**ANNEX I**

**Sixth and Seventh**

**Consolidated Report**

**under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child**

**Republic of Bulgaria**

**Sofia, 2022**

**Reply to paragraphs 34a, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41 and 42 of the list of issues**

1. **B. General principles (arts. 2-3, 6 and 12)**

**[CRC/C/BGR/QPR/6-7, para. 34a]**

1. As per Item 12, the Commission for Protection against Discrimination (CPaD) has considered a number of cases, with a decision in each of them, in view of the evidence collected. All unequal treatment complaints entered in the Commission are considered in accordance with the Protection against Discrimination Act (PaDA) and the Rules of Procedure.
2. An act is discriminatory when guided by a discriminatory motive. Discrimination by association is also present when it concerns a person with whom the victim is somehow connected. Considering the specific problems of children, a number of complaints are about multiple forms of discrimination.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Motive** | **2017** | **2018** | **2019** | **2020** |
| Ethnic origin/race | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Sex |  |  | 1 |  |
| Origin |  | 1 |  |  |
| Disability | 2 | 2 |  | 1 |
| Marital status | 1 |  |  | 1 |

1. **D. Violence against children (arts. 19, 24(3), 28(2), 34, 37(a) and 39)**

**[CRC/C/BGR/QPR/6-7, para. 36]**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1. Children-victims of crimes registered in the reporting period by type, sex and age. | | | | | |  |
|  |  | Number of victims |  | | |  |
|  | Years |  |  | Minors | Minors |  |
| **Crimes** |  |  | Female | under 14 | 14-17 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 2016 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |  |
|  | 2017 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |  |
| 1. Murder - Art. 124 Penal Code | 2018 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 |  |
|  | 2019 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |  |
|  | 2020 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |  |
|  | 2021 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |  |
|  | 2016 | 19 | 16 | 9 | 10 |  |
|  | 2017 | 22 | 14 | 14 | 8 |  |
| 2. Procurement and abduction for debauchery – art.155-156 PC | 2018 | 19 | 15 | 5 | 14 |  |
|  | 2019 | 15 | 11 | 12 | 3 |  |
|  | 2020 | 11 | 10 | 5 | 6 |  |
|  | 2021 | 14 | 12 | 4 | 10 |  |
|  | 2016 | 220 | 46 | 80 | 140 |  |
|  | 2017 | 272 | 44 | 105 | 167 |  |
| 3. Bodily harm | 2018 | 269 | 63 | 91 | 178 |  |
|  | 2019 | 298 | 71 | 99 | 199 |  |
|  | 2020 | 239 | 59 | 79 | 160 |  |
|  | 2021 | 231 | 56 | 89 | 142 |  |
|  | 2016 | - | - | - | - |  |
|  | 2017 | - | - | - | - |  |
| 4. Domestic violence | 2018 | - | - | - | - |  |
|  | 2019 | 27 | 18 | 21 | 6 |  |
|  | 2020 | 18 | 6 | 12 | 6 |  |
|  | 2021 | 22 | 13 | 14 | 8 |  |

1. Additional information is available in Sub-annex 1.1.
2. **Family environment and alternative care (arts. 5, 9-11, 18(1)-(2), 20-21, 25 and 27(4))**

**[CRC/C/BGR/QPR/6-7, para. 37a]**

1. The placement of a child in a family of relatives or extended family, as well as the accommodation of a child with a foster family, is carried out after the exhaustion of all opportunities for protection in the family, in accordance with the terms and conditions of Art. 26 of the Child Protection Act (CPA).

* Aid under the CPA for **2016** was BGN **8 553 292** for **4,352** cases on average, and BGN **3 867 393** for remuneration and social security assistance for on average **496** professional foster parents.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Program “Protection of children by transition from institutional care to alternative care in a family environment” | Unit | 2016 |
| Prevention of abandonment | Average monthly cases | 24 |
| Reintegration | Average monthly cases | 6 |
| Children placed with relatives or extended family | Average monthly cases | 3 720 |
| Children placed in foster care | Average monthly cases | 602 |
| **Total:** |  | **4 352** |

* Aid under the CPA for **2017** was BGN **7 100 590** for **3,631** cases on average, and BGN**1 357 817** for remuneration and social security assistance for on average 155 professional foster parents.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Program “Protection of children by transition from institutional care to alternative care in a family environment” | Unit | 2017 |
| Prevention of abandonment | Average monthly cases | 24 |
| Reintegration | Average monthly cases | 4 |
| Children placed with relatives or extended family | Average monthly cases | 3 414 |
| Children placed in foster care | Average monthly cases | 189 |
| **Total:** |  | **3 631** |

* Aid under the CPA for **2018** was BGN **7 528 794** for **3 359** cases on average, and BGN**1 341 156** for remuneration and social security assistance for on average 138 professional foster parents.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Program “Protection of children by transition from institutional care to alternative care in a family environment” | Unit | 2018 |
| Prevention of abandonment | Average monthly cases | 27 |
| Reintegration | Average monthly cases | 4 |
| Children placed with relatives or extended family | Average monthly cases | 3 157 |
| Children placed in foster care | Average monthly cases | 171 |
| **Total:** |  | **3 359** |

* Aid under the CPA for **2019** was BGN **7 215 382** for **3 127** cases on average, and BGN **1 421 799** for remuneration and social security assistance for on average 131 professional foster parents.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Program “Protection of children by transition from institutional care to alternative care in a family environment” | Unit | 2019 |
| Prevention of abandonment | Average monthly cases | 27 |
| Reintegration | Average monthly cases | 2 |
| Children placed with relatives or extended family | Average monthly cases | 2 934 |
| Children placed in foster care | Average monthly cases | 164 |
| **Total:** |  | **3 127** |

* Aid under the CPA for **2020** was BGN **6 948 387** for **2 955** cases on average, and BGN **1 520 575** for remuneration and social security assistance for on average 130 professional foster parents.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Program “Protection of children by transition from institutional care to alternative care in a family environment” | Unit | 2020 |
| Prevention of abandonment | Average monthly cases | 28 |
| Reintegration | Average monthly cases | 3 |
| Children placed with relatives or extended family | Average monthly cases | 2 763 |
| Children placed in foster care | Average monthly cases | 161 |
| **Total:** |  | **2 955** |

* Aid under the CPA for **2021** was BGN **7 034 605** for **2 696** cases on average, and BGN**1 349 005** for remuneration and social security assistance for on average 111 professional foster parents.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Program “Protection of children by transition from institutional care to alternative care in a family environment” | Unit | 2021 |
| Prevention of abandonment | Average monthly cases | 31 |
| Reintegration | Average monthly cases | 5 |
| Children placed with relatives or extended family | Average monthly cases | 2 529 |
| Children placed in foster care | Average monthly cases | 131 |
| **Total:** |  | 2 696 |

**[CRC/C/BGR/QPR/6-7, para. 37b]**

1. Information is provided in Sub-annex I.1.2 and Sub-annex I.1.3.

**[CRC/C/BGR/QPR/6-7, para. 37c]**

* *Reintegration cases*

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Period** | **Total number of reintegration cases being worked on at the end of the year** | **Total number of closed reintegration cases during the year** | **Number of successfully completed reintegration cases during the year** |
| **2016** | **1 729** | **1 600** | **990** |
| **2017** | **1 541** | **1 224** | **644** |
| **2018** | **1 235** | **915** | **495** |
| **2019** | **1 402** | **858** | **428** |
| **2020** | **1 293** | **1 390** | **564** |
| **2021** | **1 206** | **1 342** | **598** |

* *Prevention of abandonment*

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Period** | **Total number of cases on prevention of child abandonment, which are being worked on at the end of the year** | **Total number of closed cases on abandonment prevention during the year** | **Number of successfully completed cases of abandonment prevention during the year** |
| **2016** | **4 938** | **4 056** | **2 915** |
| **2017** | **3 783** | **3 089** | **2 185** |
| **2018** | **3 325** | **2 316** | **1 773** |
| **2019** | **3 471** | **2 402** | **1 749** |
| **2020** | **3 525** | **3 757** | **2 768** |
| **2021** | **3 519** | **3 852** | **2 907** |

1. Additional information in available in Sub-annex I.1.4.

**[CRC/C/BGR/QPR/6-7, para. 37d]**

1. In 2019, the Minister of Justice gave permission for full adoption of 273 children residing in the Republic of Bulgaria by adoptive parents with residence abroad, through 197 adoption procedures. These include 70 permissions for the adoption of 101 children through special measures. All proceedings have been completed and there is a court decision in effect.
2. In 2020, the Minister of Justice gave permission for full adoption of 178 children residing in the Republic of Bulgaria by adoptive parents with residence abroad, through 136 adoption procedures. These include 54 permissions for the adoption of 78 children through special measures.
3. For the first half of 2021, the Minister of Justice gave permission for full adoption of 101 children residing in the Republic of Bulgaria by adoptive parents with residence abroad, through 79 adoption procedures. These include 29 permissions for the adoption of 39 children through special measures.
4. Data on adopted children domestically:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Year** | **Total number of adopted children during the year** | **Healthy children** | **Children with disabilities** |
|
| 1=2+3 | 2 | 3 |
| **2016** | 555 | 552 | 3 |
| **2017** | 578 | 555 | 23 |
| **2018** | 539 | 516 | 23 |
| **2019** | 500 | 485 | 15 |
| **2020** | 418 | 393 | 25 |
| **2021** | 361 | 343 | 18 |

1. **F. Children with disabilities (arts. 23)**

**[CRC/C/BGR/QPR/6-7, para. 38]**

1. One-time assistance after childbirth, granted under the terms and conditions of Art. 6, para. 6 of the Family Benefits Act, on condition that by the age of 2 the child is diagnosed with permanent disabilities of 50 and over 50%.

* For 2016, one-time assistance has been given to **458 children**;
* For 2017, one-time assistance has been given to **461 children**;
* For 2018, one-time assistance has been given to **435 children**;
* For 2019, one-time assistance has been given to **440 children**;
* For 2020, one-time assistance has been given to **480 children**;
* For 2021, one-time assistance has been given to **414 children**.

1. Monthly allowance for children with permanent disabilities, granted according to the terms and conditions of Art. 8e of the Family Benefits Act are provided to families with children with Expert Decisions of the Territorial Expert Medical Commission (TEMC), with certain percentages of 50 and over 50 per cent type and degree of disability or degree of permanently reduced working capacity. The purpose of the aid is to support families in raising children in a family environment and their social inclusion. Monthly allowances are provided regardless of the family's income.
2. The amounts of the above-mentioned monthly allowances are differentiated depending on the degree of disability or the degree of reduced working capacity, in accordance with their legally defined purpose and the circumstance, whether the child is placed to be raised in a family, relatives, or in a foster family in the order of Art. 26 of the CPA, as follows:

* Allowances under Art. 8e of the Family Benefits Act for **2017**:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| ***Monthly benefits for children with permanent disabilities up to the age of 18 and until the completion of secondary education, but no later than the age of 20*** | ***Average monthly number of children*** | ***Total sum*** |
| ***Total:*** | **26 289** | **BGN 161 500 024** |
| **1. For parents/adoptive parents of** | **25 749** |  |
| *А) children with 90 and over 90 percent type and degree of disability or degree of permanently reduced working capacity* | 5 623 |
| *B) children with 70 to 89,99 percent type and degree of disability or degree of permanently reduced working capacity* | 7 831 |
| *C)*  *children with 50 to 69.99 percent type and degree of disability or degree of permanently reduced working capacity* | 12 297 |
| **2. For families, relatives or foster families, or social or integrated health and social service (under art. 26 CPA)** | **518** |
| *А) children with 90 and over 90 percent type and degree of disability or degree of permanently reduced working capacity* | 111 |
| *B) children with 70 to 89,99 percent type and degree of disability or degree of permanently reduced working capacity* | 181 |
| *C)*  *children with 50 to 69.99 percent type and degree of disability or degree of permanently reduced working capacity* | 231 |

* Allowances under Art. 8e of the Family Benefits Act for **2018**:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| ***Monthly benefits for children with permanent disabilities up to the age of 18 and until the completion of secondary education, but no later than the age of 20*** | ***Average monthly number of children*** | ***Total sum*** |
| ***Total:*** | **26 623** | ***BGN 170 816 806*** |
| **1. For parents/adoptive parents of** | **26 095** |  |
| *А) children with 90 and over 90 percent type and degree of disability or degree of permanently reduced working capacity* | 5 890 |
| *B) children with 70 to 89,99 percent type and degree of disability or degree of permanently reduced working capacity* | 7 926 |
| *C)*  *children with 50 to 69.99 percent type and degree of disability or degree of permanently reduced working capacity* | 12 279 |
| **2. For families, relatives or foster families, or social or integrated health and social service (under art. 26 CPA)** | **528** |
| *А) children with 90 and over 90 percent type and degree of disability or degree of permanently reduced working capacity* | 106 |
| *B) children with 70 to 89,99 percent type and degree of disability or degree of permanently reduced working capacity* | 189 |
| *C)*  *children with 50 to 69.99 percent type and degree of disability or degree of permanently reduced working capacity* | 233 |

* Allowances under Art. 8e of the Family Benefits Act for **2019**:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| ***Monthly benefits for children with permanent disabilities up to the age of 18 and until the completion of secondary education, but no later than the age of 20*** | ***Average monthly number of children*** | ***Total sum*** |
| ***Total:*** | **26 113** | **BGN 169 023 294** |
| **1. For parents/adoptive parents of** | **25 628** |  |
| *А) children with 90 and over 90 percent type and degree of disability or degree of permanently reduced working capacity* | 6 171 |
| *B) children with 70 to 89,99 percent type and degree of disability or degree of permanently reduced working capacity* | 7 531 |
| *C)*  *children with 50 to 69.99 percent type and degree of disability or degree of permanently reduced working capacity* | 11 926 |
| **2. For families, relatives or foster families, or social or integrated health and social service (under art. 26 CPA)** | **485** |
| *А) children with 90 and over 90 percent type and degree of disability or degree of permanently reduced working capacity* | 107 |
| *B) children with 70 to 89,99 percent type and degree of disability or degree of permanently reduced working capacity* | 172 |
| *C)*  *children with 50 to 69.99 percent type and degree of disability or degree of permanently reduced working capacity* | 206 |

* Allowances under Art. 8e of the Family Benefits Act for **2020**:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| ***Monthly benefits for children with permanent disabilities up to the age of 18 and until the completion of secondary education, but no later than the age of 20*** | ***Average monthly number of children*** | ***Total sum*** |
| ***Total:*** | **26 289** | **BGN 171 202 386** |
| **1. For parents/adoptive parents of** | **25 823** |  |
| *А) children with 90 and over 90 percent type and degree of disability or degree of permanently reduced working capacity* | 6 564 |
| *B) children with 70 to 89,99 percent type and degree of disability or degree of permanently reduced working capacity* | 7 418 |
| *C)*  *children with 50 to 69.99 percent type and degree of disability or degree of permanently reduced working capacity* | 11 841 |
| **2. For families, relatives or foster families, or social or integrated health and social service (under art. 26 CPA)** | **466** |
| *А) children with 90 and over 90 percent type and degree of disability or degree of permanently reduced working capacity* | 103 |
| *B) children with 70 to 89,99 percent type and degree of disability or degree of permanently reduced working capacity* | 155 |
| *C)*  *children with 50 to 69.99 percent type and degree of disability or degree of permanently reduced working capacity* | 208 |

* Allowances under Art. 8e of the Family Benefits Act for **2021**:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| ***Monthly benefits for children with permanent disabilities up to the age of 18 and until the completion of secondary education, but no later than the age of 20*** | ***Average monthly number of children*** | ***Total sum*** |
| ***Total:*** | **27 403** | **BGN 176 531 699** |
| **1. For parents/adoptive parents of** | **26 913** |  |
| *А) children with 90 and over 90 percent type and degree of disability or degree of permanently reduced working capacity* | 6 933 |
| *B) children with 70 to 89,99 percent type and degree of disability or degree of permanently reduced working capacity* | 7 728 |
| *C)*  *children with 50 to 69.99 percent type and degree of disability or degree of permanently reduced working capacity* | 12 252 |
| **2. For families, relatives or foster families, or social or integrated health and social service (under art. 26 CPA)** | **490** |
| *А) children with 90 and over 90 percent type and degree of disability or degree of permanently reduced working capacity* | 107 |
| *B) children with 70 to 89,99 percent type and degree of disability or degree of permanently reduced working capacity* | 164 |
| *C)*  *children with 50 to 69.99 percent type and degree of disability or degree of permanently reduced working capacity* | 219 |

1. Additional information is available in Sub-annex I.1.3 and Sub-annex I.1.5.
2. **G. Basic health and welfare (arts. 6, 18(3), 24, 26, 27 (1)-(3) and 33)**

**[CRC/C/BGR/QPR/6-7, para. 39]**

1. The achieved level of child mortality in the last few years is the lowest in the demographic development of the country, and the tendency to reduce the levels of child remains stable after 2015.
2. In 2021, 326 children under the age of 1 died in the country (301 in 2020), and the infant mortality rate increased from 5.1‰ to 5.6‰ (Figure 1). In 2021, the infant mortality rate in villages is 8.7‰, and in cities – 4.5‰. In 2020, 301 children under the age of 1 died in the country (342 in 2019), and the infant mortality rate decreased from 5.6‰ in 2019 to 5.1‰. In 2020, the infant mortality rate in villages is 6.9‰, and in cities - 4.5‰.

Figure 1. Infant mortality rates in Bulgaria and the EU (per 1,000 live births)

1. The perinatal infant mortality rate for 2021 is increasing and is 8.8 per 1,000 births, with an EU average of 6.2‰. The perinatal mortality rate in Bulgaria in 2020 was 7.9 per 1,000 births, in 2019 was 7.8 per 1,000 births, and in 2018 – 8.5 per 1,000 births.
2. Neonatal infant mortality after 2000, shows an annual downward trend but in 2021 is increasing and it reached 3.1‰ (2.8‰ – 2000, 3.1‰ – 2019, 3.6‰ – 2018), approaching the EU average of this indicator (2.5‰).
3. Post-neonatal infant mortality also shows a downward trend and in 2021 reached 2.4 per 1,000 live births excluding those who died before the 28th day (to 2.3 per 1,000 live births in 2020, 2.5 per 1,000 births in 2019 and 2.1 per 1,000 births in 2018). The average value for the EU is 1.1‰ - more than 2 times lower than that for Bulgaria. The stillbirth rate in 2020 was 6.0‰, and in 2019 was 5.6‰.
4. The analysis of the causes of mortality in children under 1 year for 2020 shows that deaths due to conditions detectable during pregnancy are about 2/3 of all deaths of children under 1 year. 137 children (45.5%) died due to "Conditions Occurring During the Perinatal Period", with another 57 (18.9%), having "Congenital Anomalies, Deformities and Chromosomal Aberrations" as the cause of death. Other significant causes of child mortality include diseases of the respiratory system (13.6%) and diseases of the circulatory system (6.3%).
5. Monthly allowance for raising a child until the completion of secondary education, but no more than 20 years of age granted to a minor mother in kind under the terms and conditions of Art. 7 of the Family Benefits Act.
6. Assistance in kind is provided in the event that the mother to whom it is granted has not reached the age of 18 in the form of goods and/or services for the child in accordance with his/her individual needs.

* For **2016** – **2 714** underage mothers received assistance;
* For **2017** – **3 023** underage mothers received assistance;
* For **2018** – **4 414** underage mothers received assistance;
* For **2019** – **3 992** underage mothers received assistance;
* For **2020** – **3 876** underage mothers received assistance;
* For **2021** – **3 800** underage mothers received assistance.

1. In 2021, the data and the results of the National study of health risk factors among the population in the Republic of Bulgaria conducted in 2020 within the framework of the National Program for the Prevention of Chronic Non-Communicable Diseases 2014-2020 were analysed. The prepared report contains data on the factors of tobacco and alcohol use.
2. The results show that 26.3% of children aged 10-19 have tried smoking cigarettes. Almost every fifth of them is a current smoker, with the relative share of girls being slightly higher (17.3% vs. 16.4%, respectively). Smoking is more prevalent among 15-19 year olds (31.4%) compared to 10-14 year olds (4.0%).
3. Almost every fourth of the respondents indicated that they were exposed to passive smoking in their home every day during the past week, with the proportion of girls being higher than that of boys (26.9% vs. 16.9%).
4. Research data shows that half of children aged 10-19 years (49.2%) have tried alcohol, with the average age being 14 years. At the time of the study, daily use was registered in 0.9% of the children, 27.1% of them indicated that they sometimes consume alcohol, mostly in the age group of 15-19 years, 72% do not consume alcohol. 10.5% of boys and 14.0% of girls report alcohol abuse 2 to 3 times a year (between 4 and 10 times - 5.3% of them, 8.3% of students aged 15-19 got drunk more than 10 times, no gender differences).
5. The above-mentioned program is responsible for providing information on young people's use of psychoactive substances, tracking trends in our country and comparing with European countries through the European School Research Project on Alcohol and Other Drugs (ESPAD). The project aims to collect comparative data on the use of alcohol, cigarettes and drugs among 16-year-old students from European countries every four years and to track trends in changes in patterns of use of psychoactive substances.
6. All ESPAD data is available at <http://www.espad.org/> and <https://www.emcdda.europa.eu/system/files/publications/13238/TD0420439BGN.pdf>
7. According to the latest ESPAD data for 2019, 82% of sixteen-year-old Bulgarian students (the percentage is the same for boys and girls) have tried some alcohol at least once in their life. The use of alcohol at least once in a lifetime decreased from 86% to 82% for Bulgaria between 1995 and 2019, as well as the use of alcohol at least once in the last 30 days (from 57% to 53%).

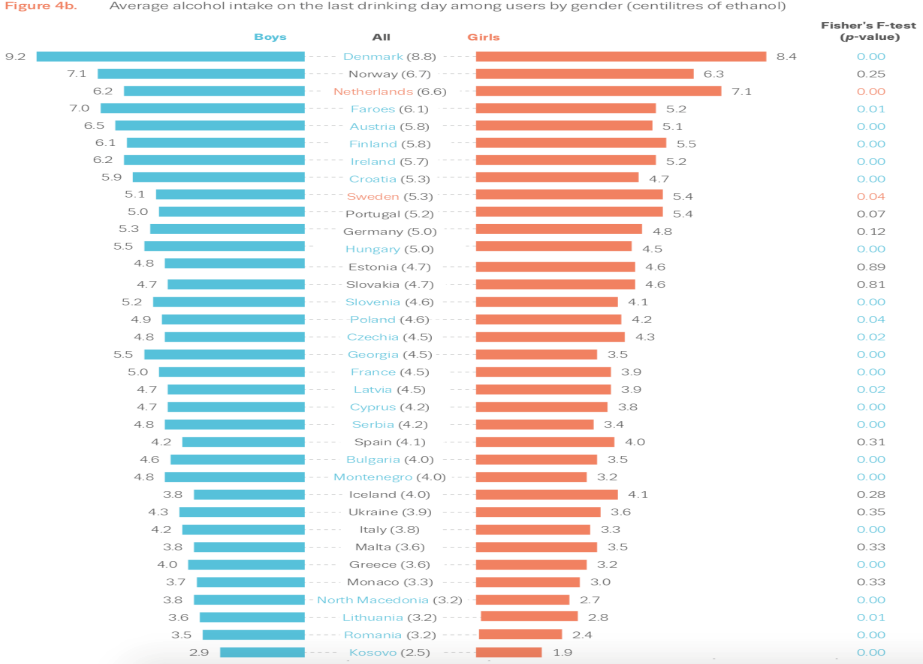
Use of alcohol at least once in life (Average for 35 European countries and Bulgaria)

Use of any alcohol at least once in the last 30 days (Average for 35 European countries and Bulgaria)

**Consumption of 5 or more drinks on one occasion in the last 30 days (Bulgaria and Europe)**

1. It should be emphasized that Bulgaria is not among the countries with the highest average amount of pure alcohol, tested on the last day of use. With an average consumption of 4.6 centilitres of pure alcohol for all countries participating in the study, Bulgarian youth drank an average of 4 centilitres, with the difference between boys and girls still significant (4.6 centilitres for boys and 3.5 centilitres for girls, but gradually decreases over time).

Average alcohol consumption on the last day of consumption in centilitres of 100% alcohol in Europe



1. Additional data is available in Annex II.
2. **H. Education, leisure and cultural activities (arts.28-31)**

**[CRC/C/BGR/QPR/6-7, para. 40]**

1. The Ministry of Education and Science (MES) annually summarizes and analyses data on incidents and types of aggression in educational institutions during the school year and tracks their trends. In the 2020/2021 academic year, registered cases of aggression and harassment between students decreased by 59.3%, cases of violence against students decreased by 64.6%, and cases of violence against teachers decreased by 31.1% compared to the academic year 2019/2020. An interesting fact is that even cyberbullying has decreased compared to the previous school year by 66%.
2. The data of the MES show an increase in the number of psychologists and pedagogical advisers appointed - in the academic year 2020/2021, 1107 psychologists and 792 pedagogical advisers were appointed, and in the academic year 2021/2022 - 1394 psychologists and 801 pedagogical advisers counsellors.
3. In view of the planning of adequate measures to prevent aggression and harassment between children and students in educational institutions, two programmes have been introduced. *"The Programme for Prevention of Aggression and Violence at School”* was developed jointly with the Institute for Population and Human Research at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. By the beginning of the 2021/2022 school year, nearly 600 school psychologists and pedagogical advisers were trained. *“The Steps Together”* programme, developed in partnership with UNICEF - Bulgaria, has been implemented since 2020 for a period of 2 years in five schools. It will expand to 432 schools included in the implementation of the BG05M2OP001-3.018 project *"Support for Inclusive Education"*.
4. In the event of a situation of harassment and violence with which the educational institution has difficulty dealing with, the Ministry of Education and Science performs support through psychologists from the National Mobile Group for Psychological Support. The goal is to improve discipline in school and reduce cases of aggression, as well as for interaction in crisis intervention.

**Trends for the last three school years**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **School year** | **Number of registered accidents** |
| **2018/2019** | 3158 |
| **2019/2020** | 2810 |
| **2020/2021** | 1891 |

1. In 2020, 25 715 children were admitted to nurseries, which is 4 526, or 15.0%, less than the previous year. At the end of the year, 29,238 children are raised in nurseries, of whom the boys are 15 169 and the girls are 14 069. The scope of children in nurseries as of 31 December 2020 is 15.9%, compared to 2019.
2. As of 1 December 2020, 215.7 thousand children were enrolled in kindergartens and pre-school groups. Compared to the previous year, the number of children decreased by 1.0%. The scope of children in this educational level, calculated through the group net enrolment rate (ratio of the number of children in kindergartens in the age group 3 - 6 years to the population in the same age group) for the school year 2020/2021, is 78.1% and decreases compared to last school year by 0.6 percentage points.
3. **I. Special protection measures (arts.22, 30, 32-33, 35-36, 37(b)-(d) and 38-40)**

**[CRC/C/BGR/QPR/6-7, para. 41a-b]**

1. Information is provided in Sub-annex I.1.5 and Sub-annex I.1.6 and in Annex II.

**[CRC/C/BGR/QPR/6-7, para. 41d]**

1. In 2016, the Child Protection Departments worked on 18 cases of unaccompanied children, foreign citizens, including refugee children, for whom protection measures were taken in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Child Protection Act.
2. In 2017, the Child Protection Departments worked on 20 cases; in 2018 on 24; in 2019 on 16; in 2020 on 7; and in 2021 work on 52 cases of unaccompanied children, foreign citizens, including refugee children for whom protection measures have been taken under the terms and conditions of the Child Protection Act. The work on cases of unaccompanied minors and minor migrants is carried out by the Social Assistance Directorate (SAD), where complete information about the children is available. The SAD keeps a file containing the documents of the respective unaccompanied child, a foreign citizen. Each case is strictly individual. The SAD follows each specific case of an unaccompanied child, a foreign citizen, respectively, and the decisions of the SAR regarding registering a request, receiving or refusing international protection.
3. In the majority of cases, unaccompanied foreign children apply for international protection under the terms and conditions of the Asylum and Refugees Act and are transferred and placed in protected areas for children in registration and reception centres of the State Agency for the Refugees.
4. Social workers participate in administrative proceedings of unaccompanied children, foreign citizens after receiving a notification about an established unaccompanied foreign child in the SAD for each specific.
5. In connection with achieving the set goal of a sustainable and quality process of social adaptation and cultural orientation, social support and health care for children seeking international protection, 3928 vulnerable persons were identified. From the group of vulnerable persons and persons with special needs, the number of unaccompanied children is the largest, which is about 81% of all vulnerable identified in 2021. In total, 2,042 rapid and full assessments of the best interests of the child were made for unaccompanied children.
6. In 2021, the number of children of compulsory school and pre-school age accommodated in territorial divisions of the SAR is a total of 1,523, or 41% of all registered children, most of them being unaccompanied children. The total number of children enrolled in school for 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 is 130, of which 51 are unaccompanied children.
7. For 2021, a total of 3,712 children sought international protection in the Republic of Bulgaria, with 3,172 being unaccompanied minors and minor foreign children. By comparison, in 2020 the number of unaccompanied children was 799, or an increase in 2021 of nearly 397%.
8. In 2021, out of 44 unaccompanied children who received international protection, the competent institutions placed 8 children in social services. For comparison, in 2020, no unaccompanied children who received international protection were accommodated in social services.

**[CRC/C/BGR/QPR/6-7, para. 42]**

1. In order to optimize the work of the Child Protection Departments, in the cases of children who are begging and children on the street, in 2012, a letter was sent by the Social Assistance Agency to organize periodic inspections within the territorial scope of each Social Assistance Directorate (SAD), with the aim to identify children who are begging and begging children on the streets. In the city of Sofia, in the SAD team, a Mobile Unit for Working with Children at Risk operates 24 hours a day.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Year | Registered child beggars by the social services | Number of campaigns held by the social services |
| 2016 | 11[[1]](#footnote-1) | 4 243 |
| 2017 | 37 | 4 268 |
| 2018 | 34 | 4 232 |
| 2019 | 46 | 4 373 |
| 2020 | 40 | 3 147 |
| 2021 | 32 | 3 618 |

1. The data covers the third and fourth trimester of 2016 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)