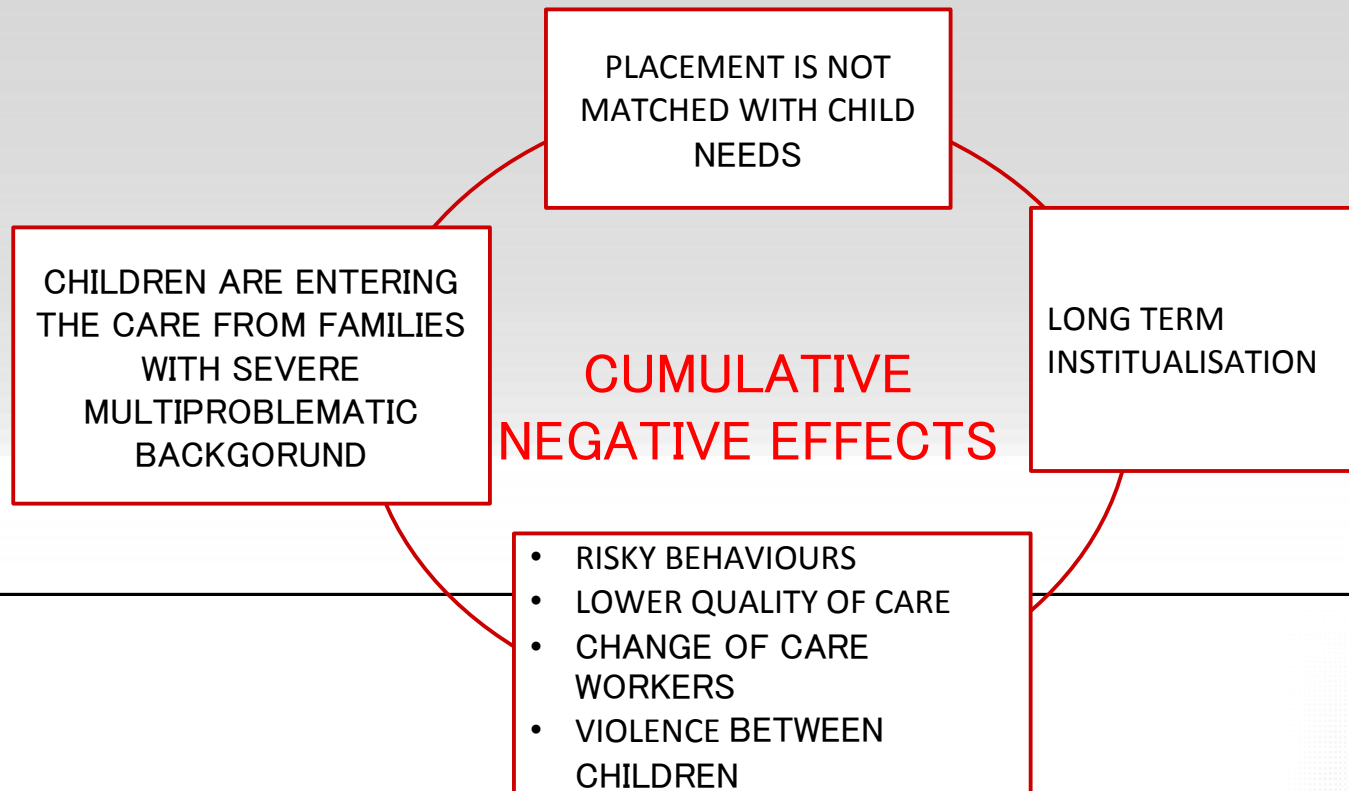


REINTEGRATION IS ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE

RESIDENTIAL CHILD CARE IN CROATIA



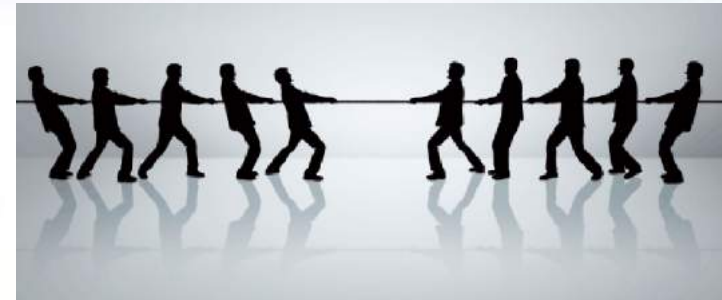
RESIDENTIAL CHILD CARE - EFFECTS





FOSTER CARE IN CROATIA

- Long tradition in some regions
- Regional differences- touristic area
- No urban foster care
- No professional foster care
- Education is poor
- Support while placement is poor
- Half day programs in residential care settings



RESEARCH RESULTS- LAST 10 YEARS: residential VS foster VS family placement



Children in **residential care** perceive:

- less social support
- more every day stress
- poorer self image
- more mental problems
- more behavioral problems
- lower academic achievement
- culture of violence among kids
- specific groups in higher risk



DEINSTITUTIONALIZATION

- Is still in process
- 2006 was first document on deinstitutionalization
- Resistance of care workers
- 6 of our institutions transform in Center for providing services in community

It was mainly just a formal change

**TRANSFORMATION OF INSTITUTIONS INTO THE SAME
INSTITUTIONS**

**Children on placement, in the same buildings, with the same ratio of
the experts on each child**

POTENTIALS



- Long tradition as a potential
- Evidence based practice vs bottom up approach
- Indicators of child wellbeing
- Council for child- funded by Croatian government - participation of experts
- Potential partnership of institutions, NGO-s and University
- Development of bottom up approach
- International cooperation





THANK YOU FOR YOUR
FEEDBACK!

lucijav@gmail.com