

FALEFOS – Projekt

Family Learning Foster Care

With the project FaLeFos we want to improve and strengthen the understanding and the cooperation between biological parents, foster parents and social workers to the best interests of the child. FaLeFos puts the efforts and activities of the child in the foster home in the center. So since November 2013 to November 2015 the project team deals for example with the following questions:

- How can the conditions be improved for raising children in surrogate families?
- What is the best possible way to support social workers, foster parents and biological parents?
- How can foster parents learn to better understand their foster children's biological parents?
- How can biological parents, for the sake of their children, cooperate with foster parents?
- How can social workers and foster parents accompany and strengthen biological parents in their grieving process?

FaLeFos (family learning foster care) means family learning in foster families and carries out the following main activities during the two-year project phase: A needs analysis report is created on the basis of interviews with target groups, results from focus groups, and research in the participating countries. The FaLeFos - project team is convinced that developments are possible only through the recognition and understanding of the diverse needs of each target group and family learning – also under difficult conditions and circumstances - can take place in foster families. The needs analysis provides the basis on which a workshop curriculum and associated learning materials are developed for the three target groups (biological parents, foster parents and social workers). Hereupon two-to three-day workshops for each target group are carried out in each of the seven European partner countries. Finally these experiences and results should be summarized in user-friendly manuals for the target groups.

In the first year of the project, the intensive work programme starts with the needs analysis. Under the technical and scientific guidance of the University of Lodz interviews with representatives of all target groups were conducted in each partner country, in order to

analyse the needs for cooperation between foster parents, birth parents and social workers to the best interests of the child.

Based on the interview results focus groups were then held in each country this spring, to investigate the topic of fostering from different perspectives with experts and stakeholders. National reports, including national literature and research results then formed the basis for a holistic view of the different situations in the participating countries. The first national reports will be available by February 2015.

The next project phase in this educational program will be dedicated to the elaboration and development of various workshops for the target groups of foster parents, birth parents and social workers. This work package is professionally managed by the University of Siegen and supported by the following country teams:

Austria and Switzerland develop the thematic focus of the workshops for birth parents, Croatia and Italy for social workers and Poland and Romania for foster parents. In March 2015, the developed workshops will be performed and evaluated in all partner countries with participants from all target groups.

Family learning in foster homes! - the FaLeFos team hopes that its program can offer valuable inputs in this context.

Are you interested to learn more about the program? Contact the FaLeFos team!

The project Website www.falefos.eu is available in all partner languages.

Find us on Facebook "Facebook Falefos". Or contact the contact person in Switzerland:

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