

Social services for the vulnerable population: the case of North Macedonia

Elizabeta Kunovska
PhD Candidate,
Institute for Social Work and Social Policy
Faculty of Philosophy, Skopje

Social services before and after the reform

- Provisions for Social services were determinate as a part of Non institutional and Institutional form of protection
- With the Law on Social Protection (2019) services are defined as:
 - Services for informing and referral
 - Services for professional support
 - Counseling services
 - Home based services
 - Community based services
 - Services for out of family support

Social services reform process

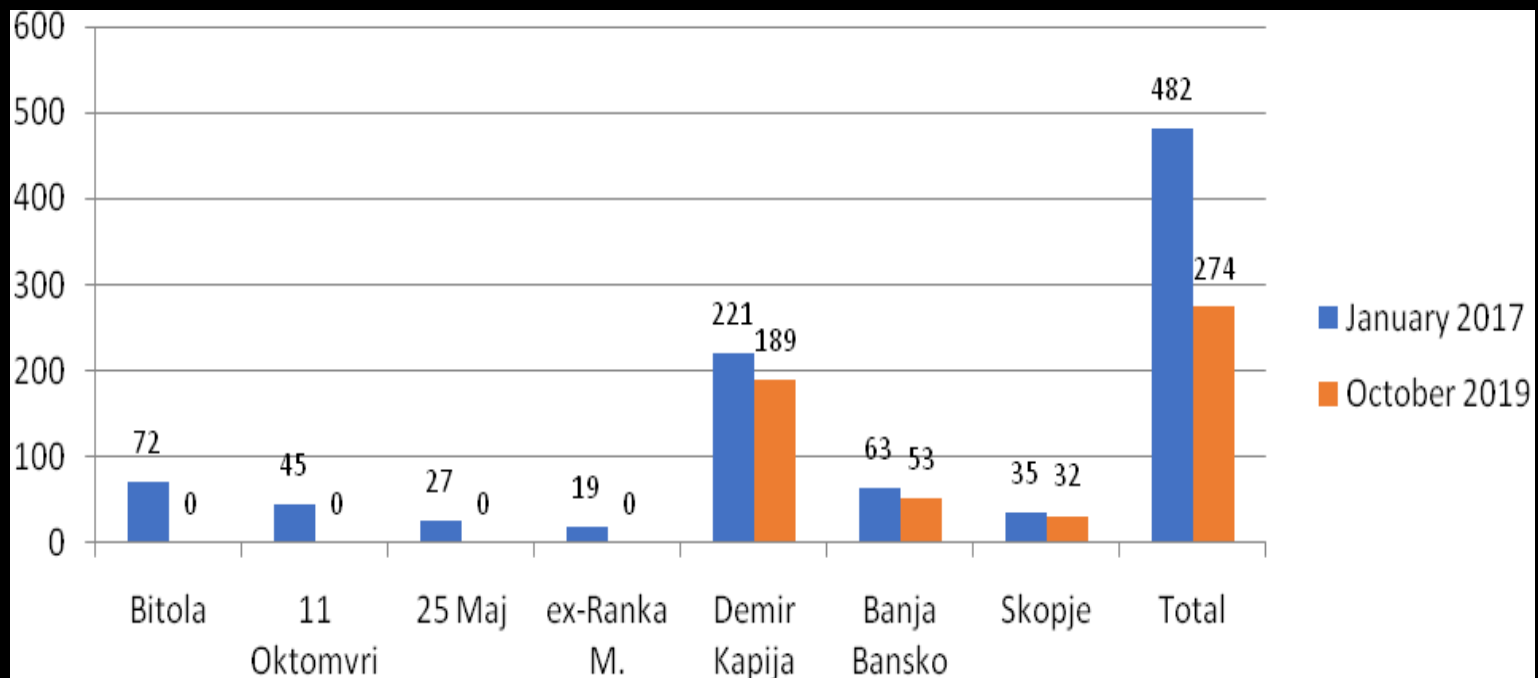
Main goals of the new Law on Social Protection is to ensure pluralization of service providers, or involvement of non-governmental actors in the provision of social services; and - decentralization, providing accessible social services in the community.

- Preparation of Normative and Standards for social services
- Preparation of Methodology for calculation of cost for establishing and providing of the social services
- Social services needs assessment
- Licensing of the service providers

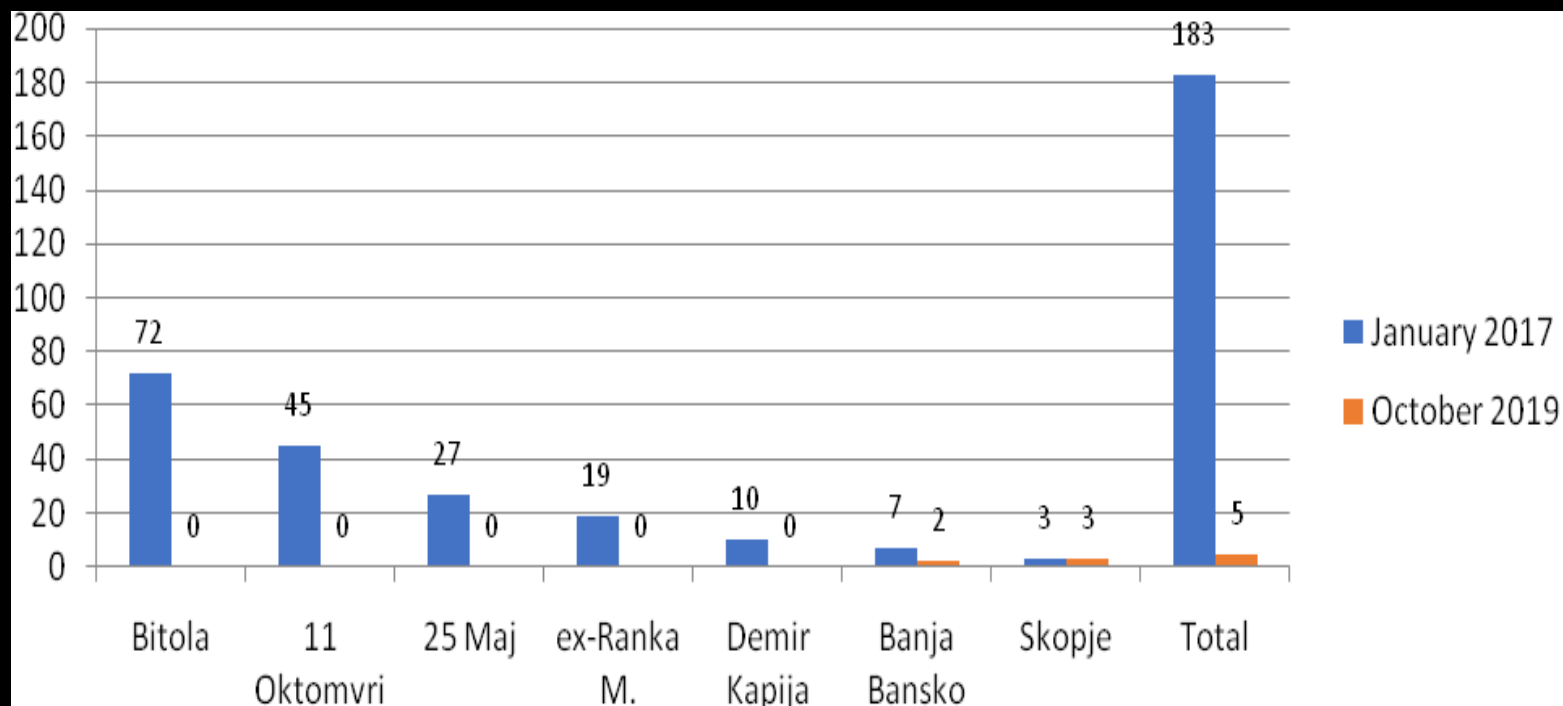
National strategy for deinstitutionalisation 2018-2027 “Timjanik”

- Transformation of orphans home “11 Oktomvri” has been completed (total 27 children - 7 children in foster families, 20 children in 5 small group homes (4 in Skopje and 1 in Shtip)
- Transformation of Home for infants and small children Bitola has been completed (68 children in foster care)
- All children up to 18 years of age from Special Institute “Demir Kapija” are living in small group homes

Number of users in residential social institutions



Number of children in residential social institutions



Variables of social service supply

- Using Alber's checklist of variables structuring social service supply (1995) the reform of social services in Macedonia included:
 - regulatory structure: greater role of governance given to the local municipalities
 - financing structure: increased financing from the central level to the local municipalities
 - delivery structure: expansion of local services, welfare mix, quality assurance and standards
 - consumer power: consumer interests important criteria when applying for financing of social services; need to focus more in the future development of social services on consumer representation in the management boards of providers.

Thank you for your attention
