



# Deinstitutionalisation step by step:

## *Challenges and opportunities for children*

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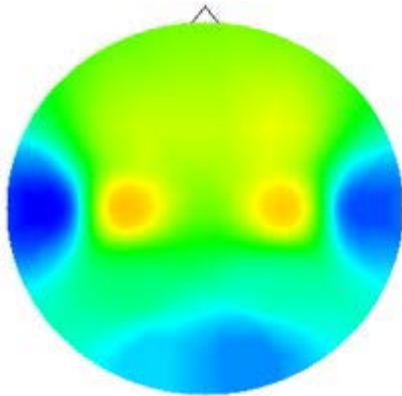
# The scale of the problem

- ✧ 8 million children in institutions globally
- ✧ 1 million children in institutions in Europe
- ✧ Approximately 90% of institutionalised children in Europe are **not orphans**
- ✧ At least 80% of institutionalised children globally are **not orphans**

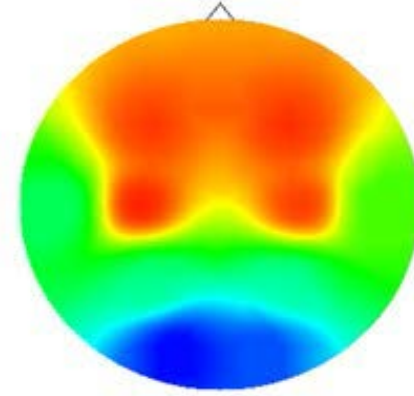


# The harm caused by institutionalisation

These images from the Bucharest study show the decreased electrical activity in an institutionalised child's brain. The colour orange indicates high activity.



EEG level: An institutionalised child



EEG level: A never-institutionalised child



## ✧ Adults who spent their childhood in institutions were

- **10 times** more likely than their peers to be involved in prostitution
- **40 times** more likely to have a criminal record
- **500 times** more likely to commit suicide

## ✧ Outcomes for children with disabilities

One study of children under 3 years of age who were discharged from institutions found that **28% of disabled children were 'discharged' because they had died**

**Children with disabilities were 100 times more likely to die** in the institution than those without disabilities

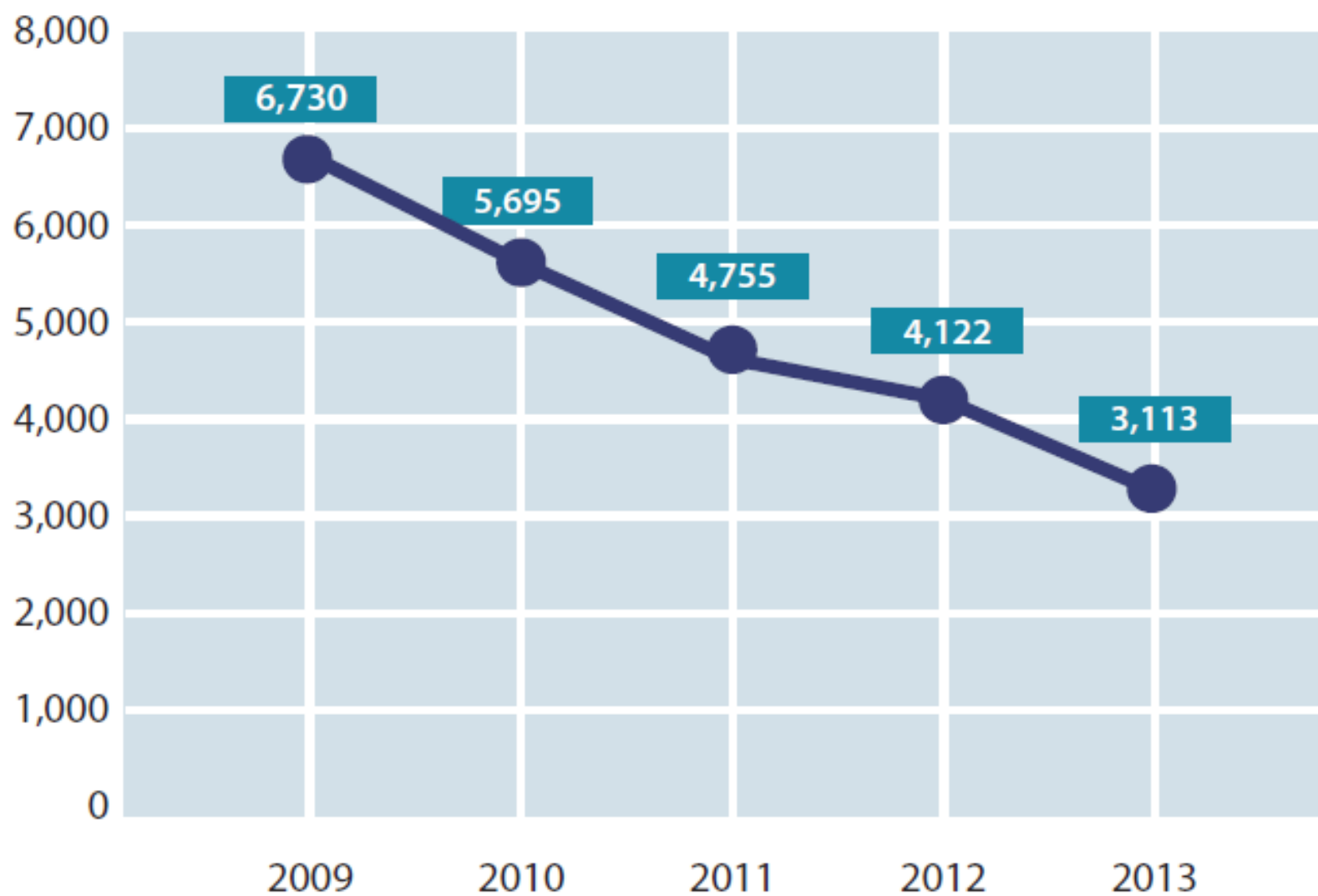


# Considerable progress in the European Union

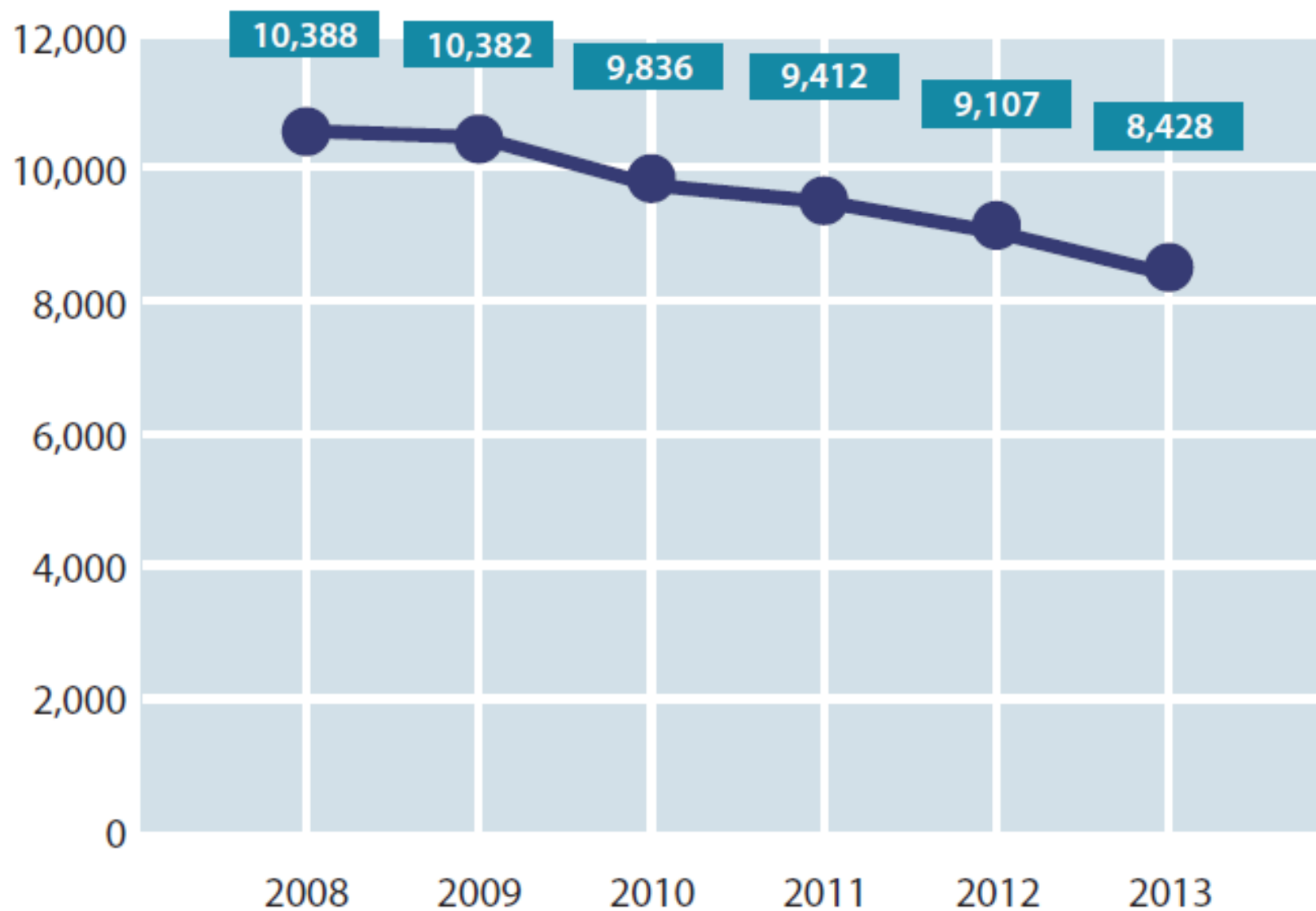
Structural Fund Regulations – From 1 Jan 2014, EU Member States cannot spend money on renovating or building institutions, and must spend money on the transition to community-based services.

A number of countries across the EU are treating this as a priority

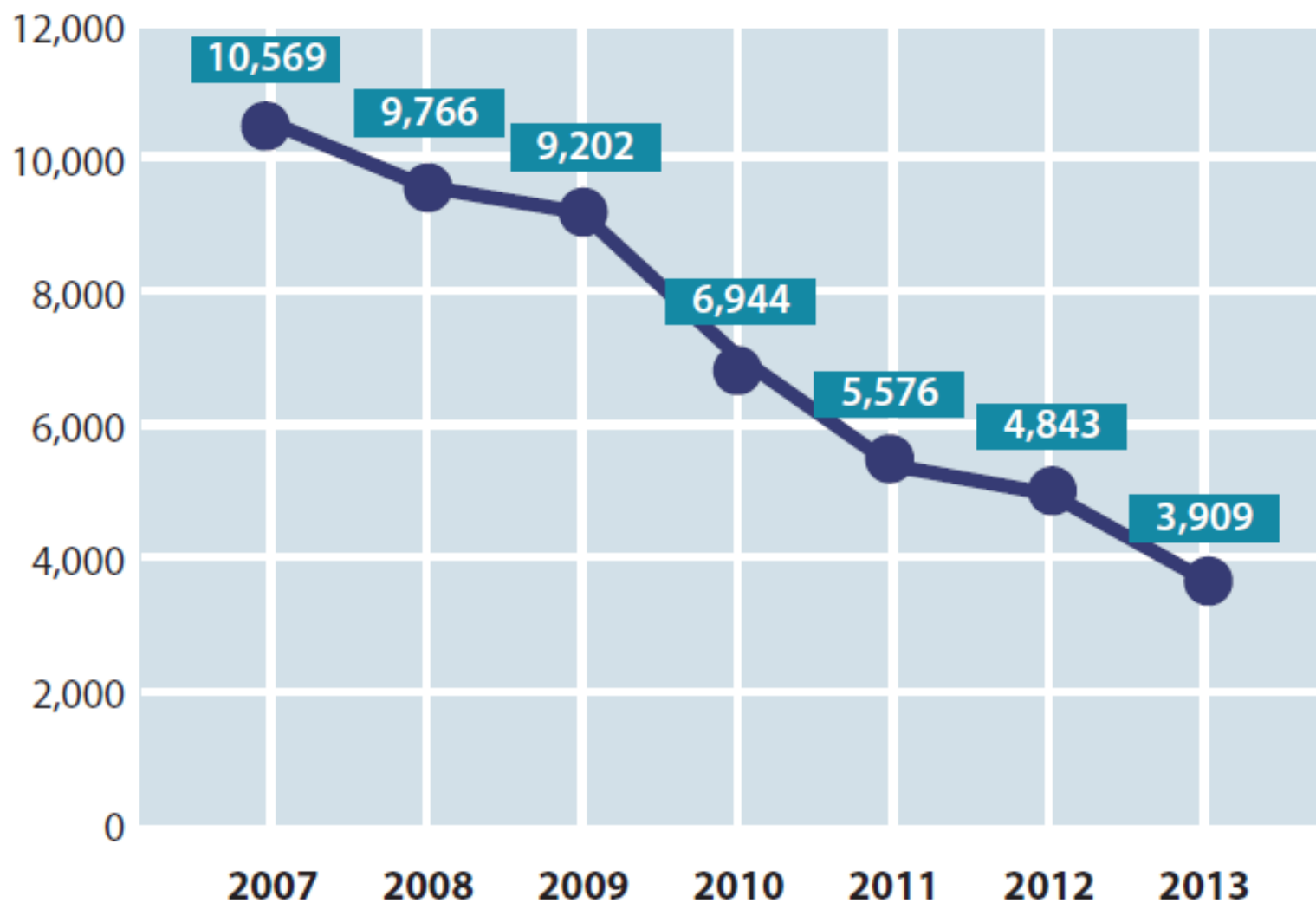
## Number of children in institutions in Bulgaria <sup>27</sup>



## Number of children in institutions in the Czech Republic <sup>16</sup>



## Numbers of children in institutions in Moldova 2007 – 2013 <sup>5</sup>





# Key challenges for Structural Fund implementation

- Resistance to close institutions that have received significant investment
- Managerial capacity for major programmes of change
- Ability to ensure funding is tailored to individual needs
- Insufficient data about institutionalisation in some E.U. Member States (e.g. Greece)





# Beyond the European Union

- ✧ Logic of pre-accession funding

- ✧ Standards for Europe's children = standards for **all** children

- ✧ All European Commission investment should ensure deinstitutionalisation (2015 European Year of Development is an opportunity)

- ✧ Need to coordinate EC investments with other donors (e.g. World Bank, US Government).

Thank yu

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