

Annual Report 2004



Salvați Copiii
Save the Children Romania

Member of the International Save the Children Alliance



Camelia Iordache
President



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Executive President

2004 – A year of the lawmaking progress in the field of child rights **Save the Children has contributed to this reform**

Undoubtedly, it was a year filled with accomplishments – the *Law on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of the Child*, the *Law on the Legal Status of Adoptions*, the *Law on the Organisation of the Judiciary* were promulgated and the enumeration can continue. We have mentioned only these laws because Save the Children has been directly involved and contributed with proposals regarding their content. Romania is among the few European countries that has adopted such an advanced law on the protection and promotion of the rights of the child in direct and full accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. This law stipulates the banning of the physical punishment and the humiliating or degrading treatments children are subjected to. Thus, Romania has become the eleventh country that forbids corporal punishment of the children. We are extremely happy that we have had a role in the elimination – at least as concerns the legal framework – of this attitude based on force and violence of the adult towards a child.

Important steps have been made in drafting strategies and action plans for the elimination of the worst forms of child labour, trafficking in children, child abuse and sexual exploitation. Save the Children was part of all these working groups, establishing an excellent cooperation with governmental agencies, inter-governmental and governmental organisations. It was a year we could say about that we witnessed a real progress in the development of the relations between the governmental sector and the civil society. This point of view is backed up by the promotion of the Fiscal Code Law that sets forth that every citizen can direct 1% of the tax on global income to NGOs.

This was a year of the awards for Save the Children. The programme on the European Centre for the Integration of the Institutionalised Children was among the 32 successful projects selected by the European Commission – Leonardo da Vinci Programme out of over 4,000 funded projects. The campaign against trafficking in children won the most important award delivered by the Romanian Public Relations Award, while the anti-drug campaign carried out with the support of Unidea Foundation won the second prize.

In the end, we would like to mention the most important accomplishment of our organisation. We worked with over 80,000 children in our programmes. We have received many letters, messages, recommendations from many of these extraordinary children and it deserves to fight on their behalf for justice and a life in dignity, a better life.

Our vision

Our vision is a world where all the rights of the child are respected.

Save the Children Romania works for:

- a world which respects and values each child;
- a world which listens to children and learns;
- a world where all children have hope and opportunity;
- a world where all children are protected from any type of violence, abuse and exploitation.

Children know their rights

“WE ALSO HAVE RIGHTS”

This programme aims at promoting a change in adults' mentality regarding children and their rights, educating children themselves in order to be aware of their rights and responsibilities, involving children in the education/self-education process. In this respect, the following activities were carried out:

DEBATE WORKSHOPS AND GROUPS

In 2004, 350 volunteers from Bucharest and 14 counties where Save the Children has local branches organised debate workshops and groups in 180 schools by involving 6,200 children and teachers. The methods used to disseminate information were diverse and different according to the age groups, from drawing and making clay models up to case studies role playing and press monitoring for reported cases of child rights violations. Both volunteers and teachers benefit from information materials and methodological guides produced by Save the Children.

“CHILD RIGHTS” CONTEST

One of the tasks of the volunteers is to train children in schools to participate in the “**Child Rights**” Contest. This event gathers all the schools participating in the project and gives children the opportunity to show their knowledge and skills acquired during the debate workshops. The contest took place in all the local branches in May and June and involved 3,000 children aged between 10-14 years.

The contest in Bucharest consisted of a contest-exhibition with materials produced by over 300 children from 30 schools and high schools participating in the project.

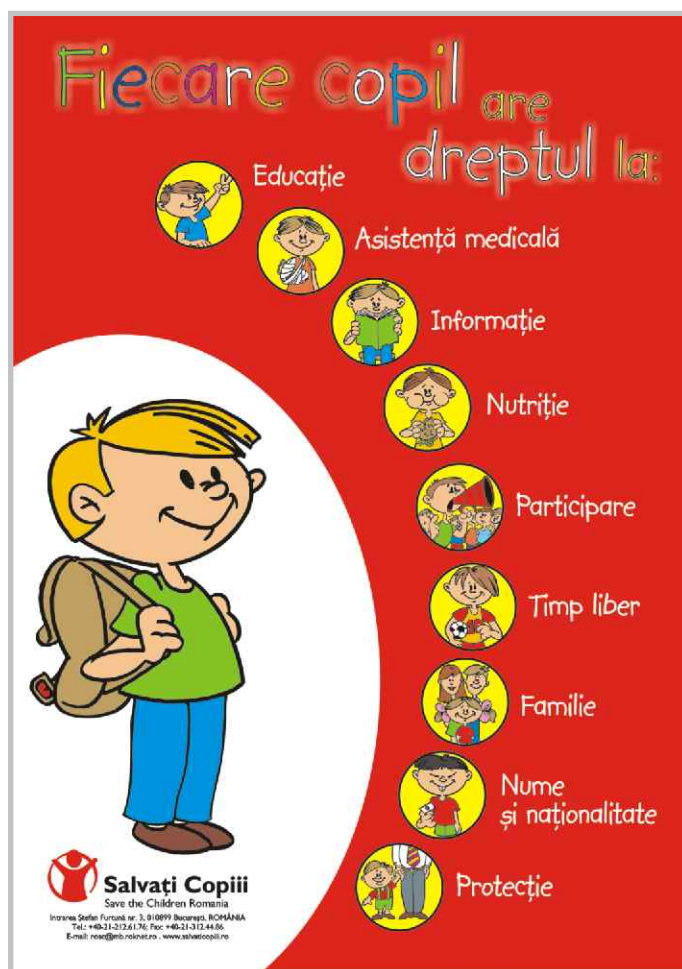
Debates and drawing contests on children's rights were also organised on 15-20 November, in Bucharest and all local branches to celebrate 15 years since the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child has been adopted. 4,500 children from 120 schools participated in this event.

EVALUATION MEETING OF THE PILOT PROJECT

“Child Rights” Project, 19-20 November, Bucharest

The meeting took place in Bucharest, on 19-20 November and aimed at improving the educational materials (**Notebook and Handbook for the students in the 6th grade**) after their use during a school year and identifying possible ways to extend the project such as a larger number of children would benefit from information sessions on the rights of the child.

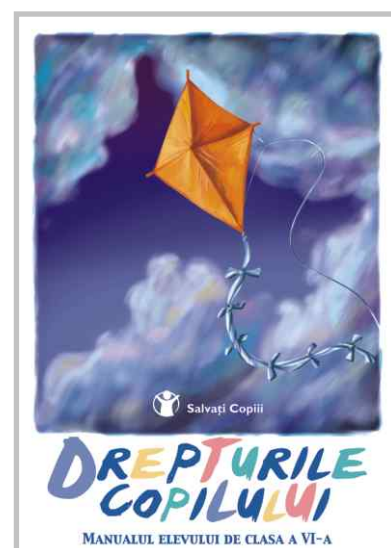
22 teachers from the 9 schools from Bucharest and 2 schools from each of the local branches in Caraş-Severin,



Constanța, Dolj, Galați, Hunedoara, Timiș and Vaslui involved in the pilot project, volunteer students and representatives of the Ministry of Education and Research, School Inspectorate of Bucharest participated in the meeting.

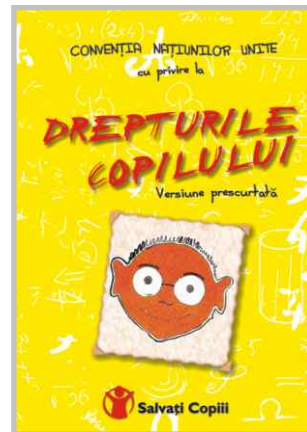
PUBLICATIONS:

Handbook for the students in 6th grade,
Notebook for the students in the 6th grade,
UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (official version and a short version for children), poster on promoting the rights of the child



Participation and community involvement

This project offers the children and young people opportunities to get actively and effectively involved in the society. It also enhances and extends the impact of children and the young volunteers in terms of relation between children and decision makers and provides for an efficient environment to draft the National Plan of Action for Children. Volunteer activities are mainly carried out in schools, child care institutions, refugee centre, but also within the programmes targeting less favoured children.



YOUNG VOLUNTEERS' CENTRE

The Young Volunteers Centre has a very important role in the recruitment and training of the volunteers for the programmes implemented by Save the Children and in improving volunteers' management. 111 volunteers were recruited and 83 volunteers attended training sessions for different projects and campaigns. A team of 7 volunteers was established and has the role to organise training sessions in Save the Children local branches.

The Centre coordinated the editing of the children's and young volunteers' magazine **YES for Opinion** with four issues in Romanian and English language. The topics in 2004 were: **“Trafficking in Human Beings”, “Steps towards Accession to the European Union”, “Children's and Volunteers' Annual Meetings”** and **“Violence – ways of prevention and solutions”**. The centre edited two training kits for and by the volunteers, collected information and data to draft **“Young People's and Teenagers' Guide”**.

18 volunteers from Save the Children participated in an exchange of experience with volunteers from Swedish Save the Children (Radda Barnen) on volunteering and child rights. They laid the ground for a common project to be implemented during the summer of 2005.

CHILDREN'S NATIONAL FORUM

The theme of the debates of the national forum organised in Bucharest was **trafficking in children**, many of the participating children being already involved in prevention campaigns. The forum brought together 60 participants from 15 local branches and partner organisations: Chance for Life, ASCHFR, Trebuie! (Must!), Children's Voice, Adolescentul (The Adolescent). They met with representatives of the institutions responsible for preventing and combating trafficking in human beings.

This is a model of children's active participation and it resulted in a better attitude of the authorities towards children and their opinions. The institutions represented

were: UNICEF, Ministry of Labour, Social Solidarity and Family, National Authority for Child Protection and Adoptions, Directorate General for Combating Organized Crime and Anti-Drug, IOM and ILO-IPEC. The conclusions of the Forum referred to the development of information programmes on trafficking in children both in rural and urban areas aiming at enhancing the trust of the population in the police. Children requested that every public institution with responsibilities in this field should submit an annual report and authorities should make known what are the measures taken in cases of child rights violations.

CHILDREN'S ANNUAL MEETING – “Children's right to opinion and participation”, Bucșoia, 27 June – 5 July 2004

Already at the 9th edition, the meeting gathered 200 children from 15 local branches and a group of 50 refugee children. The meeting was an example of good practice as concerns child participation, children carrying out activities in 6 workshops on different topics (child rights, journalism, education for health, multicultural environment, trafficking in human beings, Romania's accession to the EU) and participated in literary, sports and tourist orientation contests.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE VOLUNTEERS – Training for Leadership, Arbănași, 27 July – 3 August

It was the first meeting of this type and brought together 120 volunteers from 15 local branches who participated in 4 workshops: human rights; education for health; EU programmes for youth and programme design; volunteer networks. This meeting has become a necessity in order to recognize the importance of the volunteering in the organisational development and to train a team of coordinators for the volunteers.

CHILDREN'S CARNIVAL

200 children (beneficiaries of the programmes implemented by the organisation) participated in contests and prepared an artistic show for this traditional event for Save the Children.



"Volunteering is a milestone in my becoming as a HUMAN BEING." (volunteer girl, 16 years old)

Child participation is one of the guiding principles of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, which means to recognize all children as active social subjects able to express their views in any matters affecting them. Although authorities have made important steps in mainstreaming the CRC provisions into the national legislation (including school curriculum), certain rights of the child are not implemented in the current practice. At the same time, the structures and the legal framework that would allow children's involvement in schools and their communities are not in place yet.



Because the first step in addressing children's problem consists of determining the extent, causes and the consequences of the phenomena in discussion, documentation and research are considered of maximum importance and lay the foundation for the programme design and elaboration of strategies for all the involved bodies, either governmental or non-governmental. Thus, the activities of the Information, Documentation and Research Centre on the Rights of the Child have been structured according to the target groups: representatives of authorities, non-governmental sector, the public, children and students. The centre also developed awareness raising campaigns with support from the media, Ministry of Education and Research and NGOs active in child protection.

RESEARCH REPORTS

The studies conducted in 2004 by the Information Centre were focused on trafficking in children: extent, types of exploitation, causes, trafficking process, legislation and measures taken to combat this phenomenon. The findings of the studies resulted in four publications:

1. **Joint East-West Research on Trafficking in Children for Sexual Purposes in Europe: The Sending Countries**, coordinated by ECPAT The Netherlands;
2. **Report on Child Trafficking in Bulgaria, Denmark, Italy, Romania, Spain and United Kingdom**, coordinated by Save the Children Italy;
3. **Report on Trafficking in Children in Romania**, Save the Children;
4. **Child Trafficking in Central, South Eastern Europe and Baltic Countries**, coordinated by Save the Children Romania.

THE SEMINAR "Respecting the rights of the child victim of trafficking – a multidisciplinary approach"

The seminar was organised by Save the Children in cooperation with the Directorate General for Combating Organised Crime and Anti-Drug on 4-5 March 2004 in the framework of ENACT project. Participants were 65 representatives of central institutions responsible for preventing and combating trafficking in human beings (Ministry of Administration and Interior, Ministry of Justice,



National Authority for Child Protection and Adoption, Ministry of Labour, Social Solidarity and Family, Ministry of Education and Research), representatives of the local Departments of Child Protection, local Departments for Combating Organised Crime and Anti-Drug from Arad, Botoșani, Galați, Girugiu, Ilfov, Mehedinți, Satu Mare and Timiș, representatives of the international organisations (ILO-IPEC, UNICEF, UNDP and IOM) and non-governmental organisations.

The most important outcome of the seminar was the observations made to the draft version of the **National Plan of Action for Combating Trafficking in Children** that contributed to its finalisation.

QUALITY EDUCATION FOR ALL CHILDREN

This lobby campaign involved about 15,000 school aged children from 10 counties and Bucharest and aimed at promoting equal access to education for all children. Over 700 letters written by children (individual or group letters) throughout the country were sent to the President, Prime-Minister and to the Minister of Education. The letters left open by authors were analyzed by a Save the Children team in order to summarize the major problems identified and suggestions made by children.

3,600 children filled in questionnaires that aimed at identifying their perception as concerns school drop out and possible solutions to increase school enrolment.

Children's representatives and those of the Ministry of Education and Research, School Inspectorate of Bucharest, teachers and volunteers involved in this project participated in the round table on "**Quality Education for All Children**" where they debated the main ideas resulted from the consultation process with children.

It is to be mentioned that in the beginning of the school year 2003-2004 the enrolment rate in the pre-school education, primary education, gymnasium and high school was 74.2% of the total school aged population, out of which 70% of the students attended day courses. School drop out increases very much after the age of 14 and most of the poor children aged over 16 do not attend school anymore.

This leads to a development of the negative effects in a "vicious circle", poverty rate accounting for 50.5% for the persons with primary education or no schooling at all.

12 JUNE – World Day against Child Labour

Save the Children organised a **March against Child Labour** in partnership with the School Inspectorate of Bucharest, funded by the International Labour Office – International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour. The march took place from Unirii Square to the Youth Park and gathered approximately 300 children, parents, teachers and representatives of non-governmental organisations.

As a follow-up of this action, a delegation of the children presented a letter with their recommendations for combating child labour to the National Steering Committee for the Prevention and Elimination of Child Labour held on 14 June 2004.

As a result of the debates, children's delegation was invited on a permanent basis to the meetings of the Committee.

DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION

About 200 persons (students, parents, representatives of the authorities or NGOs and journalists) requested different information along 2004. The requests came from national level, but also from institutions at regional or European level. Also, over 300 beneficiaries (representatives of different institutions) received the information bulletin “**Info Child Rights**” that briefly introduced the news in child protection system: legislation, information sources in the field, and events at international level.

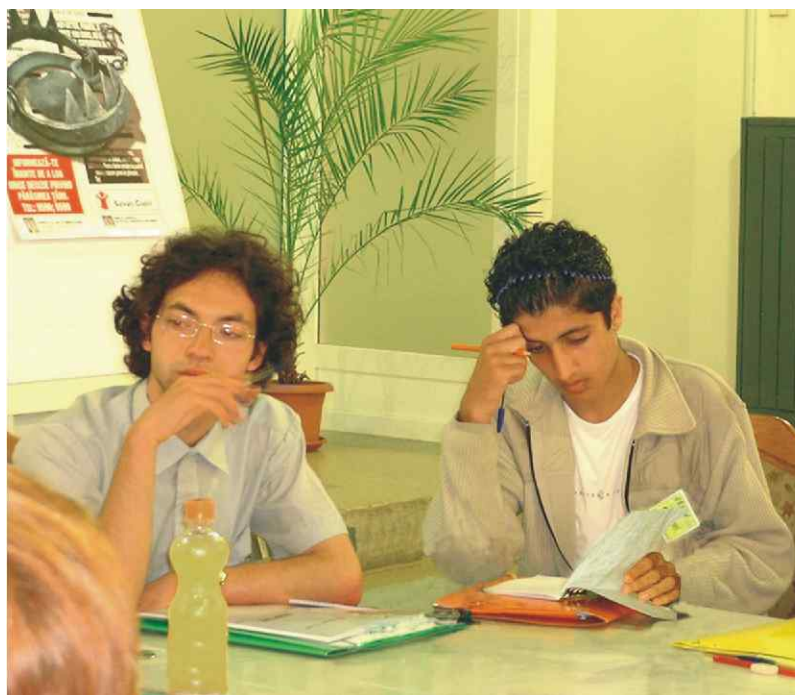
INTERNATIONAL NETWORKS

The Information Centre coordinates the activity of the Global March against Child Labour in Central and Eastern Europe and the NGOs Network for Monitoring Children's Rights in Eastern Europe and Baltic Countries. The Centre is also a National Coordinator for SEECRAN network (South East European Child Rights Action Network) and ENACT (European Network Against Trafficking in Children).

PARTNERS

At national level: School Inspectorate of Bucharest, Directorate General for Combating Organised Crime and Anti-Drug, County Departments for Child Rights Protection, Open Society Foundation East-East Program

At international level: Swedish Save the Children (Rädda Barnen) SEECRAN, Global March against Child Labour, Children's Human Rights Centre of Albania, Partners Bulgaria Foundation, Centre for Social Policy Initiative Croatia, Tallin Centre for Children at Risk – Estonia, Save the Children Lithuania, Save the Children Macedonia, Save the Children Kosovo, Save the Children Norway Office in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Information and Documentation Centre on the Rights of the Child in Moldova, ASTRA Serbia, Association Kljuc Slovenia, Child Rights Centre - Serbia



The main conclusions of the round table “Quality Education for All Children”

The problems identified by children are supported by the opinions of the teachers who participated in the round table: there are significant differences among schools in terms of equipment (one could find schools with excellent conditions and schools with problems, where children's health is sometimes endangered).

Since local administration is responsible for equipping and renovating schools, the support of the City Halls and Local Councils is absolutely necessary in certain cases (the example given was the national plan for the rehabilitation of the schools in rural areas).

Related to school curriculum, teachers agreed that it was often overloaded, being not adapted to the psychic and intellectual level of the children in different cycles of education. Although the curriculum is drafted by working groups formed by teachers in the pre-university education, there is no consultation process with the teachers who have to apply the curriculum. Moreover, the frequent changes in the curriculum and the methods used for the evaluation of students often produce a confusing work climate.

As for discrimination (children say that it is necessary to build special schools for Roma or disabled children), teachers consider that their involvement together with parents is a must (parents are often those who encourage discriminatory attitudes towards Roma or disabled children).

For the families in straightened circumstances, an efficient measure proved to be the establishment of day care centres in schools, where children are provided with support in doing homework and a hot meal.

Trafficking and exploitation

“ASSISTANCE AND REINTEGRATION SERVICES FOR CHILDREN VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING OR UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN”

Trafficking in children and youth is a phenomenon whose extent recorded and still records a continuous increase. One cannot speak about a temporary phenomenon that affects a reduced number of persons, but a phenomenon with major implications at socio-economic level that is favoured by the economic and political transition Romania is passing through. The high unemployment rate, low level of salaries and lack of job opportunities are only several factors that have determined an increase in the illegal migration for labour to the Western countries. In this context, Romania's geographical position has made that trafficking in children and youth to become a profitable crime.

ROMANIA – A COUNTRY OF ORIGIN AND A TRANSIT COUNTRY

Romania is mainly a country of origin, most of the children and youth being trafficked to Belgium, Italy, France, Spain, Germany and Ireland. Romania has also become a transit country for children and youth from former Soviet Union countries and at a reduced extent a destination country. Unequal development of the social infrastructure in Romania makes that prevention and reintegration efforts to be very slow and more and more difficult.

As concerns trafficking in children and youth, the public social services are not ready yet to assist such cases for financial reasons, but also because of the lack of specialised personnel. Thus, in certain regions there are no services available, although the law sets forth the right of the child victims of trafficking to social services.

NATIONAL INTEREST PROGRAMME 415

The activities carried out in favour of the child victims of trafficking or unaccompanied children were:

- Organise the Pilot Centre in Bucharest (for 30 children) and the nine transit centres in the following counties: Iași (for 8 children), Suceava (for 6 children), Botoșani (for 6 children), Neamț (for 6 children), Galați (for 6 children), Satu Mare (for 10 children and an isolation room), Arad (for 15 children), Timiș (for 10 children) and Bihor (for 8 children). The total capacity of the children is 106 children accommodated.
- Inform children, parents and teachers on the risks and the consequences of the illegal migration and



“Golden Award for Excellence and Overall Winner” awarded to Save the Children for the campaign “Prevention of Child Trafficking” (Romanian Public Relations Award 2004)

trafficking in children: 2,256 children, 88 parents and 130 teachers.

- Elaborate the work methodology for the Pilot Centre in Bucharest, also taken over by the Transit Centres.
- Train the personnel within the Transit Centres (77 specialists) and other categories of partners in the project in 5 training courses (217 participants).
- Select and train 115 volunteers who contributed to the prevention campaigns in schools.
- Assess, assist and socially reintegrate 36 repatriated children: 17 in Bucharest, 1 in Suceava, 1 in Iași, 7 in Galați, 7 in Neamț, 1 in Harghita, 2 in Recaș, 2 in Arad.
- Prevent trafficking through counselling and material support for 399 children.

Within the Inter-Ministerial Group, Save the Children has promoted the partnership and observance of the specific methodology for the repatriation and reintegration of the trafficked children and participated in drafting of the **National Plan of Action for Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Children and Social Reintegration of the Victims 2004-2007** and the **Organising and Functioning Regulations for the Transit Centres for Children**.

MATERIALS PRODUCED

1,500 posters, 3,000 leaflets and 3,000 brochures presenting the **National Interest Programme 415**, the services provided, the risk factors and consequences of trafficking, as well as legislation. A short video was also produced and it will have an important role in the campaign on preventing illegal migration and trafficking.

The representatives of the International Organization for Migration stated that 935 victims of trafficking in human beings were assisted during the period 2000-2004. 154 victims were released from trafficking in 2004 out of which 20% were children and 80% adults.

nu au la bai.
După ce nu-au violat, nuș au nicio să nuă opat tot timpul.
Aveau înțineria să nuă pui fect atunci cănd stăteau nuă suat
sub disp. Nu nuă mai nșpau înuă cu capul nuă
Nu nuă dădau să năuăcăm dădă nuă anou drelu.
Dacă le dădău să năuăcăm dădă nuă anou drelu.
Era rase. le aușeau focuri de armă și au drelu afai,
eu am fost împușcată la piers.
Eram obligate să întătuim relații sexuală cu oșnoui noștri
- clienți pe noapți.
În bai nuă erau lăttă fete, dădă nuă erau ca năuă. Ele făuau
pentru că nuău năuă.
Am fugit cu încă două fete. Ne-au unuărit și țigărau
noștri. Am vărut pe una din fete cum a căsăt. Fumă împușcate
- ca o rase și nu-au areuă la năuă. Au stat acolo sătăuă.
- au năuăcăt. Am cūșut să au năuăt de năuă.
- au pșpus unuă fete să fugim. Nu au drelu să năuătem
- și de pătōni și de polițe. Ne-au pșpus și nu-au
- au drelu că o năuă încuăcăm să fugim. Polița dău drelu cūșuă-
- năuări la pătōni.
- au drelu să nuă lan năuă pșuă acasă. Au năuăcăt
- au drelu cu pătōni la tēmpă și nu-au pșuă să
- au năuăcăt cūșuă.

Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism

Save the Children, in partnership with the Institute for Crime Research and Prevention and the Romanian Hotel Industry Federation, has been carrying out the project "Public-Private Co-operation in the Prevention of Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation of Minors in Travel and Tourism Industry". This project, funded by OSCE and 'respect' Austria, aims at preventing trafficking in children and child sexual exploitation in Romania by adopting the **Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism** (Code of Conduct) by the hotels and tourism industry in order to: prevent child sexual exploitation; adopt an agreement and rules by the operators in hotels and tourism industry by means of which they commit themselves to combat the phenomenon; raise the awareness of the public on the global issue of sexual exploitation and trafficking in children by informing Romanian tourists and those who visit Romania.

In Romania, the project was launched in December 2004 through a round table where it was decided to set up Multi-Stakeholder Committee coordinated by Save the Children that should adapt the provisions of the Code of Conduct to the Romanian reality with a view to promote and adopt it. The Committee is made up of representatives of the Romanian Hotel Industry Federation, National Tourism Agencies' Association, Institute for Crime Research and Prevention, Criminal Investigations Directorate (General Inspectorate of the Romanian Police), Ministry of Transportation, Constructions and Tourism, National Authority for Child Rights Protection and Save the Children Romania.

PENTRU CEI CARE ÎNCĂ MAI CRED CĂ BĂTAIA E RUPTĂ DIN RAI

Bătaia nu are nimic sfânt; durerea nu e învățătură de minte; corecțiile nu corectează pe nimeni. Copiii se educă cu vorbe bune, cu răbdare, cu iubire. Iar dacă totuși merită să te bați, bate-te pentru aplicarea legii, pentru interzicerea violenței împotriva copilului. Pentru că atunci când cineva bate un copil e ca și cum ar bate un înger.

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Salvați Copiii
Save the Children Romania

According to the data made available by the General Inspectorate of Romanian Police – Research Institute for Criminology Prevention, 1,331 cases of abused and neglected children were registered in 2004, out of which 832 cases of rape, 284 cases of sexual intercourse with a minor, 114 cases of sexual perversion, and 101 cases of sexual corruption. These are only the penal offences. In fact, the number is much higher.

Counselling Centres for the abused, neglected and trafficked children

Involved in promoting and implementing programmes aiming at respecting the rights of the child and providing child protection, Save the Children has established seven counselling centres for abused, neglected and trafficked children (Bucharest, Iași, Timișoara, Suceava, Târgu Mureș, Tîrgoviște, Caraș Severin) that run as specialised services for psycho-social rehabilitation of the child victims of abuse and sexual exploitation. Through the services provided, the counselling centres offer rehabilitation and social reinsertion for the children who were victims of abuse, neglect or trafficking and for their families.

COUNSELLING ACTIVITY

The Counselling Centres had in the 2004 records 506 children who suffered a type of abuse in the family or institutional environment. They benefited from rehabilitation and counselling. The Counselling Centres in Suceava and Bucharest also provided assistance for the children victims of trafficking. The main stages of the assistance consisted of assessment and psychological counselling, social assistance and legal counselling based on an individual intervention plan.

Counselling and rehabilitation activity was provided for the following types of abuse: 52 cases of physical abuse, 171 cases of emotional abuse, 68 cases of sexual abuse, 38 cases of neglect, 39 child victims of trafficking and 138 cases of behavioural disorders as a result of child's exposure to situations of abuse. 180 families were counselled with a view to correct their inadequate behaviour towards their children.

INFORMATION AND TRAINING FOR SPECIALISTS

The 32 specialists of the Counselling Centres attended the Training of Trainers Course on child welfare and child protection, being accredited as trainers by the National Training Centre for the Personnel with Higher Education. 91 specialists of the Departments for Social Assistance and Child Protection, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Public Function, Departments for Public Health, Employment Agencies, School Inspectorates in Călărași, Ialomița, Giurgiu, Teleorman, Dâmbovița, Vrancea, Vaslui, Suceava, Galați, Brăila and Bucharest participated in the seminar “**Child abuse and trafficking – prevention and intervention**”.



Ana's story...

Ana was a victim of sexual abuse at the age of 14. *«I couldn't scream or struggle. I thought he would kill me. Since that time nothing was the same: I am afraid to go out of house, do not go out unaccompanied, get annoyed easily, cry many times, and often remember what happened to me. I was troubled by that feeling of fear, I was afraid to go out or to come back from school in the evening. I feel better since I have come for counselling. But I am ashamed that my classmates may find out; those in my district already know and I don't like to speak to them about this. The offender was imprisoned and I do hope to feel better, to have a normal life.»*

Save the Children participated in drafting the standards for the services for abused, neglected and exploited children. Related to the standards, Save the Children drafted the Methodological Guide for Prevention and Intervention in Cases of Child Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation.

Save the Children initiated the establishment of the working group and participated in drafting the **National Plan of Action for Prevention and Combating Child Sexual Abuse and Child Sexual Commercial Exploitation**. The plan was submitted to the Government for approval and implementation.

Save the Children participated in drafting the Child Law and had an important role in defining the concepts and introducing several articles to ensure the rights of the child at risk (abused, neglected, trafficked, disabled, refugee, roma and homeless children).



Representation at national level

A round table **“The Right of the Child to Protection against the Use of Psychotropic Substances and Drugs”** was organized within Global Fund Programme. Participants were specialists of the Counselling Centre, School Inspectorate, Anti-Drug Commission and General Department for Child Rights Protection.

Save the Children established in Timiș County a **Centre for Vocational Guidance for the Youth in Residential Care Centres** aiming at their professional integration. In order to reach the objectives, two social apartments were established, youth were provided with vocational and psychological counselling and 15 youth have been reintegrated in their natural or extended families.

The volunteers of Brașov local branch organised on 20 November open lessons and a drawing contest on the rights of the child to education and health with the participation of 400 children. The students participating in this action and their classmates also collected toys and books for the Paediatrics Hospital in Brașov. The awarded drawings are currently exhibited on the walls of the hospital.

Suceava local branch coordinated the National Interest Programme 415 **Assistance and Reintegration Services for Child Victims of Trafficking and Unaccompanied Children** implemented during the period July-December 2004 in Botoșani, Galați, Iași and Suceava counties.

Neamț local branch organised drawing contests and actions for disabled children. A show where children themselves were the artists was organised in cooperation with the Association for Children with Physic Disabilities.

Debate workshops and groups were organised in 23 schools units. **“The Child Rights”** contest took place in 19 schools and 21 teams participated in the final stage at county level. As a follow up of these activities, it was launched a poetry and prose digest entitled **“It’s time to know about your rights”** written and illustrated by children who participated in the debates and contests.

Summer Camp – 3rd edition – August 2004

150 beneficiaries of the Day Care Centre and other 30 children within the project **“Close to Children”** participated in the following activities at Jiet Chalet and in the park in Petrila: handicraft, playing the flute course, baseball, painting, cooking, folk and modern dances, origami, kickball, my story, design, theatre, English language, tourist orientation, badminton, code of the good manners, juggling, aerobic, chess, general knowledge, traffic rules.

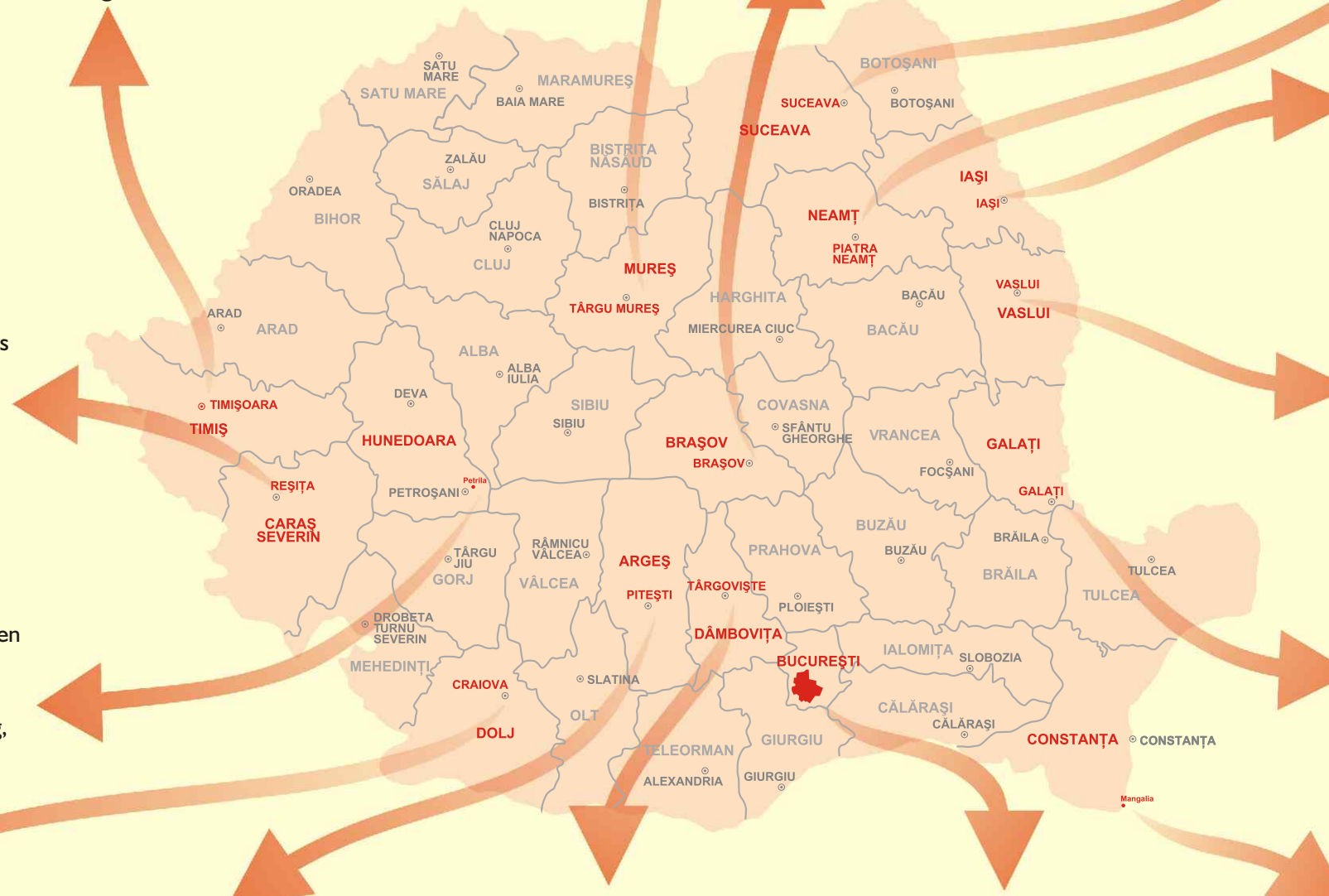
In Craiova, 125 children receive monthly material support, vitamins and medicines necessary for a good response to the antiretroviral treatment. Within this programme, regular visits to the families are made in order to provide parents with counselling.

During the **Child Rights Week**, the volunteers in Argeș County met with 130 disabled children. Discussions were focused on the rights of the disabled children, children being encouraged to make proposals to improve their situation.

Dâmbovița local branch implemented the project **“Skills for independent life. A solution for deinstitutionalization”**. It aims at providing the best conditions for deinstitutionalization by creating and developing skills for independent life and promoting professional integration of youth. 47 young people from two residential care centres in Târgoviște are included in the project.

Children’s summer holidays ended up with a **“Creation Camp”** – at the 3rd edition - held in Muscel, Câmpulung aiming at developing the inter-relation, association, participation and artistic skills of children.

The first preparatory class **“First Steps”** for children from less favoured families was opened in September 2004, in Mangalia. The class includes 20 pre-school aged children, most of them coming from the poorest areas of Mangalia. Children are brought to kindergarten by minibus and receive free school supplies, uniforms and a snack.



In 2004, Iași local branch implemented the project **Preventing juvenile delinquency and school drop out** funded by the Phare Access-Social Programme. 50 children with pre-delinquent and delinquent behaviour benefited from tuition, material support school and vocational guidance. Specific for this project was the establishment of positive pressure groups that had a influence upon socializing of the children with difficulties in social integration.

In November 2004, Vaslui local branch organised a contest exhibition **“The Right of the Child to Education for Health”** in there schools in the county where 800 students and 60 teachers participated with drawings and essays on tolerance and child rights to health and education. The winners were proposed by a jury consisting of students’ representatives from the participating schools.

ChildNet – Skills for Independent Life. Two modules of entrepreneurial education, vocational training and career guidance counselling sessions were organised for 25 beneficiaries of the project. Maintaining a one-to-one relation between the volunteers and youth contributed to the social integration of those who left or are to leave the residential care institutions.

Protection and education

SOCIAL AND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE, SCHOOL REINTEGRATION AND PSYCHOLOGICAL COUNSELLING FOR STREET CHILDREN

“My family is the world in the street and I am tired because I do not have where to go to sleep. My best friend is only God.” – Cristi, 15 years old, street child

Working street children can be found in central and crowded areas of the cities, at intersections, in the supermarkets, warehouses or wholesale businesses, trying to earn money by begging or performing other activities (washing cars, selling goods, loading and unloading merchandise, collecting wastes).

Starting from the multiple needs of the children and based on the experience acquired in over 10 years of street social assistance, Save the Children carried out in 2004 a complex programme combining social assistance services with school reintegration, health care services and psychological counselling.

SOCIAL, MEDICAL ASSISTANCE AND SCHOOLING

The activity of the social workers means to perform a social enquiry, provide emergency material support, solve the problems related to identity documents and other legal problems, accompany the children to hospitals or day care centres and health care education with a view to the family reintegration or accommodation in residential care centres. Parents are involved in the project being the beneficiaries of the material support and counselling services. A major component is organising school classes for children who live or work in the street with a view to their integration in the mainstream education.

Social workers carried out activities especially in the areas known for the working children and poor communities coming there. In 2004, 280 children, out of which 171 in Bucharest, 23 in Iași, 18 in Pitești, 27 in Galați, 17 in Târgu Mureș, 13 in Suceava, 11 in Timișoara benefited from social assistance services:

- 86 children were integrated / reintegrated in schools;
- 191 children benefited from health care services;
- 20 children were accommodated in residential care institutions;
- as a result of the contacts with children in the street and of the social enquiries performed, social workers found the best solutions for 16 children living in the streets succeeding by counselling their family reintegration;
- 50 children attended the day care centres opened in Bucharest and Craiova within the National Interest



Programme 379 “**Social Integration of Street Children**” funded by the National Authority for Child Rights Protection;

Leisure time activities (camps in Arbănași and Căprioara, Football Championship of the Residential Care Centres in Prague – Czech Republic, World Congress against Child Labour in Florence – Italy).

INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING

This component was achieved by organising training sessions on child labour and incidence of HIV/AIDS for the specialists working for local authorities involved in child protection and NGOs implementing programmes for street children, health care units and schools.

Two training courses were organised in 2004 for Save the Children staff working for Programme “**Prevention of HIV/AIDS Transmission among street children and Roma communities**”. Based on the training curriculum developed and as a result of the national meeting with lecturers from all local branches, 377 specialists were trained. They further contributed to prevent the transmission of HIV and sexually transmitted infections (STI), as well as drug abuse in the streets and in Roma communities.

RESEARCH ON CHILD ECONOMIC EXPLOITATION

The study “**Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices Survey related to Working Street Children and Their Parents**” funded by ILO-IPEC provides a qualitative perspective of the phenomenon. In the framework of the same cooperation the “**Rapid Assessment of the Trafficking in Children for Labour and Sexual Exploitation in Romania**” was finalised.

Another study conducted in 2004 in the framework of Global Fund Programme was “**Research of the incidence**”

The National Institute of Statistics estimated in the beginning of 2004 that 70,000 children were victims of the worst forms of child labour, including their use by prostitution networks or drug peddling. Most of them live in rural areas. 5,000 street children live in the streets of the capital and other cities. For some of them, the street has become the only refuge from abuses and shortages within their families. School or the pleasure of playing are only a dream, one third of them being illiterate.



of HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases in the street and in Roma communities. This study is an assessment of the knowledge and current practices as concerns transmission, protection modalities, risks and the incidence of the sexually transmitted infections (STI), as well as drug abuse. Posters were produced in order to inform on the situation of street children.

FINANCERS

Festival of Christmas Trees event, The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, Rädna Barnen (Save the Children Sweden), National Authority for Child Right Protection, International Labour Office – International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (ILO-IPEC)

USAID – WORLD LEARNING PROGRAMME – Psychological counselling services for the economically exploited children

The aim of the programme is to progressively combat child labour by developing projects in Moldova region (Iași, Suceava and Neamț) and Bucharest. Changing attitudes and perceptions on child labour in these regions will determine

an effective prevention of child labour through the rehabilitation and school reintegration of 210 economically exploited street children. Psychological counselling is provided by the Counselling Centres for the Abused Neglected Children in Bucharest, Iași and Suceava. During the first quarter of programme implementation in Bucharest and three local branches (Iași, Neamț, Suceava), 37 children benefited from specialised services of social assistance and psychological counselling.

Florin's story...

He was born in the street, in a tent improvised by his father in a Roma community at the outskirts of Bucharest. The social workers from Save the Children met him when begging together with other children. Although he is only 5 years old, he tells about the difficulties his family is facing and he states that he would like to go to school when older. By that time, he accompanies his sisters to the Save the Children Educational Centre, where he draws, plays and have lunch with the other children. Supported by the social workers, his family has made several approaches in order to get a social dwelling.

Support for HIV positive children

THE GLOBAL FUND TO FIGHT AIDS, TUBERCULOSIS AND MALARIA

By 2004, AIDS made over 25 million victims worldwide. Today, there are over 45 million HIV positive persons in the world. According to the data collected by the Department for Monitoring and Evaluation of HIV/AIDS in Romania, by 31 December 2004, Romania accounted for 8,068 HIV positive children (aged 0-14 years), out of which only 34 were tracked in 2004.

One of the current problems of the Romanian society is the increase in the demand for drugs among the population, particularly among young people. The first studies conducted estimated the number of injected heroine users in Bucharest at approx. 24,000 persons that is 1% of the total population of the city. The sexually transmitted

infections (STI) reflected by the incidence of the syphilis show a growing trend. The value reported for 2004 (58 cases at 100,000 people) being three times higher than the one reported in 1989 (19.9 cases at 100,000 people). The number of syphilis contaminated persons in Romania is 20 times higher than the European average, most of them being men aged between 20-29 years, persons who frequently change their partners.

As concerns the new cases of HIV and AIDS tracked in 2004, out of the total 259 cases, 225 were registered among young people aged between 15 and 24 years (National Commission Anti-AIDS).

EDUCATION FOR HEALTH

“**Education for Health**” programme carried out by Save the Children in Bucharest and 14 local branches is a response to the alarming situation presented by different national and international bodies.

In 2004, Save the Children had the following outcomes:

- 95 education units (56 schools and 39 high schools) in Bucharest and local branches were partners in the project;
- 254 young volunteers were selected and trained;
- 20,000 teenagers received information on HIV/AIDS, STI and drug use from the volunteers during 2,760 tuition classes;
- 15,000 students received information about HIV/AIDS from 320 teachers and 200 young volunteers during the campaign “A Lesson for Life”;
- 45,000 young people and adults received information about HIV/AIDS, STI and drug use during the street campaigns;
- 1,500 high school students participated in a contest entitled “**My Anti-Drug Message**”;
- 320 teachers attended a training course on health issues;
- 30 specialists involved in the rehabilitation of the persons affected by drug use from Bucharest, Iași and Brașov attended a training course held by a Belgian psychotherapist;
- the content of the school curriculum for 1st-12th grades related to drug use was elaborated and approved by the Ministry of Education and Research;

- the preliminary report on drug use among young people in Romania was drafted;
- the script for the anti-drug video (heroine, cocaine, amphetamines, alcohol, tobacco) was finalised;
- 5,000 children aged 3-6 years from 41 kindergartens in Bucharest received information about individual hygiene in the campaign “**ABC of Health**”;
- 576 children aged 3-6 years participated in an educational programme;
- Campaign “**Drugs Stop Your Flight!**” received the Silver Award at the Excellence Gala of Romanian Public Relations Award 2004.

PREVENTING HIV/AIDS IN CHILD CARE INSTITUTIONS

In 2004, Save the Children Romania implemented the project for HIV/AIDS prevention in child care institutions in the local branches in Caraș-Severin, Dolj, Galați, Suceava and Vaslui.

Six training courses for 111 persons working with children from 51 child care institutions in Suceava, Botoșani, Galați, Vrancea, Dolj, Olt, Caraș-Severin, Hunedoara and Mureș took place in the framework of the project. The trained personnel organised information sessions on sexually transmitted infections and drug use for 775 children. At the same time, 114 HIV/AIDS children from residential care institutions from Reșița, Suceava, Craiova, Brăila, Vaslui benefited from information sessions and seven trips organised by the young volunteers.

Save the Children, Hunedoara Branch, provided 56 educational activities in the Day Care Centre Petrila for 30 HIV/AIDS children from Jiului Valley, organised three trips for them and nine meetings with their parents. At the same time, four HIV/AIDS children were reintegrated in the public education system and received food, sweets, fruits and school supplies on a monthly basis.

Save the Children, Dolj Branch, provided psychological counselling and material support consisting of food, toys, clothing and school supplies for 125 HIV/AIDS children from poor families in Dolj county.

ROXANA HOUSE

Roxana House, a family-type alternative for HIV/AIDS children abandoned in hospitals, provides care and education for 5 children.

Children were involved in different activities aiming at their integration in the society: participation in painting classes together with healthy children, going shopping, preparing their birthday parties, visiting tourist objectives in the capital city. A small library has been arranged in

Roxana House with the books donated by the students from “Nenişescu” High School during the campaign “A Lesson for Life”. This event was organised by Save the Children on the World Day Anti-AIDS. Other HIV positive children from the district benefit from this library.

PUBLICATIONS:

Posters “Drugs stop your flight!” (10,000 copies) and “Watch the world with different eyes” (2,500 copies), leaflets “Watch the world with different eyes!”, fliers “Drugs stop your flight!” (80,000 copies), a brochure for parents “Drugs stop your flight!” (25,000 copies), T-shirts “Drugs stop your flight!” (10,000 pcs.), Guide of the school counsellor on health issues (5,000 copies), Handbook for parents – prevention, tracking and intervention methods in the case of the adolescents who take drugs or are at risk to take drugs (5,000 copies), educational brochure for the students in the 5th-8th grades “The Big Deception” (10,000 copies), posters for the HIV/AIDS campaign “A Lesson for Life” (5,000 copies), posters, leaflets, bags to promote the National Programme Education for Health, a kit for training the volunteers.



"This programme demonstrated how easy one can learn to become independent and how can one make a good impression", young boy from Galați.

The National Strategy on Child Rights Protection has as main goal for the period 2001-2004 **deinstitutionalization of children and their integration in families** (natural or substitute). The practice shows that the alternatives to institutionalization (adoption, placement, professional caregivers) represent a solution only for children aged up to 10 years. The young adolescents continue to be the most vulnerable category, an important part of their life being spent in institutions. The feeling of dependency created by the long-term institutionalization, as well as an insufficient knowledge of their skills, a wrong self-evaluation are the prerequisites that lead to a difficult socio-professional

integration of the young people from residential care institutions. The situation described above requires actions aiming at training and supporting the adolescents for the moment when leaving institutions, the ultimate goal being their social reinsertion.

MAJOR OUTCOMES

64 out of 300 young people included in the project from residential care centres in Galați, Vaslui, Neamț, Dâmbovița, Iași and Bucharest benefited from alternative protection measures. Volunteers have been selected and trained for carrying out peer activities with these youths. Economic education and skills for independent life courses were organised for 240 young people. 18 found a job. Four issues of a newsletter were edited for their better information.

European Centre

INTEGRATION OF THE CHILDREN IN INSTITUTIONS

This project promoted by Save the Children mainly addresses to educators and social workers from the residential care centres, but its outcomes may and have to be used for the continued training of other categories working in child protection system: staff of the day care centres and other services for children, including training of the professional caregivers.

The outputs of the project are 14 publications for educators, 12 publications for social workers, 5 brochures

on how to use a computer for the staff and children, 2 publications for improving the English and French languages knowledge, a project web-site both for the staff and children: www.eurochild.ro

The originality and the theme of the project resulted in its selection among 32 projects "with successful stories" of the Leonardo da Vinci Programme carried out in Europe and in its participation in the exhibition held in December 2004, in Maastricht.

Support for Roma children's education

The school drop out rate or school failure is higher for the less favoured categories of children among which Roma ethnic children prevail. The straightened circumstances, the high number of members in a family and, least but not last, a scepticism of the parents towards the usefulness of education lead to school drop out and then to social marginalization of the youth. According to the research on **illiteracy** conducted by the National Institute for Statistics in 2004, the highest percentage of illiterate children over the age of 10 is recorded for Roma (26.3%).

"THE FIRST STEPS" – Preschool education for less advantaged children, including Roma children

In the framework of this project, Save the Children provided over 100 children with the opportunity to be prepared for the school. The new five kindergarten groups were organised in Mangalia, Plenița (Dolj County), Valea Bădenilor (Argeș County) Nușfalău (Sălaj County) and Glina (Ilfov County) – the last two in partnership with the Community Development Agency "Together".

The five kindergartens were renovated, equipped with new furniture and the necessary materials for the activities with children (school supplies, games, toys, books, teaching materials). The project is funded through the contribution of the staff from Lubricants UK Network.

COMPLEX SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES AT RISK OF SOCIAL EXCLUSION

The project provided children with the opportunity to do their homework in an organised and friendly environment, under their teachers' supervision, by renovating and equipping day care centres in three schools from areas with majority Roma population and other less favoured categories: Sânpetru (Brașov County), Sângeorgiu de Mureș (Mureș County) and Sector 4 of Bucharest (Schools 110, 109, 165 and 308).

The beneficiaries of the project were over 150 children and about 100 parents from the three areas. The outcomes proved the usefulness of these activities: all children included in the programme passed the grade



Integration of refugee and separated children in the Romanian society

Save the Children has assisted 893 refugee children and 325 parents during the period 1999-2004. In 2004, Save the Children supported 96 refugee children and asylum seekers from countries as Iraq, Congo-Brazzaville, Afghanistan, Former Yugoslavia, Turkey, Iran, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Cameroon, Somalia, Liberia and India to learn Romanian language with a view to their integration in the Romanian education system.

This project reflects a priority of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees envisaging activities for separated children who request a type of protection in Romania. All 96 refugee children participated in extra-curricular activities consisting of visits to museums, theatres, walks in the parks and camps.

(some of them after a second examination), children in the 8th grade passed the graduation (“capacity”) exam, school attendance came back to normal, it was no case of school drop out and school environment was better. Funding was provided by the European Commission through the Civil Society Phare Programme 2001.

NATIONAL PROGRAMME FOR TEACHERS TRAINING

A special attention has to be paid to the training of the teachers working with Roma children with a view to a

Kimia was born in Romania in a refugee family. Her parents are from Iran and left their country of origin because they had been persecuted by the political regime there. The girl aged of 8 years has a normal life as any other child, goes to school and has very good school performances. She lives as a Romanian, but she wants to find out about the customs in Iran. This is why, she hopes to be able to go once to her native country.

Ebru is 10 years old and he came to Romania three years ago together with his parents and two brothers. They are Kurd from Turkey and they left because of persecutions their father was subjected by the authorities. It was quite easy for him to learn Romanian and he made many Romanian friends. He says he likes Romania and he does not want to leave from here.

At the initiative of the refugee adolescents, the Diversity Club has been re-opened on 10th October 2004. Activities consist of oriental dances workshops on age groups, Turkish language, Arab language and oriental beauty art.

better knowledge and understanding of this ethnic group and to eliminate the prejudices and the stereotypes generating discrimination.

The model promoted by Save the Children since 1999 has laid the ground for organising and conducting 8 training sessions in 2004 with participation of 320 teachers, educators school masters, school principals from 32 counties. Selection was made on the criterion of the number of Roma children in different grades (at least 20-40%).

International Conference

CHILD PROTECTION REFORM: REALITIES AND GOOD PRACTICES

Save the Children Romania in partnership with the National Authority for Child Protection and Adoptions and UNICEF Romania organised the international conference on “child protection reform” on 17-19 May 2004. Organised under the patronage of the Prime-Minister of Romania, the conference gathered 300 participants, governmental officials and representatives of 24 European and North American countries who met for the first time after the Summit “Children and Residential Care” held in May 2003, in Stockholm.

Delegates of the European Council, European Parliament UNICEF Regional Head Office and European Office of the International Save the Children Alliance attended this event.

Through the conference held in Bucharest, the organisers provided a new opportunity to share the experience of our country and to learn from international models.

Another objective was to strengthen the partnership for the future with a view to build up and extend a Europe “for children” according to the goals of the International Document “A World Fit for Children” issued after the United Nations Special Session of the General Assembly in 2002, in New York.

The main goal of the conference was to highlight the efforts and successes in the reform of child protection system in Romania and other Central and Eastern European countries in process of accession to the EU, in finding solutions to effectively observe the rights of the child according to the European Union standards.

A common statement was adopted in the end of the conference and participants committed themselves to apply immediately the principles formulated in the statement.

Lobby and advocacy

Save the Children is a member or permanent attendee of:

- The Executive Group of the High Level Group for the Romanian Children made up of Romanian specialists, representatives of the ministries with responsibilities in the field of child protection (Save the Children attended six meetings of the group where three themes referring to solutions for the problems related to children in difficult circumstances and promotion of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child were presented)
- National Steering Committee for the Prevention and Elimination of Child Labour (three meetings)
- National Anti-AIDS Commission
- Inter-Ministerial Working Group for the Coordination and Evaluation of the Activity for Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Human Beings
- Working Sub-Group for the Coordination of the Activity for Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Children established in November 2003 and officially recognized through the Government Decision no. 1295/2004 (7 work meetings).

In 2004, Save the Children participated in the debates for the following draft laws: Law 272/2004 on the protection and promotion of the rights of the child, Law 273/2004 on the legal status of adoption, Government Ordinance 68/2003 on social services (and secondary legislation of social assistance), methodological norms for the Law no. 584/2002 on prevention measures against the extension of AIDS in Romania and protection of the HIV infected or AIDS persons, Draft law on equal opportunities for disabled persons, Law 143/2000 on combating trafficking and illicit drug use, Law 571/2003 on the Fiscal Code – introducing the provision that 1% of the tax on global income can be directed to non-governmental organisations.

In all these debates, Save the Children made proposals according to the UN Convention on the Rights, especially to Art. 3 of the CRC referring to the best interests of the child that shall be a primary consideration in all actions undertaken by the legislative bodies, administrative authorities and courts of law.

The process of approval of the draft law on the protection and promotion of the rights of the child was monitored during the period January-June 2004, starting from approval by the Government up to the adoption by the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies. It was also analysed if the draft law included the recommendations made by Save the Children from the very beginning of the promotion of the legal package on child protection.

Well-to-do people make the world better!

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL 2004

The Festival of Christmas Trees is a magical event organized every year for the benefit of Save the Children Romania. It is centred on a special auction of Christmas Trees made especially for this occasion by famous Romanian fashion designers.

The Festival is supported by the diplomatic and business communities convened in a Honorary Board chaired by H.E. Svante Kilander, the Swedish Ambassador. Some of the personalities and companies involved in this project are: Mrs. Mihaela Geoana, Mrs. Ileana Pescariu (Development Manager, Focus Publicis), Mrs. Veronica Savanciuc (Lowe & Partners, President IAA Romania), Mr. Pierre Poupard (UNICEF Representative for Romania), Mr. Patrick Gelin (President, General Director Romanian Development Bank – Groupe Société Générale), Mrs. Rodica Moise (National Coordinator ILO-IPEC), Ms. Corina Barladeanu (2 Active PR), Henkel, BBDO Group Romania, Young & Rubicam and FF Advertising.

Fourteen famous fashion designers and well-known companies created fairy tale trees for the evening gala to be auctioned for high amounts of money for the benefit of the working children: Doina Levintza, Irina Marinescu, Wilhelmina Arz, Andreea Raicu & Maria Hohan, Romanitza Iovan, Rita Muresan, Agnes Toma, Alexandru Ghildush, Larisa Claru & MTV Stylissimo, Casa del Arte, Togo Design, Oxette, IBM Romania and FF Advertising.

The host of the gala evening was the well-known TV star Teo Trandafir who together with other TV stars – Andreea Esca, Loredana Groza, Roxana Ciuhulescu, Andreea Raicu, Ioana Moldovan, Alessandra Stoicescu, Corina Danilă, Oana Cuzino, Larisa Claru – led the auction to raise funds for children.

The main sponsors of the 2004 Festival were: **Henkel, Bautechnik, Medicover, UniCredit, Synevo**. Other 70 companies participated in the event as supporting sponsors or with donations in kind (objects and services) for the raffle and for children. As a result of the involvement of all the supporters, the total amount raised was EUR 115,000, which made the 2004 edition of the Christmas Tree Festival the most successful one: EUR 6,600 was raised from the raffle tickets sale, EUR 38,400 from the Christmas trees auction and EUR 70,000 from sponsorships (EUR 40,000 in cash and EUR 30,000 in kind - products and services).

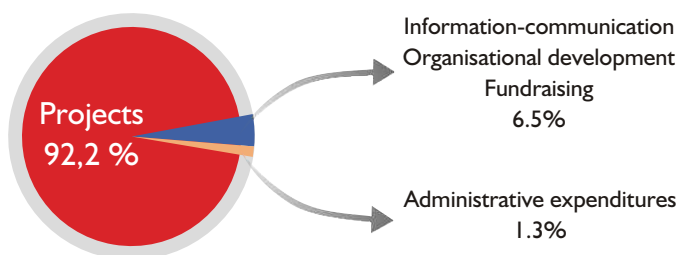
The outcomes of the social reintegration programme for working children implemented by Save the Children in 2003 (86 children reintegrated in schools, out of which 54 in Bucharest and 32 in Iași, and 135 children – 110 in Bucharest and 25 in Iași – benefited from street social assistance and health care services) made the Working Committee of the Festival to decide that the funds raised in 2004 would be allocated for the same project. Thus, the two Day Care Centres in Bucharest and Iași will be supported again, while a third centre in Dolj country will also be included in the project.



INCOMES AND EXPENDITURES – 2004

	AMOUNT (EUR)
I. INCOMES	1,880,914
1. National Authority for Child Right Protection	493,981
2. The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria	322,160
3. Radda Barnen (Save the Children Sweden)	180,439
4. Delegation of the European Commission	172,645
5. "Leonardo da Vinci" – European Programme	117,984
6. Christmas Trees Festival	64,911
7. ChildNet – World Learning	62,383
8. "Tucker's Friends" Foundation – U.S.A.	54,772
9. Lubricants UK	53,644
10. Individuals from Norway	36,986
11. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	31,946
12. Rettet das Kind Austria	31,054
13. UNICEF	30,746
14. International Save the Children Alliance	20,281
15. Henkel Romania	19,138
16. OSCE	15,963
17. Social Alternatives Association	13,344
18. Save the Children Italy	6,610
19. Save the Children Norway	5,592
20. Global March against Child Labour	5,842
21. International Labour Office – International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (ILO-IPEC)	5,512
22. Membership fees, donations, sponsorships	65,681
23. VAT reimbursed	31,716
24. Other incomes	24,190
25. Bank interests	13,044

In 2004, there were obtained incomes in kind (products and services) in amount of EUR 142,983



SITUATION OF THE IMMOVABLE ASSETS (EUR)

IMMOVABLE ASSETS	BALANCE ON 01/01/2004	INCREASES	DECREASES	BALANCE ON 31/12/2004
TOTAL GENERAL (A+B)	476,794	183,219	234,632	425,381
A. GENERAL SECRETARIAT (I+II+III)	446,514	71,607	223,960	294,161
B. LOCAL BRANCHES (I+II+III)	30,280	111,613	10,672	131,221
I. INTANGIBLE ASSETS	896	-	-	896
A. GENERAL SECRETARIAT	-	-	-	-
B. LOCAL BRANCHES	896	-	-	896
II. TANGIBLE ASSETS	319,121	183,219	77,855	424,485
A. GENERAL SECRETARIAT	289,738	71,607	67,184	294,161
B. LOCAL BRANCHES	29,383	111,613	10,672	130,324
III. FINANCIAL IMMOVABLES	156,776	-	156,776	-
A. GENERAL SECRETARIAT	156,776	-	156,776	-
B. LOCAL BRANCHES	-	-	-	-

II. EXPENDITURES	1,787,772
A. PROJECTS	1,645,682
1. Counselling Centres for the abused, neglected children and child victims of trafficking in human beings	332,337
2. Institutionalized children- social integration, training for a future profession	227,050
3. HIV positive children/ Education for health	214,640
4. Social and school reintegration of working street children	168,788
5. Protection of Roma children's rights	147,072
6. Petrla Day Care Centre	127,367
7. European Centre for Children – Leonardo Project	117,800
8. Abandonment prevention and family reintegration	79,201
9. Prevention of juvenile delinquency	73,835
10. Information, Documentation and Research Centre on Children's Rights	37,489
11. Refugee children	35,341
12. Education and information on the rights of the child	25,785
13. Disabled children - Tecuci Rehabilitation Centre	25,461
14. Children's and young people's participation	20,794
15. Munteni Centre for Disfavoured Children ("David Austin House")	12,722
B. INFORMATION-COMMUNICATION	42,130
C. ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT	33,959
D. FUNDRAISING	41,469
E. ADMINISTRATION	24,532

REPORT OF THE AUDITING COMMITTEE

regarding Save the Children's financial and accounting activity in 2004 of Save the Children Romania

The undersigned Daniela Ivan and Nicolae Petrescu, authorised auditors of Save the Children, have performed an auditing of the accounting records and trial balances for the financial year ended on 31 December 2004. The report has been submitted for approval to the General Assembly. Save the Children has been active in Romania since 1990 and has local branches in 15 counties. It promotes and defends children's rights according to the provisions of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, ratified by Romania in 1990.

The auditing of the reports and financial-accounting records of Save the Children were based on the accounting principles utilised, accounting entry and exit operations performed and we do consider that the conditions set forth in the funding agreements have been respected and are in accordance with the legal regulations in the financial-accounting field operating in Romania for the non-profit non-governmental organisations.

In our opinion, the information included in the annual financial report is correct and complete and does reflect accurately the finance and accounting situation for 2004.

Comisia de Cenzurari

Daniela Ivan

Nicolae Petrescu



Preşedintele Executiv

Gabriela Alexandrescu

Director Economic

Mara Niculescu



OUR FINANCIERS, PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS

PARTNERS:

National Authority for Child Rights Protection, Swedish Save the Children (Radda Barnen), Delegation of the European Commission to Romania, Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, International Save the Children Alliance, Ministry of Education and Research, Ministry of Health and Public Health Departments, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of the Public Function, UNIDEA Foundation, Ministry of Labour, Social Solidarity and Family, Labour Inspectorate, "Tucker's Friends" Foundation - U.S., ILO-IPEC, IOM, "Leonardo da Vinci" – Delegation of the European Commission Brussels, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Romanian National Council for Refugees, Romanian Forum for Refugees and Migrants, Organisation of the Refugee Women in Romania, Save the Children Austria (Rettet das Kind), Smurfit Charitable Foundation Monaco, Henkel Romania, Global March against Child Labour, World Learning, Save the Children Denmark (Red Barnet), Save the Children Italy, Open Society Foundation East-East Program, UNICEF, National Authority for Disabled Persons, Social Alternatives Association, US Embassy, Mani Tesse Foundation, Open Society Foundation, ECPAT, Romanian Social Development Fund, Federation of the NGOs Active in Child Protection, European Council for Refugees and Exiles (ECRE), Romanian Association Anti-AIDS, Health Aid Romania, ProChild, Junior Achievement, Youth for Youth Foundation, Princess Margarita of Romania Foundation, Global Campaign for Education, EUROTIN, International Social Service – Italian Branch, Directorate General for Combating Organized Crime and Anti-Drug, National Agency Anti-Drug, Departments for Child Protection in Sector 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 Bucharest, County Departments for Child Protection in Iasi, Botoşani, Bacău, Sibiu, Sălaj, Alba, Bihor, Vaslui, Dolj, Argeş, Dâmbovita, Brasov, Arad, Cluj, Vrancea, Hunedoara, Satu Mare, Bistrita-Năsăud, Maramureş, Neamţ, Suceava, Galaţi, Timiş, Mureş, Harghita, Covasna, Caraş-Severin, National Confederation of Romanian Employers, Town Hall Petrila, National Museum of Art Bucharest, National Agency of the Camps and School Tourism, National Child's Palace Bucharest, County Agencies for Employment, School Inspectorates, schools.

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ARGES – US Embassy, Princess Margarita of Romania Foundation

BRASOV – SC Selgros Cash & Carry SRL, Anpas Solidarieta Int.

BUCURESTI – "Masca" Theatre, SC Idilis

CONSTANTA – Euroliberty, SC Selgros Cash & Carry SRL

DAMBOVITA – Association Targoviste towards Europe, SC Vox Fad SRL, SC Consultingserv SRL, SC Via Est SRL, Art Press Trust

DOLJ – Rettet das Kind – Austria, Brian Davies – UK

GALATI – SC Proton SRL, SC Libraria Blaga SRL

HUNEDOARA - "Tucker's Friends" Foundation – U.S.A., Henkel Romania, Irene Gundell – Sweden, Caritas Alba Iulia

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MURES - SC Selgros Cash & Carry SRL, Princess Margarita of Romania Foundation, Alpha Transylvanian Foundation

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