



Title: Residential Care Quality Indicators for Children and Young People with Disabilities

Acronym: RCQI

Project leader: Sílvia Alves

Host organisation: Instituto Politécnico do Porto

Main purpose of the project:

To describe the state of residential care for children and young people with disabilities and to develop an Index for Quality of Residential Care for Children and Young People with Disabilities.

Design/methodology/approach:

Three studies will be conducted and each phase builds from those preceding, honouring young people's voices and considering the active involvement of stakeholders, who first report their experiences with disabilities in alternative care, then contribute to the development of the Index and, finally report challenges experienced in its implementation.

Potential results:

Index with the potential to be used by care institutions to: 1) evaluate their culture, policies and practices; 2) identify areas of improvement and evaluate their progress; 3) use as part of routine in order to build and sustain a supportive community in residential care.

Social relevance of the research:

This research project intends to add knowledge to an undeveloped field in Portugal by contributing for policymakers, researchers, institutions and practitioners to identify and implement mechanisms through which to improve the quality of care for children and young people, with special focus on those with disabilities.

Originality/value of the project:

The final outcome of this project – Index for Quality of Residential Care for Children and Young People with Disabilities – consists of a resource to assist supportive communities' development of care institutions. It is innovative since it provides a form of quality assurance for institutions to support children and young people.