

Plenary 3: Ensuring Quality in Community-Based Care



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Ensuring quality in community-based care: Foster Care

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Quality Assurance in Foster Care

State of Play in Europe

Preliminary remarks

- Children in alternative care are known to be **particularly vulnerable**
 - The EU's deinstitutionalisation policies has transformed Europe's youth welfare: today, foster care is the **preferred form of alternative care** in the EU
 - Foster Care = **key element** of community- and family-based care for children in need of child protection, with some similarities and lots of diversity all over Europe
 - Placements in foster families are '**vulnerable interventions**' particularly if they are poorly supported structurally and professionally
- **EU Member States bear a heavy responsibility for creating appropriate forms of placement and ensuring the quality of placements in foster families**

Similarities between national situations

Foster Care: **increasingly important**
But to date: little research, limited knowledge

Lack of standards and difficulties to implement standards due to the political system (esp. in countries with federal organisation)

Lack of foster carers, especially in urban areas

Developed international and European laws, frameworks

(e.g. UNCRC; Guidelines for Alternative Care, Opening Doors, **EU Child Guarantee**)

→ (not?) well known in policy and practice?

Diversity on many levels – some examples

Proportions of children in foster care vs

Foster carers as professionals vs volunteers

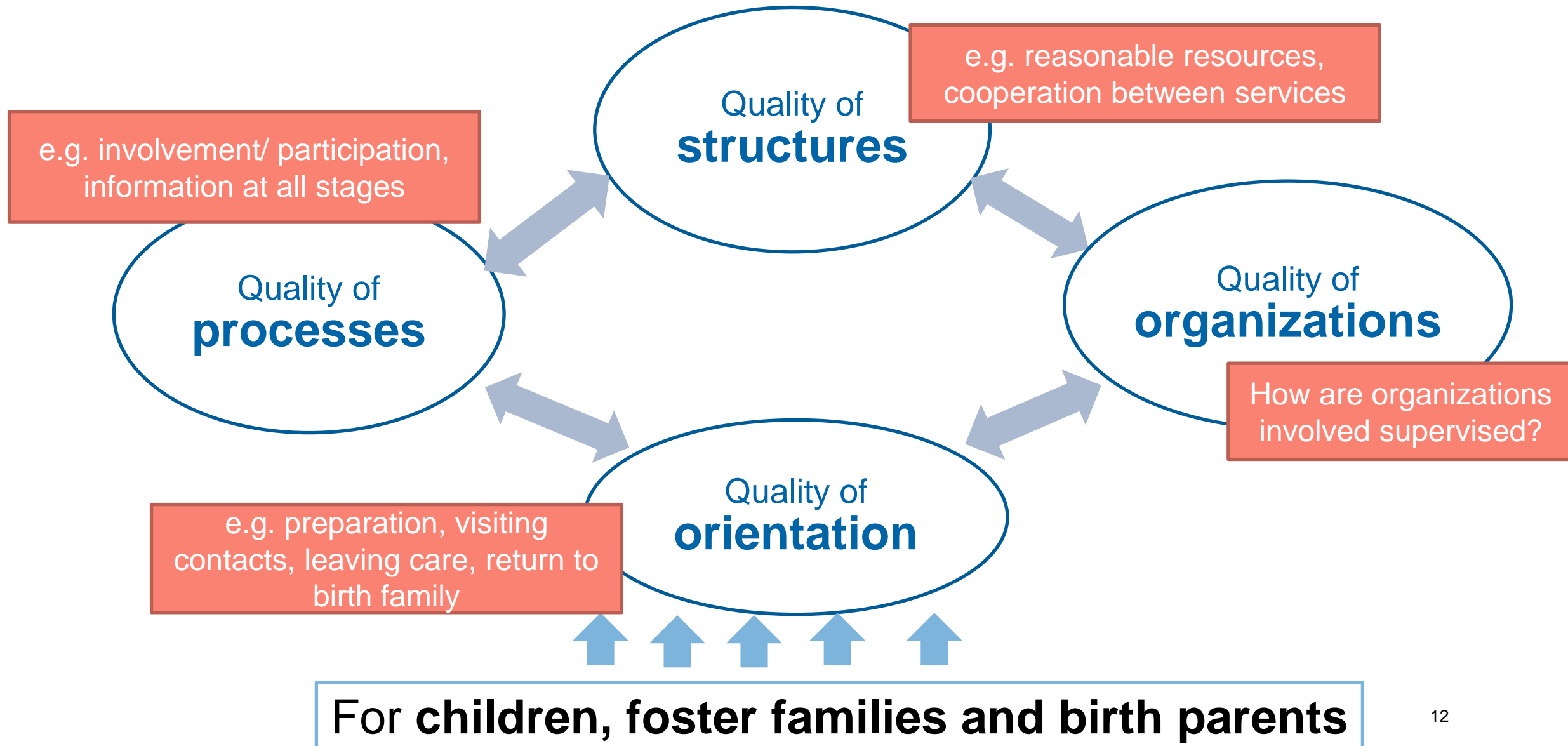
Ratio social worker/ foster child

Payment for foster carers

Intention of foster care & place of the birth family

**How can
authorities and
service providers
ensure quality in
decentralised care
settings, such as
foster care?**

Whats is Quality in Foster Care?



Recommendations for EU, national and local level

General discussion on **quality standards** for foster care

Re-think developing **kinship** care

Frameworks/laws need to be **promoted** and **translated** into regulations.

Responsibilities for standards need to be addressed

More Information and Contact

Expert Paper: Better Quality in Foster Care in Europe, European Commission

Download Link:

https://digitalcollection.zhaw.ch/bitstream/11475/22698/3/2021_Reimer_Quality-foster-care-in-Europe.pdf

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