

# Institutional mechanisms for the protection of children without parental care and orphans in Latvia

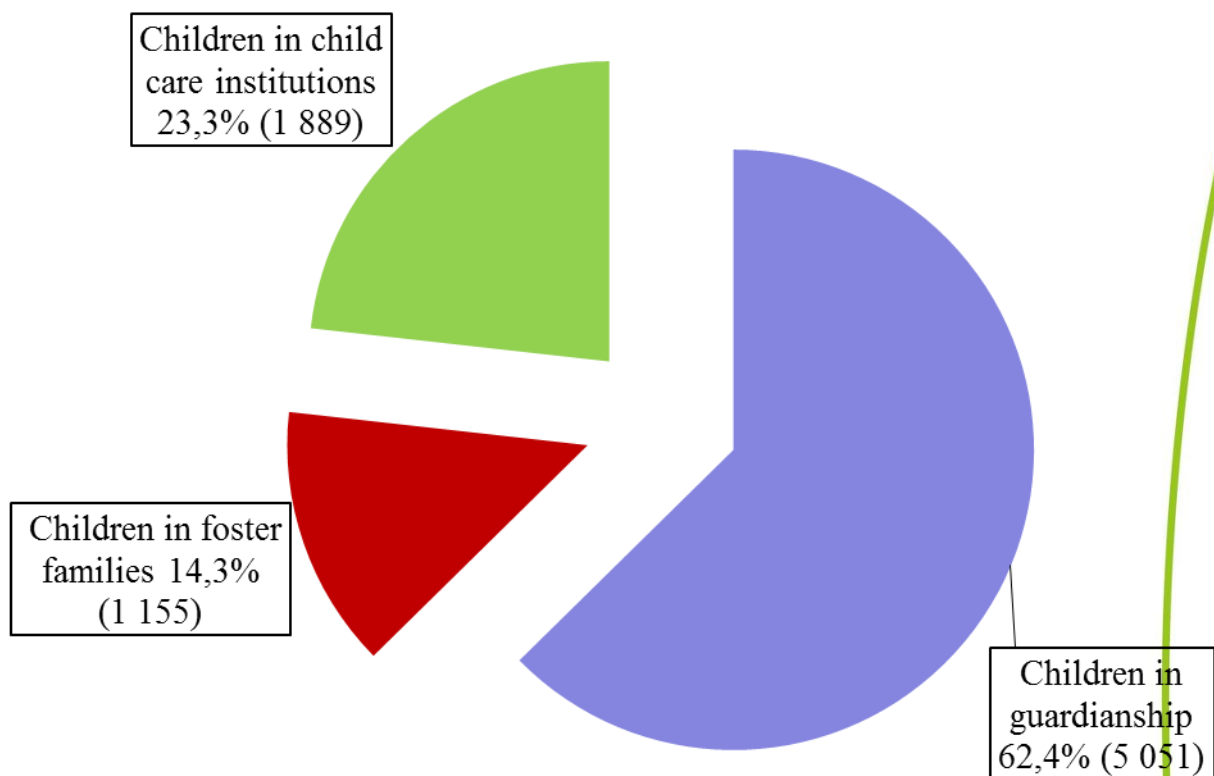
Chişinău, 03-05 October 2013

## **Children of Latvia, 2012**

Total number of children in Latvia - 350 798

Orphans and children left without parental care  
- 8 095

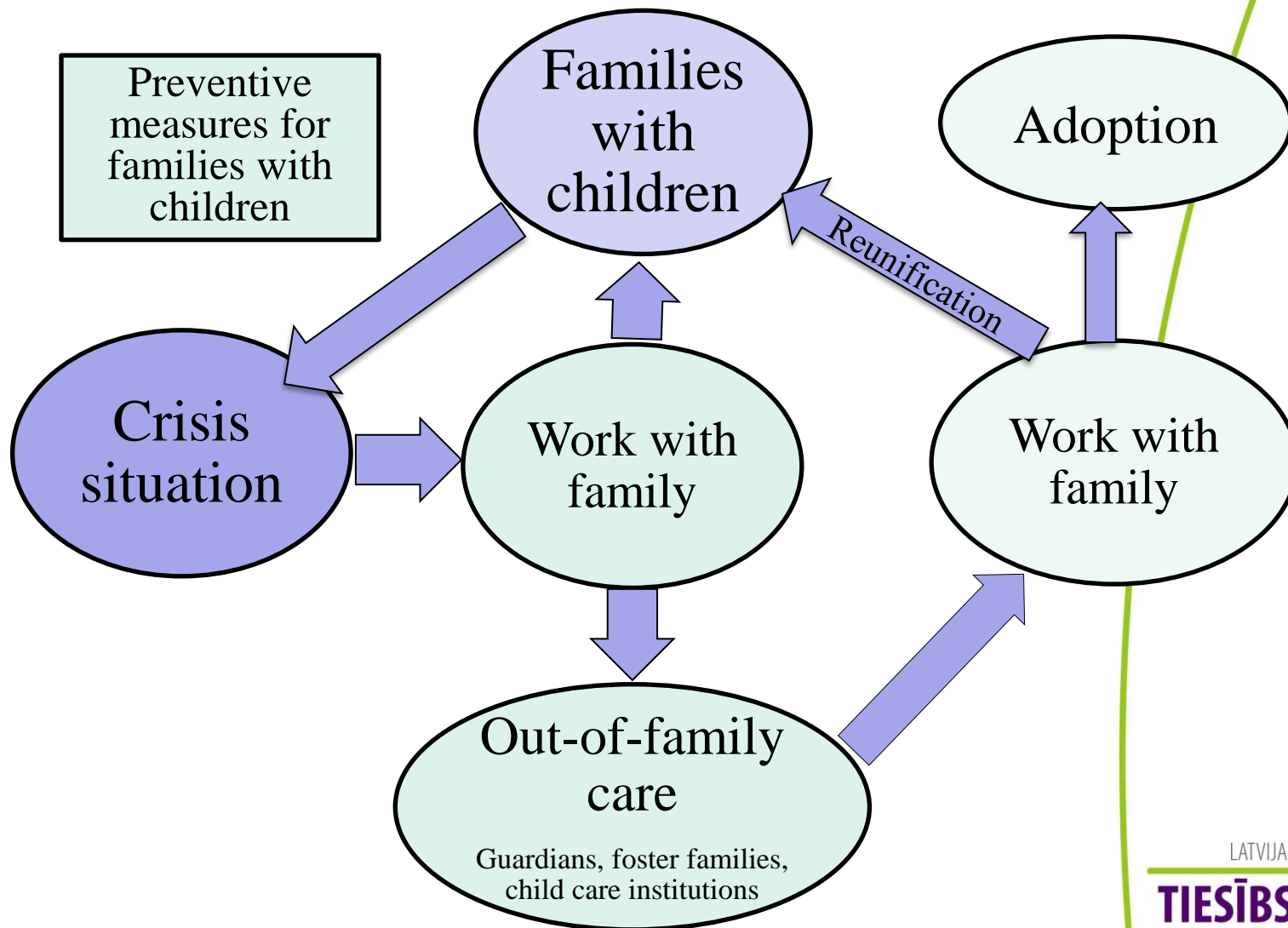
# Children in out-of-family care, 31.12.2012 – 8 095



# Subjects for the protection of the rights of child

- Parents, guardians and foster families
- At the state level: Parliament, Cabinet of Ministers and line ministries;  
Independent institutions: Ombudsman for children, courts.
- At the local level: Orphan`s courts, Social services, educational, health care institutions etc.
- Non-governmental organizations and other natural and legal persons whose activities are associated with the provision of support and assistance to children.

# Support in fulfillment of the parental duties and preservation of a family



## **Priorities in choosing out-of-family care type:**

1. Search of a suitable guardian among relatives or closest persons (neighbors, teachers, parents of child`s friends, family friends, etc.).
2. In the absence of these persons – search of a suitable foster family which is able to give necessary care to a child (distance to parents, appropriate educational and care institutions closeness, communication language etc.).
3. A child will be placed in out-of-family care institution, only when the care of a guardian or the foster family is not suitable for a child.

## **Problems in the field of out-of-family care:**

- A large number of children placed in the child care institutions.
- Insufficient number of foster families and guardians, as a result of inadequate (low) financing and lack of social guarantees.
- Lack of a state strategy of deinstitutionalization.
- Low awareness and the lack of resources at the local level for carrying out an adequate preventive work with social risk families and families from which children are taken away. It is as well a reason of a small number of children who returns to their biological families.

**Thank you for your attention!**

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