

ANNUAL REPORT  
2008



**Salvați Copiii**  
Save the Children Romania



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## Save the Children has been promoting and defending children's rights in Romania since 1990

In 2008, we expanded our activities, the number of children with and for whom we worked increased and the organization registered a financial increase by 38% compared to the previous year.

After 18 years of continuous activity in the field of the rights of the child, we were happy to see that Romanian children are the most aware about their rights among all children in the European Union countries. Thus, as a result of the survey conducted in the 27 member countries by the European Commission (Eurobarometer – The Rights of the Child, Analytical Report, April 2008), Romanian children have an awareness level of 85% compared to the European average of 67%. Regarding the protection of children's rights, Romanian children are the toughest critics.

We have been trying all these years to work with children to become aware about their rights and responsibilities. This year, over 5,000 children were involved in informational and educational activities, as well as various debates on their rights. Teachers were trained in order to introduce in as many schools as possible the optional subject "The Child's Rights" for the 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

We considered necessary to get involved in drafting a European Strategy on Child's Rights and in providing inputs for the legislation and European policies on child protection against violence, sexual abuse and abuse on Internet, protection of asylum seeker children, of those in emergency situations or living in countries affected by armed conflicts.

2008 was also a year when Save the Children Romania sent its reports on monitoring the implementation of child's rights to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child and to the UN High Commissioner on Human Rights.

The areas of concern and the expertise in training the parents and specialists working with children have been expanded and the "Better Parenting" adapted modules were very much requested throughout the country. Protection of children against violence has been expanded through an important activity related to the safe use of the Internet and online technologies by children.

This year's focus was on providing pre-school education, access to education, HIV/AIDS and TB prevention in communities affected by poverty.

As a follow-up of the severe floods in Moldova, our colleagues in Iasi and Suceava immediately involved in providing emergency aid, counselling, developing educational programmes, organizing camps and ensuring children's school participation. In such situations, we realize once again what our responsibility is and we are deeply grateful to all Save the Children staff and volunteers who got involved with dedication.

We are open to innovative cooperation and solutions generating a higher impact and improving the situation of as many children as possible. We strongly believe in partnerships, cooperation and team work and we are happy to have over 1,000 dedicated and responsive volunteers, more than 50 important companies as partners, a good cooperation with international and national bodies and, last but not least, with children, those who inspire and motivate us to continue our activities on the path we chose.



Save the Children Romania is a national non-governmental organisation of public utility, with no political or religious affiliation, based on the volunteer activity of its members. **Established in 1990**, the organisation is currently implementing projects in 19 counties and has local branches in 12 counties and Bucharest, over 6,000 members and benefits from the volunteer activity of over 1,000 persons, most of them young people.

**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 violence, abuse and exploitation.

**Save the Children's mission** is to promote and fight for children's rights as per the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

**The International Save the Children Alliance** is the world's largest independent global movement that fights for children's rights. It is made up of 27 member organisations and implements programmes in over 120 countries. **Save the Children Romania has become an active member of the International Save the Children Alliance** since 1997, being the only organisation from South-Eastern Europe taking action within this body.

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# Promoting children's rights

As a result of Save the Children Romania's experience, children are much more aware and assume their rights when they are directly involved in promoting them by participating in projects and social activities. Being informed on their rights is a prerequisite for applying the principle of a real child participation, one of the fundamental principles in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Thus, all children are recognized and respected as active social persons capable to express their opinions in all matters affecting them.

## WORKSHOPS AND DEBATE GROUPS

Every year, children are getting more involved in promoting their own interests and the activities they carry out give the perspective of citizens who are aware about the fact that they themselves can generate changes at social level as concerns the protection of human rights in general and children's rights in particular. The most involved children and youth are those who receive information and experienced the exercise of their own rights.

Over 5,000 children from Bucharest and the counties where Save the Children Romania has local branches received information on their rights and the measures they can take to protect these rights. The information sessions and other types of interactive activities are organized by volunteers and teachers who received quality training as a result of the courses organized by Save the Children.

## ONGOING TRAINING COURSE "CHILDREN'S RIGHTS" FOR TEACHERS

Being aware of the school and teachers' role in building children's civic behaviour, Save the Children Romania continued to train on an annual basis 70 teachers through a course accredited by the Ministry of Education Research and Innovation. This course is available for all teaching staff (educators, schoolmasters and teachers) from pre-university education.

The beneficiaries of this course in 2008 applied the pedagogical methods specific to this course in their work with 4,500 children from 15 schools in Ploiești and Bucharest. All children received information in the spirit of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, out of which 500 children attended the optional subject "Children's Rights" for the 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

## "CHILD RIGHTS" NATIONAL CONTEST

This contest marks the end of a school year during which information sessions were organized and small projects on children's rights were implemented in Bucharest and Save the Children local branches.

The participants in the national contest, who are the winners of the contests at county level, presented their projects during the **Children's Annual Meeting** held in Vânătorul Camp, Dâmbovița County, from 11 to 17 August 2008. The projects implemented by children during the year were very complex and consisted in creating a website for children, establishing a club to take action for children in difficult situations, conducting awareness raising actions on environment protection targeting adults for the protection of children's health.

## CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S NATIONAL FORUM

The event "**We propose solutions to stop violence**" was organized with the financial support of CEE Trust and UNICEF and aimed at involving children in formulating decisions they are concerned about. The event gathered 82 children and young people, volunteers and beneficiaries of Save the Children projects, aged between 12 and 17, from Bucharest and other 13 counties in Romania.

The participants in the Forum approached the issue of violence against children starting from the Operational Plan for the Implementation of the National Strategy on children's rights promotion and protection from the perspective of many factors, within six workshops: *legal framework on combating and preventing violence, preventing violence against children, intervention in cases of violence against children, strengthening the capacity of the specialists working with and for children, child and young people's participation in preventing and combating violence, Safer Internet for children.*

Children's proposals were presented to the authorities on the 5<sup>th</sup> of June – the National Day against Violence on Children in Romania.

The Forum went off as a dialogue between the representatives of the authorities in charge with the protection of children's rights, on the one hand, and children, on the other, and aimed at identifying concrete and effective measures to prevent and combat violence. These measures represent a base on which a national plan of action will be drafted and all the concerned institutions should commit to it.





## The main proposals of children, as discussed during the Forum:

- Establish an independent institution Child Ombudsman to protect children's rights when different institutions violate these rights.
- Establish compulsory parenting school.
- Develop the Civic Education curricula. Introduce Civic Education as a compulsory subject from the 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup> grade.
- Increase the number of school counsellors: at least one counsellor in every school and one counsellor to work with maximum 300 children (the current average is one counsellor for 800 children).
- Banning of violent news in prime time.
- Psycho-medical control for all the persons working with children when they are employed, for teachers at the beginning of the school year and for doctors, policemen, social workers, caregivers etc. at the beginning of every year.
- Explanation the legislation at children's level of understanding.
- Strengthen the network of Students' Councils in order to ensure a regular communication between the institutions and the students.

### PROMOTING THE UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

In order to mark the day of 20<sup>th</sup> November, the 19<sup>th</sup> anniversary of **the enactment of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child**, there was organized a seminar that gathered 140 teachers from 115 schools in Bucharest and Ilfov, representatives of School Inspectorate in Bucharest, General City Hall of Bucharest and of Districts 1, 3, 4 and 6. The participants discussed about the need of teachers' training with a view to observe the principle of the best interests of the child. Children who participated in the Child Rights Contest were also present and made presentations on their projects. The Day was also marked through information sessions on the fundamental principles in the Convention held by volunteers in 18 schools in Bucharest. On this occasion, the Competition of Projects on Children's Rights for the school year 2008-2009 was launched. 350 children aged between 7 and 14, beneficiaries of Child Rights project, participated to the Children's Carnival, an annual event organized by Save the Children volunteers.

#### PARTNERS:

Ministry of Education, Research and Innovation, High Level Group for Romanian Children, National Authority for the Protection of Children's Rights, Ministry of Communications and Informational Society, Microsoft, UNICEF, CEE Trust.





## Global Campaign for Education

Carried out in 2008 under the slogan **“Quality Education to End Exclusion”**, the Global Campaign for Education (GCE) aimed at drawing the attention of decision-makers on the necessity to take measures in the benefit of children who do not have access to education and to ensure a more qualitative education.

The number of children involved in the campaign activities in 2008 was five times higher compared to previous years. Thus, over 21,000 students from over 180 schools throughout the country participated to the first stage of the campaign and expressed their opinion on what “quality education” means and they identified the elements of the *“quality education pyramid”*. Also, they drew the *“ideal school”* and wrote essays or letters addressed to the government officials, where they indicated the vulnerable points of the education system and asked for changes and concrete measures. A novelty for this edition was the participation of a higher number of schools from rural areas, as well as of several special education schools and re-education centres for minors.

### “The World’s Biggest Lesson” DEBATES

The main event of the campaign was the **World’s Biggest Lesson** on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of April 2008, from 11.00 to 12.00 a.m., to which over 50,000 Romanian students of all ages, teachers, parents and personalities participated. **Romanian children joined more than 7.5 million children from over 100 countries in the effort to establish a participation world record**, in their attempt to call the attention on the need to provide free quality education for every child. The lessons were held in schools, cultural institutions and even in public squares.

President Traian Băsescu also came back to school, participating alongside with other 120 guests to the *Main Lesson* facilitated by Monica Ghiurco, at “Spiru Haret” National College in Bucharest. Students and teachers, representatives of

the International Labour Organization and of public institutions in the field of education and protection of children’s rights, of NGOs and trade unions attended the event. Discussions were focused on concrete measures to be enacted in order to stop school exclusion of disabled children, economically exploited children, children from rural and remote areas, children from poor families, as well as children belonging to national minorities.

### PARTNERS:

The Ministry of Education, Research and Innovation, School Inspectorate Bucharest, the Centre of Resources and Educational Assistance in Bucharest, the Institute of Education Sciences, the Federation of Free Trade Unions in Education, Step-by-Step Education and Professional Development Centre, Centre Education 2000+, Ovidiu Rom Association, Global Campaign for Education, ILO-IPEC.

### PUBLICATIONS

- *“World’s Biggest Lesson”* Brochure (Romanian language)

### GLOBAL CAMPAIGN FOR EDUCATION 2008 IN FIGURES

- 21,110 children were involved in the activities carried out in schools at the first stage of the GCE;
- over 3,000 teachers from around 300 schools were involved in the 2008 edition of the GCE;
- 47,599 Romanian children participated to the “World’s Biggest Lesson” in the presence of over 940 local personalities and authorities who “came back” to school;
- 120 persons joined President Traian Băsescu and Save the Children representatives in the main event of GCE, a debate animated by the participation of three young volunteers who presented the conclusions sent by children from all over the country.



## Participation and community involvement – young volunteers

Save the Children Young Volunteers' Centre is the initiative of active young people, socially involved to create a better world for all children. Approximately 1,000 volunteers participated in 2008 to the drafting, implementation and evaluation of Save the Children projects, being encouraged to develop their own ideas in projects coordinated by them.

### SELECTION AND TRAINING OF THE YOUNG VOLUNTEERS

Save the Children continuously receives applications from young people who want to volunteer as per our organization's mission: "A better world for all children". As a follow-up of the **ACTION** campaign to promote youth participation in community life and recruit volunteers, 260 young people became volunteers in Bucharest. On the International Day of Volunteers (4 December), Centras launched the second edition of the publication *Volunteer Portrait*, where Ruxandra Comisel, one of Save the Children Romania's volunteer, was presented.

### SUMMER SCHOOL FOR EUROPEAN INITIATIVES

gathered 45 volunteers aged between 16 and 24, active in three NGOs promoting children's rights from three European countries: *Save the Children Romania*, *Child Rights Information Center* in Moldavia and *Save the Children Youth Denmark*. Participants benefited from interactive and practical sessions to acquire knowledge in drafting a project proposal. As a follow-up of the group workshops, 9 projects were drafted, out of which 7 are currently on their way to be applied for getting funds.

A part of the ideas that came out were already included in Save the Children activities and projects. Volunteers also established durable relations with young people coming from different environments and cultures, but having similar concerns.

The participants involved in information sessions, debates and other types of actions by means of which they informed 900 young people about the volunteering concept and contributed to developing youth initiatives in their communities. This project was funded by **Youth in Action** Programme.





## Volunteers' involvement in campaigns and projects

- 450 volunteers are active, at national level, in carrying out information sessions and campaigns on the rights of the child;
- 210 young people participated in the training sessions on education for health and contributed to the promotion of healthy behaviours and the social integration of HIV+ children;
- 31 volunteers involved from 1 April to 15 May in the information campaign on directing 2% out of the tax on income to NGOs;
- From 5 to 26 May, 60 volunteers from Bucharest and Mureş were involved in the **“The Month of Open Hearts”** fundraising campaign in the benefit of the economically exploited children, launched by CORA Hypermarket in co-operation with ILO-IPEC;
- 15 volunteers, alongside with representatives of the local services, were involved in the information and awareness campaign on child labour phenomenon **“Get involved in begging elimination”** on the 12<sup>th</sup> of June;
- 30 volunteers were involved in the **“Assessment of Street Children Study”**, from August to October, applying questionnaires to street children in order to find out details about their current situation;
- 32 volunteers were involved in the recreational activities carried out on 19-23 June on the occasion of the World Day of the Refugees and in **“Rewrite the Future”** campaign organized in 12 schools in Bucharest, Rădăuți and Galați;
- On the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, 36 volunteers were involved in conducting information sessions in schools and street campaigns on racial discrimination during the period 12-21 March;
- 20 volunteers organized the Children's Carnival in December, an event for 350 beneficiaries of different Save the Children projects;
- 45 volunteers participated to the Annual Volunteers' Meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup> of December. They presented the activities they were involved in over the year 2008 and prepared the workplan for 2009.

## Youth civic participation

Starting from the fact that the reports on young people's situation in Romania highlight a decrease in the participation degree of youth to community life, Save the Children Romania, with the financial support of CEE Trust, started a project aiming at developing the civic spirit among young people by promoting participation examples provided by the young volunteers.

In order to set a core team of volunteers to implement the project and develop other projects, 60 young volunteers from 23 NGOs in the country participated in a series of training courses **“Train yourself for participation!”** held on 1-8 September 2008. This network of trainers carried out information activities for 1,600 children and young people and contributed to the development of the projects implemented by the organizations to which they belonged.

## INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPATION

On 9-11 December two young volunteers and one of the children included in the programmes for children's rights promotion (Crăciun Mihaela, Ruxandra Comișel and Nichita Milodin) represented Romania at the launching event of the **Campaign against Violence**, organized at European level by Euronet Network.

Ruxandra Comișel: *“I still feel the enthusiasm the event infused into me. The fact that we have made our voices heard in the European Parliament is definitely one of the greatest achievements. I was very impressed by the interest showed to us, we had the occasion to talk to important persons from all over Europe who attended this event and were open to share ideas with us.”*

*We took part at the launch of the campaign for corporal punishment banning, held at the European Parliament. Our role was to present our experience as volunteers in working with children, as well as the conclusions of children and young people regarding the elimination of violence. We were asked why our legislation is not enforced and why measures were not taken. The participants from United Kingdom also had a project related to the fact that they had not a law to ban violence against children, as in Romania. It was a wonderful experience!”*



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

The Information, Documentation and Research Centre aims at increasing the information level as concerns the observance of the rights of the child among the decision makers in charge with promoting and protecting children's rights at local, national and international levels. As a result of the research activities conducted in 2008, the situation of the children in refugee centres, in centres providing assistance to the victims of trafficking, in penitentiaries and re-education centres is known much better.

## "SPECIAL CHILD PROTECTION MEASURES: REALITIES AND PERSPECTIVES" PROJECT

Over the period January – October Save the Children developed "Special Child Protection Measures: Realities and Perspectives" project (in the framework of *Consolidation of Democracy in Romania Programme* funded by EU through Phare budget line), that aimed at monitoring how certain special child protection measures are applied in the judiciary and administrative practice, as well as at contributing to the development of cooperation between civil society and public institutions.



Under Save the Children coordination, NGOs, national and local public authorities established four workgroups: "Analysis of the legislation and applicable case law", "Refugee and separated children", "Children victims of trafficking and/or sexual exploitation" and "Children deprived of liberty".



## PUBLICATIONS

- Research Report "Special Child Protection Measures – Realities and Perspectives" (Romanian and English)
- Brochure "Collection of Good Practices on Special Child Protection Measures" (Romanian and English)
- Research Report "The Impact of Parents Migration upon Children Left Home" (Romanian and English)

## PARTNERS

The Ministry of Education, Research and Innovation, The National Authority for the Protection of Children's Rights, the National Agency Against Trafficking in Persons, the National Administration of Penitentiaries, the Ministry of Interior and Administration Reform, the Ministry of Public Health, Romanian Immigration Office, School Inspectorate of Bucharest, the Centre of Resources and Educational Assistance in Bucharest, the Institute for Educational Sciences, the Penitentiaries for Minors and Youth in Craiova and Tichilești, Re-education Centres in Găești, Buziaș and Târgu Ocna, General Directorates of Social Assistance Baia Mare, Timișoara and Bucharest, Federation of Free Trade Unions in Education, Education and Professional Development Centre Step-by-Step, Centre Education 2000+, Association Ovidiu Rom, Foundation Prison Fellowship Cluj Napoca, ARCA–Romanian Forum for Refugees and Migrants, Romanian National Council for Refugees, Organization of Refugee Women in Romania, ARAS–Romanian Anti-AIDS Association, Zâmbete de Copiii (Children Smiles) Association Galați, Radda Barnen (Swedish Save the Children), Global Campaign for Education, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, ILO-IPEC.



# Child protection against violence

“Where do I come from? I come from my childhood. I come from my childhood as from a homeland! All adults were children first. (But just a few remember this.)” Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

## PARENTS' SCHOOL

In order to have healthy, well-balanced and self-confident children, we aimed at changing the mentalities of parents and adults working with children by educating them on non-aggressive methods and techniques specific to a positive discipline. A special attention was given to strengthening the status of children and their active participation in the process of protecting their rights, as well as to provision of services to child victims of violence or at risk of victimization (abused children, children victims of trafficking or at risk to be trafficked, children with parents working abroad, children from economically-challenged families and at risk to abandon school) and their families.

## INFORMATION AND EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS

We targeted the information and training activities to children, parents and teachers alike. The activities' main objectives were to train the specialists working with children, to educate parents, as well as to inform the general public.

“**Parents in school**” included information and awareness raising activities for 704 parents, where alternative methods for non-violent disciplining of children were introduced.

Parents in penitentiaries were not forgotten and 12 fathers from Timișoara Penitentiary were included in the project during the period 15 October-15 December.

113 volunteers were trained to organize and facilitate debates with students in high-schools and schools on the subject of the education without violence.

## INFORMATION AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES FOR SPECIALISTS

1. Information activities for 595 teachers in Bucharest, Iași, Suceava, Mureș, Timișoara, Neamț, Reșița, Dolj, Argeș and Ploiești on positive education methods and benefits.

2. Training activities for 542 professionals: 90 teachers, school psychologists, school counsellors participated at the training session “**Child education without violence – the positive discipline**” carried out in Ploiești (40 teachers) and Bucharest (50 school counsellors); 46 teachers, social workers, psychologists and legal counsellors participated in the training session “**Children’s rights between reality and practice**” held in Iași; 15 professionals in child protection (the heads of departments from the General Directorates for Social Assistance and Child Protection) participated in the programme “**Human resources management and social intervention in risk situations**” in Mureș; 126 magistrates in Iași Vaslui, Suceava, Neamț and Bacău counties took part at the training courses “**Juvenile justice for the best interest of the child**”; 27 health care staff (doctors, nurses and midwives) from Bucharest participated at the course on “**Pre-Natal Education**”.

3. Consultative meetings in order to identify the good practices in preventing abuse and trafficking in human beings were organized for 34 persons from education and child protection fields. Two trilateral meetings Romania, Moldova and Ukraine on “**Developing a cross-border strategy on child protection**” were held in Iași (45 participants).

## “VIOLENCE BREEDS VIOLENCE” – INFORMATION CAMPAIGNS TO REDUCE VIOLENCE

**Information campaigns carried out in schools.** In order to reduce violence in schools, 2.422 students from Bucharest, Timișoara, Suceava, Mureș, Iași, Neamț, Reșița, Dolj, Argeș and Ploiești participated at information sessions on the causes and consequences of violence and on the strategies for prevention and peaceful resolution of interpersonal conflicts.

**Public campaigns.** The radio and TV spots were broadcasted on TVR (national television channels) (76 broadcasts), Radio Romania (1,029 broadcasts) and in Hollywood Multiplex cinema halls (2,717 broadcasts). Advertising billboards on the visual of the campaign “Violence breeds violence” were displayed in Bucharest, Timișoara and Brașov.

Save the Children specialists published 7 articles and participated in 50 national and local radio and TV broadcasts and talk shows on the theme of violence against children.

Two workshops gathering 90 participants were organized in Bucharest (within the International Psychology Showroom) and in Tg. Mureș, and other four public debates were held in Timișoara, Craiova, Reșița and Pitești, gathering 650 participants. Children, alongside with teachers and parents, had the opportunity to express their points of view on the way they understand communication and relationships with the adults in their lives.





The beneficiaries involved in other specific activities to promote the “**Violence breeds violence**” campaign and the programme to put an end to violence: 5 June, *National Day against Child Abuse* - 204 children, 31 teachers, 32 parents, 18 specialists, 22 volunteers; 1,000 children, 35 specialists and 20 volunteers, in partnership with the National Agency against Trafficking in Persons Timiș, marked the *European Day against Trafficking in Human Beings*; 19/20 November, the *Day of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child* - 506 children, 94 teachers, 100 parents, 36 specialists, 17 volunteers.

Ten schools in Bucharest, Iași, Suceava, Tg. Mures, Timișoara, Neamț, Craiova, Pitești, Reșița and Ploiești were selected for the implementation of the training programme for children, teachers and parents. After the training, an increase in the frequency of rejecting violence attitudes in relations between siblings, parents and children, classmates, teachers and students has been noticed among students, as well as a decrease in the frequency of children being victims of verbal or physical aggression.

Issue of information and educational materials: course support for the health care staff participating in the training programme on pre-natal education and motherhood, “**Parents in School**” (guide, 15,000 copies), “**If you are fine, I am also fine. Violence is not OK.**” (brochure, 5,000 copies), “**Study on children’s sexual commercial exploitation**”.

#### THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST SEXUAL COMMERCIAL EXPLOITATION

The plan and the activities of the campaign were structured starting from the findings of the study on this topic conducted by Save the Children and CURS in Bucharest.

This research included quantitative investigations on a sample of 505 student girls aged 15-18 years and 300 persons aged 18 years and beyond. The qualitative investigation included interviews with 16 girls involved in commercial sex and focus-groups with specialists from the institutions addressing sexual exploitation issues directly or indirectly.

#### The World Congress against Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents - Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 26 November 2008

The Congress, organized by the **Brazilian Government**, **ECPAT** (the organization “End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes”), **UNICEF** and by the **NGO Group** for the Convention on the Rights of the Child, closed being the biggest event ever held on the theme. Its numbers surpassed all former registries: there were more than 3,000 participants representing governments, governmental and non-governmental organizations, but also private companies. There were also two participants on behalf of Save the Children Romania: Georgeta Paunescu and Diana Tudose, in their quality as Coordinators of Programmes against Violence.

“*Children’s sexual exploitation may be avoided*” was the main message of this edition of the Congress. Its objectives were the set up and the implementation of an Action Plan that strives for launching an appeal towards all countries in order to:

- Define, ban and prohibit by law all acts of sexual exploitation of children and adolescents, according to the current international standards;
- Ensure that all children victims of sexual exploitation are not punished for the offences against the law during the exploitation period and are given victim status;
- Promote and defend the privacy of the children victims of sexual exploitation so their identity is not revealed to the media or during the judicial proceedings;
- Settle down until 2013 concrete mechanisms in order to facilitate the coordination and cooperation at national, regional and international level on the prevention and surcease of the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents.

Unlike previous editions of the World Congress on this theme, when children and adolescents would make their recommendations in a separate section, this year they participated directly to the editing of the Action Plan. In its quality of **member of ECPAT**, **Save the Children Romania** participated at the set up of the regional development plan for the elimination of children’s sexual exploitation on the next 4 years.



Considering that 55% of the respondents in Bucharest stated that there was limited information of the wide public on underage girls' commercial exploitation, the main recommendation referred to the need to conduct campaigns of information, awareness raising and prevention on child abuse and child prostitution. It has also been recommended to: set up an effective and coherent system for identification of underage girls who are obliged to be involved in commercial sex; amendment of the article in the Penal Code to remove incrimination for offences committed by underage children from the incidence of the criminal law and direct children to protection and psycho-social rehabilitation services; set up and develop a national unitary and coherent prevention, identification and intervention system in cases of sexual abuse and sexual exploitation.

Based on the above recommendations, Save the Children carried out **a campaign against sexual commercial exploitation** with the following objectives:

- sensitize the public on the dramatic consequences of sexual abuse upon child development;
- reduce child sexual exploitation phenomenon by promoting laws;
- prevent children involvement in prostitution and propose mechanisms of withdrawal of the sexually exploited children and their social reintegration.

In order to support this campaign, there were made 85,000 leaflets and 15,000 posters; a radio spot was broadcasted on four radio channels and a TV video spot on an eight-month's period. Eight articles appeared in dailies, 3,660 children, 165 teachers, 420 parents were informed on the topic and some 650 specialists trained.

## "Parents in School" Guides

**Pre-School Age/ School Age/ Pre-Adolescence and Adolescence guides** offer a synthesis of the parents' knowledge and abilities which are essential for an optimal development of the children at pre-school and school age, as well as adolescents, at cognitive, social and emotional levels. The guides also facilitate a healthy, functional relationship between parents and children.

*The Guide addressing the parents with pre-school age children* presents several interesting themes of this development period, such as: the anger management and the aggressive behaviours management; the learning of daily routines (the sleep routine, the meal routine, the morning routine etc.); television and its influence on the development of the children: for how long may children watch TV and what; the behaviours of personal autonomy: the fosterage of independent play and self-catering behaviours (the child eats by his/her own, dresses himself/herself up etc.); the preparations for the admission in kindergarten or in school; the management of the oppositional crisis, when the child keeps saying: "No", "I don't want".

*The Guide for the parents having school age children* teaches the parents how to get prepared for the school admission of their child; about perfectionism and its consequences upon the child; about homework, seen as a challenge for the parents; about the emotional and social abilities and the self-esteem of a child at school-age.

*The Guide for the parents having adolescents* talks about the biological and psychological challenges at adolescence time; the adolescents' emotional and social abilities; the rules, limits and consequences of adolescents' discipline; challenging behaviors in teenage years; giving the adolescent a sense of responsibility and independence.

## COUNSELLING CENTRES

The Counselling Centres in Bucharest, Timișoara, Iași, Suceava and Târgu Mureș provide counselling services and therapy for children victims of violence who are at risk of victimization (abused children, child victims of trafficking or children at risk to be trafficked, children of migrant workers, and children from poor communities at risk of school abandon) and for their families.



Gabriela, cu 15 ani  
mai in varsta.

collaboration with the specialists of the Educational Centres running in Bucharest, Iași, Mureș and Timiș having as goals the prevention of school drop out and the school (re)integration, as well as the provision of the needed support for the children left behind by involving them in specific activities carried out by the day-care services established by the National Authority for the Protection of Children's Rights at local level or in other types of activities.

**PARTNERS:** Radda Barnen (Save the Children Sweden), Ministry of Education, Research and Innovation, Ministry of Interior and Administration Reform, United Way, National Agency Against Trafficking in Persons, Saatchi & Saatchi, Romanian Television, Radio Romania, Diverta, Hollywood Multiplex.



25 May

International Missing  
Children's Day

A total of **412 children victims** benefited from specialized services. They were victims of physical abuse (64), emotional abuse (94), sexual abuse (59), neglected children (29) and trafficked children (56), as well as children with behavioural disorders (110). Some other 324 parents and 308 specialists were provided with counselling.

The Resource Centres for Parents provided counselling for 235 children and parents: 25 (Târgu Mureș), 108 (Bucharest), 37 (Iași), 35 (Timișoara), 30 (Suceava).

A counselling and therapy programme for child offenders and training of the specialists in the therapy and assistance of children with an aggressive sexual behaviour was developed. The **“Guide for the specialist's attitude towards the child with an abusive sexual behaviour”** by Cristian Andrei, MD, was edited and served as a methodological support. 16 child offenders were provided with counselling and therapy and 21 children and families received material support in order to settle down economic problems.

Complementary services were provided to approximately 150 children with problems, identified among the groups of children receiving assistance. These activities were carried out in

Save the Children organized a prevention campaign among children, parents and teachers regarding the risks which come up once the children decide to leave home and live on their own as a result of the conflicts they have at school or at home.

The campaign took place from 19 to 27 May in Bucharest, Timiș, Suceava, Rădăuți, Fălticeni, Timiș, Suceava, Rădăuți, Fălticeni, Botoșani, Iași, Călărași, Dolj, Neamț, Hunedoara, Caraș-Severin, Vaslui, Bârlad, Negrești, Petrila, Huși and Argeș, in collaboration with the General Inspectorate of Police – Criminal Investigations Directorate, the Police of Bucharest – The Department Analysis and Prevention of Criminal Matters, the County Police Inspectorates, the Romanian Gendarmerie, the Police of Proximity, the local city halls, the County School Inspectorates. There were organized debates in schools and high-schools with 4.382 children and parents, a street campaign, drawing contests (Suceava, Iași, Dolj) and two children's painting exhibitions on the theme of the missing children. (Iași and Călărași).

As a member of the European Federation for Missing and Sexually Exploited Children – Missing Children Europe, Save the Children Romania joins the other 22 non-governmental organizations from 16 EU member countries which develop information campaigns on missing children issues.



## Education for Health

**Education for Health remains a priority for Save the Children Romania. The activities focused on performing educational sessions carried out by the volunteers of Save the Children using the „peer to peer” education method, considered by the beneficiaries as an efficient modality to discuss matters deemed sensitive by the public opinion.**

### EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS IN SCHOOLS

Approximately 130 trained volunteers performed information sessions by the “peer to peer” education method (*peer education*) for 6.000 pupils in 118 school units in the urban and rural area in Bucharest-Ilfov, Caraş-Severin, Constanţa, Dolj, Hunedoara, Timiş, Iaşi and Neamţ.

Although the information was adjusted to the needs of the beneficiaries, aged between 10 and 18, all the children included in the program received information about communicating with parents on matters related to health, secure conducts in the couple relationship, preventing the infections with sexual transmission, combating discrimination. The focus was on the prevention of substance abuse, especially the formation of conducts in order to postpone the debut in consumption of tobacco, alcohol, ecstasy and marihuana.

### COMPETITION ON HEALTH ISSUES

260 teenagers from 5 high-schools in Bucharest participated in sessions of discussions on the issue of *undesired birth prevention, contraceptive methods and the implications of the beginning the sexual life*. Debates were organized and conducted by 10 volunteers and 2 specialists in the field of education for health.



15 participants in debates were awarded prizes for their implication in the performance of information sessions on the issues debated in the high-schools they attend.

### ANTI-SMOKING CAMPAIGN „SWEETEN UP YOUR LIFE!”

On the occasion of the **World Day of Fight against Smoking**, as of **31 May**, Save the Children initiated a pilot campaign by means of which it delivered a message of support to persons who wish to give up smoking and at the same time congratulated those who chose not to consume this legal drug. Approximately 800 persons were informed regarding the risks of the consumption of tobacco by 20 volunteers. The campaign was resumed also on 26 June– **International Day of Fight against the Consumption of Drugs**, with a focus on making the teenagers aware that tobacco is a drug.

## Preventing the transmission of tuberculosis among street children and teenagers

**According to the data of the National Tuberculosis Control Program, the incidence of the disease is of approximately 117 to one hundred thousand inhabitants, incidence which places Romania on the first position in Europe. One of the groups vulnerable to TB mentioned in the “Stop TB” strategy and in other documents of the World Health Organization as a group that needs special attention, is represented by the homeless persons – children, teenagers and adults.**

As of January 2008, within the VI<sup>th</sup> round of financing of the Global Fund to Fight HIV/SIDA, TB and Malaria, Save the Children has been developing **programs to prevent tuberculosis** in Bucharest and Dolj, Iaşi and Timiş counties. The target groups of these programs are children and teenagers living or working on the streets. It’s estimated that over 1.000 persons are going to benefit from the services provided until the end of the programs.

The purpose is the reduction of the incidence of TB among street children/teenagers and their families by increasing the degree of awareness towards the disease, on the basis of the support granted by professionals in the social and medical field and the provenience communities. Altogether, the projects represent an integrated strategy with a view to provide the necessary services of prevention, diagnosis and treatment, as well as of psycho-social support necessary to ensure the finalizing the anti-TB therapy in due time and successfully.

### RESULTS:

- The study **„Knowledge, attitudes and practices of street children and teenagers regarding tuberculosis”**. The study was carried out in order to identify the most efficient approach of the target-group, both from the point of view of information/message sent and from the point of view of the communication means;

- **801 street children and teenagers were informed** about TB (transmission, signs and symptoms, prevention, treatment) within 121 meetings;
- **121 specialists** in the social protection and medical field were trained regarding TB and methods and techniques of intervention in the work with street children/teenagers;
- **53 persons** were selected and trained to become *peer-educators*;
- **educational materials** were created for the target-group (11.500 flyers, 2000 posters);
- **240 suspects of TB** among the street children/teenagers and their parents were identified and referred to the medical system; social services were provided for them;
- **26 persons** were registered at family doctors;
- providing the **social and psychological support** necessary to ensure the compliance with the treatment for 76 pulmonary TB sick people and 1 person with the tuberculous meningitis disease;
- **29 sick people finalized** successfully the anti-TB treatment by the end of the year.

## Preventing the transmission of HIV/AIDS among street children and Roma communities

Initiated in 2004, within the II<sup>nd</sup> Round of financing the Global Fund for fight against HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria, the project continued also in 2008. This year the project was carried out in Bucharest and in Mures county, where Roma communities in rural area were predominantly aimed.

The research report, which presents the development of knowledge, attitudes and practices of street children and Roma children with respect to the infection with HIV and other infections with sexual transmission (IST), indicated that the level of information improved, following the performance of the program, both among street children and Roma children. 85% of children know at least one way of transmission of ISTs.

### OUTCOMES:

- 66 street children and 296 Roma children were informed regarding the infection with HIV and other infections with sexual transmission within 96 information sessions;
- 26 street children and 56 Roma children benefitted from social and medical assistance.

## Preventing the HIV/AIDS transmission in Roma communities in Dâmbovița, Timiș and Vrancea counties

Even if at the census as of 2002 approximately 530.000 persons declared their belonging to the Roma ethnic group, other assessments place their number between 1.5 and 2 million. The Roma community represents the only population whose birth rate is of 5.1 children/woman, with respect to 1.8 at the level of the country, being a young population, with 43% aged up to 16. The infant death rate is of 40‰ and the life expectancy by 10 years lower than the average per country.

Due to the low level of education and the limited access to information, even if the Roma traditions could be a guarantee of eliminating the risk of HIV infection, the renowned mobility of the ethnic group exposes it to hazards which they must know and avoid. Moreover, illiteracy is a barrier in using the information materials. Men are harder to convince to participate in discussions regarding the risks of HIV infection. It is “shameful” to talk about such things, some women also considering that contraceptives defend them from all diseases.

In collaboration with the Authorities of Public Health in the 3 counties, the project was initiated in July 2007. Upon its implementation 32 Roma sanitary mediators, 34 community sanitary assistants and 32 volunteers – the majority of them teachers – participated, under the supervision of a local coordinator for each county. 25.000 leaflets with information about HIV/AIDS were printed.

Although initially the project was to be performed in 15 localities, the number was extended to 51. Over 6,000 Roma benefitted from information in 2008, both within group sessions and especially by the *peer education* method.

In the 30 schools of the localities included in the project, the biology teachers ensured the information of the pupils in the last gymnasium grades.

The project financer is the **Global Fund of Fight against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria**

**PARTNERS:** Public Health Authorities in Dâmbovița, Timiș and Vrancea counties.



# Save the Children Romania branches

## ARGEȘ BRANCH

On the occasion of the *Global Day for Preventing Child Abuse* and respectively the *International Day of Child's Rights* (19 November), in collaboration with the County Council Arges a public debate entitled „**The Education of Parents in the Benefit of Children**” was organized.

The event gathered 200 participants - representatives of the public institutions, non-governmental organizations, parents, pupils and teachers. Case studies were presented and the causes and effects of the abuse upon the child, as well as the methods of preventing such cases, were brought into discussion. Simultaneously, educational materials were distributed in the county at the level of town halls, residential type services, to specialists working with children (educators, assistants, psychologists etc.), at the level of schools and social assistance public institutions.

In three schools and three centres of residential type in Arges county, creative competitions among children were performed, on the theme of fight against child abuse. The most relevant works were exhibited in the Grand Hall of the County Council Arges, where they were analyzed and awarded prizes by a mixed commission made up of the representatives of the institutions present at the debate.

The event was advertised by the written press and TV stations (Informația Piteștenilor, Argeșanul, Observatorul, Curierul Zilei, Argeșul, Top, TV Alpha, TV. Argeș, Antena Pitești).

## REȘIȚA BRANCH

In 23 schools, information workshops and sessions on child's rights were organized using interactive working methods that encourage the participation and expression of the children opinion by means of role games, case studies, discussion groups, media monitoring and creative activities. Approximately 2.100 children and 112 teachers participated. The activities were coordinated by 26 volunteers-pupils of the high-schools in Reșița and 32 volunteers-teachers.

The volunteers, pupils and teachers alike, celebrated the fulfillment of 19 years as of the ratifying of the UN Convention on Child's Rights, by performing information sessions and interactive lessons in 10 schools in Reșița for 2450 pupils.

### Young volunteers

26 volunteers-pupils and 32 volunteers-teachers participated in:

- actions within „**Global Campaign for Education – Quality Education to End Exclusion !**”, during March- April 2008, with over 2800 pupils, 135 teachers in 10 schools, 87 parents, 7 representatives of cults and 11 local counselors as beneficiaries;
- the workshop “**Stop violence in schools**”, performed at “Traian Vuia” High-school in Reșița, having 50 pupils as beneficiaries;
- The campaign of rendering sensitive the public opinion regarding the persons affected by the disappearance of children (children, families etc.) – 25 May;
- The information campaign on the redirection of **2%** of the income tax and other fund raising activities;

- Information sessions on issues of education for health for the children in 6 schools in Reșița and 4 schools in the rural area (Glimboca, Târnova, Dalboșeț, Târnova) - for over 770 children and 19 teachers.

### Education for economically exploited children

Weekly, 4-5 volunteers supported the 25 children of the center in preparing the lessons and performed together recreational activities, games and competitions.

On 25 October 2008 a trip **on** the route Reșița- Caransebeș- Hațeg- Petrila- Petrosani was organized for 25 children at the Day Center, accompanied by 20 volunteers and 5 teachers. During the trip a visit was carried out at the center where the meeting with the volunteers in Petrila was held and recreational activities for the children in the two centers were performed.

Other local projects: „I prepare myself to become an adult while I am still young”, „Colors of friendship”, „Friends of music”.

**Partners:** The School Inspectorate of Caraș-Severin County, General Directorate of Social Assistance and Child Protection, Psycho-Pedagogical Assistance Center, “Eftimie Murgu” University Reșița – Social Security Faculty, County Police Inspectorate Caraș- Severin, 18 schools in the county.

## BUCHAREST BRANCH

The volunteers of the branch organized in the capital the competition „**Child's Rights**” by means of which children capitalize their creativity and communication skills. Due to the young volunteers, the branch performed in 2008 several actions aimed to pre-school children, of which we mention:

- “**Soul hour**” (“*Ora de suflet*”) - debates where children were encouraged to relate personal experiences and knowledge regarding the customs and traditions of the communities they are part of;
- “**By drawing together, we learn how to give**” (“*Desenând împreună, învățăm să dăruim*”) – drawing competition in which children at the kindergartens partners of the branch participated;
- **Documentary trips** at the brine pit Slănic Prahova, Peleş Museum, Bran Castle, Botanical Garden, Zoological Garden, Village Museum, Nature Sciences Museum, Clocks Museum.





## IAȘI BRANCH

### Juvenile justice to the best interest of the child (PHARE 2005)

The project was aimed at ensuring the independence and impartiality of justice, as well as the quality of the legal act when drawing up documents for the cases with minors victims of abuses, traffic and exploitation. The purpose of the project was to develop the skills and knowledge of the magistrates in view of an adequate and specific answer upon the investigation and drawing up deeds for the cases of abuse, household violence, traffic and exploitation. The main partner of the project was the *Association of Magistrates in Iași*.

### The child's rights between law and practice (PHARE 2005)

The purpose of the project was the development of a program of monitoring the activity of the local and central institutions with attributions in implementing *Law 272/2004 for child protection and promotion of child's rights*, as well as the elaboration and dissemination of a set of recommendations to the purpose of improving the institutions' interventions in cases of breaching the rights of children. The target group of the project is represented by NGOs or NGO networks operating on the matter of observing and promoting the rights of the child, governmental institutions and organizations, children and teenagers organizations socially involved, research institutions, teachers and students, mass-media. Thus, a monitoring group was established for the implementation of *Law 272/2004*, that collected for 5 months both quantity and quality information which was included in a *final monitoring report*.

### "Together for our children" – financed by Soros Foundation Romania

This project aimed to promote the good practices in the field of child protection developed by the NGO sector in Romania, Ukraine and Republic of Moldova. Moreover, the project aimed at improving the capacities and skills of the NGOs to promote and protect the rights of children by elaborating a *cross-border*

*working strategy* in cases of breaching the rights of children by traffic or exploitation.

### Community center of resources for children whose parents work abroad - PHARE financing 2006

The project was aimed at developing a community center for children with at least one parent working abroad, who manifest emotional and conduct disorders. The Center offers services of psychological rehabilitation also to children at risk of developing emotional and conduct disorders due to the fact that one of the parents is abroad. Within the Center seminars for specialists (psychiatrists, psychologists) are held with a view to specialize them in various types of intervention (conduct cognitive, family therapy, ludic therapy). Seminars are held also for specialists in the non-clinical field (school counselors, social workers etc.).

### The psycho-social, social-medical, social-school recovery assistance services and support for exploited children

Having as purpose the improvement of psycho-social services for children in difficulty on the territory of Romania and Moldova, as well as the transfer of expertise in the work with children in difficulty from the Educational Center within Save the Children Iași Branch to the Republic of Moldova, the program included as beneficiaries 75 teachers and specialists from Romania and Moldova and 90 children in difficulty.

"**Mobile School – a school for everyone**" has the objective to ameliorate the phenomenon of exclusion and segregation of children and teenagers in difficulty on the streets and in Iași Penitentiary. Beneficiaries: 30 minors and teenagers in Iași Penitentiary, 50 street children, 20 Roma children in difficulty, 70 specialists in the field of child protection and teachers.

**Partners:** Public Association Făclia Ungheni, the Republic of Moldova, Economic Development Association in Kolomeea – Ukraine, Clinical Psychiatric Hospital „Socola” Iași and the Romanian Association of Therapy and Study of Trauma.

## BRAȘOV BRANCH

Brașov branch performed from November to December the project **“Fill a box with joy”**, in the benefit of 500 children aged between 3 and 11, coming from the poor rural areas of Brașov county. The main purpose of the project was to offer gifts on Christmas to pre-school and school children.

The institutions involved in implementing this action were: MIX TV group (advertising), kindergartens no. 12, 19, Ștrumfi, Hungarian Kindergarten, Olteț, Martinică, gymnasium schools no. 8, 9, 15, 23, Honerus and “Aprily Lajos” high-schools, trading companies SC Serisan Com (print of the promotional materials) and SC Esprit Group, that ensured the transport and depositing of gifts.

## CONSTANȚA BRANCH

The baldness keeps them away from school - and so does the ignorance of some parents. And when they finally get to school, in the first grade, they can hardly understand the explanations, the school discipline, they can't adapt to the educational demands. They feel lonely, strange, put aside, and they consider that school is a useless institution, impossible to deal with. From here to absenteeism and school drop off is just a step.

Save the Children gave a chance to some of the poorest children at kindergarten age by means of the “First Steps” Program, initiated in 2005. Discussions were held with the parents in order to make them understand that education would make their children's lives easier; requisites and a daily meal were ensured; governesses were trained and a frame program was put in place.

## NEAMȚ BRANCH

### Preventing the drugs consumption

**I. 26 June –The International Day against the Consumption and Illegal Traffic of Drugs** was marked by 2 actions:

- In “*Curtea Domneasca*” square in Piatra Neamt, the volunteers of the organization together with the pupils of several schools formed “*the anti-drug ribbon*”, which was carried on by the town citizens on a distance of 100 meters, as a symbol of their solidarity in the fight against drugs.

**II.** From March to June 2008 the project “*My Anti-drug Message*” was performed in partnership with the Center of Antidrug Prevention and the School Inspectorate. The action was carried out as a county competition of creation, attended by approximately 60 children who had been previously trained by the volunteers of the branch and of the other partners involved. The competition was held based on the following sections: literary essay, web page, digital photo, spot, ecological projects.

**III.** All along 2008, the branch, together with the Center of Antidrug Prevention, the Road Police Service and the Franciscan Roman Theological High-school performed the project “*Antidrug Road Conduct*”. The project addressed to the 250 future drivers, last year students of the professional schools or high-schools with auto major in Piatra- Neamt, Roman and Targul Neamt. On this occasion information materials, promotional posters with the title “**Don't let the alcohol drive instead of you**” were distributed.

**IV. The antidrug inter-institutional network** was established as a group of positive pressure on the decision factors at local level acting against the consumption of drugs. Actions were organized to inform pupils in 10 schools on the risks of alcohol consumption, by means of the theatre play “**The ninth step**”. Information campaigns were also organized on the occasion of the “World Day without Tobacco” -31 May – and of the “International Day against the illegal traffic and consumption of drugs” - 26 June.

“**Children left home alone - a problem that concerns us all**”. The objective of the project was to inform and raise the awareness among the population regarding the problem of children whose parents left abroad to work. A street campaign was organized in Piatra-Neamt, supported by 10 volunteers of the branch, an occasion on which flyers and leaflets were distributed to passers-by. The information campaign was also performed in the schools no. 5, 10 and 28 during the class forums of the VII and VIII grades, gathering approximately 120 children.

“**An informed community is an involved community**” – for fighting against discrimination of persons infected with HIV/AIDS. The information activities were carried out in 5 schools in rural area and in 2 schools in urban area; over 170 children participated.





### HUNEDOARA BRANCH

All along 2008, the social and educational services offered by the **Day Center** addressed to a number of 150 children and 65 families. The following services were provided:

*Counseling and social services to 65 families.*

The educational activities performed within the center aimed the additional preparations on the basic subjects in view of preventing school drop-off and promoting participation in educational activities.

*Material support:* hygiene materials for families; food packages for holidays; packages with sweets for children; clothes and footwear for children and parents.

*Psychological counseling:* the children participated in monthly school and professional orientation meetings, psychological assessment and counseling depending on the needs; the parents participated in counseling sessions requesting the support of the psychologist in order to find modalities of approaching conduct situations manifested by the children.

*Recreational and socializing activities:* daily, after homework, recreational activities for children were organized, such as: collages; singing and dancing; games: chess, rummy, backgammon, monopoly, football, baseball, tennis; trips, camps, visits to institutions, watching theatre shows and educational movies etc.

#### Summer camp 2008 – VII<sup>th</sup> edition

The summer camp was initiated in the first week at Lunca Florii, followed by recreational activities organized on a weekly basis and including two courses a day: collages, creation of images with materials, kangaroo race, hygiene competition, obstacle race, Swiss border, wrecked vessel, “guess who left”, sports etc.

4 - 9 August – “Life at Straja” camp. 10 children aged over 12 participated in activities aimed to increase their confidence in their own forces and to strengthen the team working skills.

11 – 15 August – Hikes (Maleia)

19 – 20 August – Trip to Rusu. 30 children from grades I-IV spent two beautiful days at a hut at the base of Parang mountains, having the occasion to admire the mountain landscape.

28 August – 4 September – Camp at the Black Sea. 20 children participated in a one-week camp on the Romanian seaside in Eforie Sud resort, “New Paradise” Entertainment Center.

### VASLUI BRANCH

The project “**HIV/AIDS prevention among children in institutions**” was developed in “Elena Farago” Placement Centre in Bârlad. This project aimed at performing prevention, educational, cultural and leisure activities, as well as social integration activities for the 17 children (among whom 5 HIV+) from the placement centre. More than 100 volunteers involved and developed cultural activities, educational campaigns and charity actions in the schools in Vaslui county.

**Partners:** General Directorate of Social Assistance and Child Protection Vaslui, Youth County Directorate, Teachers’ Association, the County School Inspectorate, and the Centre of Antidrug Prevention, Evaluation and Counseling in Vaslui.

The school units that involved were: “Ștefan Procopiu” Industrial School Group, “Mihail Savoveanu” School no. 10, “Mihai Eminescu” Theoretical High-School Bârlad, School no.2 Bârlad, “Marcel Guguianu” Industrial School Group Zorleni, School I-VIII grades Muntenii de Sus, Vaslui county.

“**Say NO now!**” – a course that gathered educational counselors and psychologists from schools in Valsui area.

Actions to prevent drug consumption among young people were organized in partnership with Vaslui Centre of Antidrug Prevention, Evaluation and Counseling at the headquarter of the Teachers’ Association and in over 10 pre-university school units in Vaslui county.

“**We also have rights**” programme continued with information classes, in partnership with gymnasium schools and kindergartens in Negrești, Valsui, Bârlad. Over 600 pupils and 15 teachers attended.

“**Violence breeds violence**” campaign included information sessions, round tables and street campaigns where 200 pupils, 15 volunteers and 20 teachers participated.

## MUREȘ BRANCH

In 2008 Save the Children branch in Mureș continued to perform the yearly campaigns and actions. Two actions distinguished themselves from the “traditional” events of the branch: one of *fund raising* and another one of *recruiting, selecting and involving as many volunteers as possible*.

The day of 20 November was marked by a special event, „**Together for excellence**”, a gala evening aimed to raise funds for children with special skills in artistic, sports or school fields. The main focus of the evening was represented by an auction of art objects – painting, carving, sculpture, ceramics works – done by local artists and by students of the *Art High School* in Târgu Mureș. At its first edition, the event “ **Together for excellence**” tried to involve companies and natural persons to support the branch activities by funds, in order to ensure the education of children with special skills. It was an honor for Mureș branch to present in that special evening the destinies of some special children who succeeded, by their own efforts, to attain excellence in their fields, despite the material or family difficulties they went through.

The event was sponsored by the business community in Mureș county. Among the persons and companies that sponsored this project, we mention: *Rotary Club, Concordia Hotel, SC Three Farm Srl, SC Cala SA, SC Mondo Trade Srl, Anvico SA, Reea Srl, Zoltania, Compania Aquaserv, SC Conimur Srl, Auto Top, Sc Valpet SA, SC Maviproduct Srl, SC Triplast Srl, Sc Cole Srl, Herlitz, Sc Euroins SA, Nakita, Mc Trans, Modal Grup, Sc Original Construct Srl, Sc Cad Soft Srl.*

The campaign raised the amount of Euro 4.680, obtained prior to the auction by sponsorships, as well as the amount of Euro 3.520 following the auction of art objects, summing up Euro 8.100. The funds raised were donated to the 11 beneficiaries of the campaign, in equal amounts but under various forms, depending on the immediate or long-term needs of the children. The contribution of the companies and private persons was defining in changing the destiny of some special children. The branch wants to turn this event into an yearly tradition, which could develop from year to year.

One of the objectives of the branch in 2008 was to attract as many active volunteers as possible. The slogan of the campaign was “**People, people, we want volunteers!**” Information sessions for students, teachers and parents were organized, promoting the advantages of the status of volunteer and volunteer work, as a way of action and social involvement. These sessions included the presentation of all the actions performed by Save the Children Mureș branch, in order to describe to volunteers the specific of the organization.

## DOLJ BRANCH

The project “ **An e-learning environment for education in HIV/AIDS field**” develops an integrated solution for adults’ education in preventing HIV/AIDS (according to the latest statistics available, made by the “Euro HIV” network financed by EU, in 2005 there were 23.620 cases of newly diagnosed cases in the European Union only). The project’s main objectives are:

- To create and test an interactive e-learning environment and a learning virtual community for education on HIV/AIDS;
- To develop and adapt a new teaching methodology on Internet for HIV/AIDS education;
- To create, evaluate and disseminate pedagogical instruments and materials suitable for on-line courses about HIV/AIDS, using the web platform;
- To develop and test training modules for trainers on HIV/AIDS education based on the new methodology.

### Outcomes:

- A website, which includes an integrated learning environment containing general knowledge on HIV/AIDS, a data base with the planned curricula, methods and evaluation instruments;
- An on-line courses platform;
- Preparation modules and materials for educators, teachers and the personnel from the institutions for adults’ vocational training;
- A CD containing training resources.





## TIMIȘ BRANCH

In 2008, Timiș Branch performed over 16 projects and campaigns, having as beneficiaries 400 children in difficulty (children victims of abuse, economically exploited children, children with rare diseases, refugee children, children and teenagers in the state system of child protection etc.).

At the same time, 50 parents also were beneficiaries, participating in the meetings within the project **“Parents in school”**, 12 from among them being subject to detention regime in Timisoara Penitentiary. These meetings were aimed at improving the communication between parent and child at the moment of getting out of detention.

Besides the well-known projects performed on a yearly basis, this year Timiș Branch started to implement new projects:

**“Help them to have a good start”**- project with PHARE 2006 financing, aimed to support the young people who prepare to leave the state system of child protection, by facilitating their access to the labor market.

**„A chance for each youngster”** – project with ANSIT financing, addressed to the young people in the rural area (5 villages in Timiș county) in view of counseling and supporting them in order to find a job.

**„Preventing the drug consumption”**- project financed by the Town Hall of Timisoara and County Council Timis, aimed at preventing the drug consumption among pupils.

**„Volunteers for rare diseases”** – aimed to promote the volunteer work and to increase the number of volunteers involved and trained in working with children with disabilities caused by rare genetic diseases. Thus, 30 volunteers of the branch and of „Victor Babes” Medicine and Pharmacy University Timisoara were trained.

**„Together for rare people”**- project financed by the Town Hall of Timișoara, aimed to improve the quality of life of 50 children affected by rare diseases by counseling, informing and supporting the parents of these children.

**Partners:** General Directorate of Social Security and Child Protection Timis, Agency of Press Monitoring in Bucharest, School Inspectorate of Timis County, Police Inspectorate of Timis county, Community Social Security Department of Timisoara Municipality – Service for Child and Family Protection, Prader Willi Association Romania, ANTP- National Agency against Traffic of Persons Timis

## SUCEAVA BRANCH

### Resources Center for parents and children

Beneficiaries: 250 children from “Miron Costin” School Suceava

The following activities were performed:

**Creating a dialogue between children and parents**, identifying the expectations and requirements of parents related to the conduct of children, as well as expressing the needs of children. Meetings with parents and children were organized and the debates were coordinated by the personnel of the Center.

**“School and family – a relationship in danger?”** The active involvement of parents in the educational process was aimed, as well as identifying the possibilities of collaboration between school and family in order to prevent an anti-social behavior.

**“What do you do in your spare time?”** Initiation of debates regarding the real modalities of organizing spare time.

**“Let’s dream on the internet!”** The warning of children regarding the risks of excessive use of the internet, as well as identifying the possibilities of using the internet for solving school tasks were aimed.

**“Good manners – an almost forgotten issue”** aimed to bring in advance a civilized and polite behavior and the importance of such conduct in communications.

**“Friendship”** aimed at showing the necessity to create a social universe for children, but also to warn them regarding an inadequate entourage.

**“Know yourself”** – debate sessions among pupils regarding their selves, how do pupils relate to one another, a better knowledge of the notions of conduct, nature, genetic predispositions, skills.

**Education for and about health.** Discussions about the drug consumption were approached, the way they affect an individual’s health and development, the ways adolescents may avoid the consumption of stupeficient.

**Physical and verbal violence** – aimed to identify the causes of this phenomenon and the consequences of such a behavior from the point of view of the affected person.

**“What makes us different? Are we really different?”** The situations in which the persons belonging to certain minority groups are discriminated and the causes of such an attitude were brought into discussion.





## Access to quality education

According to the Report of the Ministry of Education, Research and Innovation on the Situation of the Education System in Romania in 2008, during the period 2000-2008, the school drop out rate increased three times for 1<sup>st</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> grades, from 0.6% in the school year 2000-2001 to 2.0% in 2007-2008, almost three times for primary education, from 0.6% to 1.7%, and four times for gymnasium, from 0.6% to 2.3%. On the other hand, there is a significant number of children who have never been enrolled in the education system and this figure is not included in the official statistics.

Child labour is both a factor determining a reduced participation of children in the education system, together with other factors it is correlated with, and a consequence of the reduced participation; thus, children's involvement in the worst forms of child labour determines school drop out or low school performance and an increased absenteeism, and, on the other hand, school drop out also creates the prerequisites for child labour.

### SOCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL SERVICES FOR ECONOMICALLY EXPLOITED CHILDREN – EDUCATIONAL CENTRES

The project aims at providing direct support to child labourers or children at risk of entering work and their families, building the capacity of partner institutions to implement projects aiming at prevention and elimination of child labour and sensitizing the specialists and the wide public on the causes and consequences of this phenomenon.

Direct activities with children are carried out in the educational centres developed by Save the Children in partnership with schools and Directorates General for Social Assistance and Child Protection. In 2008, the educational and social programmes addressed to economically exploited children and their parents continued in the educational centres developed in Bucharest (2 centres), Iași, Reșița, Timișoara, Târgoviște, Petrița, and Cluj-Napoca. The educational centres taken over by the Directorates General for Social Assistance and Child Protection in Bucharest –6<sup>th</sup> District, Bistrița, Dolj,

Mureș and Vrancea were financially supported and monitored and two new centres were opened. The Educational Centre Constanța, in partnership with School no. 31 Constanța, is focused both on school reintegration programmes and prevention of school drop out. Save the Children also supports a new centre aiming at preventing school drop out developed in partnership with the Association “Dăruind vei dobândi și tu” (*Giving you will also get back*) in Topoloveni (Argeș county).

The project “**Quality education and other support services for street working children/ children at risk to enter street work in Bucharest, Constanța and Iași**” started in April with the technical and financial assistance of the International Labour Office – International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (ILO-IPEC). This project is implemented in collaboration with the Child Labour Unit within the National Authority for the Protection of Children's Rights, the Directorates General for Social Assistance and Child Protection in the three areas, schools and NGOs.



## DIRECT SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

In 2008, the social and educational services targeted 2,043 children and their parents:

- 1,575 children and their parents benefited from educational programmes and received social assistance services within the 15 educational centres in Bucharest, Constanța, Cluj, Târgoviște, Iași, Reșița, Timișoara, Topoloveni, Craiova, Bistrița, Focșani and Târgu Mureș. According to the identified needs, children participated in school integration/reintegration, prevention of school drop out and pre-school education programmes and benefited from social, psychological, legal and health care services.
- 445 children from 15 partner schools in rural and urban areas from Bucharest, Dâmbovița, Iași, Timiș and Mureș counties received support within the school reintegration and school drop out prevention programmes;
- 23 children and young people were selected and trained to become *peer educators*. They participated in information activities on child labour and in activities to support children during the process of catching up with school requirements.
- Meetings with children's parents to discuss about the importance of education and school progresses made by children were organized on a regular basis.
- Children participated in recreational and socializing activities: camps, trips (Vânătorul, Căprioara – Dâmbovița County), sports competitions, visits to museums, going to cinema and theatre.

## CAPACITY BUILDING FOR PARTNER INSTITUTIONS

**43 specialists** from the partner Directorates General for Social Assistance and Child Protection, NGOs and schools were trained in 2008 on child labour issues and the necessary services for rehabilitation, social and school reintegration of children.

In order to mainstream child labour into the Minimum Standards for the Information and Coordination Centres for Street Children, a consultative meeting was held with the representatives of the centres in Bucharest, Constanța, Timișoara, Iași, Cluj and Child Labour Unit. The outcome of the meeting was a set of proposals for changing the minimum necessary standards for these centres.

## RESEARCH

An assessment of the situation of the street children in Bucharest, Constanța and Brașov was conducted in 2008. It aimed at assessing the number of street children and young people and finding out what were the main characteristics of the target group. More than 740 children were interviewed.

The findings of this assessment will be presented in a report, in the beginning of 2009. Based on the findings, new services targeting children working or living in the street will be set up and the methodology used for the activities carried out in the existing centres will be diversified.

## INFORMATION AND AWARENESS RAISING ACTIVITIES

The campaign “**Get involved in combating begging**” was conducted for the third consecutive year in partnership with the International Labour Office – International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (ILO-IPEC). It started on June 12, on the occasion of *The World Day against Child Labour* – and continued by the end of July. It aimed at providing information on the real causes and the social and legal consequences of child exploitation through begging. It also launched an appeal to the wide public for an active involvement in protecting exploited children. 155 persons (social workers of our organization and from the Directorates General for Social Assistance and Child Protection, volunteers and children integrated in the educational programmes) distributed leaflets and contacted 9,000 persons in Bucharest, Constanța and Iași.

## SPONSORS

The Festival of Christmas Trees, ILO-IPEC, Cora Hypermarket via the “The Month of Open Hearts” campaign, Save the Children Finland.

## MATERIALS

There were sent out **12,000 leaflets** and **500 posters** “Get involved in combating begging”, 6 electronic newsletters of the Educational Centres to all those who supported the project.

## PARTNERS

Directorates General of Social Assistance and Child Protection in Districts 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6 of Bucharest, Directorates General of Social Assistance and Child Protection Dolj, Mureș, Bistrița-Năsăud, Vrancea, Dâmbovița and Iași, Directorate General of Police Bucharest, Directorate of Social Assistance Bucharest, Schools no. 1 and 71 in Bucharest, School no. 3 Iași, School no. 10 Reșița, Schools no. 11 and 15 in Timișoara, School no. 3 Târgoviște, School “Nicolae Iorga” Cluj-Napoca, School no. 5 Petrila, Parada Foundation, ARAS, SOS Children's Villages Romania, County School Inspectorates, health care units.





### EDUCATIONAL SERVICES AND OTHER SUPPORT SERVICES FOR STREET WORKING CHILDREN / CHILDREN AT RISK TO ENTER STREET WORK IN BUCHAREST, CONSTANTA AND IAȘI

This Action Programme has been implemented with the financial support of ILO-IPEC and aims to withdraw children from street work and prevent their involvement in such working activities through provision of direct support and improvement of the quality of services provided in Bucharest, Constanța and Iași.

#### Outcomes:

- 367 children included in the programmes of the Educational Centres in Bucharest, Constanța and Iași benefited from service so as to prevent their involvement in street work (180 children) and to withdraw them from street work (187 children).
- 23 peer educators were identified and trained, so they could carry out activities with the assisted children;
- 46 specialists were trained to provide quality services to child labourers.

### “FIRST STEPS” – PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN FROM LESS FAVOURED CATEGORIES

In order to support children from less favoured categories, particularly Roma children, Save the Children implemented the project “First steps” providing access to school preparatory classes for children who had never been enrolled in kindergartens. Pre-school education facilitates children’s school integration, the understanding and observance of the specific school requirements and contributes to an adequate adaptation to community life. Thus, more than 150 children were enrolled for the first time in kindergarten.

In August, children from Merișu, Românești and Târgoviște (Dâmbovița County), Valea Mare (Vaslui County), Tecuci (Galați County) and Mangalia (Constanța County) made their

first step in a kindergarten as a result of the contribution made by the supporters of the Festival of Christmas Trees. Children acquired much knowledge that would help them in school: education and improvement of language, first notions of writing and counting, knowledge about the environment, the notion of respect towards their classmates and the educator.

Save the Children also continued to support several kindergartens where children needed the school supplies and teaching materials their families were not able to provide. More than 100 children from the kindergartens in Mangalia, Valea Bădenilor (Argeș), Plenița (Dolj) and Valea Călugărească (Prahova) benefited from this support.

#### ALTER EGO

**2008 – The European Year of Intercultural Dialogue** – was an opportunity for the European Commission to launch “Alter Ego” competition for the young people aged 14-18 years from the European Union member countries. The aim of the contest was for the young participants to get to know, acknowledge and accept the cultural diversity.

Although the competition was coordinated by the **European Union National Institutes for Culture (EUNIC)**, Save the Children was requested to implement and supervise this project in Romania.

A series of 25 artistic works done by Romanian adolescents were posted on the project website. The winners, as a result of the vote of the public, were two students: Theodora Drăgan from the German High-School in Bucharest and Luisa Balaban from Giurgiu, a student of “Nicolae Tonitza” Art High-School. Their award consisted in their participation for five days, in November, to a workshop held in Denmark, where they met and worked together with well-known artists from Europe alongside with the other winners from the 22 participating countries.

# Integration of the refugee and separated children in the Romanian society

Mahide is a 3<sup>rd</sup> year student at the Faculty of Law within “Nicolae Titulescu” University in Bucharest and she holds on by her fingertips to the chance she was offered: the chance to learn. She would not forget that other Kurd young girls of her age cannot do what she is doing and she can't afford to neglect the obligations she has as a student. Mahide is a refugee who came from Turkey together with her family, 10 years ago. The Kurd young girl is an exception in her world. She was allowed to study – “in our culture, women do not go much to school, they go for a few grades and that's all” – so she wants to make the most of the the chance she was given. In order to get over the past, when she came to Romania together with her mother, father and two brothers, she started learning. “I devoted myself to school. School, school and school again - this is the only thing I have been interested in.” Save the Children was of great help in the very first years by providing the three children of this refugee family the necessary school supplies in the beginning of each and every school year. (Thursday, 26 June 2008, [www.adevarul.ro](http://www.adevarul.ro), “I want to learn Law as it should”, an article written by Tone Florentina).

Save the Children Romania was directly involved in protecting the asylum seeking children in Romania, in partnership with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. The main objective of the project is to provide social and educational support to children coming from other countries where they are in danger and who have received a form of protection in Romania.

## COUNSELLING AND SOCIAL INTEGRATION ACTIVITIES

Within this project, 55 asylum seeking or refugee children and 12 families were assisted in 2008. Save the Children directly involved in the assistance process by:

- paying the daily nutritional costs for pre-school aged refugee children who were enrolled in kindergarten or nursery (3 children);
- providing tuition classes in order for children to catch up with the requirements for different school subjects, with a view to their integration in the national education system (35 children);
- providing additional support in doing homework to 15 children;
- providing school supplies for children integrated in the national education system;
- social counselling for the children and their families;
- recreational programmes – going to the theatre, museums, camps (Căprioara and Vânătorul, Dâmbovița County), going out on different occasions (Environment Day, Refugee Day, Children's Carnival etc.);
- supporting talented children by ensuring their access to dance classes – 5 children; involving children in different competitions and exhibitions (Pygmalion Cup – dance competition, NoctiMuz – Night of Museums, drawings and photos exhibition on the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination at the Metropolitan Library).

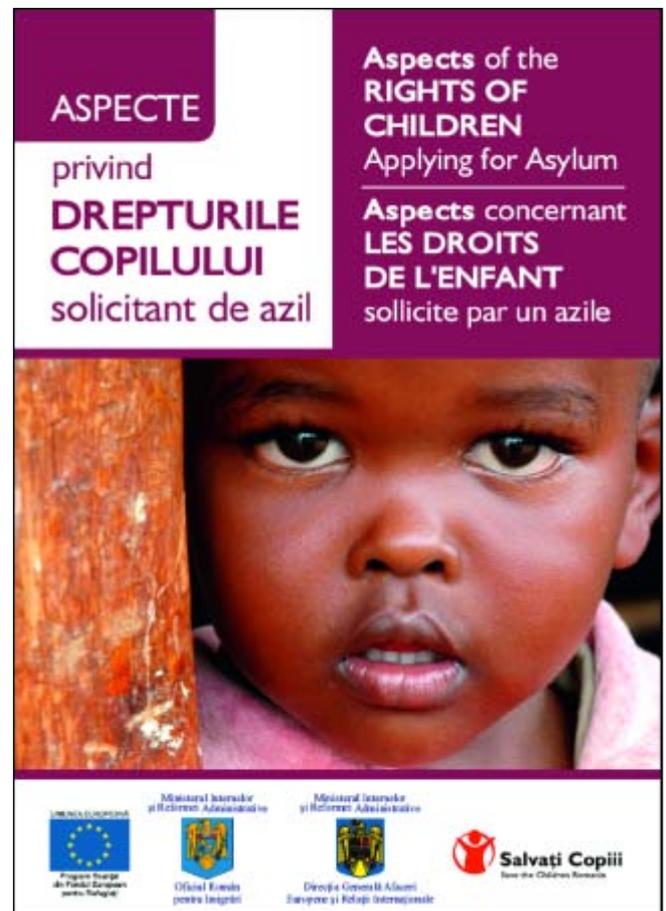
## CAMPAIGNS TO PROMOTE THE REFUGEE CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

A campaign for promoting the rights of the refugee children was conducted in March (17-21) on the occasion of the *International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination*. This campaign, entitled “**Soul has no colour**” involved about 30 volunteers and 3,000 students from 13 schools and high-schools. Save the Children volunteers and refugee children also involved

in different activities, such as: the drawing competition “*Childhood without war*”, “*Volunteer's Week*”, *Environment Day*, *Refugee Day*, *Children's Carnival*.

## PARTNERS:

Romanian Immigration Office, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees – Representation in Romania, Ministry of Interior and Administration Reform, Romanian National Council for Refugees, ARCA–Romanian Forum for Refugees and Migrants, Organization of Refugee Women in Romania



## Assistance services for asylum seeking children in the regional accommodation and procedures centres of the Romanian Immigration Office

Asylum seeking children, either accompanied by their families or unaccompanied, represent a highly vulnerable category. The various environments they come from and the experiences they passed through could represent either individual resources or problems. The provision of social counselling services and of a consistent educational programme is a must, with a view to the successful integration in the new society.

From the institutional point of view, the national authority responsible for managing the immigration and asylum issues, as well as foreigners' integration, is the **Romanian Immigration Office (ORI)** with the Ministry of Interior and Administration Reform.

As a follow-up of the decentralization process, five centres with competencies in dealing with the asylum seeking applications were established in Bucharest, Galați, Radăuți (Suceava), Șomcuta Mare (Maramureș) and Timișoara (Timiș).

Educational activities were organized for the asylum seekers and foreigners under a type of protection accommodated in the five centres, from October to the end of December 2008, in the framework of the project “**Assistance for the asylum seeking children in the accommodation centres and procedures of**

**the Romanian Immigration Office”** (Annual Programme 2007 under the European Fund for Refugees). This project aimed at developing and implementing social counselling services, educational and recreational activities, providing the centres with equipment, furniture and materials specific for these activities, as well as the issue of an information brochure.

The direct beneficiaries of the project were *asylum seeking children and their parents*. 30 asylum seekers were assisted in the framework of the project, out of which 25 were asylum seeking minors (5 accompanied and 20 unaccompanied) and three families who received counselling services. Five teams of specialists were established at regional level with competencies in assisting the asylum seeking children. The teams consisted of a teacher / educator and a social counsellor, employees of Save the Children. The centres were provided with the necessary equipment and materials to develop education and recreational activities and an information brochure including useful information related to the rights of asylum seeking children was issued and translated into English and French. **An educational-recreational camp** was organized in the framework of the same project from 24 to 28 November.



# Promoting a Safer Internet for children

In Romania, there are about 12 million Internet users, out of which 5 million have their own permanent Internet connection, ranking Romania the 10<sup>th</sup> in Europe. The advantages of the Internet and the access to new information and communication technologies are not to be disputed. Children and young people are the most frequent users, computers and mobile telephones being full part of their daily lives. However, the knowledge about the risks in on-line environment is still at a very low level. The debates with children, parents and teachers held in 2008 revealed the vulnerability of the children aged between 6 and 13 years old in the absence of a correct information.

## SAFER INTERNET PLUS

Safer Internet Plus is a project supported by the European Commission, holding national active centres in all the member countries of the European Union and having as a main objective the *promotion of safer Internet and new online technologies for children*.

Save the Children Romania applied to the funding programme of the European Commission, won the project bidding and assumed the role of **National Coordinator of Sigur.Info Programme** since September 2008, in partnership with Positive Media and FOCUS Centre.

## OBJECTIVE OF THE PROGRAMME

The main objective is to promote a safer Internet for children by:

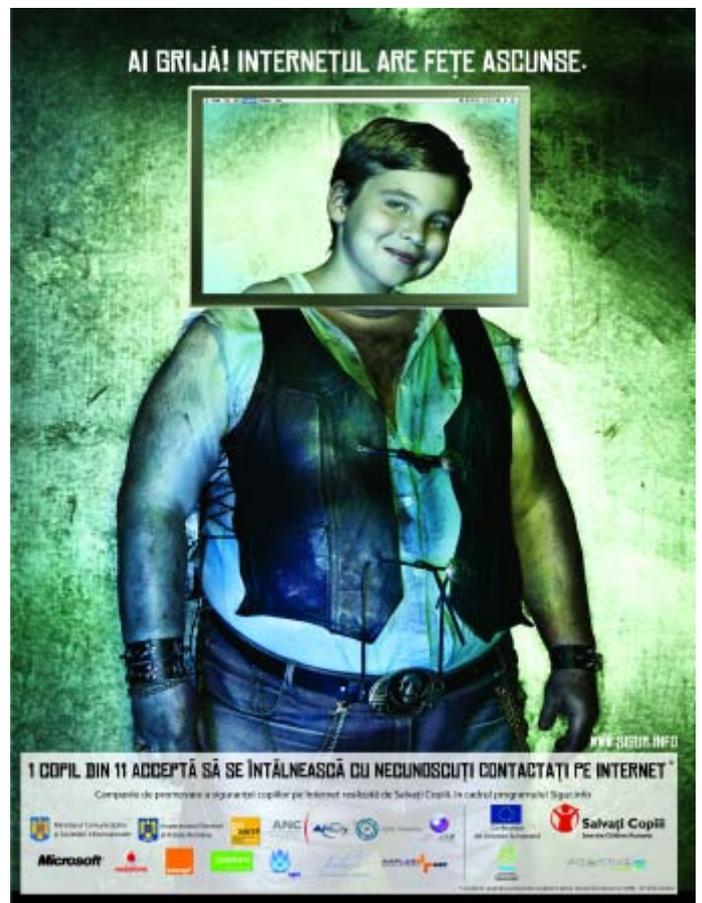
- 1. Organizing awareness raising and information activities on the risks in on-line environment.** The project aims at providing teachers, parents and children with knowledge and instruments for their on-line protection.

- 2. Fighting illegal and harmful on-line content** (pornography, racism, xenophobia, drug abuse, etc.) and encouraging the responsible use of the Internet and new communication technologies.

With a view to carry out information activities in schools for children, teachers and parents, 42 agreements were concluded with schools and high-schools in Bucharest and all over the country. Six focus-groups were organized in Iași, Bucharest and Timișoara with children of different ages. Different topics were approached, such as: the use of the computer and Internet, of the mobile telephone, the advantages and the risks. The participants were consulted on the form and the content of the portal [www.sigur.info](http://www.sigur.info) and on the educational activities that might be carried out in schools.

A national information campaign in 4,000 schools and high-schools started in December 2008 with a view to children's participation in three competitions organized on the Safer Internet Day (10 February 2009): two European competitions ("Quiz" and "Data Protection Day") and the national competition "My Internaut Family". In order to support the campaign, there were realized a TV spot, a poster of the campaign and four brochures for children, adolescents, parents and teachers.

**PARTNERS:** Ministry of Education, Research and Innovation, Ministry of Communications and Information Society, General Inspectorate of Police, National Authority for the Protection of Children's Rights, National Agency against Trafficking in Persons, National Association of Internet Service Providers, University of Bucharest, National Authority for Communications, Microsoft Romania, Orange, Vodafone, Cosmote, UPC Romania, Amplusnet, Livigent, Nadia Comănechi Foundation, ECDL Romania, Y&R.



# Aid for the children and families affected by the floods

**24 July 2008 - Emergency in Moldova region. Five persons died, two were missing and 13,000 people were evacuated (out of them, 4,700 were children aged 0-16 years) in the northern counties of Romania. The long lasting rain affected 174 localities in 7 counties. The situation along Siret and Prut rivers (at the border with Ukraine and Moldova) was critical, over 10,000 households and 25,000 hectares of agricultural land being destroyed in seven counties: Suceava, Iași, Botoșani, Neamț, Satu-Mare, Maramureș and Sălaj.**

Save the Children staff and volunteers from Suceava and Iași local branches got involved immediately with the support of the General Secretariat of the organization. They assessed the situation in the field, delivered the emergency aid to children and their families, planned the delivery of the social-medical and educational aid. The provision of psychological aid was also planned.

In parallel, cooperation and coordination with other involved institutions was developed. The General Secretariat contacted Save the Children Norway and Sweden, Realitatea TV, Y&R company. The team in Suceava worked in cooperation with the County Prefecture, 5 NGOs and the media. The team in Iași developed cooperation with the School Inspectorate, the City Hall, the Police, the Department for Emergency Situations Interventions, companies and media.

After the *field assessment made by local teams*, Save the Children started the delivery of drinking water (10,000 l), powdered milk (200 kg), bread (1,500 loaves), canned meat (470 cans), clothing, toys and other products in Suceava County (localities: Tibeni, Vicovu de Jos, Brodina, Marginea) and Iași County (localities Răchiteni, Lespezi, A. I. Cuza). 1,230 children received aid consisting in foodstuff. In Iași County emergency

aid was provided to 308 children: Răchiteni (137), Heci (60), Săucești-Bacău (53) and Rădăuți Prut (58). Ten specialists conducted individual psycho-emotional assessments for 1,183 children and 165 family members from Suceava and Iași counties from 26 July to 14 September.

## CAMPS AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES

During summer 2008, **6 camps** were organized in Moeciu, Iași, Neptun, Sinaia, Natural Park Lunca Mureșului (Arad County), Muncel (Iași County) for 176 children from Suceava County (Tibeni, Rădăuți), Bacău County (Săucești) and Iași County (Răchiteni, Heci). In all the camps, Save the Children volunteers from Suceava, Iași and Timiș organized attractive and various programmes for children. Children received clothing, footwear, underwear, hygiene products and toys. UNICEF financially supported these actions.

**237 children** (aged 2-14 years) from Suceava and Iași counties (Frătăuții Vechi, Țibeni, Brodina, Falcău, Demacusa, Heci, Rădăuți) benefited from daily educational programmes managed by 11 volunteers and 10 teachers (4 hours/day) between 20 August and 15 September. All children and their families were severely affected by floods. They participated in **educational activities** and had the opportunity to learn new things and to play. A meal every day was also provided. Children's involvement in a daily programme was helpful for parents because they could deal with the reconstruction of their houses while children were under care and supervision of Save the Children specialists and volunteers.

Save the Children decided to support with **teaching material and furniture** the School in Rădăuți Prut (185 children), as well as the Kindergarten and School in Sadau (87 children). For those most affected by floods (76 children) schools uniforms were purchased. Schools supplies, clothing, school uniforms and footwear were purchased for 356 children in order to be able to go to school: 196 in Brodina and Falcău, 45 in Demacusa, 26 in Rădăuți, 39 in Dornești and 50 in Frătăuții Vechi.

## PARTNERS:

**Suceava** – Prefecture Suceava, Monitorul de Suceava, 5 local NGOs, Radio Top 91, Plus TV, National Agency Against Trafficking in Persons Suceava

**Iași** – County School Inspectorate, the Police and the Gendarmerie Iași, the City Hall of Iași, the Prefecture Iași, Mall Moldova, Carrefour, Radio Iași, Antena 1, Radio NGO, TeleM, Ziarul de Iași, Flacăra Iașului, Iași Plus, Club Politehnica Iași, “D. Mangeron” High-School - Iași

**General Secretariat:** Save the Children Norway, Save the Children UK, Realitatea TV, BRD–Groupe Société Générale, Y&R, Romanian Broadcasting Company, Administration of the State Protocol Patrimony - RAPPS, UNICEF, Romsilva.



Ajută apele să se retragă și din ochii lor.

Fii o donatoare pentru copii afectati de inundatiile din nordul Moldovei, în contul RO42RUCB0234023048700009, BCR Suceava, sau RO3808RDE240SV08144422400, BRD Iași, Agenția Finan.



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## The Festival of Christmas Trees

The Festival of Christmas Trees was held on 4 December and raised EUR 369,635 for the children assisted by Save the Children. The Organizing Committee was made of: **Amalia Năstase, Andi Moisescu, Andreea Raicu, Bianca Dordea** (Communications Director BRD - Groupe Société Générale), **Corina Bârlădeanu** (Manager 2activePR), **Dan Moraru** (BBDO Romania), **Gabriela Terchilă** (Managing Director Proximity), **Ileana Badiu** (Managing Partner Wunderman), **Liviu Sfrija** (President Henkel Romania), **Mihaela Rădulescu, Tereza Munteanu** (Managing Partner Wunderman).

The Christmas trees were offered by: **Laura Vărgălui, Kinga Varga & Carla Szabo, Rita Mureșan, Wilhelmina Arz, Irina Marinescu, Lena Criveanu, Alexandru Ghilduș and Mihnea Ghilduș, Carmen Secăreanu, Togo Design, Victoria 46, Ioan Nemțoi, Mihaela Glăvan & Hatice Soysev Kolat, Oxette, Missoni, Răzvan Ciobanu, Stephan Pelger, Venera Arapu, the volunteers and children** from Save the Children programmes.

As every year, the money raised during the Gala will fund the projects that are going to be implemented by Save the Children Romania in 2009 for the social and school reintegration of the working children. The hosts of the evening were Andi Moisescu, Andreea Raicu and Lucian Mândruță, who led the auction together with the personalities who presented every Christmas Tree: Malvina Cervenschi, Rebeca and Gloria Mureșan, Amalia Năstase, Dan Moraru, Corina Bârlădeanu.

The sponsors of the 2008 edition of the Festival of Christmas Trees were: **BCR-Erste, Henkel-Ceresit, Class**



**Living, Ramada Bucharest North, Elan Schwartzberg** (Supporters of Save the Children ); **Alcatel-Lucent, Avantgarde Group, Exim Bank Romania, Monolit Development, Transport Trade Services** (main sponsors); **Apa Nova, Carrefour, Distrigaz Sud SA, Residential Club Stejarii** (secondary sponsors);– **BRD - Groupe Société Générale, HAT, Ericsson Telecommunications, Petrom, Germanos, Smartree, OTP Bank, Gas de France, Romanian-American Enterprise Fund, Stoica & Associates and Medlife** (sponsors).

## CORA Campaign - "The Month of Open Hearts"



From 5 to 26 May 2008 Cora Hypermarket, ILO-IPEC and Save the Children organized, for the fourth consecutive year, the campaign "The Month of Open Hearts" with the participation of the two Cora hypermarkets in Bucharest and the hypermarket in Cluj. The aim of this campaign is to provide support to children in Bucharest and Cluj who dropped out from school and are bound to work in order to provide financial help to their families. The money raised from the sales of promotional toys (EUR 49,900) allowed 409 children from the two cities to benefit from support for their school reintegration. Due to the same funds, in autumn 2008 335 children were enrolled in school, with the support of the Directorate General for Social Assistance and Child Protection 1<sup>st</sup> District Bucharest and "N. Iorga" School in Cluj. The activities carried out were mainly focused on school integration/reintegration, support to prevent school drop out, social, psychological and legal counselling services for families, daily nutritional support, recreational and socializing activities.





In this context, based on the experience acquired on monitoring and collaboration with its partners, Save the Children elaborated in 2008 an **Alternative Report** including different sources of information (the findings of the Group on Monitoring the Rights of the Child – a project that included 22 NGOs countrywide –, of the collaboration with over 40 NGOs and of the consultations with about 50,000 children). The Report was submitted to the UN Committee in order to be analyzed in 2009.

### CHILDREN'S OMBUDSMAN

The United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended to Romania to establish a Children's Ombudsman with the following functions:

- analyze on a regular basis the situation of protecting children's rights and submit this analysis to the wide public and the Parliament;
- propose new laws or amendments to the laws in force;
- analyze the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child;
- report on a regular basis to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child and follow-up on the implementation of the recommendations;
- investigate the cases of violation of children's rights by authorities.

Save the Children continued the approaches started in 2007 to establish a Children's Ombudsman institution in Romania. It elaborated documentation of the existing models in different European countries, initiated important activities to sensitize the authorities in the field by inviting European personalities, such as: the Commissioner on Human Rights of the Council of Europe and Children's Ombudsman from Sweden. Along 2008 Save the Children Romania continued to promote the usefulness of this institution with the Romanian Parliament, within the Sub-Committee on Children's Rights. The brochure "**Children's Ombudsman – a necessary institution**" was disseminated to the Members of the Parliament and other institutions with responsibilities in child rights protection and to NGOs.

### THE FIFTH REGIONAL MEETING OF NGO CHILDREN'S RIGHTS COALITIONS IN EUROPE

The meeting was organized from 27 to 30 October 2008 by Save the Children, in partnership with the Government of Romania, Save the Children Sweden, Euronet and UNICEF. Initiated in 1998, in Berlin, and continued in Stockholm (1999), Vilnius (2002) and Brussels (2005), this event gathered 60 representatives of the civil society from 23 European countries involved in the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. From among the topics discussed, we mention: the monitoring of children's rights, reporting to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child, the cooperation between non-governmental organizations to end corporal punishment and all humiliating treatments applied to children.

The participants to this forum enjoyed the presence of **Mr. Thomas Hammarberg, Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe**, and **Mr. Lothar Krappmann, representative of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child**, as keynote speakers.

### 10 MEASURES FOR A CIVIC, SUSTAINABLE AND SOLIDARY ROMANIA

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of November, the Coalition for Good Governance and Partnership with Association Environment requested all



political parties represented in the Romanian Parliament, through a letter sent to their Presidents, to include in the future ruling programmes of their parties **ten measures for a civic, sustainable and solidary Romania**. The letter was sent to four parliamentary parties (National Liberal Party - PNL, Liberal-Democrat Party - PDL, Social-Democrat Party - PSD and Democratic Union of the Magyars in Romania - UDMR), out of which only two answered to the letter sent by the 14 signatory NGOs. In essence, political parties were requested to support the non-governmental sector and the civil society in Romania. The ten measures for a civic, sustainable and solidary Romania stipulate for:

- changing the criteria for granting the public utility status to NGOs;
- the set up of an independent structure for international development assistance (ODA) following the existing model in the European countries;
- strengthening the participatory democracy;
- combating extremism;
- supporting social economy;
- promoting good governance and civic dialogue;
- supporting subsidiarity and decentralizing the public services of general interest;
- giving absolute priority to education and sustainable development;
- adopting coherent legislation on the public funding for NGO sector;
- strengthening the 2% system.

**Members of the Coalition:** Civil Society Development Foundation, Pro Democracy Association, Save the Children Romania, SynergEtica Foundation, CENTRAS, Institute for Public Policies, Centre of Resources for Public Participation, Center for Legal Resources, Romanian Association for Transparency, Press Monitoring Agency "Academia Cațavencu", Pentru Voi Foundation, Centre for Independent Journalism, Terra Mileniul III Foundation, Save the Danube and the Delta Association.



## “Let’s learn how to act in case of natural disasters”



In 2008 Save the Children Romania continued the project funded by Save the Children Sweden that aims at informing and training children on how to protect themselves and how to react in case of natural disasters. The project was implemented in School no. 71 “Iovan Ducici” (Bucharest, 2<sup>nd</sup> District), School “Gheorghe Jienescu” (Rast locality, Dolj County) and School no. 1 (Chiselet locality, Călărași County).

Training courses for volunteers and local coordinators were held in the framework of the project by the Inspectorates for Emergency Situations in the two counties mentioned above and Bucharest. Activities aimed not only at delivering to children correct information about certain disasters (fire, floods, earthquakes), but also at finding out methods to protect themselves and reduce the risks and harmful effects of the natural disasters.

The children involved in the project realized different materials (drawings, letters, case studies) that served as background materials for the brochure “Let’s learn how to act in case of natural disasters – a book written by children for children”.

**PARTNERS:** High Level Group for Romanian Children, Ministry of Education, Research and Innovation, General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations.

## Reducing the negative impact of parents economic migration upon children left behind

According to the most recent report of the National Authority for the Protection of Children’s Rights, the institution in charge with the monitoring of this phenomenon, there are over 82,464 de children left behind, without one or both parents as a result of their migration abroad to work. There are studies stipulating that the number of the children in this situation is, in fact, three times higher (Soros Foundation, UNICEF and Alternative Sociale). As a follow-up of the qualitative survey conducted in Moldova area, Save the Children elaborated a national programme including the recommendations made by specialists who carefully analyzed the situation of protecting the rights of these children. The programme will start in 2009 and will initially include eight counties.

### Student’s Council

Participation is a right of every child, set forth as such in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Through participation, children discover themselves, they find out their likes and dislikes, their skills, find out about new things and learn many useful things. Save the Children Romania organized several work meetings and debates with students from different schools on the way the Students’ Councils function and the degree of open, free participation within these councils. Save the Children aims at developing a partnership with students and teachers in order to contribute to the improvement of this essential mechanism by means of which child participation is ensured.

## KPMG

In July and August, 40 volunteers from the staff of **KPMG** and **Impact Development Training Group** from eight countries (Czech Republic, England, Israel, Indonesia, Romania, Spain, France and Germany) involved in the activities for the decoration of the inner yard of Save the Children Educational Centre in Dămăroaia and for the set-up of a playground for

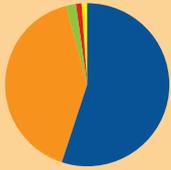
children. After work, the volunteers met the beneficiaries of this initiative – the children who attend the Educational Centre, accompanied by several parents – for an opening ceremony to inaugurate the playground and a multicultural evening. Thus, both those who worked and beneficiaries had the opportunity to exchange their views and spend some time together. The project resulted in better conditions for playing and carrying out activities for the children in the Educational Centre.



# Financial Report 2008

No.	DETAILS	AMOUNT (EUR)
<b>I.</b>	<b>INCOMES</b>	<b>2,513,558</b>
1.	The Festival of Christmas Trees 2007/2008	542,860
2.	Phare Payments and Contracts Office	360,367
3.	The Council of Europe	233,864
4.	The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria	232,231
5.	Save the Children Sweden	209,895
6.	2% of the global income tax	103,587
7.	Collecting boxes – Selgros, Bricostore	89,790
8.	Sponsorships “The Festival of the Romanian Children Worldwide”	70,372
9.	Save the Children Deutschland (via SC Sweden)	72,406
10.	CORA Hypermarket – “The Month of Open Hearts”	49,900
11.	Trust for Civil Society in Central & Eastern Europe	46,776
12.	International Labour Organization - International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour	40,165
13.	Bjorgvin Videregaende School – Bergen – Norway	31,570
14.	The County Council and City Hall of Timișoara, Caraș Severin County Council, Iași City Hall, ANDPRZM Petroșani, DGASPC Mureș	30,956
15.	International Save the Children Alliance	29,067
16.	Save the Children Austria	25,010
17.	Save the Children UK	24,461
18.	Romanian Immigration Office	21,690
19.	Romanian Commercial Bank	18,067
20.	Unicredit	14,801
21.	Save the Children Italy	14,161
22.	Save the Children Norway	13,502
23.	The National Agency for Communitarian Programmes on Education and Professional Training	13,040
24.	Subscriptions and contributions from natural persons	13,040
25.	UNICEF	12,698
26.	SOROS	12,498
27.	United Way	11,211
28.	Save the Children Finland	10,000
29.	VAT deduction	9,003
30.	WNS Global Services Romania	5,131
31.	GlaxoSmithKline	4,981
32.	Henkel Romania/ Petрила	4,958
33.	The National Agency for the Support of Young People’s Initiatives	3,385
34.	Microsoft Romania	3,289
35.	Germanos/ Casa Roxana	3,035
36.	Impact	2,929
37.	Global Campaign for Education	2,200
38.	Other donations and sponsorships from legal persons (H&M, P&G, RIB etc.)	78,140
39.	Other financing sources	26,022
40.	Bank interests	22,500
<b>II.</b>	<b>EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>2,107,374</b>
<b>A.</b>	<b>PROJECTS</b>	<b>1,806,223</b>
1.	Access to education, prevention of school drop-out	913,532
2.	Education for health and support for children with AIDS	231,267
3.	Education for parents, support and counselling services for the victims of abuse and traffic	195,437
4.	Safer Internet for children	135,705
5.	The promotion of the Convention on the Rights of the Child through children and young people’s participation	113,667
6.	Information and Documentation Centre on the Rights of the Child	89,401
7.	The Festival of the Romanian Children Worldwide	69,268
8.	Children in emergency, natural disasters	41,322
9.	The Forum of the European NGO Coalitions - the Rights of the Child	12,355
10.	Rewrite the Future	4,269
<b>B.</b>	<b>ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT</b>	<b>119,901</b>
<b>C.</b>	<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>	<b>121,650</b>
<b>D.</b>	<b>FUNDRAISING</b>	<b>59,600</b>

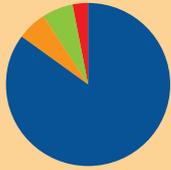




**I. INCOMES:**

2,513,558 euro, out of which:

■ National and international non-profit agencies and international institutions	1,395,942	55%
■ Subscriptions, contributions, donations, sponsorships	1,040,893	41%
■ State institutions and VAT deduction	39,959	2%
■ Bank interests	22,500	1%
■ Other finances	14,264	1%



**II. EXPENDITURES:**

2,107,374 euro, out of which:

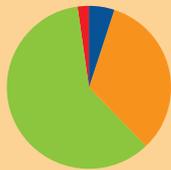
■ A. PROJECTS	1,806,223	85%
■ B. ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT	119,901	6%
■ C. ADMINISTRATION	121,650	6%
■ D. FUNDRAISING	59,600	3%



**ACCESS TO EDUCATION and PREVENTION OF SCHOOL DROP-OUT**

913,532 euro, out of which:

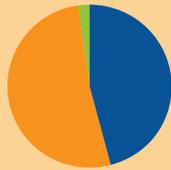
■ Social and educational services for economically exploited children	804,265	88%
■ The integration of refugees and asylum seeking children	51,616	6%
■ First Steps – pre-school education	57,651	6%



**EDUCATION FOR HEALTH and SUPPORT FOR HIV+ CHILDREN**

231,267 euro, out of which:

■ 1. Roxana House	12,766	5%
■ 2. HIV/AIDS prevention for the children in institutions, street children and Roma communities	76,697	33%
■ 3. Prevention of tuberculosis transmission among street children; identification and support	137,679	60%
■ 4. Prevention of drugs consumption among young people	4,125	2%



**PROMOTING THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD THROUGH CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION**

113,667 euro, out of which:

■ 1. We also have rights	51,540	46%
■ 2. Participation and involvement in the community life	59,357	52%
■ 3. Alter Ego	2,770	2%

Excerpt from the Report of the Independent Auditor:

*“The financial reports submitted by Save the Children Romania reflect an accurate image, in all the significant aspects, of its financial situation as per the 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2008, as well as of the result of its operations on the financial year concluded at this date, in accordance with Order 1969/2007”.*

For and on behalf of:

SC Moore Stephens Riff Audit International SRL

Registered at the Financial Auditors Chamber in Romania under no. 859/13.11.2008

Aurica Genes



**THE FESTIVAL OF CHRISTMAS TREES**

Supporters:



ELAN SCHWARTZENBERG

Main sponsors:



# Supporters:

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## NATURAL PERSONS:

Elan Schwartzberg, Camelia Şucu, Ion Radulea, Stefania Duta, Bruno Narcis Negoita, Mihai Motocu, Adriana Parvu, Floarea Vele, Elena Georgescu, Petruta Grigorescu, Nicoleta Tudor, Liliana Valentina Grosu, V. Poponete s.a.

## SPONSORS OF THE BRANCHES:

BRAŞOV - Esprit Group;

ARGEŞ - Cultural Centre Piteşti, Children Theatre Aşchiuţă, Muzeul Judeţean Argeş, SC Nicoral;

TIMIŞ - Bega Foundation, California Fitness, Machine per Cafee Espresso-Mce, City Hall Timişoara, Private Pensions Allianz Ţiriac, Par Gramin, Eastern Digital, BCR Timişoara, Magus, Rudolf Water Foundation, Bega Minerals;

CONSTANŢA - Euroliberty Braşov, City Hall Mangalia, Penticostal Church, SC Gala Galaction, SC Sf. Andrei;

VASLUI - SC Mondena, SC Unimatex, Notarial Office Ioniti;

CARAŞ-SEVERIN - County Council Caraş-Severin, FDSC in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Netherlands, BCR Caraş-Severin, C&C SA Reşiţa, Mariana Lenga (natural person);

HUNEDOARA - Caritas Alba Iulia Pi Petroşani, Gentiana Farm Petrila, City Hakk Petrila, Real Hypermarket România-Mag. Deva, Ladies' Society in Hunedoara, Independent Trade Union E.M. Lonea, SC Boromir Rm. Valcea, Independent Trade Union E.M. Petrila;

MUREŞ - Christian Foundation Felicia Moldovan, Rotary Club, Aquaserv Company, Hotel Concordia, SC Three Farm, SC Cala, SC Mondo Trade, Anvico SA, SC Reea, Zoltania, Compania Aquaserv, SC Conimur, Auto Top, SC Valpet, SC Maviproduct, SC Triplast, SC Cole, Romstal, SC Farel, Herlitz, SC Euroins, Nakita, Mc Trans, Modal Grup, SC Original Construct, SC Cad Soft.

SUCEAVA - Unicef, SC Giovanis, Raraul SA, Complex Rulment, SC Aergen, Agromec SA, SC Adrinicol, SC Super Star, SC Killer, AF Armasu Constantin, SC Relians Corp.;

IAŞI - Carrefour Felicia, Advero, Printco, Print Total, Getyca Financiar, Moldova Mall, Opis Band, Comat SA, Fehete Ildiko (natural person);

BUCUREŞTI - Victoria Holding City Mall, Kindergarten no. 201, Kindergarten no. 231, Foraj SA - Videle;

DOLJ - SC Assani, SC Printex.

## Secondary sponsors:



## Sponsors:



## Winners of the Christmas Trees Auction:



Camelia Şucu, Henkel, Carrefour, Dan Fisher, Ion Rădulea, BBDO, Gheorghe Hagi



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EUR account: RO31RNCB0071011434790008  
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