

annual report

1998



Save the Children
Romania

Annual Report **1998**



Salvați Copiii

Save the Children Romania

Foreword

1999 has a special meaning for us: the anniversary of one decade since the general Assembly of the United Nations has adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child, with a value of Universal law. We have built our programmes, education activities, the dialogue with the authorities, international relations on this document since the very beginning of our activity. The way wasn't easy, but with ups and downs, searchings, unaccomplishments and, sometimes, with failures. Overcoming the difficulties has made us stronger, has helped us learn from our mistakes and it has brought a plus in professionalism. In this approach, the perseverance and especially the dedication of all those who have joined to *Salvați Copiii* ideas and principles have been extremely important.

1998 wasn't an easy year for *Salvați Copiii*. We could be satisfied with the evolution of our organisation and the prestige it has within the Romanian civil society or internationally, but the situation of the child and of the families with children has suffered a continuous depreciation process in Romania. On the background of the evolution of the poverty degree of the population, children are an extremely vulnerable social category. The number of abandoned children has recorded an increase, many families can't afford to send their children to school, tuberculosis, hepatitis and anaemia affect more and more often the children and the juvenile delinquency is in increase. Therefore, more complex and difficult problems our organisation is facing.

Salvați Copiii hasn't aimed at taking over the responsibilities of the state in the field of children's social protection. But we can't be indifferent. We have tried to prove there is a certain gap between the reality and ensuring the rights of the child according to the provisions of the CRC, by studies in the following fields: child's rights observance, child labour, situation of marginalized groups - Roma or refugee children. These studies have been complementary actions for implementing pilot projects - an alternative to governmental solutions. An emphasis has been laid on the programmes for the children in difficult circumstances: abandoned children, street children, HIV+ children, abused or neglected children.

At the same time, the strategy of our organisation has suffered an important modification. Although Romania has been among the first states that have ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, it is to be noticed a reduced knowledge of its provisions. This is why, a national system for training the specialists has started in 1998 with a view to strengthen the activity of our organisation as a promoter of the rights of the child, for monitoring the situations of child's rights violation and advocacy in the favour of the child.

It's our belief that a wide information activity on UN Convention principles for the members of the society may create a favourable climate for the reform and it may lead to a new attitude towards the child.

At the same time, we have tried to involve children themselves in a higher weight to conceive and implement the programmes for them. Young people have an important position in volunteering. Their energy, creativeness and lack of prejudices have represented an important source for renewal and strengthening our activity. Children are often a social group which is too little taken into consideration. We aim at making child's voice to be listened and respected by our national information campaigns on the rights of the child, children's forums, publications, meetings and workshops.

Gheorghe Mazălu
President of *Salvați Copiii*

We also Have Rights

Short History

The programme has started ever since the setting up of Salvați Copiii but, beginning with 1994, it has got a more systematical character and a higher degree of addressability, both at the level of the General Secretariat and of the local branches. Dissemination of the ideas in the UN Convention in school environment was possible by means of a wide range of activities: debates, opinion polls, children's forums, seminars and conferences, establishing in schools groups acting for promoting and observing the rights of the child, publications and support materials for debates, contests, marches, camps, shows.

An important contribution in the accomplishment of the programme, both conceptually and in the field of direct activity in schools and children's homes, had the young volunteers-university and high-school students. The volunteers have been trained yearly, depending on the contents of the programme's subprojects.

General Aims

Disseminate the ideas and principles of the UN Convention in order to change the perception of the child and his/her rights. Getting to know the provisions of the UN Convention in school environment. Raising the degree of observing the rights of the child.

Aims for 1998

Involve in the project approximately 6000 children and teachers from Bucharest and local branches. Promote the child's right to his/her own opinion and participation in school. Determine some changes in children's homes, in the aspects considered as the most pressing, mutual respect, education work, and living conditions. Steady involvement of the young volunteers.

Results

Organizing in Bucharest 24 "Child's Rights" workshops in children's homes, primary schools and kindergartens, by involving about 600 pupils aged between 4 and 15 years old and 34 teachers. The workshops debated the rights of the child by using a wide range of methods: case studies, acting games, comments on some real situations of children's rights violation. In the local branches Mureș, Vrancea, Caraș-Severin, Mangalia, Suceava, Negrești there were concluded cooperation agreements with the schools for presenting during the form master classes the UN Convention the Rights of the Child. 34 schools were involved in the project.

Materials in the Education Folders have been used. The workshops have been coordinated by young volunteers.

In order to have a direct contact with the beneficiaries of the education programmes, a coordination group of the children has been established at the General Secretariat level as an action centre for drawing up the two issues of the magazine "Children's Thoughts and Voices", the manifestations within the Child's Rights Week and the film made in cooperation with UNICEF.

The national programme for training the trainers has begun in the period 8-9 May by the seminar "Let's Make the UN Convention a Reality!" where 42 persons attended: branch presidents and specialists involved in programmes for promoting the UN Convention at a local level. The Methodic Handbook was elaborated for the seminar with texts and exercises translated from the kits edited by ISCA and Radda Barnen.

Similar seminars have been organized in June in the local branches **Caraș-Severin, Suceava, Negrești-Vaslui, Mureș, Iași**. Organized in cooperation with local authorities, the seminars brought together teachers, young volunteers, social workers, and specialists from the above counties. An average number of 30 specialists participated in every local branch.

The contest "The Rights of the Child" gathered about 3000 children aged between 11 and 14. The national stage of the contest was held in the camp at Valea Minișului. 11 teams formed by 2 children each (aged between 11 and 14 years old), winners of the county stages participated in. The contest was won by the team of the local branch Negrești-Vaslui.



The Annual Children's Meeting took place on 17-26 August: "Child's Right to Expression and Creativeness"-the third edition at Valea Minișului in Caraș-Severin county; 125 pupils, teachers and young volunteers from all the 11 local branches of the organization participated in. The activity was carried on 4 workshops: the rights of the child, environment, fine arts and literary creation and it was synthesized in the camp's magazine.

The day of the 20th November was marked in all the local branches by special actions: drawing contests, the-

matic exhibitions, contests on the rights of the child, debates organized in schools. Over 500 children and teachers from the 11 branches of the organization participated in. In **Bucharest and Dolj** local branches there took place the seminars "Let's Make the UN Convention a Reality!" where 30 specialists participated in each one (teachers, psychologists, representatives of the authorities, parents). **Suceava** local branch organized a joint seminar parents-institutionalized children where 15 representatives of the Local Department for Child Protection, Local Council, media and 30 children participated in. The theme of the seminar was the observance of the rights of the institutionalized child. It was proposed to establish a Council of the Institutionalized Young People.

The counselling programme within the project The Child's Confident was developed at School no. 7 in **Reșița**.

Mangalia local branch organized the round table "The Child's Right to Education" where representatives of the 3 high schools and 5 primary schools in town participated in.

At the local branches level, the education programmes materialized in a wide range of forms. In **Iași** local branch the education programme began by involving a number of 300 pupils and 7 volunteer-students at the Faculties of Medicine, Psychology and Sociology.

In **Vaslui** local branch, together with the development of the programme for making known the UN Convention in the schools in Vaslui, Bârlad and Huși, an education programme for 30 Roma children has been initiated in cooperation with County Departments for Youth and Sports.

As a part of the education programme on the rights of the child and environment there were organized camps for the children participating in the respective programmes: **Bucharest** local branch for 24 children at Eforie, 12 at Neptun (the sports team), **Vrancea** local branch for 15 children at Valea Putnei and **Suceava** local branch a camp at Zamostea for 50 children in the children's homes in Falticeni and Liteni, street children and children coming from poor families.

Bucharest local branch organized the Oeikos-Terra Contest on Environment Day. 10 kindergartens participated in with teams of 5 children each and 2 high schools with teams of 10 children each.

Christmas was a good opportunity to give the institutionalized or disfavoured children gifts to bring them a ray of hope. Shows, carnivals, traditional events gathered children from various social backgrounds.

Mangalia local branch prepared and sent to the Netherlands paintings of the children for exhibitions that took place in five cities. **Bucharest** local branch organized six exhibitions with fine arts works of the children involved in its programmes.

The General Secretariat republished the Education Folder for pre-school and small school-aged children.

The Children's Forum took place in more places in the country under the motto "The Child-A voice to Be Listened!"

In **Bucharest**, waked up quite early for a Saturday, approximately 80 gymnasium and high school aged children gathered in the Little Hall of the Children's Palace to debate upon the way the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child should be applied in their family and social life in the Forum with the theme "Give Us a Chance to Change the World". Since a great part of their time children spend at school or learning for school, many of the raised problems referred to the necessity of some consistent changes in the Romanian education system. The pupils' interventions were extremely pertinent and proved that the child's voice must be listened to, that his/her opinions are not immature and fanciful.

The meeting of the pupils in Bucharest was followed by the contest "We also Have Rights". The General Secretariat collaborated with Bucharest local branch of the organization.

At **Suceava**, Children's Forum was the manifestation that ended the Child's Rights Week. The themes proposed for the debate were the right to education, the right to the express the opinion and the right to spare time and leisure. Students in the 1st - 12th grades in the schools and children's homes in Suceava participated in.

The conclusions of the forums prove the seriousness the children engaged themselves in discussions. Their proposals for preventing the problems in schools should deserve being taken into account.

- both pupils and teachers should know the rights of the child;
- themes of the form master classes should be decided upon together with the children;
- the involvement of the teachers in the pupils' problems improve communication teacher-pupils;
- avoiding subjectivism in the mark system - the parents' social position should not be taken into account;
- teaching must be done in such a manner to avoid private tuition;
- breaks and holidays should be respected;
- the timetable should be made accordingly to the difficulty of the subjects.

In the family, according to the children's opinions, in many cases, education is limited just to learning for school. Children prefer to talk about their problems with friends at the same age or teachers. They wish they were granted more confidence and to be consulted when their future is decided.

In the social plan, the most interesting proposal of the children participating in the Forum was the exclusion from the TV programmes of the commercial films whose message is violence. They also observed that they had no place to spend their little spare time.



Partners

Ministry of the National Education, School Inspectorate of Bucharest and School Inspectorates in Argeş, Caraş-Severin, Constanţa, Dolj, Iaşi, Mureş, Suceava, Vrancea, Vaslui, Timiş counties, County Departments for Child's Rights Protection, school units (children's homes, kindergartens, primary schools, high schools) in Bucharest and in the cities where there are Salvaţi Copiii local branches, UNICEF Representation Office in Romania.

Children's Participation A Dialogue for Change

Short History

The programme started as a result of the International Conference on "The Rights of the Institutionalized Child" and the proposals formulated within the children's workshop.

A first step has been to establish Committees for Change in each institution, consisting of three representatives of the children, two educators, the children's home director, the administrator and a representative of Salvați Copiii to identify and find solutions for urgent problems. The members of the committees for change went through four training stages.

Weekly debates were organized according to the children's options. The discussions focused on aspects regarding the rights of the child, group relations in a wider social environment, the solution offered by the society to the problems of the institutionalized children, the possibility of integration in the society, communication skills.

The project has been developed in six children's homes in Bucharest, Salvați Copiii having the direct responsibility for the activities in the Children's Homes no. 3, 5 and 9. Young volunteers had an important role in the accomplishment of the activities.

Aims

Identification of the conflict situations and the existing problems and the involvement of the children themselves in the process of change in children's homes. Settle conflicts in a non-violent way, keeping up of closer relations with the family, organize the children's lives in conditions close to those in a normal family, children's socializing.

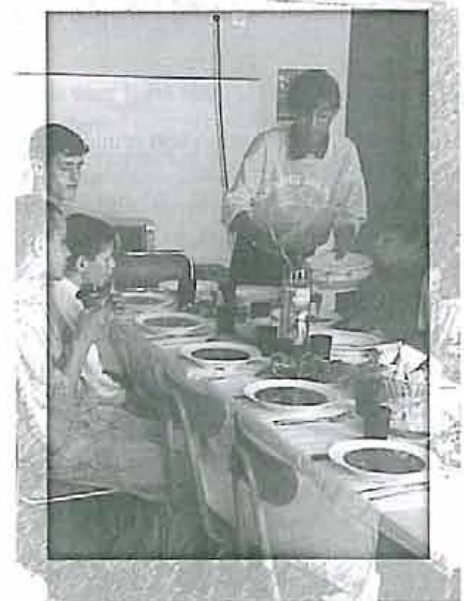
Results

Children were involved in the specific activities carried out by Salvați Copiii within the education programme "We also Have Rights".

At the children's suggestion, in the 3 children's homes there were carried out mini-projects that implied the children's direct involvement. For example, in the Children's Home no. 3, the project "Happy birthday!" celebrated all the 123 children's birthdays, in a way similar to that in a family.

In the Children's Home no. 5, "the mini-kitchen" facilitated the achievement of some housekeeping skills (lay the table, preparing a menu, cooking some meals/cakes) and at the Children's Home no. 9 the children fitted out a mini-park and served dinner together with the adults.

The project has risen the children's degree of responsibility and confidence in themselves, made them acquire some independent life skills, improve the relations between children and educators, get the capacity to settle conflicts without violence.



Partners:

UNICEF Representation Office in Romania, Departments for Child Protection-Bucharest - sectors 1, 3 and 6, Children's Homes no. 3, 5 and 9, Adolescentul Association.

Abandonment Prevention and Family Reintegration

Short History

Drawing up and applying an original strategy in 1992, the programme has demonstrated along the 7 years of running that a support for the family in difficult circumstances is very important for outrunning the crises period and keeping up the unity of the family. The importance of this way of approach and action is emphasized by the fact that a part of methodology of this programme can be found in the National Plan of Action in the Favour of Children approved by the Government Decision no.972/4 December 1995 and by the Emergency Ordinance no.26/1997 which stipulates - „family is the best environment for child's development“.

Achieved and carried out with volunteers, Salvați Copiii members, with collaborators recommended by the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection and Ministry of Health, partners from 9 County Councils within a PHARE programme that provided the technical and financial support for 18 months, the programme had a contribution in the settlement of 1542 cases. In Craiova local branch, the project has got the financial support offered by Norwegian and Austrian organizations involved in child protection.

Aims

The programme aims at providing financial support and counselling for the families in the position to abandon their children or who have already institutionalised their children because of poverty and to provide the fundamental right of the child to live together with his/her parents, with the enlarged family.

Results

- abandonment prevention and reintegration in the natural family of 136 children from 95 families;
- monthly social support for 30 children included in programme in **Craiova**;
- circumstantial support (toys, sweets, fruit, clothes) for 100 children in Craiova and in the neighborhood, children from families with very difficult social problems, HIV/AIDS children abandoned in the Hospital no. 3, in **Craiova** and for the children affected by TB - Pade Sanatorium;
- psychic - emotional counselling and support for the families;
- guidance and support offered in settling the permanent needs (medical, school, legal problems);
- make sensitive the public opinion and the community in order to increase receptivity and supporting the persons in difficult circumstances.

Partners

Departments for Child Protection in the six sectors in Bucharest, the County Councils: Mureș, Neamț, Bistrița, Department for Child Protection - Medgidia, Departments of Labour and Social Protection Iași and Craiova, Rettet das Kind- Austria, Bjorgvin Viederegaende Skole Bergen - Norway, Odd Fellow.



Counselling Centres for Child and Family

(Bucharest, Iași, Timișoara)

Short History

The programme started in 1997, by developing a social partnership in preventing child abuse and neglect and by a training course for the specialists in this field. Immediate somatic and psychic consequences and long term effects affecting the child's psychic-social development have determined the involvement of the authorized bodies in tracing out, rehabilitation and prevention of any type of abuse or neglect.

In Romania, there are no specialized services for noticing and rehabilitation of these types of cases. The treatment of the complex of symptoms and the problems the abuse brings about asks for rehabilitation programmes coordinated by specialists initiated and trained to work in this field. Having in view this idea, three counselling centres for the social assistance, treatment and rehabilitation of the children that have suffered a type of abuse or neglect and for their family have been set up in Bucharest, Iași and Timișoara.

Results

- 65 cases of abuse and neglect were recorded in three months, in all the three centres. All these cases needed investigation, diagnosis and therapy;
- 60 parents, educators and other persons who have got children in their care have been counselled;
- 30 cases have been supported in settling medical, school or legal problems;
- information materials, leaflets, poster and booklets about the abused and neglected children have been drawn up;
- three meetings with the partners involved in this field.

Partners

Counselling Centre for Child and Family - Bucharest

Grigore Alexandrescu Hospital, Ministry of Health, Departments for Child Protection in the six sectors of Bucharest, Police (6 stations), schools (no.30, 195), Forensic Medicine Institute, Gavroche House.

Counselling Centre for Abused Children - Iași

St. Maria Hospital, Iosif Foundation, City Hall of Iași, Petre Andrei University, Police -Iași, Department for Child Protection Iași.

Abused and Neglected Child - Early Intervention - Timișoara

County Department for Child Protection, Maternity Hospitals - Timișoara, The Open Windowed House, Infant Neuro-Psychiatric Clinics, Ioana Association.

Aims

Psychic-medical and social rehabilitation of the children who have suffered a type of abuse or neglect in order to avoid development of aberrant behaviours.

Decrease the number of cases of abused and neglected children and preventing the intergeneration transmission of abusive behaviour.

Set up a network for tracing out, assistance and intervention in cases of abuse and neglect at children.

International Cases

Short History

The programme started in 1991, on the basis of a co-operation agreement concluded in 1990, between Salvați Copiii and the International Social Service, by means of which Salvați Copiii has become the Romanian correspondent for ISS. The cooperation agreement stipulated the right of Salvați Copiii to run programmes in the context of the social issues specific for ISS -individual and/or family social problems that appear in the conditions of individuals or human groups travelling. In the period 1991-1998 Salvați Copiii was involved in 416 cases, out of which 234 were closed. From the point the view of casuistics, it is mainly about unaccompanied children abroad, new-born babies abandoned in maternities abroad, separated families (children from parents) that demand family reintegration, failed adoptions, medical treatment etc.

General Aim

The project provides social assistance for the Romanian children at risk who are abroad or in the country - children who, from various reasons, are separated from their families (from one or both parents), whose physical and/or psychic welfare is in danger. The cooperation between two or more countries is necessary in order to settle different situations.

Results

In 1998 Salvați Copiii provided social assistance and was involved in the settling 101 cases, out of which 52 new and 49 from the previous years. It is to be noticed a transfer from the problems of the unaccompanied minors to cases with a strong social character (abandoned children, family reunification, failing adoptions etc.). In 1998, the most frequent situations were noticed by ISS Italy (52%), followed by ISS Germany (36.5%).

In 1998, the majority of the cases in collaboration with ISS Italy were held by unaccompanied minors (85%). The conclusion of a bilateral agreement between Romania and Germany for the repatriation of the illegal emigrants led to the intensification of the migration from Romania to other European countries, especially Italy, Spain, and The Netherlands.

A detailed analysis of the cases reveals that: minor children come from families in a weight of 71%, out of which 63% form disorganized families. The percentage of orphan and abandoned children is under 10%.

From the point of view of sex repartition, the majority is held by boys (63%), though compared to 1997 the girls percentage increased.

From the point of view of the nationality, the situation is as follows: Romanians (59%), Rroma (17%), Hungarians (3%), Germans (2%); 19% didn't provide information about their nationality. It is to be noticed that the percentage of Rroma in the total of cases of unaccompanied minor children is far beyond the percentage held by them in the population of the country and it has increased compared to 1997.

According to the environment they come from, 85% of them come from urban environment. From the point of view of family income, they come from families with no one or only one source of income. The families they come from are situated at the limit of subsistence level or under it.

Partners

International Social Service, County Departments for the Child's Rights Protection, General Inspectorate of Police - The Directorate for Population Records.

The Street Social Assistance Program

Short History

A social programme mainly referring to getting to know the street children phenomenon started in Bucharest in 1993. Students at the Law Faculty were used as volunteers. The programme was subjected to multiple transformations, and therefore, it represents now a Street Social Assistance Service running with street social workers. The service has been running in this formula starting with May 1996, when it was established by the Convention signed with the National Committee for Child Protection (later become the Department for Child Protection) within the Government.

At the same time, Save the Children succeeded in starting social programmes for the homeless children in four of its local branches all over the country: Craiova, Iași, Suceava and Târgu Mureș.

Results

Bucharest

Started on October the 30th, 1997, the activity at Metrorex Emergency Centre, opened by the initiative of the Ministry of Transports, continued until the 15th of March 1998. 68 children were in the centre in January 1998. Due to the involvement of the social workers, the situation by the 16th of March was as follows:

- reintegration in natural or enlarged families: 22 children;
- accommodation in a children's home: 1 child;
- transferred to other nongovernmental organizations: 14 children (ASIS, Sf. Mihail and Robin Hood);
- employed:
 - INTAL FOREB-Touristic Resort Miorita: 3 children;
 - TRICODAVA: 1 child;
 - DUBIROM: 1 child.
- education courses (illiteracy liquidation- 4 grades) - 4 children.

The 10 cases under way to be settled at the time the centre was closed (the 16th of March 1998) were distributed for a limited period of time to PINOCCHIO I and CIREȘARII centres.

Street Social Assistance Service

- contact in the street with 123 children;
- elaboration of personal records: 54 cases;
- accommodation in governmental or nongovernmental centres: 36 cases;
- family reintegration: 7 cases;
- assistance offered to a number of 8 families with children living in the streets (approaches at Sector City Halls of Bucharest for providing a dwelling material support, short-term accommodation of the children in emergency centres);
- get identity papers (birth certificates, identity cards): 17 cases.

Aims

- Reduce the number of street children by means of their social reintegration (family/care institutions) and prevent or limit their deviant behaviours (glue sniffing, offence committing and the infantile prostitution); make sensitive the decision makers and the public opinion on the emergency and the necessity of the social reintegration of the children living in the streets.



Partners

The Department for Child Protection, ARMS Foundation, Information and Coordination Centre for Homeless Children Protection, Gavroche House, Viață și Lumină Centre, Centre Cireșarii 1, Provita Foundation, Centre Pinocchio 1, Metrorex.

GAVROCHE HOUSE

Results

- 38 children were accommodated in the centre by the 1st of January and other 56 children in difficult circumstances were accommodated during the whole year.

- from the total of 94 accommodated children, 35 have been integrated in their families of origin, 19 were guided to other institutions and 13 refused the alternative of staying in the centre until a solution was to be found;

- 28 children were integrated/reintegrated in the mass education system, out of which 17 were awarded;

- the assisted children attended different cultural manifestations, within the institution as well as outside it (shows, exhibitions, celebrations), and a camp to Valea Plopului was organized during the summer holiday.



CRAIOVA

Street Social Assistance Service

- 62 children contacted in the street environment;
- specialized medical assistance provided for the contacted children by means of the Municipal Hospital of Craiova;
- material support (food, clothing) offered to all homeless children.

Street Children's Club

The activity of the Club is focused on the homeless children's social reintegration. The programme provides education, protection and care during the accommodation period, get the identity papers where it is the case and reintegration in the natural families or other care institutions.

- 64 children were accommodated in the centre, with ages between 9 and 18, out of which:
- 15 children were reintegrated in their families;
 - 8 children were transferred to other centres;
 - 2 youngsters over 18 years of age were helped to find a job and a place to live;
 - 7 children were integrated in daytime education, and the rest of them on non-frequency terms.

In May, a group of 5 children took a visit to Denmark as result of an invitation of BAF/ KagsHuset - Herlev organization. Two camps were organized during the summer holidays (to Bran and Eforie Sud) for a number of 20 children included in the programme of the centre.

Partners

Prefecture of Craiova City, Local Council, Red Barnet - Denmark.

TÂRGU MUREŞ

Liquidation of Illiteracy and Reinsertion of the Street Children

- 30 children were contacted in the street (Tg. Mureş and Luduş)
- carry out the programme (the Minors Centre of Tg. Mureş and the Primary School no. 1 of Luduş) as result of which 18 children were included in the mass education system (9 children from the programme in Tg. Mureş, 9 from Luduş);
- material support for the children and their families (food, school supplies, clothing);
- providing a daily hot meal for 32 children in canteens of Tg. Mureş and Luduş;
- daily education programme and psychological counselling for the children included in the programme.

Partners

City Hall of Luduş, Minors Centre in Tg. Mureş, Primary School no. 1 in Luduş, Department for Child's Rights Protection Mureş, County School Inspectorate, County Police Inspectorate, Public Guards and Gendarmerie Service, Ortodox Youth's League, OASIS Foundation, SOS Children Foundation, Kinderzeit in Romania, Christian World's Embassy, Vallais Roumains.



IAŞI

Street Social Assistance Service

- 115 children contacted in the streets;
- elaboration of personal records for 101 children;
- 56 social inquiries in the family;
- 5 cases were directed for settlement to the General Department for Child's Rights Protection Iaşi;
- 2 cases of sexual abuse were notified to the Department for Crime Prevention of the County Police Inspectorate Iaşi, and are still under counselling;
- 13 street children from around the railway station area and Tg. Cucu, were permanently assisted, in collaboration with Body Shop organization (Viitorul Copiilor);
- 26 children were provided with food, objects of personal hygiene and clothing;
- 18 children were offered medical assistance;
- counselling for 9 cases of physical and psychological abuse.

Partners

County Department for Child's Rights Protection Iaşi, Civitan Club Foundation Iaşi, Body Shop Foundation (Viitorul Copiilor), „Familia Noastră“ Foundation, Petre Andrei University - the Faculty of Psychology and Social Work, SECS Iaşi, TV Cony-Sat Iaşi.

SUCEAVA

Street Social Assistance Service

- inquiry-records were applied to a number of 20 homeless children found in Burdujeni station, Centre, Bucovina and Obcine areas;
- 2 children were integrated (one in the natural family, the other in the children's home Gura Humorului);
- medical and material support was offered to 16 children;
- 2 round tables were organized: "Street children between reality and future" and "Street children - everybody's concern"; the purpose of the first reunion was to find a facility to open a day-centre, which was later granted by the Local Council of Suceava;
- organization of a meeting (September) with representatives of London Police with a view to share their experience regarding drug consumption, socialization and reinsertion of the street children in England.

Partners

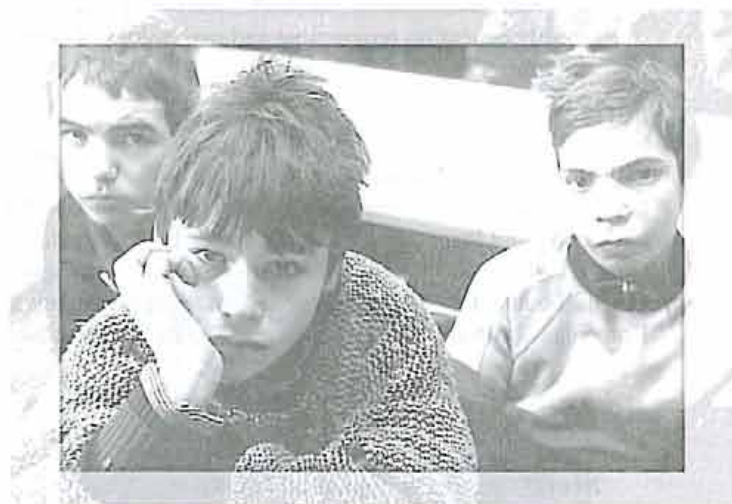
County Department for Child's Rights Protection, Archiepiscopate of Suceava and Rădăuţi, Radio Top 91, County School Inspectorate, the Minors Centre.

Information-Coordination Centre for Homeless Children Protection

Short History

The Information-Coordination Centre was established in October 1997 at the initiative of Salvați Copiii in cooperation with the Department for Child Protection with the Romanian Government and of the City Hall Bucharest. The Coordination Centre is a three-party project meant to support the activity of all the organizations and institutions involved in the social reintegration of the street children and to stimulate their collaboration. By the collaboration of the involved organizations, an unitary database was created as well as the possibility of an efficient and rapid information for the successful social reinsertion of the street children.

The Centre's activity is carried out by a legal counsellor, a sociologist and an analyst - programmer.



Aims

Organize the data regarding the situation of the homeless children and that of the governmental or nongovernmental institutions with programmes in the field of child protection.

Encourage cooperation between all factors acting in the favour of homeless children by organizing periodical work meetings.

Results in 1998

- organization of 35 seminars on different subjects of interest for those involved in the activity regarding street children;
- conclusion of the protocol regarding the "provision of a temporary identity for the homeless children", a protocol between the Information-Coordination Centre, Bucharest Police - Prevention Service and 16 nongovernmental organizations with programmes for street children;
- establish and update the databases: "Street children", "Institutions/Individuals" and "Police";
- organization of 2 exhibitions with works of the children in the centres of the nongovernmental organizations and from state centres; 16 institutions involved in the protection of the homeless children collaborated in;
- direct intervention in settling urgent cases by accommodating the children in the centres of the NGOs or state centres and/or reintegration in the natural family;
- provide legal counselling;
- editing the centre's newsletter (two issues).

Partners

The Department for Child Protection - Romanian Government, Departments for Child's Rights Protection, Police of the Bucharest- Prevention Service, Ministry of National Education and School Inspectorate, ODEE, Support and Medical-Social Rehabilitation, CRY - Robin Hood; Family and Child's Protection, Parada, Equilibre, The Door, Sf. Stelian, Back to School, Gavroche House, City of Hope, Ruth School, Heart to Hand, Social Assistance of the Family, AIDROM, Caritas - Austria, Jesus Loves Romania, Children of Romania, "Life and Light Foundation" Foundation, Opened House

Parents' University

Short history

The programme has been initiated in 1992, in Timișoara, as result of the absence of a counselling framework for the families at social risk and its aim is to train, inform and provide counselling for parents in order to settle the fundamental problems in connection with the raising and education of the child with problems.

The Parents' University has been conceived as a structure to respond to a broad range of social and pathological problems occurred in a family.

In order to make sensitive and responsible the family and the community, that should have the ability to adopt correct and concrete attitudes, the programme had a teaching and a counselling component parts.

Colloquia, seminars, workshops sustained by university teaching staff, well known specialists have materialized the aims proposed by initiators. A large number of young people participated in these courses (parents, parents to be, or parental substitutes).

Due to the exceptional results obtained by the Parents' University in Timișoara, the pattern has been taken over by Suceava local branch, that taking into account the local background, focused on individual support element by establishing a Counselling Room.

Timiș Branch

Results

Cooperation between Salvați Copiii Timiș and Popular University of Timișoara has continued along the last year. Salvați Copiii provides the team of specialists, topics and methodology, materials produced for this purpose, experience in training the trainers. The Popular University provides halls for this activity, possibilities for paying the lecturers, secretariat activity and office supplies, issuing graduation diplomas. Monthly conferences took place on six fields (medicine, social work, religion, law, psychology, and pedagogy), followed by workshops. The booklets "Attachment - from theory to practice, "The art of raising healthy and happy children" and the "Guide with risk factors that signal a possible attachment trouble in early childhood" have been edited.

The Summer School on the "**Ethics and techniques for early intervention in community family alternative projects in the field of early childhood**" was organised on 17-24 August.

Partners

Teaching Staff House, Pedagogical High-School, UNICEF Representation Office in Romania, SOROS Foundation, Popular University of Timișoara.

Suceava Branch

Results

- lectures with parents;
- clubs for single mothers-to-be, mothers, mothers with new-born children;
- establish a permanent room for acute problems in the family;
- workshops with children;
- 16 social inquiries in Suceava County;
- get financing for the Counselling Room from the Civil Society Development Foundation

Aims

Parents' University programme has proposed as aims intervention and counselling for the families at social risk, making parents and young people ready for the family life, training for the "profession" of parent for the foster families or future parents, and training for the parents of the children with chronic diseases or disabilities on treatment methods at home.

Partners

School Inspectorate, Suceava City Hall, State Inspectorate for Disabled, Bridges Organization, Guardianship Authority.



Education for Health

Short history

Education for health programmes have been initiated by providing financial, material and psychological support for families affected by HIV+. As result of these activities and realizing what are the difficulties faced by the families with HIV+ children in the society and studying the HIV problems in our country, it has been decided to initiate education for health programmes and for preventing catching diseases at children and families.

The statistics on HIV and sexually transmitted diseases show that more than a half of the new appeared infections are at the age group 15-24, and the incidence of the syphilis is 20 to 100% higher than in 1990. For this reason, it has been considered a necessity the information in schools by adequate programmes according to the age and the aim had in mind.

At the same time, the reduced number of HIV+ children integrated in schools due to the opposition of the teachers and the other children's parents shows the ignorance on HIV transmission, infection evolution and the necessity of information for determining the change of the general attitude towards HIV/AIDS affected persons.

Aims

Education for health programmes aim at preventing the spreading the infection with HIV among young people, by their correct information and eradication of the discriminations the HIV+ persons (especially children) are subject to.

Results

- support and counselling for HIV children in families (75 cases) - **Târgu Mureş** Branch;
- support and counselling for 20 HIV+ children in **Reşiţa**;
- carry out education for health activities on HIV/AIDS issues in 9 schools in **Bucharest**, the programme including 1500 teenagers between 12-14 years of age;
- train the volunteers involved in carrying out these programmes in **Bucharest, Craiova, Mangalia, Negreşti-Vaslui and Tîrgu Mureş**;
- financial and material support of the Centre for Surveying the Child Infected with HIV in Hospital No. 3 - **Craiova**;
- emotional therapy for 45 HIV children in the Catching Diseases Clinics in **Târgu Mureş**;
- editing the leaflet "You are informed, you are protected" - that includes information on HIV infection adapted to the age group 12-14 years, and the booklets "HIV infection at children - psychic-social aspects" and "Nutrition";
- 20 volunteers, students at Psychology Faculty "Dimitrie Cantemir" in **Târgu-Mureş**, upheld within the programme "Adolescence, sense, identity" lectures on communication and self-cognition in 15 high-schools in **Târgu-Mureş**;
- education programme in high-schools on HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted diseases issues (**Negreşti-Vaslui and Mangalia** local branches).

Partners

Ministry of National Education, Ministry of Youth and Sports, Schools Inspectorates, Hospital No. 3 of Infectious Catching Diseases - Craiova, Medicine Faculty Craiova, UNICEF, Focşani Nursery, Health Unit in Negreşti-Vaslui, Psychology Faculty „Dimitrie Cantemir“ - Târgu-Mureş, schools and high-schools in Bucharest, Craiova, Mangalia, Negreşti-Vaslui, Târgu-Mureş, Romanian Angel Appeal, ARAS, UNAIDS, Health Aid.

Roxana House

Alternative care methods for the HIV+ child

Short history

Roxana House is a continuation of Health Aid model in Romania. Structured as an alternative care model for HIV+ children, this programme has been implemented in Romania since 1991, based on the financial support of Swedish Save the Children. This is the 6-th house of this type opened in Bucharest for HIV infected children.

Results

The results of the programme can be evaluated by taking into account the progress of every child apart.

- Maria, a 5 years old girl who could not speak and moved with difficulty, can sing, play and enjoy life as any normal child and she goes to kindergarten;
- Fana, nobody's child, was found at the railway station, almost „wild“, according to the staff, and she is now a smart girl, a careful little „mummy“ for her little brothers and sisters in Roxana House, a diligent student in the second grade;
- Florin, an autistic boy, 8 years old, made considerable progress responding positively to a series of stimuli; he is now laughing, playing with the other children and can eat by himself;
- Robert goes to school in the second grade and has good results, he is a little opinion leader in the house, his brothers love him and imitate his behaviour.

Partners

Since 1996, ROXANA House has been carrying its activity on the basis of a partnership concluded by:

Salvați Copiii, Caritas Association - the Catholic Solidarity, Health Aid, School Inspectorate of Bucharest, Department for Child Protection in sector 1.

Aims

- improve the quality of health, sanitary and feeding conditions for the HIV infected children;
- integrate them in society and living a normal life;
- increase the life hope of these children;
- set up and keep up a family type house for small groups of children;
- train the care staff to develop specific care methods for HIV infected children.



HELPER – Programme for the rehabilitation of the children with psychic - motor deficiencies

Short History

A pilot section for the rehabilitation of the children with special needs has been running since August 1996 in the Nursery in Târgu Mureş at the initiative of Salvaţi Copiii - Mureş branch. A specialized team consisting of a medical gym teacher, one psychologist, watering-kineto-therapists, educators, nurses have succeed to make reality this section by perseverance and passion. 98 children with neurologic-motor deficiencies have got the love and attention of the specialists involved in this programme. Most of these children returned to their natural family and the other were placed in families or have been adopted.

The project has benefited by the financial support of Christian World Embassy Organization by means of Families Are for Ever Foundation since the 1st of January 1998.

Aim

Decrease the number of children directed to hospital- hostels and family reintegration of the children for providing them the best environment for their development.

Results

In 1998, 32 children have got therapy in this special section of the Nursery, 4 children have been reintegrated in their natural families, 3 children have been adopted, 1 child was placed in a family.

The conditions in this rehabilitation section have been improved. Thus, this section has been endowed with furniture, carpets, bedclothes, electronic equipment and toys.

Partners

Christian World Embassy Organization, Families Are for Ever Foundation, Infant Neuro-Psychiatric Clinics, County Sanitary Department - Mureş, Department for Child Protection - Mureş, Nursery in Târgu Mureş.



Integration of the Children with Special Needs in the Mainstream Education

Short History

Although the project has been conceived since 1994, the effective activity has began in September 1997, with the involvement of Primary Schools no. 22, 32 and 37 in **Craiova**. The project included groups of five locomotor disabled children in each school and a social worker in each school; the social worker's job was to complete the activity in the class with different specific activities after the classes or during the breaks. The platforms have been arranged in order to facilitate the access of the wheelchairs in the schools, as well as special bathrooms.



Aim

Normalizing the situation of the physical disabled children, normally gifted from intellectual point of view, by offering the appropriate conditions for the fully affirmation of their personality, improving their intellectual capacity to a maximum level, providing them the opportunity to show their creativeness and inventivity at social, artistic and intellectual level.

Results

The evaluation made in the end of the year pointed out that the intellectual level of the 15 children included by the programme has increased, and the psychological state shows that the integration in the school environment of these children is the best way to ensure the social integration of the disabled children.

An International Conference "Integration of the Children with Special Needs in the Mainstream Education" was organized in the same project, in partnership with Frobisher School from Great Britain, which has also been the main financer of the project. Representatives of the local administration in Dolj County, school inspectors, headmasters, teachers and masters took part, together with European guests.

Partners

Frobisher School - Great Britain, Primary Schools no. 22, 37 and 32 from Craiova, School-Hostel no.8 in Craiova.

Information, Documentation and Research Centre on the Rights of the Child

Short History

The Centre was established in 1995, setting as its goal for the beginning to assist with information all the other programmes carried out by Salvați Copiii. The quality of CRIN (Child Rights International Network) member and all the good relations with similar centres from abroad have facilitated the access to international information sources. The Centre has been initiating partnerships with governmental and nongovernmental organizations and has developed a wide range of strategies for the better information of the public: library, synthesis cards and thematic files, studies, newsletter and data bases.

Results

– provide information and advice for 298 persons. According to the declared occupation, the individuals who benefited from the services of the Centre may be grouped as follows:

- students - 20.5%;
- teachers, researchers - 6.3%;
- parents - 15.5%;
- NGOs - 33.7%;
- journalists - 7.5%;
- not declared - 8%.

Depending on the situations being subject of the information and advice, the following statistics may be taken into account:

- legal information - 20%;
- social information - 6.9%;
- information about NGOs - 16%;
- placement in children's homes or in boarding schools - 7.5%;
- general information about child's situation in Romania, including the child with disabilities - 27.6%;
- information about child's rights violation - 4.6%
- school and family counselling - 3.5%
- others (social work in Romania, statistics about child required by the journalists, relation between NGOs and public administration, maternal mortality, demographic issues, paedophilia, HIV/AIDS, multicultural education) - 13.9%;
- studies: "Feasibility study about the necessity of an Information and Documentation Centre on Child Rights", "NGO initiatives in the field of child protection in Romania", "Child's Rights, between ignorance and concern" - (opinion poll);
- draw up the methodology and the practical part of the study: "A national evaluation of the way child rights are perceived and observed in Romania";
- set up data bases: "NGOs and governmental institutions in the field of child protection", "Social and medical services for the families in difficult circumstances in Bucharest";
- organize two round tables (together with TREBUIE) on the issues in connection with the difficulties of disabled children's integration in the mainstream education;
- publishing three issues of the newsletter: Monitor - Child's Rights

Partners

Radda Barnen, UNICEF Special Representation Office in Romania, ASCHF-R, TREBUIE!, Handicap International

Aims

Processing, analyzing and spreading by different means information about child's situation in Romania and in the world, obtained from reliable sources and by its own multi-disciplinary research projects.

Social Integration of the Children in Care Institutions



Short History

The children in care institutions aren't prepared enough for life, neither by the school, nor by the centres they live in. Salvați Copiii has been developing programmes by means of which these children get the necessary knowledge for their life outside the care institution. There have been supported children from Bucharest (Centers no 5 and 8), Constanța (Negru Vodă), Oțelu-Roșu, Reșița, Tg. Mureș.

Aim

Social and professional integration of orphan or abandoned children, by completing school education and the increase of their self-respect.

Results

- 27 children were assisted in **Bucharest**, out of which 14 children got additional tuition and 13 teenager girls attended vocational training on hair dressing, cooking; a training camp was organized on communication skills contraception and sexual education; their birthdays were celebrated and a minimum of clothes and school supplies was provided. Efforts have been made to find jobs for the young people over 18 years of age.
- Six girls in **Reșița** Centre graduated computer courses.
- Joint programmes were organized with **Negru Vodă** Centre: the children spent the spare time with the volunteers, their birthdays were celebrated, and the youngsters were qualified at their job. Several children have been integrated in their natural families. Shows and leisure time activities were organized on different occasions.
- **Mangalia** Branch co-operated with the local Police in order to detect the cases of juvenile delinquency.
- Visits at the Astronomic Observatory in **Suceava** and a socialization camp was organized at Zamostea. The teenagers in the care institutions took part in a seminar during the Youth Week. Additional tuition at Romanian language and mathematics was provided for joint groups formed by institutionalized children and children from families at risk, in order to integrate them in the society.
- **Mureș** Branch started the programme "Protected Workshops for Young People from Orphanages". The programme is carried out in **Luduș**, where it is underway to be built a tailoring workshop and a chicken mini farm will provide jobs for 10 young people. The benefits are used to support a daily meal for 16 street children included in the illiteracy liquidation programme.

Partners:

Radda Barnen; International Women's Association; Youth for Youth Foundation; Departments for Child Protection Sector 1 and 6, Mangalia, Mureș, Caraș-Severin, Suceava; Centre no. 2 Reșița, Negru Vodă Centre; Suceava, Liteni, Fălticeni, Gura Humorului, Siret Centres; Pestalozzi Foundation; Insieme per l'Infanzia Abbandonata.



Integration of the Refugee Children in the Romanian Community

Short History

The project started in August 1995, with the financial support of Swedish Save the Children, being focused on the pre-school aged refugee children. A co-operation convention was concluded with Kindergarten no.167 Bucharest, where the children who live in the refugee camp are going. School supplies and materials were provided for children's participation in the official education programme in the same conditions as the Romanian children.

Aim

Support the refugee children with a view to their integration in the Romanian community, by direct actions, raise the awareness of the public opinion and legislation proposals.



Results

In 1998, the project for refugee children extended to all the age groups, the activities being diversified. Thus, besides the kindergarten programme, leisure time activities were carried out in the Children's Room in Gociu Camp, children went to cinema and theatre, on a trip on the Refugee's International Day (June 16) and in a summer camp, they participated in the Winter Carnival (in the Children's Room) and in the 1st June and Christmas events organized by Salvați Copiii.

A team of 10 volunteers was selected, with the initial support of the Association "2020 Generation".

Advice and Support Center for Refugees

Assistance for asylum seekers

Aims

- protection of every person's right to apply for asylum on the Romania's territory, by facilitating the access to the procedure of getting the refugee statute
- provide decent living conditions, by supplementing the governmental assistance

Results

Registration of 1631 beneficiaries, out of which 1312 benefited by direct and effective assistance and 174 were given emergency help.

Categories of assistance:

- provide the basic material and non-material needs;
- a non-discriminatory behaviour of the Romanian frontier officials regarding the access on the territory of Romania and the asylum application process;
- provide the access to social counselling, legal support, community development services and special programmes for the particularly vulnerable groups.

Assistance for recognized refugees

Aims

Providing the necessary assistance to recognized refugees to be able to support themselves, as a step forward their lasting integration in the Romanian society from social-economic, cultural and political point of view.

Results

Registration of 488 beneficiaries, out of which 421 received effective assistance.

Categories of assistance:

- household support/covering the domestic needs
- special services for children, women, community development, counselling
- education: access to the primary education, scholars for the secondary and university education, foreign language courses (including Romanian language), cultural guiding, vocational training courses
- income generation, by finding a job for them or initiating a small personal business
- legal assistance and representation

Partners

UNHCR, AIDROM, RATB, Association "2020 Generation", Radda Barnen, CEFRAN (Central European Forum for Refugee Assisting NGOs)



Children's Hot Line

Short History

Children's Hot Line was founded on October 16, 1995, by the participation of a young volunteers group, carefully selected for this purpose and who were trained on hot line counselling techniques. Phone calls are confidential and the solution at the callers problems is found together - by the counsellor and the child, after analyzing the existing alternatives. In some cases, the results of the phone calls are known, if the children and teenagers call back to inform on the settlement of their problem.

5,800 calls were received up to 1998, on various issues: sentimental or relationship, school related, parents-children, requests for information, medical, sexual life related, report of violence, aggression cases (in the family or school level, or coming from other people).

Aim

Provides the children a communication partner and the possibility of talking about their private problems with a neutral person.

Results in 1998

1450 calls were registered in 1998. In 45% of them, the person hadn't the courage to speak ("mute calls"). The others were focused on different issues.

· discussions on different subjects	- 15.0%
· relationship with the colleagues, friends	- 14.3%
· school related	- 11.0%
· sentimental	- 10.2%
· violence-aggression	- 7.2%
· information	- 2.7%
· sex life related	- 2.4%
· social	- 2.1%
· parents-children	- 1.7%
· medical	- 0.8%
· thanks calls	- 0.7%
· others	- 6.3%
· semimute calls	- 25.6%

The age of those who called covered a very large scale:

· under 7 years old	- 2.9%
· 7-10 years old	- 21.6%
· 11-14 years old	- 41.7%
· 15-18 years old	- 25.5%
· 19-20 years old	- 1.6%
· 20-30 years old	- 2.6%
· 30-40 years old	- 2.7%
· over 40 years old	- 1.4%

67% of those who called were females and 33% males.

Publicity materials have been edited with the support of the Department for Youth and Sports in Bucharest and they have been distributed mainly in schools.

The hot line counsellors went to the classes and explained the children when and for what reasons they can call to our phone numbers. Discussions took place on issues chosen by children or suggested by the counsellors.

Partners

ROMTELECOM, Ministry of Youth and Sports, Department for Youth and Sports in Bucharest, Radda Barmen.

Rehabilitation Department for the Child with Motor and Associated Defficiencies in Tecuci

Short History

The right to a dignified life, as close as possible to a normal one, for the children with disabilities is the main reason for opening the Rehabilitation Centre in Tecuci. More than three years have passed since the activity started, and day after day it proves its efficiency.

The idea to place this centre in Moldova came from the fact that this area is one of the poorest regions of the country, with a high birth rate and numerous families with low incomes are very often at risk and due to their situation and other unfavourable causes, may have got a child with disabilities. But, besides the applications for admission to the services the centre provides, come from this area, more and more applications come from other localities in the country, including Bucharest. According to its possibilities - there are only 15 beds - children from everywhere in the country have been accepted in residential care and they have been equally treated, free of charge, carefully and in a professional manner.

Since the beginning of the activity, in October 1996, up to the end of 1998, 288 children, admitted in residential care, have benefited by the kineto-therapy, electro-therapy, logopedics and education kindergarten programme.



Aims

To decrease the number of children with disabilities and their school and social reintegration, by providing them with a specialized service for neuro - motor rehabilitation.

Results

In 1998, there have been accepted and treated 84 children aged from several months up to 8 years old, some of them staying together with their mothers. In each series, 2-3 children from the hospital in Nicorești have also been treated. The experience has showed us that an early tracing out of the disability and an early beginning of the treatment lead to the best results. Thus, during 1-2 series of treatment, small children were almost totally rehabilitated, and the older ones, though replanned for 3-4 series, had only partially good results.

At the same time with the children in residential care, more than 30 children, between 6-17 years old, came for ambulatory treatment in 1998.

The project has been carried out with the generous financial support of SMURFIT Charitable Foundation for Children from Monaco.

Partners

Municipal Hospital Tecuci, Paediatric Department of the Hospital, Sanitary Department of Galați county, the City Hall of Tecuci.

The Open Windowed House

Short history

The Open Windowed House is a temporary, family alternative structure meant to offer the abandoned children without a legal identity a family like environment, similar to the one of an average family in Romania. It provides a secure way of living accessible to 8-10 children in the care of four professionals trained as parental substitutes („mother“, „father“, „grandmother“).

The project offered protection, between 1993-1996, to 17 children, all of them adopted by Romanian families, before reaching the age of three. The good results determined Timiș School Inspectorate to conclude an agreement with Salvați Copiii in July 1996, having as result *The Open Windowed House*, established on September 1st, 1996. After becoming a legal person, the project was extended in four units, in the available spaces of several kindergartens that were no longer operating at their full capacity.

After many approaches, due to the legislative changes in the field of child protection system, in July 1998, a partnership was concluded with the Department for Child Protection, Timiș County Council and Timiș School Inspectorate. According to this partnership, the project has been taken over by the local administration exempting its initiators of the running costs.



Aims

- set up an unitary and complete social assistance system for the child and for one-parent family in difficulty; define a family type institutional structure to provide protection and chances of development for the abandoned child without identity.

Results

- In 1998, 15 children have been integrated in families (four in natural families, nine adopted by Romanian families, two adopted by families from The Netherlands and France);
- support and protection offered to 36 children;
- implementation of the project *The Open Windowed House* in the mining area (Hunedoara);
- all the children have close friends, they are visited by the natural families in difficult circumstances or are taken for holidays by different families;
- presentation of *The Open Windowed House* model on the occasion of various meetings, seminars and symposiums, in Romania or abroad;
- 58 young volunteers included in the programme *Close Friend*, most of them students at „Logos“ High School, visit permanently the units of *The Open Windowed House* in order to cover children's need of friends and the absence of relatives, take them to activities outside the House, introduce them in the community life. The entire group took the responsibility to paint and organize the camp „Edelweiss“ in Retezat Mountains where are hosted families who intend to adopt children, foster families and children in *The Open Windowed House*.

Partners

School Inspectorate Timiș, Timiș County Department for Child Protection, Timiș County Council, Ioana Association, Foundation Children of Romania, Bethany Foundation, University of Medicine and Pharmacy in Timișoara, „Logos“ High-School.

Education and Emotional Therapy

Short History

The education and emotional therapy programme started in Craiova, in September 1997, at the Hospital-Home for children with severe disabilities. At that time, this institution was passing through deep changes. For improving children's living standard, the management of the Hospital-Home asked Salvați Copiii Dolj local Branch to support an emotional and education therapy programme.

As a result of analyzing again the children's medical records, a first group has been selected to be included in the programme. Thus, 10 children with disabilities from the Hospital-Home received psychic-pedagogical assistance from the team consisting of four pedagogues and a programme coordinator.

Aims

The educational and emotional therapy programme has as main aims to improve the emotional situation of the children and to recover the educational deficiencies with a view to their social integration.

Results

Emotional therapy programme lays a particular emphasis on games playing activities. Through games accompanied by movement and songs, creative games on daily life subjects etc. The children got abilities and skills requested by socializing. During the first four months, they have learned to dress themselves, play according to logical rules, draw, count and even to write. Every week they took part in the activity of aerobic dance group together with the children from Craiova Children Palace, they watched the performances of Puppets Theatre and had dinner in a restaurant where children could improve their habits of correctly eating by themselves. As result of the evaluation made in September 1998, by a special commission of Dolj county School Inspectorate, a decision was taken in favour of those 10 children who now can be sent to the special education school. They have been already transferred to the special school in Filiași where they have been accepted in the first year of education. A new group will be included in the programme.

Partners

Dolj County Inspectorate for Disabled Persons, Craiova Hospital-Home for minors with deficiencies, Craiova Children's Palace, Craiova Puppets Theatre.



Special Events

INFORMATION CAMPAIGN Children's Rights Week

Children's Rights Week has been an important event for all Salvați Copiii local branches in the country. Events where the children's voices have been heard took place everywhere. Shows, contests on the rights of the child, drawing exhibitions, street events, children's forums - irrespective the type of these activities - have pointed out the willingness to change the way children are treated, respect the personality and individuality of every child apart. In almost all the children's interventions a desperate cry has been felt calling the attention and love they wait for from the adults - parents, educators, authorities.

In **Bucharest**, many events took place at the same time. The hottest day was on Sunday, 31st of May 1998, a sunny day not only from the point of view of weather. Drawings of the children from numerous school and kindergartens in Bucharest have been exhibited in public places in the centre of the city. Children themselves were present in a high number, willing to uphold in public their right to free expression.



Children's drawings and paintings on observing their rights were exhibited in front of the building of the Romanian Government. Tens of children produced their coloured messages for the passers-by and for the rulers on the spot. This event stirred the interest of the media, being the subject of a reportage transmitted in the main news broadcast of that day at the National Television.

A similar event took place in Cișmigiu Park, in the area in front of the City Hall of Bucharest. Even competing with other attractions in the area tempting the children, the event in Cișmigiu enjoyed the participation of a high number of children, among which refugee children included in Salvați Copiii programmes.

Many art troupes of the children in Bucharest participated in a show in open air in front of the National Military Circle. The little majorettes of the National Military Circle created a general feast atmosphere. After the show, the audience had the opportunity to look at a drawing exhibition on the rights of the child fitted out and organised by the local branch in Bucharest on the esplanade in front of the building.

A show in cooperation with Radio Romania News Channel took place in the same day at Mihail Jora Hall, a show produced by Mr. Viorel Popescu and broadcasted live on the same radio channel.

The contest "We also have rights", Bucharest stage, took place on the 5th June. The contest had a school stage that had taken place before, where the final stage competitors came from. Eleven teams from the

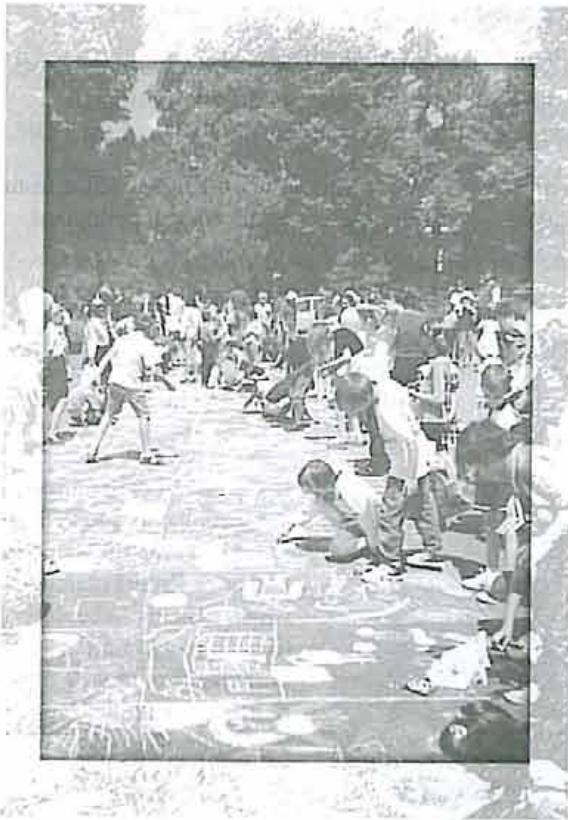
schools where Salvați Copiii carries out programmes on the rights of the child consisting of two children each participated in.

Bucharest local branch had a large number of activities during the Children's Rights Week where children were both beneficiaries and producers. Most of the art events took place in cooperation with Children's Club in Sector 6 in Bucharest.

The 1st of June day was marked by two shows "The Flowers of the Childhood" and "A Wonderful World" where about 400 children were involved in. They were followed by contests on the rights of the child, martial arts, contests on environment protection, etc.

Painting exhibitions, real proves of children's artistic virtuosity, contests on drawing on pavement ranged to the same topic of observing children's rights.

Every day of the campaign on the rights of the child in **Mangalia** was a reason of joy for the children. That week was formally opened on the 1st of June by a bike competition on the sea wall. After the awarding ceremony at least 30 participants made a city tour, calling up the attention on the message of the information campaign: "The Child: A Voice to Be Listened!".



Bike competition was followed by a cross-county race on the sea wall where 250 children participated in. Contests involving many children in the city were organised - a drawing contest, "The Smartest Stays On" and "Little Doctors" that gave the children the opportunity to become manifest on different subjects and to choose what they consider to be closest to their skills.

"Magic" children's group and volunteers of *Salvați Copiii* went on 3rd June to the Children's Home in *Negru Vodă* where they succeeded to bring "A Ray of Hope", love and happiness to the children in this institution.

The contest "We also have rights" ended the series of these events. It was followed by a show presented by the Turkish-Tartar community in Mangalia and by a disco for children.

Târgu Mureș local branch organised special activities for the children included in its programmes. Thirty children were invited to have a socialising evening to celebrate Child's Day.

The seminar on the rights of the child "Let's Make the UN Convention a Reality!" took place on 2nd June in the sitting hall of the local County Council and had a numerous participation. Representatives of the Local Department for Child Protection, Police, other NGOs, School Inspectorate and local Inspectorate for Disabled Persons debated the way UN Convention on the

Rights of the Child is applied or should be applied according to the local realities, such as to have in view the best interests of the child.

A seminar on the rights of the child took place on 4th of June at "Unirea" High-School in **Târgu Mureș**. A high number of students in the schools and high schools in the city participated in. Among them there were children included in the illiteracy liquidation programme within the Centre for Homeless Children Protection, participants in the contest "We also have rights", teachers and media representatives.

All the events dedicated to Children's Rights Week in **Reșița** were materialized in cooperation with many local NGOs. *Salvați Copiii* local branch had near by the Local Trade Unions, City Hall of Reșița, Unions Culture Hall and they offered the children several unforgettable days.

Events started with the vernishing of the exhibition "Child's Rights" organised at School no. 7 in Reșița. It has been followed by the symposium "Let's Make the UN Convention a Reality!", hosted by Children's Palace in Reșița, the contest on the rights of the child - local and county stage, concerts, shows performed by children, launching books for children.

For the whole Sunday, the esplanade on the centre of Reșița was the meeting place for all the children irrespective of age. Drawing contests on pavement for the younger ones, a drawing contest at easels, art and sport shows, leisure contests, music, dance, have been just a few of the children's possibilities to become manifest on that day. Celebration ended in the light of the fireworks.

International Seminar "Roma Children in Europe", Bucharest, 11-14 June 1998

Up to 1998, Roma children have been also included in Salvați Copiii projects like the other children, without any discrimination of gender, ethnic origin, religion etc., because our programmes refer to CHILD, in general. But, beginning with 1998, a special attention has been payed to this category, disfavoured not only from economic point of view, but specially by the prejudices and stereotypes the majority use for the Roma ethnic people.

Together with Radda Barnen from Sweden and Save the Children Fund from Great Britain, Salvați Copiii Romania involved in organizing the International Seminar in Bucharest for debating the observance of Roma children's rights, according to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The Seminar brought together more than 100 representatives of Roma and non-Roma NGOs from 16 countries, delegates of international organizations, specialists, decision-makers and politicians who are working to improve Roma children's situation.

There were plenary sessions and three workshops: Health, Education and Identity where the participants had the opportunity of an useful exchange of experience, pointing out the similarities and differences on Roma children's situation in different countries in Europe, presenting the programmes carried out in different countries and looking for the best means and methods to effectively lead to an improvement of Roma children's life.



In the end of the Seminar, the participants adopted an European Plan of Action in favour of Roma children which is going to be the basis in monitoring the observance of child's rights in Europe, with the support of the international bodies in charge in this field.

On the occasion of this event, a film on Roma children in Romania was made with the financial support of UNICEF and presented in the opening session of the Seminar, and a poster was printed with the support of Ministry of Culture and Aven Amentza

organization. At the same time, Salvați Copiii initiated a qualitative research on the same theme, finalized in a study based on the situation in 10 Roma communities in the country. The Final Report of the Seminar was published in three languages: Romanian, Rromani and English and a booklet "All the children have the same rights" completed the documentation of this Seminar.

Besides those already mentioned, another partner for this Seminar was Rromani CRISS, and the financial support was offered by the Embassy of Great Britain to Bucharest, Civil Society Development Foundation and Foundation for an Open Society.

"The Change Starts With Me"

International Seminar on the issues of children with disabilities

Mangalia, 28-31 October 1998

The third seminar initiated by Radda Barnen Sweden on the issue "Myths and Facts about Children with Disabilities" took place in Mangalia under the optimistic title "The change starts with me", on the basis of the observance of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, especially the articles concerning the children with disabilities.

Almost 100 persons participated in the Seminar, representatives of NGOs from 10 Eastern European countries, delegates from Romanian Presidency and Government, experts, specialists, among them, the guest of honour, Mr. Bengt Lindquist, Special UN Rapporteur on the disabled issues.

The debates of the Seminar took place in plenary sessions and five workshops: Education, Family, Accessibility, Rehabilitation and Social Policies aiming at elaborating proposals for changing legislation, attitudes and policies towards children with disabilities and their families.

Both from the national reports and the debates in workshops, a conclusion was drawn: even there is a specific legislation in some of the countries in this part of Europe, it is either incomplete or unrespected and the general attitude is not a normal one, but one of voluntary or instinctive rejection, and there is the tendency to marginalize them.

The participants in the Seminar, among them young people with deficiencies, made many proposals for calling the attention of the governments, authorities, civil society upon the needs and difficulties children with disabilities have to face and the emergency in taking the necessary steps for the improvement of their situation which now is only one of exclusion from the society.

On the occasion of the Seminar, a poster was printed as well as the translation of a Swedish work - No development without play.

The Seminar was organized in partnership with Radda Barnen-Sweden, which also had a financial contribution, the Association of Support for Physically Disabled Children-Romania and the Organization "TREBUIE!" for Children and Adults with Special Needs. A financial support was offered by the Foundation for an Open Society and UNICEF Romania.



Snowflakes

Fundraising Show - Craiova, 20th December 1999

Christmas feasts have been a good opportunity for all Salvați Copiii local branches to show their attitude centred upon children. At local level, there have been created opportunities of happiness for children, especially for the disfavoured ones.

Among other activities, Dolj local branch has organised a show where well-known artists in the culture institutions in Craiova have been invited. The initiator and organiser of this event has been Gabriel Chifu, the coordinator of Street Children's Club in Craiova. There have been performances of "Maria Tănase" Folk Ensemble, The Choir of the Theological Institute, folk and pop music, dance ensembles and entertainment. Willing to provide the children the opportunity to participate in, the students of the Private School "Ecaterina Teodoroiu" presented a dance and a fashion show. The carols sung by the children from the Hostel-Hospital for Disabled Children included in the education therapy programme have been received with much interest and emotion. The children in the Street Children's Club and children's homes in Craiova have also been in the show.

This show has been possible due to the support of the Army House in Craiova that made available the hall and the technical equipment necessary for the show.

In the end of the show, Santa Claus - whose coat the actor Constantin Ionescu from the Puppet Theatre in Craiova wore - shared gifts to the 200 children present in the hall.

This show couldn't be possible without the support generously provided by well-known companies in Craiova: INTERCAFENET, RADIOTEL, SPRING TRADING CLUB ROTARY, STEORUBIN, TEHNOTRONIC, PIERR, HOLLAND KEMPS - REDFLEK, BOMI COMPANY, OZ MARATON COM, CANARD, ZAHARA EXIM

Child Labour

National Seminar, Bucharest, 24-25 March 1998

The National Seminar on Child Labour has been the first one on this theme organised in a country in Central and Eastern Europe. It brought together representatives of Romanian Government, Presidency, non-governmental organisations, trade unions, employers and international organisations.

This seminar was organised by the National Institute for Research and Studies on Labour and Social Protection - with the support of the International Programme for Eliminating Child Labour (IPEC) and International Labour Organisation. Together with the main organiser, Salvați Copiii provided the participants with the conclusions of a study on child labour in Romania to be analysed. Enquiries were applied to a sample of 1,000 children (400 street children, 200 children living in children's homes, 400 pupils) and 200 families with children. This study has analysed the following fields: street children, sexual exploitation, forced labour made by children, child labour and education, child labour and poverty.

Presentation of the conclusions of this study and ILO programme for eliminating child labour have represented the basis of the plenary sessions, as well as the support for the National Plan of Action drawn up by the participants in the seminar.

Plenary sessions pointed out a series of conclusions with a general character. Child labour phenomenon is too little known and understood in Romania. The study drawn up by the National Institute for Research and Studies on Labour and Social Protection and Salvați Copiii is a beginning in investigating this phenomenon, but research should be extended in other areas of the country, in the villages and to certain vulnerable groups (e.g. Roma population).

At the same time, it is necessary a more clear definition of child labour, forms of beneficial work and of the ones considered as dangerous for child's health and development.

Tracing out, reducing and eliminating child labour in its dangerous, risky and exploiting forms suppose a joint effort of the governmental and non-governmental bodies, employers and employees associations, community, parents, educators, media, etc.

Proceedings on workshops have been focused on three main issues: a) education; b) laws and their application; c) action and community involvement programmes. Contributions of the workgroups in drawing up a measure programme for the National Plan of Action have been presented, debated and approved in the plenary session.

The numerous representatives of the press have been asked to increase making public child labour intolerable forms for making aware the community on the negative consequences on child's development.

Child labour elimination in its dangerous, risky and exploiting forms, the abuse upon children and trafficking children for prostitution or for other purposes will be done gradually by involving the whole community.

Action programmes will be directed to improving the laws in the field and their application. Education means and methods will be multiplied for increasing school participation and reducing school abandonment rate. Alleviation of the poverty degree of the families with many children may be a way by means of which children wouldn't be obliged anymore to dangerous and risky work for their health and development.

In the end of the seminar, after outlining the Plan of Action, there has been raised the problem of the body to monitor its application, but no decision has been taken in this respect. ILO experts consider the necessary tools to implement the Plan of Action do exist in Romania, particularly within the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection.

Ethics and Early Intervention Techniques in Community Alternative Family Programmes on Early Childhood

Parents' University Timișoara, Summer School, 17-24 August 1998

Aiming at making able the community to change attitudes and behaviours with a view to get values for the best interest of the child, the post-university Summer School on the theme mentioned above addressed to the ones interested in providing family alternatives for the infants in difficult circumstances (neglected, abandoned, at abuse risk and/or maltreatment).

The second edition of the Summer School took place at the Neuro-Psychiatry Clinics for Children and Teenagers, at the Social Complex Ciacova and at "Edelweiss" chalet belonging to "Ioana" Association. It was a cooperation between Salvați Copiii Timiș Branch, "Ioana" Association, UNICEF Representation Office in Romania and Medicine and Pharmacy University in Timișoara.

The agenda has included conferences, workshops, debates on subjects as: ethics and early intervention techniques, community family alternatives and mental health, from abandonment to adoption, institutions and bodies acting in the field of family and child protection according to the laws in force.

35 persons, representatives of the organisations dealing with child protection in Timiș and Hunedoara counties, representatives of the City Hall Timișoara, Local Department for Child's Rights Protection Timiș, City Hall in Petrila, Local Department for Child's Rights Protection Hunedoara have participated in the proceedings, as well as prestigious guests from the country and abroad: Sylvaine Vachier (Medecins du Monde - France), Ute Strub (Germany), University Lecturer Tiberiu Mircea, University Assistant Violeta Stan, Constanța Șerban - legal counsellor, Victoria Gulvas - psychologist, Gheorghe Kobor - General Dean, Agneta Nica - editor, etc.

The conclusions drawn from the proceedings of the Summer School pointed out the fact that for an ethics of participation, before giving responsibilities, it is necessary to understand what problems appear, what alternatives are proposed (from what prospect) and the consequences certain decisions could have for having in view the best interest of the child. By involving the teaching staff in the universities, researchers, Romanian and foreign trainers in the programmes for child protection there are provided the possibilities of an objective estimation of the local priorities.

**FINANCIAL REPORT OF
SALVAȚI COPIII
- 1998 -**

No.	EXPLANATIONS	AMOUNT (thousand lei)
I.	INCOMES – TOTAL	9,933,343
1.	Radda Barnen (Swedish Save the Children)	1,937,225
2.	Smurfit Charitable Foundation	2,232,161
3.	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	3,452,719
4.	Department for Child Protection	55,569
5.	UNICEF	186,658
6.	Civil Society Development Foundation	106,338
7.	Ministry of Youth and Sports	18,876
8.	Piccinelli – Italy	111,686
9.	Directorate for Youth and Sports of Bucharest	8,476
10.	Embassy of Great Britain & Save the Children Fund UK	233,333
11.	National Institute for Research and Studies on Labour and Social Protection	17,211
12.	Federation of the NGOs Active in Child Protection	18,600
13.	Other sponsorships	507,977
14.	Donations, membership fees	764,298
15.	Bank interest	282,216
II.	EXPENDITURES	7,912,376
A.	PROGRAMMES – TOTAL	7,191,991
1.	Children's integration in the natural families	38,396
2.	Street Children	555,375
3.	Information-Coordination Centre on Homeless Children Protection	46,246
4.	Information, education on the rights of the child	601,386
5.	Children in institutions	257,352
6.	Information-Documentation Centre on the Rights of the Child	293,235
7.	Centre for abused/neglected children	131,478
8.	HIV+ children	151,339
9.	Rroma children	559,957
10.	Children's Hot-Line	47,901
11.	Children with special needs	858,628
12.	Refugee children	45,580
13.	Advice Centre for refugees and asilum seekers	3,314,270
14.	Parents' University	7,130
15.	Abandoned children – The Open Windowed House	130,000
16.	International cases	1,099
17.	Fundraising seminar	39,643
18.	International cooperation – ISCA	39,995
19.	International contacts	72,981
B.	Organisation and development	511,679
1.	Annual General Assembly, sittings of the Director Committee	115,986
2.	Support for local branches	172,040
3.	Fundraising	96,537
4.	Administration expenditures	127,116
C.	Personnel	183,487
D.	Bank charges	25,219

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- Association for the Support of Children with a Physic Handicap - Romania
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- ZDF
- Die Zeit
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- ROMTELECOM
- Romanian Television
- Tele 7 abc, Pro TV, Antena 1 - Private TV Channels
- Newspapers: România Liberă, Libertatea, Adevărul, Evenimentul Zilei
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- Romanian Angel Appeal
- Humanitarian Enterprise Equilibre
- Foundation „Family and Child Protection”
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