

Empowering children foundation

Activity report

2024



EMPOWERING
CHILDREN
FOUNDATION



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We present to you a report on the activities of the Empowering Children Foundation in 2024.

This is the 33rd year of our activity, the primary goal of which is to ensure children a childhood without violence. Most of the activities carried out in 2024 are a continuation and development in line with the main strategic areas of the Foundation – assistance, prevention, advocacy and mobilization.

Assistance is building an offer of specialist and interdisciplinary support for children affected by crime in the Child Advocacy Centres Network and remote assistance to children in difficult situations on our Helpline for Children and Youth 116 111.

This year, we focused on the territorial development of the Child Advocacy Centres Network, so that in various parts of Poland children affected by crime could count on professional help under one roof, as well as on increasing the answering rate of calls from children on both phone lines: Polish and Ukrainian.

Prevention is the prevention of child abuse through support and education of parents and people working with children, as well as by empowering children and young people themselves to avoid threats, including in cyberspace, and seek help. In 2024, we focused many of our activities on broad support for institutions and organizations that, in accordance with applicable law, have been required to implement child protection standards since August 2024.

Advocacy is identifying systemic and legal solutions that provide children with better protection from abuse, and seeking their introduction by decision-makers at various levels. In this area, too, we have put a lot of effort into preparing effective tools for implementing child protection standards, and we have also begun conceptual work on including Child Advocacy Centres in the public system and improving the coordination of activities of various institutions in the event of suspected child abuse. We try to base all our activities on research results and reliable diagnoses of needs.

Mobilization is engaging people, institutions, organizations and companies to join in the implementation of our mission – protecting children from violence. In 2024, we engaged over 7,000 different entities in the nationwide campaign “Childhood without violence”. I invite you to read the report, which briefly and statistically shows our activities in 2024. I hope that behind these numbers you will see the work of a wonderful team of almost two hundred employees, associates and volunteers of the Foundation, as well as the specific children we helped. At the same time, I want to thank thousands of people, institutions and organizations, without whose substantive, organizational and financial support we would not be able to help children!



Renata Szredzińska
President of The Empowering Children Foundation

We have been protecting children from violence and sexual abuse for over 30 years. We provide children and their caregivers with support, professional psychological and legal assistance and care. We teach adults how to react wisely and effectively to violence against children and what to do when they suspect that a child is abused. We support and engage parents to raise their children with love and respect. We influence Polish law to best protect the best interests of the child. We believe in violence-free childhood!

Year 2024

in the Empowering Children Foundation in numbers

577

children provided with
psychological assistance

946

caregivers provided with
psychological care

11,093

psychological, psychiatric
consultations and individual
therapeutic sessions for
children and parents/caregivers

70,552

received calls and messages
(e-mail, chat) from children
and young people (Polish and
Ukrainian helplines)

498,839

participants of lessons
and workshops for children
and young people

889,201

participants of conferences,
webinars, trainings, workshops
for professionals and caregivers





Help

Experiencing or witnessing abuse may have a negative impact on the development and physical, emotional and social functioning of a child, but it also may affect the child's later life. The research shows that people who experience abuse or sexual abuse are many times more likely to attempt suicide or other self-destructive behaviour. Thanks to various forms of direct help – psychological, psychotherapeutic, psychiatric and legal consultations, we provide children and their non-abusing parents with effective help to reduce the consequences of traumatic experiences.

Our support also applies to situations where a child has experienced abuse through electronic media (internet, phone, etc.).

Moreover, if children and young people experience any difficulties and threats or feel the need to talk, they can contact our Helpline for Children and Youth 116 111, which operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.



CHILD
ADVOCACY
CENTRES

Child Advocacy Centres Network

Since 2018 we have been coordinating activities of ten Child Advocacy Centres, operating on the basis of the Barnahus model. This model assumes that children victims of crime, mainly of sexual abuse and violence, and their caregivers receive specialist, interdisciplinary help under one roof. Child Advocacy Centres implement common standards, and their basic value is the welfare of the child. They offer a space for a child-friendly interview for the children participating in criminal procedures, as well as medical, psychological, psychiatric and legal assistance. The interdisciplinary team of the facility works in cooperation with local services. At the moment our Foundation runs three CAC – in Gdańsk, Starogard Gdańsk and Warsaw. The further seven Child Advocacy Centres are run by partner organizations: the Szansa Association for Children and Youth in Głogów, the Klanza Association in Białystok, the Sempre a Frente Foundation in Lublin, the Moc Wsparcia Association in Sosnowiec, the NON LICET Foundation in Wrocław, the Child in the Centre Foundation in Poznań, and the Słonie na Balkonie Foundation in Łódź.

Actions implemented in 2024:

- in November 2024, the Child in the Centre Foundation officially launched the Child Advocacy Centre in Poznań;
- at the end of 2024, a pilot version of the tool for monitoring the implementation of standards in Child Advocacy Centres operating within the CAC Network was also created.

Financing:

- Ministry of Justice – Justice Fund
- Plan International
- UNHCR, UN Refugee Agency

Year 2024 in numbers

6

supervisions for professionals and
2 monitoring visits

205

participants of training
for professionals



Warsaw Child Advocacy Centre

Goals:

interdisciplinary help for child victims of crime and their families or caregivers.

Main activities:

psychological, psychiatric and legal assistance for children – victims of violence and their families, support of professionals helping children – victims of crime.

Actions implemented in 2024:

- ➡ individual consultations with children and adults (psychological, psychiatric, legal);
- ➡ preparing children for the interview in the Child-Friendly Interview Room;
- ➡ psychoeducational and development groups, workshops, support groups, social therapy groups for children, youth, parents and caregivers;
- ➡ consultations, workshops, trainings, seminars and lectures for professionals (psychologists, educators, healthcare workers, social workers) on child abuse cases.

Year 2024 in numbers

146

children covered with psychological assistance, including 72 new clients (first-time sessions)

171

parents and caregivers covered with psychological assistance; 103 new clients (first-time sessions)

10

groups for a total of 30 children and youth and 67 parents and caregivers

195

legal counselling sessions and 2 *amicus curiae* letters

148

psychiatric and 4 paediatric consultations for children and youth

52

hours of supervisions for professionals – for 211 a total of 211 people

184

hours of educational support for children

21

families covered by social support

11

consultations for professionals

2,595

psychological consultations, individual therapeutic sessions, family sessions for children, parents and caregivers

128

hours of trainings, seminars, lectures for professionals – in total for 366 professionals

Financing:

- ➡ Drzewo i Jutro Foundation
- ➡ City Hall of Warsaw
- ➡ Individual and business donations, as well as 1,5%
- ➡ Plan International
- ➡ Save the Children
- ➡ Ministry of Justice
- ➡ National Institute of Freedom – Center for the Development of Civil Society
- ➡ Oak Foundation
- ➡ The International Rescue Committee
- ➡ European Commission

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Starogard Gdańsk Child Advocacy Centre

Goals:

direct help to children and families, education in the field of preventing violence against children and good parenting.

Main activities:

psychological, medical and legal assistance for children and youth – victims of crime, primarily to victims of violence and sexual abuse, training for professionals, providing access to a Child Friendly Interview Room.

Actions implemented in 2024:

- ➡ individual psychological consultations for children and adults;
- ➡ specialized medical assistance – psychiatric consultations for children and adults;
- ➡ paediatric consultations;
- ➡ legal counselling;
- ➡ family and parenting consultations;
- ➡ preparing children and their caregivers for hearings;
- ➡ consultations for professionals;
- ➡ training for professionals on Child Protection Standards;
- ➡ educational activities for children, youth and parents;
- ➡ therapeutic groups and group activities for children, youth and parents from Poland and Ukraine.

Year 2024 in numbers

208

children covered with psychological assistance, including 41 new clients (first-time sessions)

213

parents and caregivers covered with psychological assistance, including 28 new clients (first-time sessions)

1,892

psychological consultations and individual therapeutic sessions with children, parents and caregivers

122

psychiatric and 3 paediatric consultations for children, young people and parents

13

groups for 70 children and youth and 35 parents and caregivers

22

pleadings, 2 *amicus curiae* letters, 8 Blue Card procedures and 1 legal assistance in the course of proceedings (child's representative)

51

consultations for professionals

154

legal consultations

223

children participated in the psycho-educational sessions and workshops

24

parents participated in the psycho-educational sessions

602

professionals participated in trainings and information meetings

Financing:

- ➡ Plan International
- ➡ Charity Ball of the Mayor of the City
- ➡ Starogard Gdańsk Municipal
- ➡ Drzewo i Jutro Foundation
- ➡ Starogard District
- ➡ National Institute of Freedom – Center for the Development of Civil Society

- ➡ Foundation for the Development of Local Democracy
- ➡ Skarszewy Commune
- ➡ UNHCR, UN Refugee Agency
- ➡ Save the Children

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Gdańsk Child Advocacy Centre

Goals:

direct help to children and families, education in the field of preventing violence against children and good parenting.

Main activities:

psychological, medical and legal assistance for children and youth – victims of crime, primarily to victims of violence and sexual abuse, training for professionals, providing access to a Child Friendly Interview Room.

Actions implemented in 2024:

- ➡ individual consultations with children and adults (psychological, psychiatric, legal);
- ➡ preparing children for the hearing in the Centre's Child-Friendly Interview Room at the Child Advocacy Centre;
- ➡ educational activities in the field of raising parental competences;
- ➡ therapy groups for children, adults and families;
- ➡ therapeutic workshops for children and adults from Ukraine;
- ➡ consultations for professionals (psychologists, educators, social workers, health care workers, probation officers) on cases of child abuse;
- ➡ organization of the conference "Child Experiencing Trauma" in Gdańsk;
- ➡ training for professionals on recognizing the symptoms of child abuse and intervening in situations of suspected child abuse;
- ➡ work in the Gdańsk Interdisciplinary Team.

Year 2024 in numbers

116

children covered with psychological assistance, including 79 new clients (first-time sessions)

216

parents and caregivers covered with psychological assistance, including 154 new clients (first-time sessions)

3,118

psychological consultations and individual therapeutic sessions with children, parents and caregivers

180

psychiatric consultations for children, youth and parents

17

groups for 193 children and youth and 76 parents and caregivers

104

consultations for professionals

119

legal consultations and 1 *amicus curiae* letter

723

participants of trainings, workshops, and conferences for professionals

Financing:

- ➡ Municipality of the City of Gdańsk
- ➡ Drzewo i Jutro Foundation
- ➡ Save the Children
- ➡ Plan International
- ➡ World Childhood Foundation
- ➡ Individual and business donations, including 1.5% PBO

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Child in the Web Counselling Centre

Goals:

to help children who have experienced cyberbullying, contact with harmful content online, grooming, online sexual abuse and other difficult situations, including problematic use of screen devices; their parents and professionals in situations where their children's online safety is threatened.

Main activities:

psychological consultations, individual and group therapy, family development meetings, support groups for young people and adults, psychoeducational and development groups, trainings and workshops.

Actions implemented in 2024:

- ➡ psychological consultations/individual therapeutic sessions for children and parents/caregivers;
- ➡ family sessions;
- ➡ psychoeducational and development groups for young people;
- ➡ a support group for young people experiencing violence;
- ➡ a support and development group for parents of young people;
- ➡ a podcast for parents about peer violence;
- ➡ The CWCC expert on-duty in the 800 100 100 Helpline – 3 hours, once per week;
- ➡ adaptation of the Lighthouse Parenting Programme tool to the specifics of working with families of children who have problems using the Internet as part of the "Digital Wellness" grant funded by The Walt Disney Company.

Year 2024 in numbers

34

children covered with psychological assistance, including 22 new clients (first-time sessions)

67

parents and caregivers covered with psychological assistance, including 48 new clients (first-time sessions)

1,123

psychological consultations and individual therapeutic sessions with children, parents and caregivers

3

groups for 11 children and young people, 7 parents and caregivers

70

participants of the education activities for children

520

participants of the education activities for professionals

Financing:

- ➡ European Commission
- ➡ individual and business donations
- ➡ The Walt Disney Company

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Helpline Programme

116 111 – helpline for children and young people

800 100 100 – helpline for parents and teachers on keeping children safe

In 2024, a sad record was broken in the number of interventions undertaken to save the health or lives of children – we conducted 1,010 interventions (1,034 in total for UA and PL). Over 40% of contacts from children concerned mental health, and almost 30% – peer relations. Since May 2024, the Helpline for Children and Youth 116 111 in Polish, has been financed from the state budget for the first time in history. As part of a project commissioned by the Ministry of Health, we opened a Support Centre for children and young people in emotional crisis, where, in addition to the previous 24-hour on-call duty, we have launched specialist on-call duties (e.g. psychiatrist, lawyer, sexologist) for children and young people. Specialist on-call duties are educational in nature and are available within a more reduced range of hours than the psychological on-call duties.

Goals:

to help children and young people in need of support, care and protection, to help parents and teachers who need support and information on prevention and helping children in trouble and difficulties.

Main activities:

Helpline Program – ad hoc individual help for children and young people in need of support, help for parents and teachers who need support and information on how to help children experiencing problems and difficulties. Telephone and online support for children and young people in difficult situations, telephone and online consultations for parents and teachers on children's safety; educational and promotional activities encouraging people to seek help in difficult situations and to use the telephone assistance offer.

Actions implemented in 2024:

- ➡ service of the free helpline 116 111 – working 7 days a week, 24 hours a day;
- ➡ handling chat conversations on 116 111 – open 7 days a week, Monday to Friday, from 14:00 to 24:00;
- ➡ service of the free helpline 800 100 100 – working from Monday to Friday, 12.00–15.00;
- ➡ opening of the free helpline 116 111 in Ukrainian and Russian – working 7 days a week, from Monday to Friday from 14:00 to 24:00;
- ➡ running the website www.centrumwsparciadladzieci.pl, www.116111.pl; www.800100100.pl;
- ➡ providing online counseling for parents and professionals regarding child safety.
- ➡ psychoeducational activities addressed to children on social media on the 116 111 profile on Instagram and on Tik Tok;
- ➡ 116 111 podcast in the Trójka radio station.

Year 2024 in numbers

46,293

received calls from children and young people (line in Polish)

5,817

received calls from children and young people (line in Ukrainian and Russian)

18,412

replies to online messages from children (line in Polish and Ukrainian)

1,034

interventions in the situations of direct threat to children's health and life

1,795

received calls from parents, caregivers and teachers

225

responses to online messages from parents and teachers

57,960

participants of the education activities addressed to children

428

participants of the education activities addressed to professionals

Financing:

- ➡ Ministry of Health
- ➡ UNHCR, UN Refugee Agency
- ➡ Orange Foundation
- ➡ Legia Foundation
- ➡ Pepco Poland
- ➡ I.J. Paderewski Santander Bank
Polska S.A. Foundation
- ➡ International Rescue Committee
- ➡ Circle K Polska
- ➡ Save the Children International
- ➡ Plan International Poland
- ➡ BNP Paribas Foundation

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www.800100100.pl



Prevention

The activities aiming at preventing child abuse are of a great importance for us. We educate parents and provide them with psychotherapeutic help to raise children without violence. We support families and professionals in the safe use of new technologies. Our offer is also available to organizations and institutions that want to comprehensively take care of the safety of their charges: nurseries, kindergartens, schools, non-governmental organizations, sports clubs. We support them in implementing child protection standards, jointly making these places safer for children. We also educate society so that it can react appropriately in situations where there is a suspicion that a child may be experiencing abuse. We also run an educational platform where we collect all educational materials prepared by the Foundation and share them with users free of charge.



Re-granting program

After the start of a full-scale war in Ukraine, we not only tried to organize help in our centres, but also to support other non-governmental organizations and institutions in helping people from Ukraine. In 2024 we also continued these activities, they were implemented in the following towns and cities: Rzeszów, Lublin, Poznań, Białystok, Olsztyn, Sosnowiec, Wrocław, Głogów.

Actions implemented in 2024:

- ➡ individual and group psychological assistance for children and adults,
- ➡ legal assistance,
- ➡ psychiatric assistance,
- ➡ education assistance,
- ➡ trainings for professionals, information and promotion activities,
- ➡ supervision of the grantee's staff.

Financing:

- ➡ Save the Children International;
- ➡ UNHCR, UN Refugee Agency;
- ➡ Plan International Poland;
- ➡ Foundation for the Development of the Education System – National Agency for the Erasmus+ Programme and the European Solidarity Corps;
- ➡ National Institute of Freedom – Centre for the Development of Civil Society.

Year 2024 in numbers

10	1,911	188	1,205
grants awarded in the programme	Polish children and 18,011 Ukrainian children covered with assistance	professionals covered with support	Polish parents and 2,043 Ukrainian parents covered with assistance



Child Protection Standards

Goals:

protecting children against violence by adults and peers by promoting child protection standards, including the Policy of Protecting Children against Violence, in facilities and institutions where children are staying.

Main activities:

providing institutions and organizations with an educational offer helpful in implementing child protection standards, ongoing support in introducing systemic solutions to protect children from violence.

Actions implemented in 2024:

- ➡ development of the manual "Child Protection Standards in Care and Educational Facilities" and "Child Protection Standards in Sports Clubs";
- ➡ development of a series of publications devoted to the protection of children against abuse addressed to medical professionals;
- ➡ consultations on the development and implementation of child protection policies;
- ➡ support in implementing child protection standards through education of professionals, parents and children – webinars, workshops, training, etc.
- ➡ development and publication of the brochure "Recommendations for organizers of sports competitions" and "Safe facility, safe organization. Analysis of risk factors";
- ➡ development and publication of the guide "Standards for the Protection of Children in Family Foster Care";
- ➡ development and publication of the poster "Principles of safe relationships (child-child; parents; changing rooms and toilets; trips; child – coach)" and "Your first day, Principles of safe adult-student relationships";
- ➡ "What happens in the changing room, stays in the changing room" podcast;
- ➡ publication of information leaflets on child protection standards;
- ➡ preparation of an interactive decision-making game on risk analysis reACTION;

- ➡ preparation of the course "Policy for protecting children from harm at the Office for Foreigners – when and how to react?";
- ➡ participation in the bodies monitoring implementation of the child protection programmes.

Year 2024 in numbers

8,500

organizations/institutions that have started working on child protection standards using the tools and materials available on the website: standary.fdds.pl

836,106

participants of trainings, webinars, consultations and workshops on child protection standards for professionals

8

publications for professionals: manuals, guides, brochures, posters and leaflets addressed to professionals

27

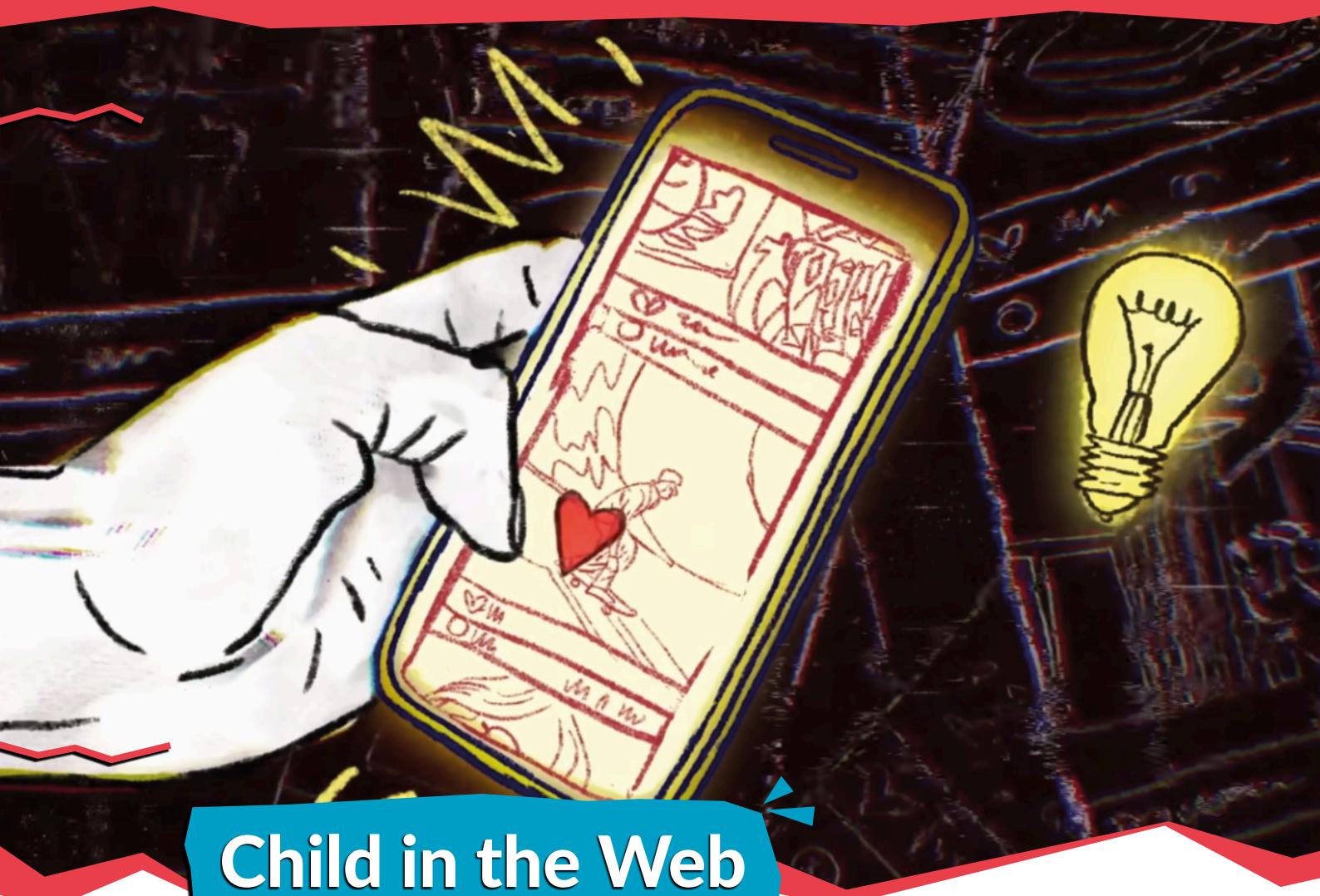
participants of the workshops for children

Financing:

- ➡ Ministry of Justice
- ➡ Plan International
- ➡ UNICEF
- ➡ Norwegian Financial Mechanism
- ➡ Save the Children International
- ➡ IKEA
- ➡ UNHCR, UN Refugee Agency
- ➡ Terre des Hommes
- ➡ Rodowita z Roztocza
- ➡ National Institute of Freedom
- ➡ Polpharma
- ➡ Chiesi
- ➡ DOW Chemical Company

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Child in the Web

Goals:

prevention of online threats to children and young people, promoting the idea of digital hygiene, educating children, parents and professionals, diagnosing and raising awareness on the specificity and scale of the problem of threats to children on the Internet.

Main activities:

educational projects, media campaigns, events.

Actions implemented in 2024:

- ➡ Safer Internet Day 2024 (conference – on site and online, initiating local activities);
- ➡ Digital Youth Forum conference for young people – on site and online;
- ➡ 18th International Conference “Keeping Children and Youth Safe Online” – on site and online;
- ➡ a series of webinars for professionals and parents;
- ➡ running the websites Sieciaki.pl, Necio.pl, Digitalyouth.pl;
- ➡ conducting educational and social campaigns for children, young people, parents and professionals;
- ➡ promotion and distribution of educational materials.

Year 2024 in numbers

183,711

participants of conferences,
lessons and online courses for
children and youth

4,095

local initiatives within Safe
Internet Day for a total
of 1,051,433 recipients

17,052

participants of webinars,
trainings and conferences for
professionals and parents

3

campaigns reaching the total of
13,218,346 recipients

Financing:

- ➡ European Commission
- ➡ Orange Foundation
- ➡ Unilever (Algida brand)
- ➡ Samsung
- ➡ Warsaw Marathon Foundation
- ➡ Orange
- ➡ Google
- ➡ Digital Association Poland
- ➡ Fly on the Cloud
- ➡ Librus

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Lighthouse Parenting Center

The Child and Family Centre is a preventive facility of the Empowering Children Foundation intended for parents of children up to 6 years of age. The Centre's specialists have been supporting parents in building their relationships with their children for over 15 years, assisting them in changing parental attitudes, developing parental competences and moving away from unconstructive parenting methods towards building relationships based on respect and love.

The Lighthouse Parenting Centre is the first counselling centre in Poland working with parents basing on mentalization.

Goals:

protection of young children (0–6 years old) against abuse through support and education of parents/caregivers in upbringing without violence, promotion of good parenting.

Main activities:

direct support for parents of young children basing on mentalization, a proven method of working with parents at risk of child abuse, support for children aged 0–6, support for professionals working with parents of young children, support for interdisciplinary cooperation.

Actions implemented in 2024:

- direct help for families at risk of abusing young children and parents who need support, experience emotional and educational difficulties, and find it difficult to find their place in their role (consultations, therapy, psychological and psychiatric support), as well as help for young children;
- parenting skills workshops – “I can stop”, support groups for mothers and separately for fathers, therapeutic groups “Parent like a lighthouse”, therapeutic groups “Taming depression”, a workshop for fathers, a support group for mothers, Multifamily group;
- organization of the 16th Conference “Caution with the Child – prevention of abuse of young children”; preparation of 4 podcasts for parents;
- monitoring and networking for professionals;
- preparation and publication of materials for professionals – scenarios “How to see a child” and “How to mentalize a parent” – and for parents – “Your Child’s Appeal”;
- conducting a “Study for professionals working with fathers”;
- webinars, workshops, education meetings for parents and professionals;
- conducting a debate on fathers for professionals (in-person and online);
- co-running the website for parents: dziennik.fdds.pl.

Year 2024 in numbers

279

caregivers receiving psychological care, including 178 new clients (first-time sessions)

73

children receiving psychological care – in the framework of family consultations

1,696

psychological consultations and therapeutic sessions for parents and children

57

psychiatric consultations

19

consultations for professionals

90

participants of support groups and parenting skills workshops, including 26 children in 7 groups

198

participants of monitoring and networking meetings for professionals

1,292

participants of the webinars for parents

10,898

participants of workshops, conferences and debates for professionals

Financing:

- ➡ City Hall of Warsaw
- ➡ Praga Południe District Office of the capital city of Warsaw
- ➡ EEA Funds. Active Citizens National Fund
- ➡ National Institute of Freedom
- ➡ Masovian Centre for Social Policy
- ➡ Drzewo i Jutro Foundation
- ➡ ICG Poland
- ➡ VikingCo Poland
- ➡ Pru
- ➡ Deloitte
- ➡ EuroClean
- ➡ Nationale Nederlanden
- ➡ Save the Children
- ➡ IKEA
- ➡ Plan International
- ➡ McKinsey

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Training and Events Department

Goals:

standardisation of the ECF's educational offer and resources as well as providing organizational support for educational activities.

Main activities:

diagnosing the needs to support educational activities in all programs and departments of the Foundation, diagnosis of training needs, verification and standardization of training scenarios and educational materials, organization of training and conferences, systematic evaluation of events and implementation of conclusions, development of the educational offer, supporting the training team, administration of the educational platform, its promotion and periodic sending of a newsletter to registered people. Building partnerships with subcontractors, developing and implementing training standards in terms of new tools and competences, educational support for international humanitarian organizations and other interested entities.

Actions implemented in 2024:

- ➡ service or support in the implementation of educational events on the edukacja.fdds.pl platform and stationary and online training courses and other ECF events;
- ➡ 21st National Conference "Child Victim of Crime";
- ➡ supporting organization of other ECF conferences;
- ➡ ECF scenarios update;
- ➡ podcasts production:
 - ➡ "A Parent as a Lighthouse"
 - ➡ "What does the Kamil of Częstochowa Act change? Standards of Child Protection in the practice of organizations."

- ▶ “What happens in the changing room stays in the changing room, and the coach is always right. Is that really true? On child protection standards in sports entities.”;
- ▶ “Peer violence. What can we do about it? And why together?”;
- ▶ “How to protect children from secrets that hurt? A few words about sexual abuse”;
- ▶ “How many children experience violence in sports. Results of the first study in Poland on this area.”

Year 2024 in numbers

29,175

users registered in the education platform edukacja.fdds.pl

1,950

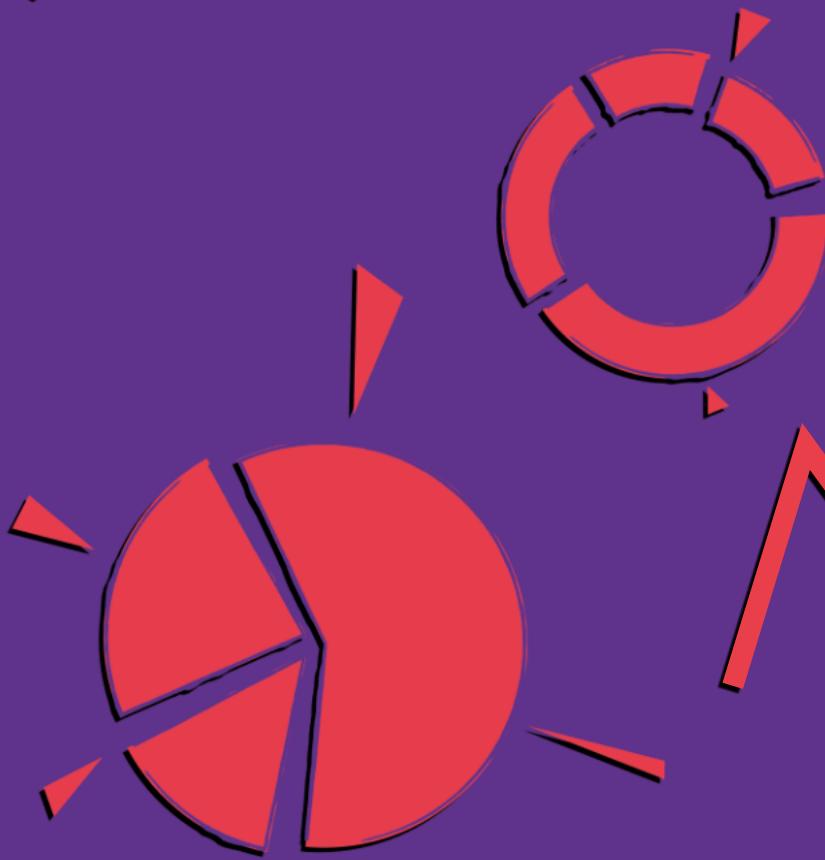
participants of 65 education activities, trainings, webinars, conferences and expert speeches

Financing:

- ▶ Ministry of Justice
- ▶ ECF economic activity
- ▶ Individual and business donations
- ▶ 1,5 % PBO
- ▶ IRC
- ▶ UNICEF

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www.fdds.pl



Advocacy, research and expertise

We research current trends in the area of child abuse, we use research results to set the Foundation's strategic goals. We evaluate and constantly try to improve our activities. We carefully observe legal changes in the field of child protection. We propose a proven solution to better protect children from abuse and we work with various entities to implement them. On the basis of research results, experience in direct help and legal analyses, we develop expert opinions, which we share with decision-makers at various levels of Polish administration.

Przemoc wobec dzieci w sporcie. Pełny raport z badań ilościowych



Research department

Goals:

broadening knowledge on the subject of abused children, diagnosis and expertise for the Empowering Children Foundation's programs.

Main activities:

research on the situation of children in Poland, in particular in the area of abuse; evaluation of activities carried out by the Foundation.

Actions implemented in 2024:

- ➡ coordination of research at the Foundation;
- ➡ carrying out research studies:
 - ▶ "Violence against children in sports";
 - ▶ "Barometer of attitudes towards child abuse 2024";
 - ▶ evaluation of the "Galaxy Station" program;
 - ▶ "Knowledge and use of helplines among children and youth";
 - ▶ estimation of social benefits from selected intervention and prevention activities of the Empowering Children Foundation;
 - ▶ evaluation of the "Childhood without violence" campaign;
 - ▶ survey of individual donors of the ECF;

- ▶ GADKI program evaluation study;
- ▶ IMPACT program evaluation study;
- ▶ CPS implementation study.

▶ Active participation in the international conferences – presenting results of the ECF research studies:

- ▶ ISPCAN Congress, Uppsala 2024 – presenting “The Diagnosis of the Violence against Children 2023” study;
- ▶ EUSPR 15th Conference, Cremona 2024 – presenting studies on the violence in sports.

Financing:

- ▶ Ministry of Justice – Justice Fund
- ▶ Plan International
- ▶ OAK Foundation
- ▶ Samsung Polska
- ▶ Ministry of Health
- ▶ Support from IPSOS Polska in the form of free implementation of the “Barometer of Abuse...” study and evaluation of the “Childhood without Violence” campaign

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Prac
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Etyczne apekty
prowadzenia badań
z udziałem dzieci

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Teoria Badania Praktyka
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“Abused Child” Quarterly

“Abused Child. Theory, Research, Practice” is a periodical published by the Empowering Children Foundation. The journal is interdisciplinary. Its aim is to broaden the knowledge of professionals – psychologists, educators, doctors, lawyers, social politicians and others – about various aspects of the problem of child abuse. The “Abused Child” cooperates with international journals focusing on the child abuse problematics – “Child Abuse & Neglect” and “Child Maltreatment”.

In 2024, four issues of the journal were published:

- ➡ Quarterly: Vol 22, No 1 (2024): Therapeutic work in the context of child abuse;
- ➡ Quarterly: Vol 22, No 2 (2024): The situation of children with migration and refugee experience in Poland;
- ➡ Quarterly: Vol 22, No 3 (2024): Legal protection of the child;
- ➡ Quarterly: Vol 22, No 4 (2024): Ethical aspects of conducting research involving children.

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Legal department

Goals:

legal assistance to the clients of the Empowering Children Foundation, legal services for the Foundation; implementation of the rights of children participating in legal procedures, education and raising awareness of professionals, lobbying activities for changes in the law in the area of protecting children from abuse.

Main activities:

legal consultations – in person or by phone calls – for the Foundation's clients and for specialists working with children, internal services, legal services for programs and departments, undertaking legal interventions, legal volunteering, advocacy activities. Implementation of the project "Child-Friendly Justice System".

Actions implemented in 2024:

- ➡ in-person, phone and mail consultations for parents/legal guardians of children – victims of crimes and in cases involving children;
- ➡ promoting the institution of a probation officer representing a child victim in criminal proceedings;
- ➡ implementing the project “Child Victim of Crime Caregiver” (providing information by volunteers on interventions for the benefit of the child, psychological and legal support for young witnesses and their parents/caregivers and preparing them to participate in court hearings or interviews);
- ➡ applying to the court on respecting the rights of the child (*amicus curiae*);
- ➡ lobbying for a change in child protection law: conducting training for judges, prosecutors, attorneys, legal advisers, police officers, court experts, as well as psychologists and educators in the field of preparing a child for a hearing and conducting a hearing;
- ➡ educational activities addressed to professionals, parents and children – victims and witnesses.
- ➡ meetings of the Lawyer’s Club;
- ➡ legal workshops for people representing their children in criminal proceedings;
- ➡ running the Child Rights Academy project;
- ➡ participation in meetings of the Interdisciplinary Team for Combating Domestic Violence in Targówek and the diagnostic and assistance groups of the Targówek and Bielany districts;
- ➡ participation in bodies monitoring the implementation of child protection programmes;
- ➡ participation in international conferences and study visits of the ECF lawyers.

Year 2024 in numbers

205

legal consultations for parents/
caregivers and professionals

14

volunteers of the "Carer of a Child
Victim of a Crime" project – 173
e-mail consultations regarding
children in legal proceedings

11

children/young adults receiving
legal assistance during
proceedings (representation)

94

procedural documents, *amicus
curiae* letters and legal
interventions

45

statements, speeches and advocacy
meetings

1,313

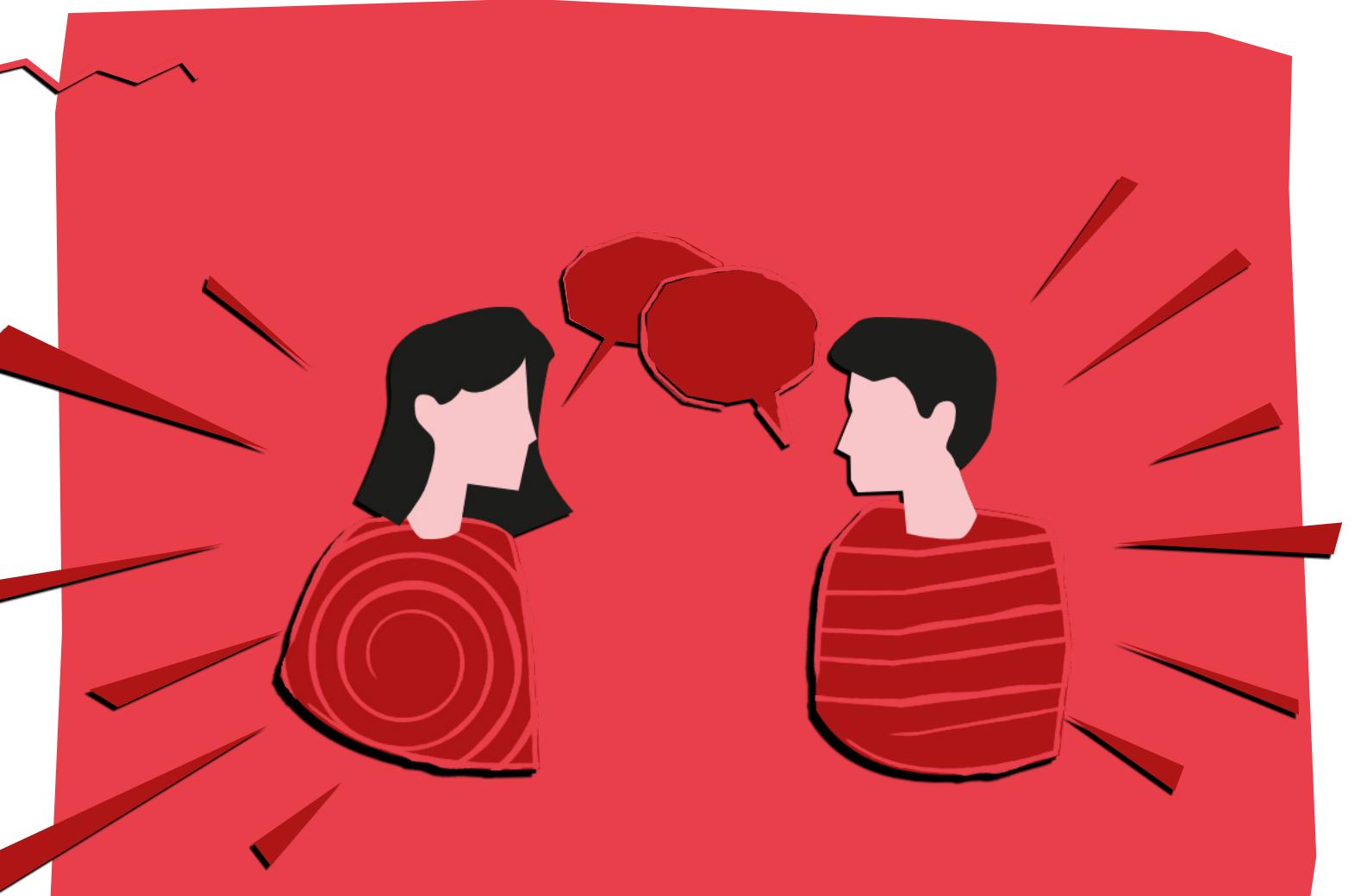
participants of trainings,
conferences and education
sessions for professionals

Financing:

- ➡ Ministry of Justice
- ➡ City Hall of Warsaw
- ➡ UNHCR, UN Refugee Agency
- ➡ Ministry of Health
- ➡ 1,5 % PBO
- ➡ Terre des hommes
- ➡ Plan International
- ➡ Save the Children
- ➡ World Childhood Foundation

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Social mobilisation

We know that a lot can be achieved when people have a common goal and actively participate in both identifying needs and being part of the solution. We want everyone to be able to support us in our mission to protect children from violence. We develop awareness among adults on the violence against children and the risks associated with it. So that everyone can react to violence against children and share this knowledge with others. Our activities are possible thanks to the support of citizens: one-time donations, monthly payments, 1.5% PBO and collections. We also encourage companies to implement the principle of corporate social responsibility in cooperation with our Foundation.



PR department

Goals:

not only building a coherent image of the Empowering Children Foundation, but above all, reaching out to opinion leaders and a wide range of recipients in society in order to educate, build awareness and sensitize about the problem of child abuse in Poland and methods of preventing it. These activities take place throughout the year in multiple channels, through media relations, social media, the website, as well as outdoor activities and non-standard channels.

Main activities:

in addition to media relations, social media and the website, the PR department supports the Foundation by creating branding and promotional materials, harmonizing visual identification, patronage, supporting grant and business partnerships, as well as organizing events, among others the Alina Magrolis-Edelman Gala Reception. On a daily basis, the team also presents legal and psychological issues which are key to improving the situation of children in Poland and to implementing a change in the society, in a simple and understandable way.

Year 2024 in numbers

25,893

mentions in the media on
the ECF activities

250

media appearances by
the ECF experts

749,130

fdds.pl website views

142,463

fans on Facebook

40,753

followers on Instagram

8,559

followers on LinkedIn

Actions implemented in 2024:

- ➡ conducting communication activities in social media (Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, Tik Tok, X);
- ➡ press office support and ongoing relations with media;
- ➡ promotion of the campaigns: "1.5%", "Childhood Without Violence", "Letter from Santa Claus"; "Close to The Phone, Far from The Child";
- ➡ communication support and promotion of calls, Foundation statements, petitions, events, trainings, webinars and other activities conducted by the Foundation;
- ➡ managing the Foundation's branding and branding of the facilities;
- ➡ administration and editing of the websites: fdds.pl, rodzice.fdds.pl and the newsletter for the Foundation's supporters.

Financing:

- ➡ individual and business donors
- ➡ OAK Foundation
- ➡ UNHCR, Refugee UN Agency
- ➡ Ministry of Justice in the framework of the Justice Fund
- ➡ Save the Children
- ➡ Terre des Hommes

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Fundraising department

Goals:

raising funds necessary for the implementation of the Foundation's activities.

Main activities:

cooperation with the Foundation's donors – companies and individuals, coordinating actions and campaigns, implementing new fundraising solutions, acquiring new donors.

Actions implemented in 2024:

- ➡ developing projects to acquire individual regular donors;
- ➡ implementation of the "Biegam dobrze" campaign, "Letter from Santa Claus" and involvement in the social campaign "O Choinka!";
- ➡ developing cooperation with business donors;
- ➡ continued cooperation with Algida/Unilever, Anwen, Circle K, Devinity, Drosed/Sedar, Early Stage, Fly on the Cloud FOTC, DeloiPamięci, Warbud Foundation, Golden Submarine, ICG (INTERMEDIATE CAPITAL GROUP), IKEA, Kappahl Polska, MacMillan, Nationale-Nederlanden, PEPCO, PRU, Samsung, TKMaxx / Homesense Foundation to support help and prevention programs.

Year 2024 in numbers

10,548

regular individual donors

9,528

one-time individual donors

220

charity runners under the
"Biegam Dobrze" campaign

106

companies involved in our
activities

2,898

letters as part of the "Letter
from Santa" campaign

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National Coalition to Protect Children (KKOD)

In October 2023, on the initiative of the Empowering Children Foundation, the National Coalition for Child Protection was established. The Coalition was joined by 20 non-governmental organizations from all over Poland, which carry out the mission of protecting children from violence. The goal of the Coalition is to exchange experiences and improve leadership and design competences in organizations. Cooperation of organizations associated in KKOD will also enable joint advocacy in matters of improving the system of assistance to children and families, as well as the implementation of preventive projects. KKOD's activities are coordinated by the Empowering Children Foundation.

Member organisations:

- Empowering Children Foundation
- Semper a Frente Foundation
- Słonie na Balkonie Foundation
- Moc Wsparcia Association
- Foundation for Social Psychoprophylaxis PRO-FIL
- SZANSA Association for Children and Youth
- NON LICET Foundation Helping Victims of Domestic Violence
- Polish Association of Educators and Animators KLANZA, Białystok Branch
- Child in the Center Foundation
- Arka Children and Family Assistance Association
- Grudziądz Homini Child and Family Assistance Society
- Committee for the Protection of Child Rights
- PSAR – Podkarpackie Association for Active Families
- Częstochowa ETOH Association
- National Emergency Service for Victims of Domestic Violence (Niebieska Linia)
- Mały Duży Człowiek Foundation
- Polish Women Can Do Everything Foundation
- Big Hear Foundation
- "It's me – a Child" Kamil Mrozek from Częstochowa Foundation
- Adopcyjni Foundation, Łódź

Dobre Dzieciństwo Daje Dziecku MOC



Childhood Without Violence

The Childhood Without Violence campaign implemented by the Empowering Children Foundation in cooperation with the National Coalition for Child Protection was inaugurated on October 8th, 2024 in the Column Hall of the Parliament of the Republic of Poland and ended on November 19th, 2024 on the International Day for the Prevention of Violence against Children. Institutions involved in the campaign throughout Poland rated its implementation very highly (average rating 9,4 on a 1-10 scale) and unanimously considered the campaign to be necessary (96% considered it to be definitely necessary, 4% considered it to be rather necessary).

Campaign in numbers

5,078

registered educational initiatives and 2,569 illuminated buildings on November 19th

9,759

participants of webinars for parents and professionals and 256,875 participants of online lessons for children and young people

11,731

publications in the media, reaching 55,413,019 recipients

50

collaboration with 50 internet creators/influencers

5 mil

social media views

24%

of adult Poles had contact with the campaign messages (IPSOS 2024)

The implementation of our activities is also possible thanks to the work of other departments: accounting, IT, administration and HR.


Only together we can empower children!

Empowering Children Foundation

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