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PRIVATE INITIATIVE AND POLITICS IN YOUTH CARE

By far in most cases the care for the youth in the Netherlands is placed under responsibility of private organisations. Many of these institutions have a long tradition.

Up to 1992 they received their financial support completely from the central government. From January 1992 on however, the authorities of the twelve Dutch provinces and the four big cities are responsible for the financing, the arrangement and the planning of youth care.

This 'de-centralisation' offers many possibilities to change the care for youth and their families in a far-reaching way. At the moment, many interesting developments and radical changes are taking place.

Furthermore, small organisations are being 'regrouped' into larger scale organisations, which are responsible for all kinds of care.

The original borders between organisations for ambulant, day, foster and residential care are more and more disappearing. The policy is focussing upon more integrated care with a direct link to the community.

In the presentation I will also pay attention to a number of characteristic developments as there are: flexibility, individuality, community-based care and changes in methods.

In den Niederlanden sind die meisten Einrichtungen der Kinder- und Jugendpflege in der Hand von traditionsreichen privaten Organisationen. Seit Januar 1992 werden diese nicht mehr von der Zentralregierung, sondern direkt von den 12 Provinzen respektiv den 4 Großstädten finanziert. Dadurch ergeben sich interessante und weitreichende Veränderungen in der Politik der Fremderziehung. Die Grenzen zwischen Heimerziehung, Pflegefamilien, Tagesstätten und ambulanter Hilfe verschwimmen mehr und mehr zugunsten von milieuzentrierten Ansätzen.

Aux Pays-Bas, la plupart des institutions dans le domaine socio-éducatif sont gérées par des associations privées ayant une longue tradition. Depuis janvier 1992, celles-ci ne sont plus financées directement par le gouvernement mais par les 12 provinces et les quatre grandes villes. Ce fait ouvre de nouvelles perspectives et des changements radicaux sont en train de s'opérer en matière d'éducation extra-familiale. les limites entre placement en institution, placement familial et en foyer de jour s'estompent en faveur d'une politique d'aide en milieu ouvert aux enfants et aux jeunes.