

## **Text of the project**

Aim of the project is to change current asymmetric relationship between the family of a paediatric patient and a health-care institution through implementing to the Czech paediatric practice the principles of family-centred care, and through active advocating and accompanying of the families. One of the tools to be used is the EACH Charter of rights of hospitalized children, which is relatively closely linked to our legislation. To change the situation, active participation and involvement of parents is necessary.

Children in hospital are quite a popular topic – usually associated with colorful hospital wards, playrooms brimming with toys, famous sportsmen and actors – or clowns – visiting sick children, or with purchasing expensive medical equipment. Activities, focused on improving the way families are treated by the hospital staff, on unlimited parental visiting or on allowing families to really participate in the decision making about the treatment a care options, are far less popular and not always welcome by the health-care institutions. Any activity aiming at structural change, not at improving the facade, always causes certain tension, has heightened potential for a conflict: and to be involved in such an activity requires being independent on the establishment, on the system and its structures. What's new in our project, that's the aim to change the relationship between an individual and an institution, not to merely make some partial improvements. And also the fact we make personal relationship (the "extended friendship", as Sister Frances Dominica, founder of the children's hospice movement, once put it) the centre of our endeavors. System can only be changed through individuals.

We plan to publish an updated version of our leaflet "When a child goes to hospital", to update our on-line Hospital Guide, distribute the printed version of the EACH Charter to all the children's hospitals and wards in the Czech Republic, launch a campaign aimed at healthy schoolchildren, build an independent family centre for parents of sick children in Prague, keep our phone- and e-mail hotlines running and offer individual and individualized help and support to families in a difficult life situation.

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