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RĪGAS DOMES
LABKLĀJĪBAS
DEPARTAMENTS



SOS BĒRNU
CIEMATI
LATVIJA

OAK
FOUNDATION

FAMILY SUPPORT & STRENGTHENING PROGRAM OF SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES IN LATVIA

FAMILY COMPETENCE AND RESOURCE CENTRE IN RIGA

RIGA, 2017





KEY FACTS ABOUT CHILDREN IN LATVIA

| | |
|---|--|
| TOTAL population in country | 1,9 million |
| <i>Children living in the country</i> | 15% of all population |
| <i>Number of children, officially declared as <u>living under the poverty line</u></i> | 23 % of all children |
| <i>Number of children <u>without</u> parental care as per June 2015</i> | 4 831 in guardianship (64%); 1 224 in foster families (16%); 1 551 in institutional care (20%). |
| <i>Number of children, whose parents have been deprived of their parental rights, yearly</i> | 2013 – 2 189 2014 – 2 032 2015 – 1 605 |



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SOS LATVIA MAIN ACTIVITIES



> 140 children and youth

**Family based care in
SOS Children's Villages**



> 450 children

**Support to biological families via
SOS Family Support centres**



**Child right and advocacy issues,
cooperation with municipalities,
NGOs**



SOS CHILDREN'S
VILLAGES
LATVIA

WHERE WE ARE IN LATVIA

**140 children and youngsters
in 26 SOS Families and
1 youth facility**

**> 450 children in 3 Family
Support Centres**



National
Office



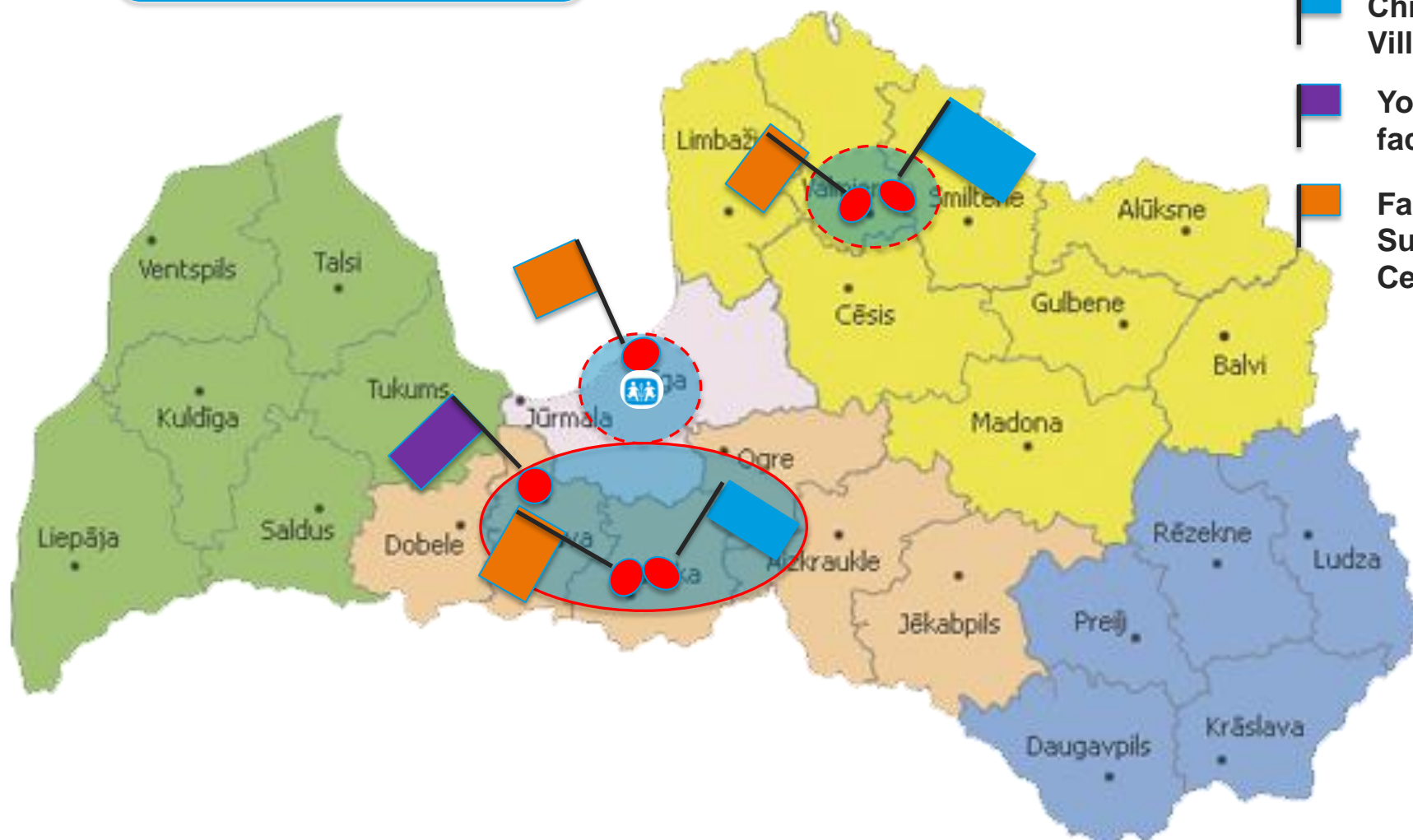
Children's
Village



Youth
facility



Family
Support
Centres





Municipal support for families with children

The «bottleneck» of existing prevention and social support system for families and children at risk in municipalities:



- Limited financial and human resources from municipalities to offer services for families – thus acting mainly as distributor of material support
- Just formal support system for families
- Unsufficient interinstitutional cooperation
- Social services is autonomous function of municipalities without additional financial support from state and without requirements for minimum support services



RIGA 2013

The rule is: SOS 50% - Riga City Council 50% financing
SOS attracts OAK Foundation

Interests of Riga Municipality:

Delegating full social case management function to SOS
Innovations, possibility to develop new services
Service of high quality

“The social order” from OAK Foundation:

Innovations in the area of social work
Preventive work
Systemic changes
Scale of country

Interests of SOS:

Quality support to children and families
Systemic changes
Development of state and municipality services for families with children

From 2017

full social case management to SOS –
100 families per month
100% Riga financing

FINANCIAL PARTNERSHIP in PROJECTS

2014-2016 & 2017-2019

Riga City Council, Welfare Department - 48% funding
OAK Foundation - 29% funding
SOS - 23% funding



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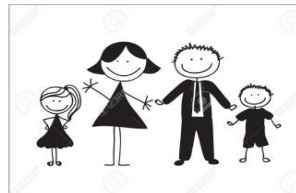
Support for young mothers / families



The complex prevention programm in kindergartens



Social work with families and children

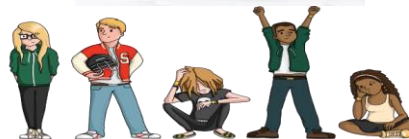


Family assistant service

Grieving programm



Preventive social work with teenagers in conflict with law



The development of concept of specialised foster families, D-I context



Long term family type care in SOS CV

18

Direct client

Riga

Riga & Latvia

Riga

Riga

Latvia

Riga

Latvia

Latvia

Dissemination
of practice to
professionals in
Latvia

Cooperation with
other NGO's

Advocacy work
with
municipalities and
ministries

The team in SOS CRC:
13 SOS employees
>50 contractors
+support functions by SOS



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PREVENTIVE PROGRAMME Riga Maternity Hospital

Riga Maternity Hospital (RMH) – risk assesment of new mother

8-9 weeks
in family home



**SOCIAL
WORKER of
RMH**



Support person –
FEP mother
(First Emotional Help):

mothers:

First child
Health problems for child
Twins
Adolescent mother

emotional support
skills and knowledges
mother's support system



Early risk identification and prevention of problem situations

COLLABORATION

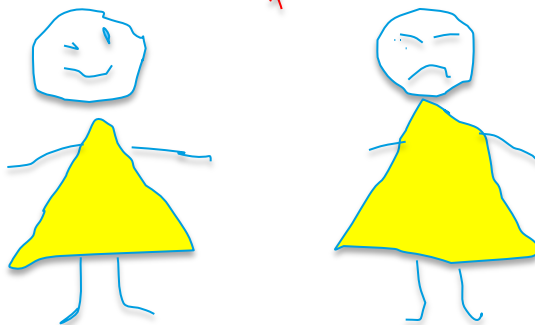
VS

ANGRINESS, BLAMING EACH
OTHER PARENTS –
KINDERGARTEN - SOCIETY

PARENTS IN HOME
OBSERVE AND EXPERIENCE

LOOKS FOR
SOLUTION
TOGETHER!

TEACHERS AND NANNIES
OBSERVE AND EXPERIENCE





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LATVIJA

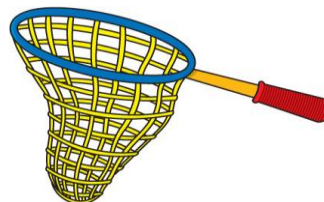
PREVENTIVE PROGRAMME IN PRESCHOOL

Acknowledgement:



KINDERGARTEN: SAFE AND FRIENDLY FOR CHILDREN

Development of «OUR»
Safety Protocol



DŽIMBA safety programme:
«For safe childhood»

Electronic methodology :
«Observe and talk»

Education
programme:
«Laboratory
For Teachers»



1st step

2nd step

3rd step

4th step



EARLY PREVENTION METHODOLOGY in ELECTRONIC FORMAT

**Child
observation
form for
teachers**

**Research based methodology for pedagogues of kindergarten
to start discussion with parents and/or colleagues,
not to hide but solve cases.**

**To create good practice for future preventive work at school –
to trust, talk and solve!**

Other issues for violence risk recognition

| 1. Behaviour problems | Mean |
|---|------|
| 1.6. Child teases, provokes other children | .50 |
| 1.5. Child fighting, biting, punching, etc.. offends other children | .52 |
| 1.4. Child loses self-control | .58 |
| 1.2. Child does not obey the rules | .94 |
| 1.9. Child threatens others | .24 |
| 1.12. Child irritates others | .40 |
| 1.1. Child is too active and fidgety | 1.20 |
| 1.3. Child is trying to draw lots of attention towards himself/herself | .94 |
| 2.9. Child is angry | .32 |
| 1.7. Child is bullied by peers | .37 |
| 1.8. Child is swearing with coarse words | .10 |
| 4.2. Child complains about other children | .66 |
| 1.11. Child is not sharing with others | .38 |
| 2.4. Child gets offended easily | .59 |

| 2. Interpersonal and communication difficulties | Mean |
|--|------|
| 4.4. It is difficult for child to talk to other children | .17 |
| 4.5. Child is not playing with peers | .17 |
| 4.7. Child never asks for help from the other children | .17 |
| 4.8. Child spends a lot of time alone | .27 |
| 4.6. Child does not ask adults for help in problem situations | .18 |
| 4.1. Child is silent and un-conversable | .35 |
| 4.3. Child has difficulties to talk with adults | .21 |
| 2.7. Child is reserved and «invisible» | .23 |
| 2.8. Nothing makes child feel happy | .08 |
| 4.11. Child avoids physical contact | .08 |
| 4.10. Child does not make eye-contact | .14 |

B part - SOCIAL WORK WITH FAMILIES

By the law: social work can be done only by the municipality, the project showed courage and for the first time in Latvian this function of municipality was delegated to NGO:

27.05.2014. *Riga City Council regulation Nr. 110 „About delegation of social work with families and children in project «Riga family support program»*

Including permission to use social work database of municipalities SOPA:

5.11.2014. – *agreement nr. TC-14-264-lī/ 2-10/13A between SOS Latvia and Riga Municipality for use of SOPA database*

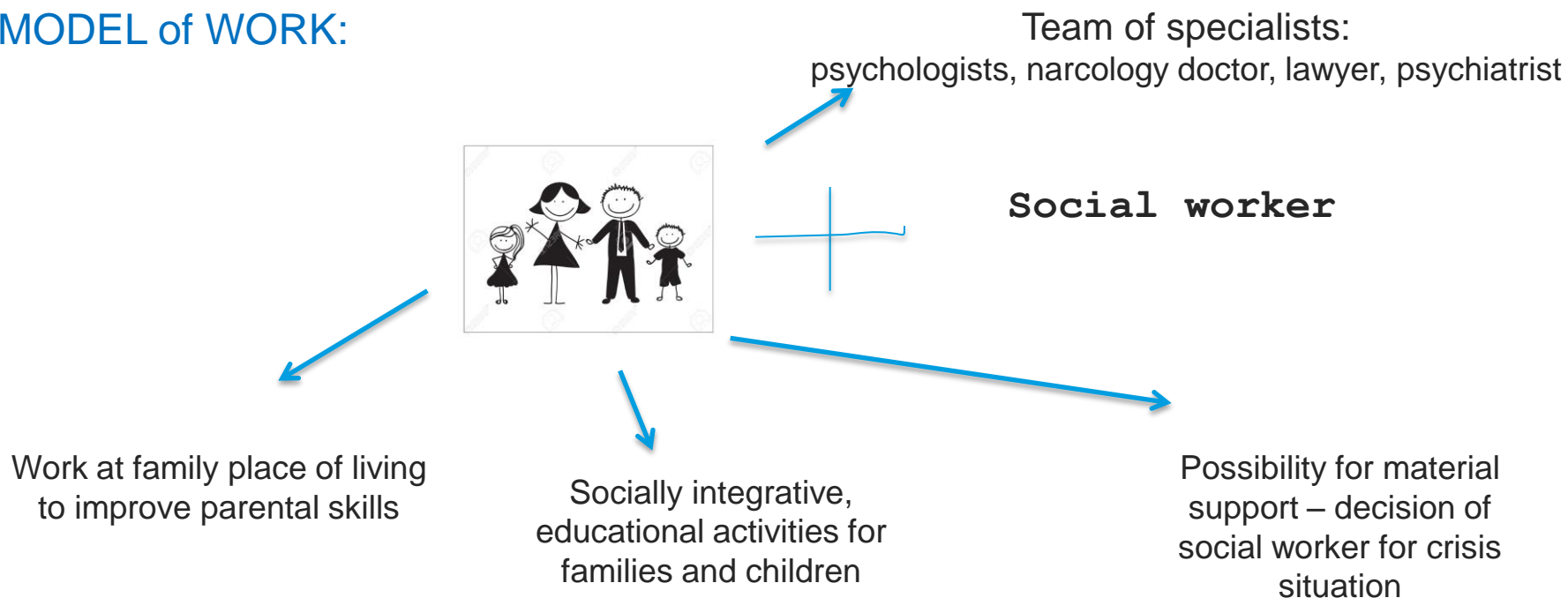
Riga SOS Family support centre as officially registered social service provider has relieved work of 6 Riga Social Service territorial centres, since Jan 2014 has provided services for 150 families with ~300 children.





HOW OUR SOCIAL WORK IS ORGANISED

MODEL of WORK:

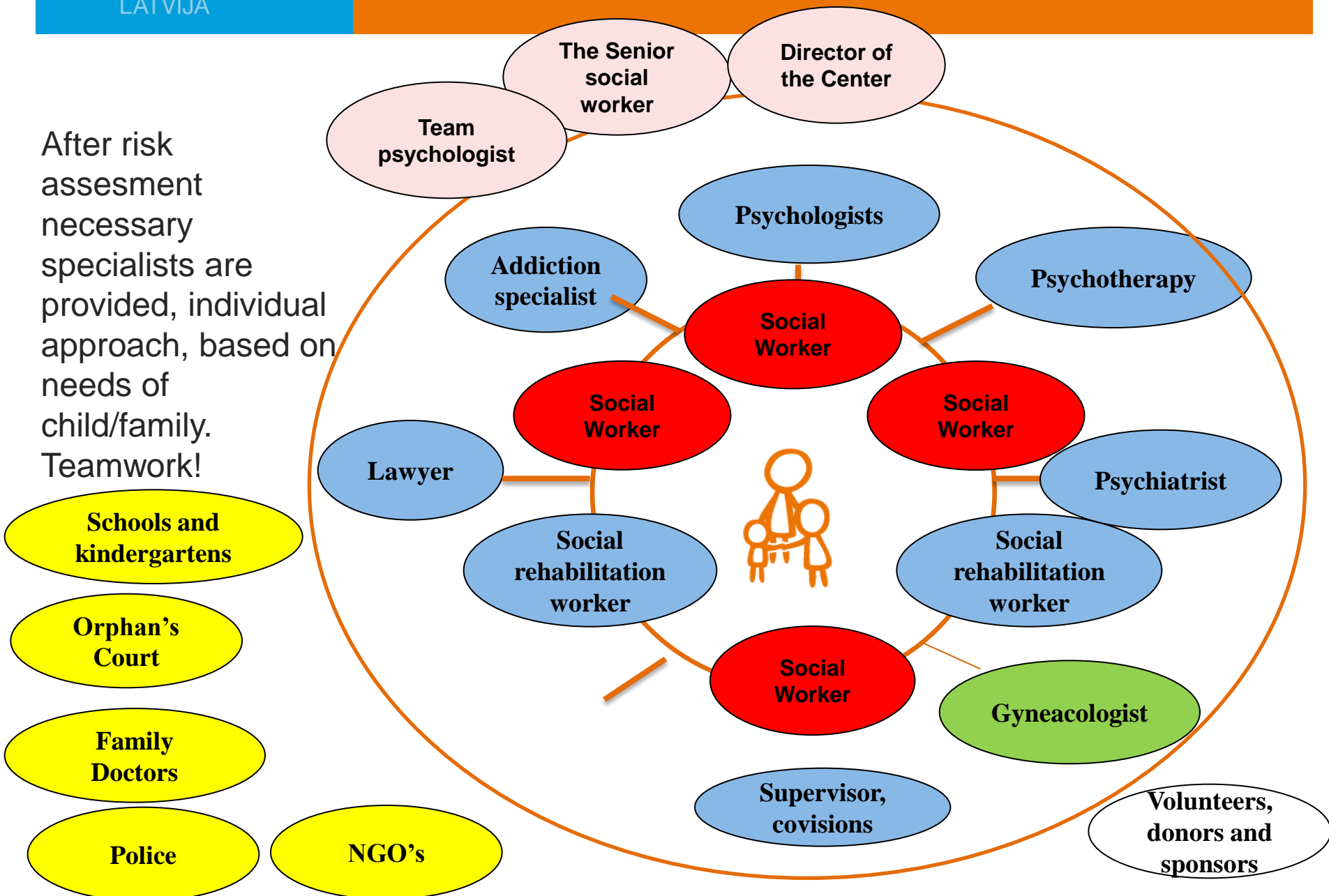


1. Team work
2. Work at place of living of family
3. More active involvement of children
4. More active client's position – promotion of self-reliance of family
5. Innovative methodological approach



Social work with families with children

After risk
assesment
necessary
specialists are
provided, individual
approach, based on
needs of
child/family.
Teamwork!



- To reduce the continuation of negative experience in future generations: violence, abandonment, neglect, poor social skills, traumatized personality. **Teenagers as a specific target audience**, therefore:
 - Various forms of activities with teenagers and their families piloted in the project;
 - Till end of year a program for children and teenagers (10-14yo) is prepared and will be tested - partially «gender specific» men - boys; women - girls (up to 9 days);
 - Till end of year - outreach program for teenagers and their families developed, learning from institutional rehabilitation program set up by the NGO «Allazhi child and family support center" for abused children and youngsters together with family;
 - *Burning issue*: Ministry of Justice is developing new "Children's antisocial behavior prevention law" to replace existing article nr. 58 of Child Protection Law



Program for support for children whose parents have died

- Unique programme in Latvia
- In partnership with municipalities plus local donation
- More than 45 children in list for help 2016
- Therapeutical camp - 25 children, 7 specialists and 2 volunteers

- **Necessity:**
 - to be available as a **full-year programme**, possibility to provide individual professional support to parents and children closer to their place of living when tragedy happens;
 - professional support to parents and children in regions
 - advocacy measures for this specific support to be available as municipality or state service in future



| PROJECT PARTNERS & FINANCING | 882 205 EUR | 100% |
|------------------------------|-------------|--------|
| OAK Foundation: | 250 000 EUR | 28,34% |
| Riga Welfare Department | 426 000 EUR | 48,29% |
| SOS CV | 206 205 EUR | 23,37% |

Grant period: 01.01.2014 – 31.12.2016 (36 months)

Overall goal of the project: to prevent children from abuse and neglect and to reduce the risks of their social exclusion.

To fulfill the target, the project activities will be carried out on 3 levels:

Micro level → to build capacity within **vulnerable families** to prevent them from falling apart and abandoning their children;

Mezo level → to build up capacity and to foster cross-sectorial cooperation of **professionals of social work**, working with children and families and to improve existing support and prevention system for vulnerable children;

Macro level → to foster cooperation between the relevant **NGO's & public stakeholders** to reach improvement of the policy framework & quality and accessibility of services for children & families, helping to prevent children from neglect and abuse



SOS CHILDREN'S
VILLAGES
LATVIA

It is easy to do good things if everybody helps.

*Herman Gmainer,
Founder of SOS Children's villages in the world*

